

# Leviticus 21:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They shall be holy unto their God, and not profane the name of their God: for the offerings of the LORD made by fire, and the bread of their God, they do offer: therefore they shall be holy.

## Analysis

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**They shall be holy unto their God, and not profane the name of their God: for the offerings of the LORD made by fire, and the bread of their God, they do offer: therefore they shall be holy.**

This verse falls within the section on **Priestly Holiness**. Higher standards for priests due to their sacred role, including restrictions on mourning practices and marriage.

The central theme of Leviticus is God's holiness and the call for His people to be holy. The Hebrew word qadosh (קָדוֹשׁ) means 'set apart' or 'sacred,' emphasizing both separation from sin and consecration to God's purposes. The five main offerings (burnt, grain, peace, sin, and guilt) addressed different aspects of relationship with God, all fulfilled in Christ's comprehensive sacrifice.

Every sacrifice and ritual in Leviticus points forward to Jesus Christ, who fulfills the entire sacrificial system as both perfect sacrifice and eternal high priest.

## Historical Context

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Higher standards for priests due to their sacred role, including restrictions on mourning practices and marriage. Chapters 17-27, often called the 'Holiness

Code,' expand covenant obligations beyond ritual to encompass all of life—sexuality, economics, justice, and relationships. The repeated refrain 'I am the LORD' grounds these laws in God's character and covenant relationship with Israel. Israel received these laws while encamped at Sinai, before entering Canaan. The laws prepared them for life in the promised land, distinguishing them from Canaanite practices and establishing their identity as God's holy nation. The portable tabernacle, central to Levitical worship, accompanied them through wilderness wanderings and eventually found permanent form in Solomon's temple. The Israelite dietary laws in Leviticus 11 have no exact parallel in surrounding cultures, though some ancient cultures had food taboos, suggesting unique revelation rather than borrowed customs.

## Related Passages

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's holiness, as revealed in this verse, shape your understanding of worship, obedience, and daily living?
2. What does this verse teach about the costliness of true worship and dedication to God?
3. What does this verse teach about the seriousness of sin, the cost of redemption, or the beauty of holiness?

## Interlinear Text

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קָדֵשׁ יְמִינֵיכֶם	אֱלֹהִים מֵאֱלֹהִים	וְלֹא אֱלֹהִים מֵאֱלֹהִים	שְׁמָם יְמִלֵּל וְ
therefore they shall be holy	of their God	and not profane	the name
H6918	H1961	H3808	H2490
אֱלֹהִים מֵאֱלֹהִים	אֱלֹהִים מֵאֱלֹהִים	לְקֹם אֱלֹהִים מֵאֱלֹהִים	אֱלֹהִים מֵאֱלֹהִים
of their God	for the offerings	of the LORD	and the bread
H3588	H853	H801	H3068
H430			H3899
			H430
וְקָדֵשׁ יְהִי מִקְרָב מִזְבֵּחַ	וְקָדֵשׁ יְהִי מִקְרָב מִזְבֵּחַ	וְקָדֵשׁ יְהִי מִקְרָב מִזְבֵּחַ	
they do offer	Leviticus 18:21	They shall be holy	
H1992	H1961	H6944	
H7126			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Leviticus 18:21** (References God): And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD.

**Leviticus 3:11** (Creation): And the priest shall burn it upon the altar: it is the food of the offering made by fire unto the LORD.

**1 Peter 2:9** (Holy): But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: