

A HOLY GOD—A HOLY PEOPLE

By Keith Greer

"Speak to all the congregation of the of children of Israel, and say to them: 'You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy' {Leviticus 19:2} This is the key thought contained in the book of Leviticus. The book is about how God's people can approach a Holy God and be considered a holy people.

"Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God. And you shall keep My statutes, and perform them: I am the LORD who sanctifies you. "{Leviticus 20:7,8} Yes, God's people were to be set apart from all the other people on the earth. God gave them strict and detailed instructions in the book of Leviticus on what they needed to do in order to approach God in holiness. Sacrifices were to be kept, feasts day were to be observed, proper conduct among the strangers in the land, and proper conduct among themselves as brethren. God left nothing to chance. From the putting down and taking down of the tabernacle, to the duties of the priests and finally their duties to God-God gave them His directions.

God's people had two choices in all these matters-obey or reject His counsel. Sadly, many times they choose to reject and disobey His will. Each time it brought God's displeasure upon them. Why didn't they just learn that doing it God's way would always be better than doing it by their own design? These people were just unthankful, stubborn ...

Wait just a minute. God also expects us to be a holy people. "But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."{1 Peter 1:15,16} While our instructions are not as burdensome as those of old, we still have some guidelines established by God. God has given His law instructing us how we can be a "holy people" living in an ungodly world. Do we follow His commandments? Could it be we are just as unthankful and stubborn as they were? So many times we are not able to convince the world that God's ways are better than theirs. Why? What they see are people who live, talk, act, and conduct their affairs just like they do! So why do they need holiness? Maybe we are not so different from God's people of long ago? ***