

*What is holiness?*¹

'Holiness'² is the state of being 'holy'.³ The noun 'holiness' appears infrequently,⁴ but the adjective 'holy' appears often.⁵

Certain concepts are paired with 'holiness'.

A word does not always mean a single thing. It can vary each time the word is used. However, the range of meanings are often within a common orbit.

Words are often paired with similar, related, or even opposing phrases. Pairings may not clarify exactly what a word means, but they often limit the orbit of the word. So, it is useful to examine the range of pairings.

'Holiness' appears together with 'righteousness',⁶ 'godliness',⁷ 'fear of God',⁸ 'faith',⁹ 'self-control',¹⁰ 'discipline',¹¹ 'love',¹² 'peace',¹³ and 'honor'.¹⁴ These are fundamental virtues both of conduct and also of attitude.

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2. 'Holiness' is translated from the synonyms ὁσιότης, ἁγιότης, and ἁγιωσύνη.

3. 'Holy' is translated from the synonyms ὁσιος and ἅγιος, and from שָׁדֵךְ.

4. 'Holiness' appears only six times in the Christian scriptures.

5. 'Holy' appears 824 times in the Hebrew scriptures, and 241 times in the Christian scriptures.

6. "In holiness and *righteousness* before him" Luke 1:75, Ephesians 4:24.

7. "You ought to live holy and *godly* lives" 2 Peter 3:11.

8. "Let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of *fear for God*" 2 Corinthians 7:1.

9. "But women will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in *faith*, love and holiness with propriety" 1 Timothy 2:15.

10. "But women will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with *propriety*" 1 Timothy 2:15.

11. "God *disciplines* us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness" Hebrews 12:10.

12. "But women will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith, *love* and holiness with propriety" 1 Timothy 2:15.

13. "Make every effort to live in *peace* with everyone and to be holy" Hebrews 12:14.

14. "Each of you know how to possess his own body in holiness and *honor*" 1 Thessalonians 4:4.

'Holy' appears together with ritual purposes: 'set apart',¹ 'dedicate',² 'atone',³ 'sabbath',⁴ 'rest',⁵ 'purify',⁶ 'bathe',⁷ 'clean',⁸ 'blameless',⁹ 'without blemish',¹⁰ 'belong',¹¹ 'separate',¹² 'reserved',¹³ and 'prized'.¹⁴

1. "Anoint them and ordain them and *set them apart* as holy" Exodus 28:41, "Anoint it to *set it apart* as holy" 29:36-37, "*It will be set apart* as holy by my glory" 29:43, "I will *set apart* as holy the tent of meeting and the altar, and I will *set apart* as holy Aaron and his sons" 29:44, "Alongside the portion *set apart* as the holy allotment" Ezekiel 45:6.
2. "The field will be holy to the lord like a *permanently dedicated* field" Leviticus 27:21, "Anything *permanently dedicated* is most holy to the lord" 27:28.
3. "Once in the year he is to *make atonement* on it throughout your generations—it is most holy to the lord" Exodus 30:10, "It is most holy and he gave it to you to bear the iniquity of the congregation, to *make atonement* on their behalf before the lord" Leviticus 10:17, "He is to *make atonement* for the holy place from the impurities of the Israelites and from their transgressions with regard to all their sins" 16:16, "The bull of the sin offering and the goat of the sin offering, whose blood was brought to *make atonement* in the holy place" 16:27.
4. "Remember *the sabbath day* to set it apart as holy" Exodus 20:8, "The lord blessed *the sabbath day* and set it apart as holy" 20:11, "The *seventh day* is a *sabbath* of complete rest, holy to the lord" 31:15, "*The seventh day* there must be a holy day for you, a *sabbath* of complete rest to the lord" 35:2.
5. "God blessed the seventh day and made it holy because on it he *ceased all the work* that he had been doing in creation" Genesis 2:3, "The seventh day is a *sabbath of complete rest*, holy to the lord" Exodus 31:15, "The seventh day there must be a *sabbath of complete rest*, a holy assembly" Leviticus 23:3, "You must have a *complete rest*, a memorial announced by loud horn blasts, a holy assembly" 23:24.
6. "She must not touch anything holy and she must not enter the sanctuary until the *days of her purification* are fulfilled" Leviticus 12:4, "When he has finished *purifying* the holy place, the meeting tent, and the altar, he is to present the live goat" 16:20, "He is to *purify* the most holy place, he is to *purify* the meeting tent and the altar" 16:33, "They were to take care of the courtyards, the rooms, *ceremonial purification* of all holy items, and other jobs related to the service of God's temple" 1 Chronicles 23:28, "I directed the Levites to *purify themselves* and come and guard the gates in order to keep the sabbath day holy" Nehemiah 13:22, "By *purity*, by knowledge, by patience, by benevolence, by the holy spirit, by genuine love" 2 Corinthians 6:6.
7. "They are holy garments, so he must *bathe* his body in water and put them on" Leviticus 16:4.
8. "No man from the descendants of Aaron who is diseased or has a discharge may eat the holy offerings until he *becomes clean*" Leviticus 22:4.
9. "He has reconciled you by his physical body through death to present you holy, without blemish, and *blameless* before him" Colossians 1:22, "You are witnesses, and so is God, as to how holy and righteous and *blameless* our conduct was toward you who believe" 1 Thessalonians 2:10, "Your hearts are strengthened in holiness to be *blameless* before our God and father at the coming of our lord Jesus with all his saints" 3:13, "Now may the God of peace himself make you completely holy and may your spirit and soul and body be kept entirely *blameless* at the coming of our lord Jesus the messiah" 5:23.
10. "He has reconciled you by his physical body through death to present you holy, *without blemish*, and *blameless* before him" Colossians 1:22.
11. "Any tithe of the land, from the grain of the land or from the fruit of the trees, *belongs* to the lord; it is holy to the lord" Leviticus 27:30, "In the morning the lord will make known *who are his*, and who is holy" Numbers 16:5.
12. "All the days of the vow of *his separation* no razor may be used on his head until the time is fulfilled for which *he separated himself* to the lord—he will be holy" Numbers 6:5, "All the days of *his separation* he must be holy to the lord" 6:8, Hebrews 7:26.
13. "Of all the most holy offerings *reserved* from the fire this will be yours" Numbers 18:9.
14. "For you are a people holy to the lord your God—he has chosen you to be his people, *prized above all others* on the face of the earth" Deuteronomy 7:6, 14:2.

'Holy' appears together with actions of worship: 'bless',¹ 'praise',² 'fame',³ 'honor',⁴ 'remove your sandals',⁵ 'lift hands',⁶ 'sing',⁷ 'give thanks',⁸ 'rejoice',⁹ 'bow down',¹⁰ 'worship',¹¹ 'shout',¹² 'celebrate',¹³ 'tremble',¹⁴ 'vow',¹⁵ 'quiet',¹⁶ 'trust'.¹⁷

'Holy' appears together with obedience: 'obey'¹⁸ and 'keep his commands'.¹⁹

1. "Look down from your holy dwelling place in heaven and *bless* your people Israel" Deuteronomy 26:15.
2. "You will receive *praise*, fame, and honor—you will be a people holy to the lord your God" Deuteronomy 26:19, "We will give thanks to your holy name, and boast about your *praiseworthy* deeds" 1 Chronicles 16:35, "You are awe-inspiring, O God, as you emerge from your holy temple ... God deserves *praise*" Psalm 68:35, "Let them *praise* your great and awesome name—he is holy" 99:3, "*Praise* the lord our God ... he is holy" 99:5, "*Praise* the lord our God ... for the lord our God is holy" 99:9, "*Praise* his holy name" 103:1, "We will give thanks to your holy name, and boast about your *praiseworthy* deeds" 106:47, "Let all who live *praise* his holy name forever" 145:21.
3. "You will receive praise, *fame*, and honor—you will be a people holy to the lord your God" Deuteronomy 26:19.
4. "You will receive praise, fame, and *honor*—you will be a people holy to the lord your God" Deuteronomy 26:19, "We have collected to build a temple for you to *honor* your holy name" 1 Chronicles 29:16.
5. "*Remove your sandals from your feet*, because the place where you stand is holy" Joshua 5:15.
6. "I *lift my hands* toward your holy temple" Psalm 28:2, "So I want the men in every place to pray, *lifting up holy hands* without anger or dispute" 1 Timothy 2:8.
7. "*Sing* to the lord, you faithful followers of his; give thanks to his holy name" Psalm 30:4, "*I will sing* praises to you accompanied by a harp, O holy one of Israel" 71:22.
8. "Then *we will give thanks* to your holy name" 1 Chronicles 16:35, "Sing to the lord, you faithful followers of his; *give thanks* to his holy name" Psalm 30:4, "Shouting and *giving thanks* along with the crowd as we celebrated the holy festival" 42:4, "*Give thanks* to his holy name" 97:12, "*We will give thanks* to your holy name" 106:47, "I will bow down toward your holy temple, and *give thanks* to your name" 138:2.
9. "For our hearts *rejoice* in him, for we trust in his holy name" Psalm 33:21, "*Rejoice* in the lord—give thanks to his holy name" 97:12, "Boast about his holy name—let the hearts of those who seek the lord *rejoice*" 105:3.
10. "*I will bow down* toward your holy temple as I worship you" Psalm 5:7.
11. "I will bow down toward your holy temple as I *worship* you" Psalm 5:7, "*Worship* the lord in holy attire" 29:2, 96:9, "*Worship* before his footstool—he is holy" 99:5, "*Worship* on his holy hill, for the lord our God is holy" 99:9.
12. "*Shouting* and giving thanks along with the crowd as we celebrated the holy festival" Psalm 42:4.
13. "Shouting and giving thanks along with the crowd as we *celebrated* the holy festival" Psalm 42:4.
14. "Worship the lord in holy attire—*tremble* before him, all the earth" Psalm 96:9.
15. "It is a snare for a person to rashly cry, 'Holy!' and only afterward to consider what he has *vowed*" Proverbs 20:25.
16. "Be *quiet*, for this day is holy" Nehemiah 8:11.
17. "*We trust* in his holy name" Psalm 33:21.
18. "You will remember and *obey* all my commandments and be holy to your God" Numbers 15:40, "The lord will designate you as his holy people just as he promised you, if you keep his commandments and *obey* him" Deuteronomy 28:9.
19. "The lord will designate you as his holy people just as he promised you, if you *keep his commandments* and obey him" Deuteronomy 28:9.

'Holy' appears together with virtues: 'humble',¹ 'joy',² 'boast',³ 'love',⁴ 'faithful',⁵ 'faith',⁶ 'righteous',⁷ 'trustworthy',⁸ 'good',⁹ 'alive',¹⁰ 'pleasing to God',¹¹ 'peace',¹² 'hope',¹³ 'knowledge',¹⁴ 'benevolence',¹⁵ 'grace',¹⁶ 'fellowship',¹⁷ 'deep conviction',¹⁸ 'wisdom',¹⁹ 'innocent',²⁰ 'true',²¹ 'blessed'.²²

1. "It is to be a holy assembly for you, and you must *humble* yourselves and present a gift to the lord" Leviticus 23:27, "On the tenth day of this seventh month you are to have a holy assembly—you must *humble* yourselves" Numbers 29:7.
2. "This day is holy to our lord—do not grieve, for the *joy* of the lord is your strength" Nehemiah 8:10, "The disciples were filled with *joy* and with the holy spirit" Acts 13:52, "For the kingdom of God does not consist of food and drink, but righteousness, peace, and *joy* in the holy spirit" Romans 14:17, "You received the message with *joy* that comes from the holy spirit" 1 Thessalonians 1:6.
3. "*Boast* about his holy name" Psalm 105:3, "We will give thanks to your holy name, and *boast* about your praiseworthy deeds" 106:47.
4. "By purity, by knowledge, by patience, by benevolence, by the holy spirit, by *genuine love*" 2 Corinthians 6:6, "The grace of the lord Jesus the messiah and the *love* of God and the fellowship of the holy spirit be with you all" 13:13, "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and dearly *loved*, clothe yourselves with a heart of mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience" Colossians 3:12.
5. "But Judah still roams about with God; he remains faithful to the holy one" Hosea 11:12.
6. "They chose Stephen, a man full of *faith* and of the holy spirit" Acts 6:5, "He was a good man, full of the holy spirit and of *faith*" 11:24.
7. "But you rejected the holy and righteous one" Acts 3:14, "So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, *righteous*, and good" Romans 7:12, "For the kingdom of God does not consist of food and drink, but *righteousness*, peace, and joy in the holy spirit" 14:17, "You are witnesses, and so is God, as to how holy and *righteous* and blameless our conduct was toward you who believe" 1 Thessalonians 2:10, "The one who is *righteous* must continue to act *righteously*, and the one who is holy must continue to be holy" Revelation 22:11.
8. "I will give you the holy and *trustworthy* promises made to David" Acts 13:34.
9. "So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous, and *good*" Romans 7:12.
10. "Therefore I exhort you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice—*alive*, holy, and pleasing to God" Romans 12:1.
11. "Therefore I exhort you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice—*alive*, holy, and *pleasing to God*" Romans 12:1.
12. "For the kingdom of God does not consist of food and drink, but righteousness, *peace*, and joy in the holy spirit" Romans 14:17.
13. "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe in him, so that you may abound in *hope* by the power of the holy spirit" Romans 15:13.
14. "By purity, by *knowledge*, by patience, by benevolence, by the holy spirit, by genuine love" 2 Corinthians 6:6.
15. "By purity, by knowledge, by patience, by *benevolence*, by the holy spirit, by genuine love" 2 Corinthians 6:6.
16. "The *grace* of the lord Jesus the messiah and the love of God and the fellowship of the holy spirit be with you all" 2 Corinthians 13:13.
17. "The grace of the lord Jesus the messiah and the love of God and the *fellowship* of the holy spirit be with you all" 2 Corinthians 13:13.
18. "Our gospel did not come to you merely in words, but in power and in the holy spirit and with *deep conviction*" 1 Thessalonians 1:5.
19. "From infancy you have known the holy writings, which are able to give you *wisdom* for salvation through faith in the messiah Jesus" 2 Timothy 3:15.
20. "For it is indeed fitting for us to have such a high priest: holy, *innocent*, undefiled, separate from sinners, and exalted above the heavens" Hebrews 7:26.
21. "This is the solemn pronouncement of the holy one, the *true* one, who holds the key of David, who opens doors no one can shut, and shuts doors no one can open" Revelation 3:7, "How long, sovereign master, holy and *true*, before you judge those who live on the earth and avenge our blood?" 6:10.
22. "*Blessed* and holy is the one who takes part in the first resurrection" Revelation 20:6.

'Holy' appears together with expressions of power: 'strength',¹ 'reign',² 'rule',³ 'splendor',⁴ 'sacred',⁵ 'power',⁶ 'anoint',⁷ 'awesome',⁸ 'exalted',⁹ and 'majestic'.¹⁰

'Sanctify'¹¹ and 'consecrate'¹² are not separate terms. They are just other forms of the word 'holy', meaning to 'make something holy'.

'Holiness' appears in contrast to 'defile the body and spirit',¹³ 'lustful passion',¹⁴ and 'impurity'.¹⁵ Each occurs in the context of sexual misconduct.

1. "This day is holy to our lord—do not grieve, for the joy of the lord is your *strength*" Nehemiah 8:10, "You are awe-inspiring, O God, as you emerge from your holy temple—it is the God of Israel who gives the people power and *strength*" Psalm 68:35.
2. "God *reigns* over the nations—God sits on his holy throne" Psalm 47:8.
3. "God *rules* from his holy palace" Psalm 68:5.
4. "The lord comes from Sinai in holy *splendor*" Psalm 68:17, "They see your processions, O God—the processions of my God, my king, who marches along in holy *splendor*" 68:24.
5. "Announce a holy fast; proclaim a *sacred* assembly" Joel 1:14.
6. "You are awe-inspiring, O God, as you emerge from your holy temple—it is the God of Israel who gives the people *power* and *strength*" Psalm 68:35, 1 Thessalonians 1:5.
7. "With my holy oil I have *anointed* him as king" Psalm 89:20.
8. "His name is holy and *awesome*" Psalm 111:9.
9. "I dwell in an *exalted* and holy place" Isaiah 57:15, "For it is indeed fitting for us to have such a high priest: holy, innocent, undefiled, separate from sinners, and *exalted* above the heavens" Hebrews 7:26.
10. "Look down from heaven and take notice, from your holy, *majestic* palace" Isaiah 63:15.
11. For example, "You must *sanctify* yourselves and be holy, because I am the lord your God" Leviticus 20:7, "He must be holy to you because I, the lord who *sanctifies* you all, am holy" 21:8.
12. For example, "The priests left the holy place—all the priests who participated had *consecrated* themselves" 2 Chronicles 5:11.
13. "Let us cleanse ourselves from everything that could *defile the body and the spirit*, and thus accomplish holiness out of reverence for God" 2 Corinthians 7:1.
14. "For this is God's will: that you become holy, that you keep away from sexual immorality, that each of you know how to possess his own body in holiness and honor, not in *lustful passion* like the gentiles who do not know God" 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5.
15. "For God did not call us to *impurity* but in holiness" 1 Thessalonians 4:7.

'Holy' appears in contrast to ritual impurity: 'defile',¹ 'impurities',² 'profane',³ 'flaw',⁴ 'disease',⁵ 'discharge',⁶ 'dead',⁷ 'emission',⁸ 'swarming',⁹ 'unclean',¹⁰ 'pollute',¹¹ 'indecent',¹² 'cut',¹³ 'shave',¹⁴ 'turn away',¹⁵ 'desecrate',¹⁶ 'dogs',¹⁷ and 'pigs'.¹⁸

1. "Be holy because I am holy—you must not *defile* yourselves by any of the swarming things that creep on the ground" Leviticus 11:44, "He has given some of his children to Molech and thereby *defiled* my sanctuary and profaned my holy name" 20:3, "They must not take a wife *defiled* by prostitution, nor are they to take a wife divorced from her husband, for the priest is holy to his God" 21:7.
2. "So he is to make atonement for the holy place from the *impurities* of the Israelites" Leviticus 16:16.
3. "He has *profaned* what is holy to the lord" Leviticus 19:8, "He has given some of his children to Molech and thereby *defiled* my sanctuary and *profaned* my holy name" 20:3, "They must be holy to their God, and they must not *profane* the name of their God" 21:6, "Thus he must not *profane* my holy places, for I am the lord who sanctifies them" 21:23, "So that they do not *profane* my holy name" 22:2, "You must not *profane* my holy name" 22:32, "You must not *profane* the holy things of the Israelites" Numbers 18:32, "I was concerned for my holy reputation which the house of Israel *profaned* among the nations where they went" Ezekiel 36:21, "It is not for your sake that I am about to act, O house of Israel, but for the sake of my holy reputation which you *profaned* among the nations where you went" 36:22, "I will not let my holy name be *profaned* anymore" 39:7, "The house of Israel will no longer *profane* my holy name" 43:7.
4. "He must not go into the veil-canopy or step forward to the altar because he has a physical flaw—thus he must not *profane* my holy places, for I am the lord who sanctifies them" Leviticus 21:23.
5. "No man from the descendants of Aaron who is *diseased* or has a discharge may eat the holy offerings until he becomes clean" Leviticus 22:4.
6. "No man from the descendants of Aaron who is diseased or has a *discharge* may eat the holy offerings until he becomes clean" Leviticus 22:4.
7. "The one who touches anything made unclean by contact with a *dead person* ... must not eat from the holy offerings unless he has bathed his body in water" Leviticus 22:4-6.
8. "A man who has a *seminal emission* ... must not eat from the holy offerings unless he has bathed his body in water" Leviticus 22:4-6.
9. "A man who touches a *swarming thing* by which he becomes unclean ... must not eat from the holy offerings unless he has bathed his body in water" Leviticus 22:5-6.
10. "A man who ... touches a person by which he becomes unclean ... must not eat from the holy offerings unless he has bathed his body in water" Leviticus 22:5-6, 1 Corinthians 7:14.
11. "They have *polluted* your holy temple and turned Jerusalem into a heap of ruins" Psalm 79:1.
12. "Therefore your camp should be holy, so that he does not see anything *indecent* among you and turn away from you" Deuteronomy 23:14.
13. "Do not *cut yourselves* or shave your forehead bald for the sake of the dead, for you are a people holy to the lord your God" Deuteronomy 14:1.
14. "Do not cut yourselves or *shave your forehead* bald for the sake of the dead, for you are a people holy to the lord your God" Deuteronomy 14:1.
15. "Therefore your camp should be holy, so that he does not see anything indecent among you and *turn away from you*" Deuteronomy 23:14.
16. "You have despised my holy things and *desecrated* my sabbaths" Ezekiel 22:8, "Her priests abuse my law and have *desecrated* my holy things" 22:26.
17. "Do not give what is holy to *dogs* or throw your pearls before pigs" Matthew 7:6.
18. "Do not give what is holy to dogs or throw your pearls before *pigs*" Matthew 7:6.

'Holy' appears in contrast to misconduct: 'divorce',¹ 'transgressions',² 'iniquity',³ 'wicked',⁴ 'lie',⁵ 'sexual misconduct',⁶ 'slander',⁷ and 'excessive drinking'.⁸

'Holy' appears in contrast to disrepute: 'work',⁹ 'mourn',¹⁰ 'weep',¹¹ 'grieve',¹² 'invade',¹³ 'despise',¹⁴ 'abuse',¹⁵ and 'forsake'.¹⁶

'Holiness' is an important concept in the law of Moses.

God himself is holy.¹⁷

The priests must be holy.¹⁸

1. "They must not take a wife defiled by prostitution, nor are they to take a wife *divorced* from her husband, for the priest is holy to his God" Leviticus 21:7.
2. "So he is to make atonement for the holy place from the impurities of the Israelites and from their *transgressions* with regard to all their sins" Leviticus 16:16.
3. "The one who eats it will bear his punishment for *iniquity* because he has profaned what is holy to the lord" Leviticus 19:8.
4. "He watches over his holy ones, but the *wicked* are made speechless in the darkness" 1 Samuel 2:9.
5. "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to *lie* to the holy spirit" Acts 5:3.
6. "For this is God's will: that you become holy, that you keep away from *sexual misconduct*" 1 Thessalonians 4:3.
7. "Older women likewise are to exhibit behavior fitting for those who are holy, not *slandering*, not slaves to excessive drinking, but teaching what is good" Titus 2:3.
8. "Older women likewise are to exhibit behavior fitting for those who are holy, not *slandering*, not slaves to *excessive drinking*, but teaching what is good" Titus 2:3.
9. "Six days *work* may be done, but on the seventh day there must be a sabbath of complete rest, a holy assembly" Leviticus 23:3, "You must present a gift to the lord for seven days, and the seventh day is a holy assembly; you must not do any regular *work*" 23:8, "On this very day you must proclaim an assembly; it is to be a holy assembly for you—you must not do any regular *work*" 23:21, "On the first day is a holy assembly; you must do no regular *work*" 23:35, "On the first day there is to be a holy assembly; you must do no ordinary *work* on it" Numbers 28:18, "On the seventh day you are to have a holy assembly, you must do no regular *work*" 28:25, "you are to have a holy assembly—you must do no ordinary *work*" 28:26, "On the first day of the seventh month, you are to hold a holy assembly—you must not do your ordinary *work*, for it is a day of blowing trumpets for you" 29:1, "On the tenth day of this seventh month you are to have a holy assembly—you must humble yourselves; you must not do any *work* on it" 29:7, "On the fifteenth day of the seventh month you are to have a holy assembly; you must do no ordinary *work*, and you must keep a festival to the lord for seven days" 29:12, "On the eighth day you are to have a holy assembly; you must do no ordinary *work* on it" 29:35.
10. "This day is holy to the lord your God—do not *mourn* or *weep*" Nehemiah 8:9.
11. "This day is holy to the lord your God—do not *mourn* or *weep*" Nehemiah 8:9.
12. "This day is holy to our lord—do not *grieve*, for the joy of the lord is your strength" Nehemiah 8:10, 8:11.
13. "O God, foreigners have *invaded* your chosen land; they have polluted your holy temple and turned Jerusalem into a heap of ruins" Psalm 79:1.
14. "You have *despised* my holy things and desecrated my sabbaths" Ezekiel 22:8.
15. "Her priests *abuse* my law and have desecrated my holy things" Ezekiel 22:26.
16. "He will return and honor those who *forsake* the holy covenant" Daniel 11:30.
17. "You must be holy to me because *I, the lord, am holy*" Leviticus 20:26, "The place where you are standing is *holy ground*" Exodus 3:5. See the emphatic repetition of the word in "*Holy, holy, holy* is the lord who commands armies" Isaiah 6:3 and "*Holy, holy, holy* is the lord God, the all-powerful, who was and who is, and who is still to come" Revelation 4:8.
18. "The robe is to be on Aaron as he ministers, and his sound will be heard when he enters the Holy Place before the lord and when he leaves, so that he does not die" Exodus 28:35ff., "You are to sanctify them, and they will be most holy; anything that touches them will be holy" 30:29ff., "They must be holy to their God, and they must not profane the name of their God, because they are the ones who present the lord's gifts, the food of their God" Leviticus 21.

The people must be holy.¹ That is why they must not eat meat that was slaughtered by an animal² or creeping things.³ That is why they must remain ritually pure.⁴ They must tear down all altars to idols.⁵ They must obey all of the laws and statutes of the lord their God.⁶ Then the surrounding people will observe that they belong to the lord.⁷

The meetings of the people are holy.⁸

The sabbath day is holy.⁹

Things are holy, for example, the most holy place,¹⁰ sacrifices,¹¹ holy days,¹² the altar,¹³ offerings,¹⁴ incense,¹⁵ the camp,¹⁶ and even the tassels.¹⁷

1. "You will be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" Exodus 19:6, "You are a people holy to the lord your God" Deuteronomy 7:6, 14:2, 14:21, "Surely he loves the people; all your holy ones are in your power" 33:2-5.
2. "You will be holy people to me; you must not eat any meat torn by animals in the field" Exodus 22:31.
3. "Be holy because I am holy—you must not defile yourselves by any of the swarming things that creep on the ground" Leviticus 11:44ff.
4. "You are a people holy to the lord your God—he has chosen you to be his people, prized above all others on the face of the earth" Deuteronomy 14:1-24.
5. "You must tear down their altars, shatter their sacred pillars, cut down their sacred Asherah poles, and burn up their idols, for you are a people holy to the lord your God" Deuteronomy 7:5-7.
6. "You must sanctify yourselves and be holy, because I am the lord your God—you must be sure to obey my statutes" Leviticus 20:7-8, "You must be holy because I, the lord your God, am holy: Each of you must respect his mother and his father, and you must keep my sabbaths—I am the lord your God—do not turn to idols, and you must not make for yourselves gods of cast metal" 19:1-4, "The lord has declared you to be his special people (as he already promised you) so you may keep all his commandments" Deuteronomy 26:16-19.
7. "Then all the peoples of the earth will see that you belong to the lord, and they will respect you" Deuteronomy 28:8-10.
8. "On the first day there will be a holy convocation, and on the seventh day there will be a holy convocation for you" Exodus 12:16, "These are the lord's appointed times which you must proclaim as holy assemblies" Leviticus 23.
9. "God blessed the *seventh day* and made it holy because on it he ceased all the work that he had been doing in creation" Genesis 2:3, "Tomorrow is a time of cessation from work, a *holy sabbath* to the lord" Exodus 16:23, "Remember the sabbath day to set it apart as holy" 20:8-11, "Six days work may be done, but on the seventh day is a *sabbath* of complete rest, holy to the lord" 31:15, "In six days work may be done, but on the seventh day there must be a holy day for you, a *sabbath* of complete rest to the lord" 35:2, "The first day there is to be a holy assembly" Numbers 28:18-26, "On the seventh day there must be a *sabbath* of complete rest, a holy assembly" Leviticus 23:3-8, "Be careful to observe the *sabbath* day just as the lord your God has commanded you" Deuteronomy 5:12-15.
10. "The curtain will make a division for you between the holy place and the most holy place" Exodus 26:33-34, "Tell Aaron your brother that he must not enter at any time into the holy place inside the veil-canopy in front of the atonement plate that is on the ark so that he may not die" Leviticus 16:1ff.
11. "They are to eat those things by which atonement was made to consecrate and to set them apart, but no one else may eat them, for they are holy" Exodus 29:33ff., "When a man makes a special votive offering based on the conversion value of persons to the lord, the conversion value of the male from twenty years old up to sixty years old is fifty shekels by the standard of the sanctuary shekel" Leviticus 27.
12. "Once in the year he is to make atonement on it throughout your generations—it is most holy to the lord" Exodus 30:10ff.
13. "Anoint the tabernacle and all that is in it, and sanctify it and all its furnishings, and it will be holy" Exodus 40:9ff.
14. "The remainder of the grain offering belongs to Aaron and to his sons—it is most holy from the gifts of the lord" Leviticus 2:10, "It must be eaten unleavened in a holy place; they are to eat it in the courtyard of the meeting tent" 6:16ff., 22.
15. "The incense that you are to make, you must not make for yourselves using the same recipe; it is to be most holy to you, belonging to the lord" Exodus 30:36-37.
16. "Your camp should be holy, so that he does not see anything indecent among you and turn away from you" Deuteronomy 23:14.
17. "Make tassels for themselves on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and put a blue thread on

Be 'holy' because I am 'holy'.

The law of Moses repeatedly demands that Israel must be 'holy' because God himself is 'holy'.¹ Peter references this text when writing to the persecuted Asian church.²

Since 'holiness' is an attribute of God, the people who belong to him are required to possess it. They are blessed, but their blessing must produce a changed life, dedicating their conduct to serve the lord.

So then, what is 'holiness'?

'Holiness' means some particular things for those that love the lord.

Disciples must turn from evil to become 'holy' like God:

Do not comply with the evil urges you used to follow in your ignorance, but, like the holy one who called you, become holy yourselves in all of your conduct, for it is written, 'You shall be holy, because I am holy'.³

'Holiness' means that disciples now have a special purpose. Just like the people, priests, sacrifices, offerings, holy days, holy places, rules, and laws of Israel, disciples as individuals are themselves dedicated and set aside for that special purpose:

Therefore I exhort you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice—alive, holy, and pleasing to God—which is your reasonable service. Do not be conformed to this present world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may test and approve what is the will of God—what is good and well-pleasing and perfect.⁴

the tassel of the corners ... thus you will remember and obey all my commandments and be holy to your God" Numbers 15:37-41.

1. "You will be to me a kingdom of priests and a *holy nation*" Exodus 19:6, "You are to sanctify yourselves and be holy because I am holy" Leviticus 11:44-45, 20:7, "You must be holy to me because I, the lord, am holy, and I have set you apart from the other peoples to be mine" 20:26, 21 :8, "For you are a people holy to the lord your God—he has chosen you to be his people, prized above all others on the face of the earth" Deuteronomy 7:6, 14:2, "Then he will elevate you above all the nations he has made and you will receive praise, fame, and honor—you will be a people holy to the lord your God" 26:19.
2. "Do not comply with the evil urges you used to follow in your ignorance, but, like the holy one who called you, become holy yourselves in all of your conduct, for it is written, 'You shall be holy, because I am holy' " 1 Peter 1:14-16.
3. Citing Leviticus 11:44-45 in 1 Peter 1:14-16. This never means that anyone ever can become or must become completely and absolutely removed from all sin, or that anyone can actually exhibit complete and perfect righteousness. In fact, anyone who claims that they have accomplished this makes God a liar: "If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar and his word is not in us" (1 John 1:10). In their exuberance to promote holiness, some in the so-called Holiness movement have suggested incorrectly that disciples can actually achieve a defect-free life. This confusion is aggravated by the common mistranslation of τέλειος 'finish, complete, mature', τελειῶ, ἐπιτέλῃω 'I complete' as 'perfect'. "So then, be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48, compare 19:21, Hebrews 12:23, Philippians 1:6) should be translated, "So then, become complete, as your heavenly Father is complete." In Elizabethan English, 'perfect' did not carry the sense of absolute defect-free, which it now does. This idea and translation should be abandoned. Disciples are dedicated for a mature purpose without accomplishing perfection. This is a question of priority, not freedom from all error.
4. Romans 12:1-2.

Disciples may live among the nations, but they are different from them. This distinction exists to glorify God and demonstrate his power.

The lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.¹

It is his intention that the other people will notice this difference, and they will turn to him.

The lord will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the lord your God and walk in obedience to him. Then all the peoples on earth will see that you are called by the name of the lord, and they will fear you.²

In the future the mountain of the lord's temple will endure as the most important of mountains, and will be the most prominent of hills. All the nations will stream to it, many peoples will come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the lord's mountain, to the temple of the God of Jacob, so he can teach us his requirements, and we can follow his standards.'³

If these things are not happening, and in abundance, then something is wrong.

1. Deuteronomy 7:7-8.
2. Deuteronomy 28:9-10.
3. Isaiah 2:2-3.