



The Sanctification of the People

I again want to acknowledge that what led me to this was when I began looking intently into the significance of the blowing of the Ram's Horn which came before the Battle Cry. It started with my trying to figure out if the horns were blown all six days or only on the seventh day.

Joshua 6:12-16 New International Version

12 Joshua got up early the next morning and the priests took up the ark of the Lord.

*13 **The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets went forward, marching before the ark of the Lord and blowing the trumpets. The armed men went ahead of them and the rear guard followed the ark of the Lord, while the trumpets kept sounding.***

14 So on the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days.

*15 On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and **marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times.***

*16 **The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, "Shout! For the Lord has given you the city!"***

We mentioned how there was a two-fold significance to why they marched around the city the way that they did. I don't want to focus on the fear that was inspired in the people of Jericho. Instead, I want to focus on the faith of the people of Israel. You see, it took faith to march around Jericho for six days in silence and then seven times on the seventh day in silence waiting for the signal to shout on the seventh trip around Jericho.

This means that they needed to be listening intently. They needed to be paying attention. To do this meant that they needed to submit to following the lead of God by following the leader God placed in front of them, Joshua, who was following the lead of the Commander of the Army of the Lord. They needed to be obedient and that is what sanctification by the Holy Spirit helps us to do.

1 Corinthians 11:1 New International Version

11 1 Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

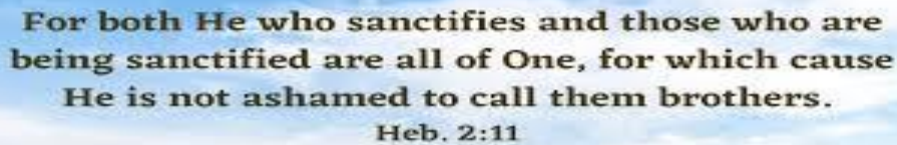
In everything that happened with the people of Israel, as seen in Joshua Chapters 3-6, we see the sanctification process:

1. Crossing through the Jordan, just like when the Israelites crossed through the Red Sea, was a symbolic washing. (Joshua Chapters 3-4) [*Today, we dedicate our lives to the Lord through water baptism, and we continue to wash through the daily reading of the Word of God.*]
2. The circumcision of the people is symbolic of their faith in the promises of God to their forefather Abraham. (Joshua Chapter 5) [*Today, we circumcise (rend) our hearts before the Lord.*]
3. Following the lead of Joshua who followed the instructions given to him by the Commander of the Army of the Lord. (Joshua Chapter 6) [*Today, we follow the leaders placed before us as they follow Jesus Christ who is the Chief Commander of the Army of the Lord.*]

Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.

It says that we were washed (baptized in water); sanctified (Circumcised in the heart demonstrated by a life of obedience); and justified (by our faith to believe) in the name of the Lord by the Spirit. Are you seeing this? This is so exciting. Let's look a little closer at this process of sanctification as it relates to both Joshua's day and to our own.

Sanctification means to be set apart for special use or purpose, to make holy, sacred as a vessel full of the Holy Spirit of God. God was consecrating a people for himself, to honor Him – His own special treasure/ possession to do works that honor God.



For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of One, for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brothers.
Heb. 2:11

- God chose a nation of people out of a world of people to represent Him amongst all of the people in the world.

Exodus 19:4-6 New International Version

4 'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, 6 you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites."

- After the nation of Israel proved itself to be disobedient, God chose one tribe out of the nation to represent him – the Levites.

Deuteronomy 7:6 New International Version

6 For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

- When the tribe of Levi proved themselves to also be disobedient, God opened the door for individuals to be chosen and grafted spiritually.



Even the symbolic cleansing of this covenant became spiritual in that circumcision was no longer about the cutting of the flesh but the cutting of one's heart.

2 Timothy 2:21 New International Version

21 Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

- We must never forget the purpose of our being chosen. It is not about us. It is about Jesus.

John 17:17 New International Version

17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

- God is preparing us. Consecrating a people to Himself to praise him

1 Peter 2:9 New International Version

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

I always find it amazing how we can look at God's interactions with his people of yesterday to see and understand what He is doing with us today.



With that being said, we will be looking at Numbers Chapters 5-10 where we find six ways in which the people of God were sanctified. This is very significant for us today, so along with the listing of each, I will also provide additional references for you to look at so that you can see how it applies to us today.

✚ **Chapter 5** of Numbers reveals the requirement to be cleansed from and separated from defiling things. What this looks like for us today is seen in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 5:16-24 and 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5.

Again, I encourage you to read these verses because all that we are considering is significant for us today.

✚ **Chapter 6** of Numbers dealt with the vows we make before the Lord to consecrate ourselves. These are free will vows – periods of fasting that

have a time frame that we set as we offer ourselves to the Lord. (See Romans 12: 1-2)

I like how in Numbers 6:1-2 God said *“if a man or woman wants to...”* This is a personal freewill choice, and not a requirement, of which the individual now has a specified regimen, set by God, that must be followed. The fact that these vows were not permanent is seen in Numbers 6:13 where there was even a law in place as to what to do when the period of consecration was over.

✚ The next sanctification that is seen is found in **Chapter 7** of Numbers which addresses the offerings of the leaders. This was an offering of things that were to be used in the service of our Lord.

Today, we give up our resources, our time, and our energy.

✚ In **Chapter 8**, you see the consecration of the Levites – those who had the responsibility of working in the temple and serving God Himself by offering up offerings for the people and praying for the people. Because of the type of work they had to do, they needed to be set apart. They couldn't do whatever they wanted. They needed to be cleansed, purified, holy, and consecrated to handle their assignments as representatives of the Most High before the people.

As representatives of the Most High, to be anything but holy is a reflection on our Heavenly Father whom we serve. This is why the behavior of the priests, in the days of Eli, was so reprehensible and disrespectful to God. As a people of God, we represent God every day, 24/7/365. This is serious. So, in preparation to serve as a priest, a ceremonial cleansing has to take place. Washing needs to take place. What we must take note of and not forget is that the washing must continue. It's not something that is performed only once. Who does that? Who takes only one bath for the rest of their lives? No one does who wants to be accepted. We must continually wash so that we can be a pleasing aroma before the Lord. (See John 3:3-21; 17:17; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 2

Timothy 2:21) This is not about being perfect. The fact that we are not perfect is the reason why the washing process must be continual.

- ✚ The next two sanctification processes are found in **Chapter 9** of Numbers.
 - The first was the observance of Passover. This was an annual celebration that was to occur on the 14th of ABIB/Nisan at twilight (which is the going down of the Sun – on or about 6pm.) A failure to celebrate meant that one would be cut off from the people of God. (Numbers 9:13)

This is not the Easter celebration nor is it what many call Resurrection Sunday. This celebration had a specific date, Abib/Nisan 14th, annually. The purpose of this celebration was to remember and never forget that God fights our battles for us; that God delivers us out of all of our distresses; and that God provides for us.

- The last sanctification process, also found in Numbers Chapter 9 is that of being led by God. (Numbers 9:15-10:10) It is here where you will see the blowing of the trumpets. Numbers 9:23 says that the people of Israel made camp and broke camp at the command of the Lord.

The sounding of the trumpets, therefore, had a significant meaning as did the type of trumpets blown. In Numbers 10:2 we see two trumpets made of hammered silver, and how they were to be used. It is in Exodus 19:13 that you first see the ram's horn sounded and how, when it was sounded, the people were then allowed to go up just like in Joshua 6:4. (See also Psalm 81)

So obedience and listening was an important factor in being led by God with the end result being that God fought the battles for his people so that all they had to do was go in and take what God said was theirs. Do you see the significance of this lesson for us today? Do you see God preparing us to take back what was

stolen from us? Do you see the importance of listening and obeying? God fights our battles for us when we are obedient to follow the instructions He gives us.

Romans 8:31 New International Version

More Than Conquerors

31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

I can promise you that I had no idea that my study of the Battle Cry would lead me to find all of this. This is far beyond what I would have expected as I considered “all manner of prayer”. There are so many different types of prayer, but not once in all of the research that I did on the various types of prayer did I see the Battle Cry. Yet, it makes sense to me, and here is why:

Imagine that you have small children and you take them out to a park to play. There are other parents out with their children at the same park where their children are also playing. Now, imagine that one of the children who are playing falls and hurts themselves. All you can hear is the screams and outcries of the child. It catches the attention of every parent, but only the parent of the child crying responds. You might look up, but you won't go to the child if the child is not yours. Does that make sense? If the child is yours, not only will you go to see what the issue is, but you will also address it.

There are different types of cries. Some cries are out of pain. Some cries are shouts that happen in the exuberance of play. A parent quickly learns to distinguish what the cry of their child means. (They learn this when the child is but an infant.) So, just as there are different cries, there are also different trumpets with different sounds. Psalm 98:6 confirms that they are different types of trumpets. Just as there are different types of trumpets, there are also different types of prayers. Ergo, in Ephesians 6:18, the Apostle Paul tells us that we are to pray in the Spirit, on all occasions, with “all kinds of prayers and requests”. These prayers are our Battle Cries.