

Coach House Church BEACONS

GODS HOLY EXPECTATIONS

19TH AUGUST 2020

Hello, my name is Stephen and I am presenting today's Coach House Beacon. I acknowledge my source for today's Beacon as being Messianic Bible Ministries. There is an old, grand hymn entitled Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God almighty, that was written by Reginald Heber. One of the verses goes: "Holy, Holy, Holy! Though the darkness hides Thee, though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see, only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee, perfect in power, in love, and purity".

God is a holy God, and this is His expectation for us: holiness, without which no one will see the Lord. (Heb 12:14).

"Blessed be His glorious name forever; and may the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen, and Amen." (Psalm 72:19)

Inherent in the names of our Almighty God is not only His holiness but also His holy expectations for His People. For instance, what does it really mean that He is jealous for us?

Here we will uncover that answer and understand a little more about His holy nature through two of His names: 1/ The Lord Who Sanctifies You and 2/ our Jealous God.

1/ The Lord Who Sanctifies You: Adonai Mekoddishkem (יְהוָה מְקַדְּשֶׁכֶּךָ)

"Then the Lord said to Moses, Say to the Israelites, 'You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for the generations to come, so you may know that I am the LORD, who makes you holy [YHVH Mekoddishkem]!" (Exodus 31:13)

This particular name of God occurs twice in Scripture—once in Exodus 31:13 and once in Leviticus 20:8.

Mekoddishkem is derived from the Hebrew word kadosh (קדוש), which means to sanctify, dedicate, consecrate, set apart or make holy. It's apparent from these passages that God has consecrated His people and set them apart as holy (kadosh).

God does not just demand that we be holy; He Himself is holy. Without that holiness, His awesome power would be cruel. And just as God is holy (1 Samuel 2:2), His people are to be holy, as well.

"But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy [kadosh], because I am holy [kadosh].'" (1 Peter 1:15-16; Leviticus 19:2)

We are to be set apart for His purposes.

The Tanakh (Hebrew Scriptures) reveals that people (of the covenant), places (Jerusalem, Temple Mount), things (anointing oil, Temple articles, and furnishings), and even a nation (Israel) were consecrated or set apart because they came in contact with the Holy God.

In the Brit Chadashah (New Covenant), both Jews and non-Jews are sanctified through the blood of Yeshua (Jesus). As a set apart people who have a personal relationship with God, we are to look and behave differently.

This should be evidenced in every aspect of our lives: the clothes we choose to wear, the way we speak to one another, the music we listen to, and the movies we watch. But sanctification is not just an outward act; it's an inward work of the Holy Spirit (Ruach HaKodesh).

"God the Father knew you long ago and chose you to live holy lives with the Spirit's help so that you are obedient to Yeshua HaMashiach and are sprinkled with His blood. May good will and peace fill your lives!" (1 Peter 1:2)

Adonai Mekoddishkem desires that we be kadosh as He is kadosh, but for that to happen, we must willingly participate in His divine nature. Out of His holiness, He will not force holiness upon us. But neither do we have to become holy through our own strength.

Through this name of God, we understand that it is He who makes us holy.

2/ Jealous God: El Kanna (אֵל קַנָּא)

"Do not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a Jealous God [El Kanna]." (Exodus 34:14)

Because God is kadosh (holy) and has set apart His People to be kadosh, He is jealous for His People.

The concept of jealousy in our culture is often associated with selfishness, distrust, and hostility. Some even mistake jealousy and envy as one and the same thing; however, they are not identical. Jealousy concerns a perceived challenge to one's position. In other words, you think someone is trying to take your position as husband, wife, friend, or employee, and you want to prevent that from happening.

Envy is more malevolent. It often involves covetousness, and an "if I can't have it, you can't either" attitude. God's jealousy, in contrast to envy is rooted in justice, holiness and love. It is a healthy, passionate, burning devotion for us and an insistence that He will not share His position, praise, or glory with another (Psalm 83:18).

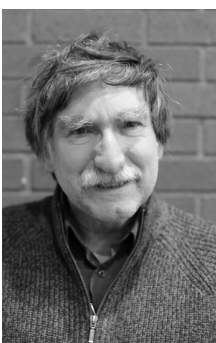
"I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols." (Isaiah 42:8)

Marriage is reflective of the type of relationship that God desires to have with us: intimate and exclusive. God desires an exclusive love relationship with His people; He does not want to share our love and attention with idols and other false gods (Exodus 20:3).

That is why Deuteronomy 6:5 is the most important prayer and declaration in Judaism:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." Yeshua confirmed this when He was asked what the greatest commandment is. "He answered, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and Love your neighbour as yourself.'" (Luke 10:27)

With all the distractions of this world pulling at us from every side, we may need to examine our hearts from time to time to see if our love has grown cold or if there is anything (or anyone) who has drawn the focus of our devotion away from the living God who is also known as El Kanna — The Jealous God. Amen!



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