

Mosaic Covenant: Holy, Sacred, Consecrate

Perhaps the most essential feature of the Mosaic Covenant is that it teaches one about the holy character of God. To be holy places an emphasis on God; something must be set apart or separated from the profane or unclean before it can come into the presence of God.

1. Learn the meaning of holy, sacred, and consecrate. Try using a dictionary!

For I am the Lord who brings you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God. **You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.** (Lev 11:45)

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the **Holy** Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (2 Tim 3:14-15, NIV)

2. What does God set apart and make holy?

Moses said to the Lord, "The people cannot come up Mount Sinai, because you yourself warned us, 'Put limits around the mountain and set it apart as holy.'" (Ex 19:23)

For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (Ex 20:11, NIV)

Make sacred garments for your brother Aaron to give him dignity and honor. Tell all the skilled workers to whom I have given wisdom in such matters that they are to make garments for Aaron, for his consecration, so he may serve me as priest. (Ex 28:2-3, NIV)

Mosaic Covenant: Holy, Sacred, Consecrate Teacher Notes

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To be “set apart from the profane or unclean” can be understood as set apart from the common or temporal. God is uniquely distinct, living, and eternal.

Here is an example explanation by God:

Therefore say to the house of Israel, “Thus says the Lord God: ‘I do not do this for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name’s sake, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went. And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I am the Lord,’ says the Lord God, ‘when I am hallowed in you before their eyes.’” (Ezek 36:22-23)

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Explain to the student Leviticus 11:45 and note that it is in reference to the Mosaic Covenant.

Holy – a prescribed process or designation of something set apart for God. This is determined by God.

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Sacred – something dedicated to God and considered holy. This is determined by you.

Consecrate - to declare / dedicate / set apart something as sacred to the service / worship of God. This is done by you and usually by a process determined by God.

2. What does God set apart and make holy?

Moses said to the Lord, “The people cannot come up Mount Sinai, because you yourself warned us, ‘Put limits around the mountain and set it apart as holy.’” (Ex 19:23)

This is an example of God designating an area or space as holy.

For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (Ex 20:11, NIV)

This is an example of God designating a period of time as holy.

Make sacred garments for your brother Aaron to give him dignity and honor. Tell all the skilled workers to whom I have given wisdom in such matters that they are to make garments for Aaron, for his consecration, so he may serve me as priest. (Ex 28:2-3, NIV)

This is an example of God designating objects as holy. Notice that when special people wear these sacred objects, it consecrates them and makes them holy.

Draw the student's attention to Exodus 40:16:

Thus Moses did; according to all that the Lord had commanded him, so he did. (Ex 40:16)

Moses recognized the importance of holiness and obeyed God's direction on how to be holy. If anyone disregarded the importance of being holy before God, they met certain death. Here are some examples:

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes. And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the Lord will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, 'Take heed to yourselves that you do not go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death. (Ex 19:10-12)

They shall be on Aaron and on his sons when they come into the tabernacle of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister in the holy place, that they do not incur iniquity and die. It shall be a statute forever to him and his descendants after him. (Ex 28:43)

There is a parallel to Jesus Christ. When you believe that Jesus really did die for your sins and place a trust in God's word, your sins will be forgiven. Like Aaron, all Believers serve God as a priest; but, unlike Aaron's priestly garments that consecrate him, it is a white robe that consecrates you and makes you holy.

"Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city." (Rev 22:14)

You can think of salvation like this picture of a man wearing special clothing to get samples from very hot lava.

