

The Iniquity Of The Holy Things

Ex 28:38; 36 "And thou shalt make a plate of pure gold, and grave upon it, like the engravings of a signet, **HOLINESS TO THE LORD**. 37 And thou shalt put it on a blue lace, that it may be upon the mitre; upon the forefront of the mitre it shall be. 38 And it shall be upon Aaron's forehead, that Aaron may bear the iniquity of the holy things, which the children of Israel shall hallow in all their holy gifts; and it shall be always upon his forehead, that they may be accepted before the LORD."

This text is in the instructions given by God to make the garments of the High Priest of God, to wear when he went into the Holy place, and the Holiest of the Holy place. They were to make a plate of pure gold and engrave upon it "**HOLINESS TO THE LORD**," and Aaron was to wear it upon his forehead. The purpose of this plate engraved with "**HOLINESS TO THE LORD**" was to remove "*the iniquity of the holy things*" from Israel to the High Priest, and thereby bring acceptance of sinless Israel by God.

What is "*the iniquity of the holy things*?" Should any offering be brought that was not perfect, which had some blemish it and was not an acceptable sacrifice, there was iniquity of a holy thing. If a person brought a sacrifice to be offered with a wrong attitude, there was iniquity in the holy things. If the process that God prescribed to make a sacrificial offering was altered in any way, there was iniquity in the holy things.

When we understand, by the light of God's grace opening our spiritual eyes, that we are totally depraved without the Holy Spirit presence of Christ in us, light will begin to shine and reveal to us the need of a High Priest to remove "*the iniquity of the holy things*."

What is "*the iniquity of the holy things*" in our worship of God today? Let us look at some of the iniquitous things which pertain to our public, and private, worship in the visible church on earth. C. H. Spurgeon gives us a list of five things to ponder upon:

Hypocrisy: The iniquity here is when we pretend to be children of God and participate in public worship of God. If you are not a child of God you cannot worship God in Spirit and Truth, only in the iniquity of hypocrisy. If you have turned away from God in your heart and participate in worship, you are being a hypocrite.

Formality: When we attend church services just because that is what we are supposed to do, to keep up the appearance of our faithfulness to the glory of God's name, there is iniquity of the holy things.

Lukewarmness: When we go to church, but our heart's desire is not to be there to worship God: when our thoughts are centered upon things that do not pertain to bringing glory, honor, and worship, to the name of God, we are displaying the iniquity of the holy things.

Irreverence: Irreverence and lukewarmness go hand in hand. If we come to church and do not have full reverence for the name of our God, nor fully believe and trust in the finished work of our Saviour, we are displaying the iniquity of the holy things.

Wandering of heart and mind: When we go to church, and our hearts and minds begin to wander off into other things, forgetting that we have gathered to Worship God, then there is iniquity of the holy things.

Why do these kinds of iniquities creep into our private worship, and into our church services? Because we have not made proper preparation to worship God. These iniquities demonstrate that when we left the last assembly of God's people, we did not immediately begin to pray for the anointing of God's Holy Spirit upon the preachers, and the people, for the next service. It reflects that we have not taken time to pray that God would prepare us in heart, mind, body, and soul, to worship him in Spirit and Truth.

Between times of assembling to worship God in the congregational setting: what have we done in our daily living to bring glory to God? Have we made any attempts to reach out to the lost? Have we made any attempts to be of service to our fellow Christians? Have we taken time to teach our children about God? Have we in earnestness and fervency prayed to God for the sick, the bereaved, the widows, the orphans, our leaders, both church and natural leaders? Have we presented our bodies a living sacrifice to God? Or instead, have we just presented those things that please our own wants? Herein, we see the iniquity of our daily worship of God.

Now to reveal the prophetic picture of the "**HOLINESS TO THE LORD**" and "*the iniquity of the holy things*," and its application to our lives as Christians. The gold plate with "**HOLINESS TO THE LORD**" engraved upon it was to always be upon the forehead of the High Priest? As we consider this, we see the picture of Jesus Christ, who is the great High Priest who bore all our iniquities upon the cross. Christ, our head of "**HOLINESS TO THE LORD**" is currently sitting on the throne of God in heaven, and God the Father sees Christ, our "**HOLINESS TO THE LORD**,"

instead of our sins. Christ Jesus bore "*the iniquity of the holy things*" on the cross, which are all our vain attempts to worship God in Spirit and Truth. The shed blood of Christ removes our "*iniquity of the holy things*" from us, and places them upon Christ, which enables Christ to present our feeble attempts to worship God as "**HOLINESS TO THE LORD.**"

As we consider these thoughts, we see light cast upon the reason that Jesus told us to ask of God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ, seen in: *Joh 16:23-24; 23 ¶ "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. 24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."* Jesus is our "**HOLINESS TO THE LORD,**" who removes "*the iniquity of the holy things.*" If we do not ask of God the Father in the name of Jesus, we have bypassed the way we are presented as "**HOLINESS TO THE LORD.**" We are attempting to pray out of our depravity, which is why God does not hear our prayers, nor the prayers of the children of the devil.

Praise the Lord, we have a remedy for "*the iniquity of the holy things*" in Jesus Christ, who is our "**HOLINESS TO THE LORD.**" Thank you, Jesus Christ, our High Priest, who bears the engraving "**HOLINESS TO THE LORD,**" upon your resurrected and glorified body, manifested by the prints of the throned crown you wore, the stripes you bore, the nail prints in your hands, and the scar of your pierced side. Thank you for presenting us to our heavenly Father, in the light of your Holiness. Hallelujah! Amen!