

# GOD IS HOLY

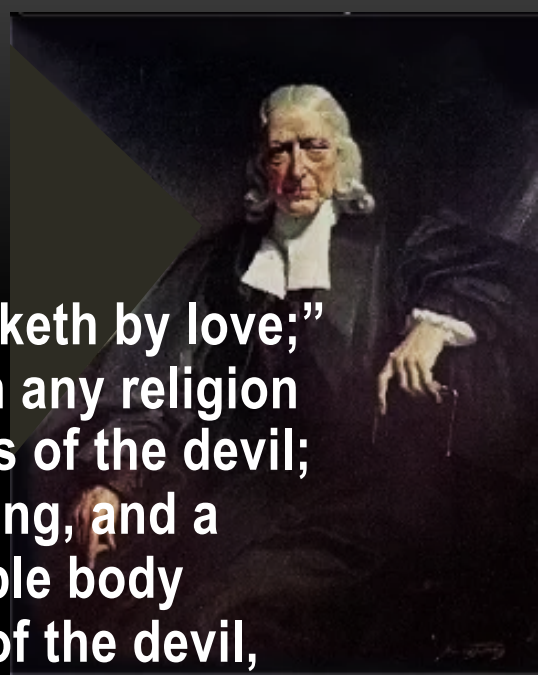
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**Deuteronomy 7:1-11**

# JOHN WESLEY ON HOLINESS

Take no less for His religion, than the “faith that worketh by love;” all inward and outward holiness. Be not content with any religion which does not imply the destruction of all the works of the devil; that is, of all sin. We know, weakness of understanding, and a thousand infirmities, will remain, while this corruptible body remains; but sin need not remain: This is that work of the devil, eminently so called, which the Son of God was manifested to destroy in this present life. He is able, he is willing, to destroy it now, in all that believe in him. .... Do not distrust his power, or his love!

*-Sermon #62, “The End of Christ’s Coming, on I John 3:8*



## DEUTERONOMY 7:1-5

When the Lord your God brings you into the land that you are entering to take possession of it, and clears away many nations before you, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations more numerous and mightier than you, and when the Lord your God gives them over to you, and you defeat them, then you must devote them to complete destruction. You shall make no covenant with them and show no mercy to them. You shall not intermarry with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons, for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods. Then the anger of the Lord would be kindled against you, and he would destroy you quickly. But thus shall you deal with them: you shall break down their altars and dash in pieces their pillars and chop down their Asherim and burn their carved images with fire.

## DEUTERONOMY 7:6-11

For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations, and repays to their face those who hate him, by destroying them. He will not be slack with one who hates him. He will repay him to his face. You shall therefore be careful to do the commandment and the statutes and the rules that I command you today.

# GOD LOVES

- It was not because you were more in number than any other people that **the Lord set his love on you** and **chose you**, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is **because the Lord loves you** and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt
- He loves those He chooses
- He loves because He loves! This is Who He is.

# SHOCK OF THE COMMAND

- **“You must devote them to complete destruction. You shall make no covenant with them and show no mercy to them.”**
- **Many of us are shocked by this command.**
- **Why are we shocked?**
  - Followers of Jesus do not execute Judgment. What should we feel?
  - God has the right to judge. Are we shocked by that?



# WHAT THE COMMAND MEANS

- Devote them to complete destruction...show no mercy...
- It means to kill everyone in certain towns
  - Actually they were to follow God's specific instructions in each case.
  - Closely related peoples were spared (Lot's & Esau's descendants, *Deut 2*).
  - They made treaties with distant peoples.
- Examples
  - **Joshua 6:21** "They devoted the city to the LORD and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it—men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys."
  - **1 Samuel 15:18** "Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; make war on them until you have wiped them out."

# WHAT DOES THIS TELL US ABOUT GOD?

- **God has the right to judge.**
  - It is not our place.
  - Even Israel didn't judge; they were only delegated the execution.
  - Gen 15:15-16 Sin of Canaan accumulated for >430 years.



# JOHN CALVIN ON DEUT 7:2

Those who think that there was cruelty in this command, usurp too great authority in respect to Him who is the judge of all. ...After God had shown His mercy for four centuries, and this mercy had increased both their audacity and madness, so that they had not ceased to provoke His wrath, surely it was no act of cruelty.

And hence appears the foul and detestable perversity of the human intellect. We are indignant if ...He delays punishment. Our zeal accuses Him of slackness ...; yet, when He comes forth as the avenger of guilt, we call Him cruel, .... Yet His justice will always absolve Him; ... when He had given this commission to His people, it was not unreasonable that He should forbid them to pity those whom He had appointed for destruction. For what can be more preposterous than for men to compete with God in mercy? ... Away, then, with all excessive boldness whereby we would presumptuously restrict God's power to the puny measure of our reason; and rather let us learn reverently to regard those works of His, whose cause is concealed from us, than wantonly criticize them.

# WHAT DOES THIS TELL US ABOUT GOD?

- **God is holy.**
    - Revelation 4
    - Holy: pure, unadulterated good.
      - ✓ Light, snow, gold, clean
-

## Whiter than snow

**I John 1:5** This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

**Psalms 51:7** Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.



# PURE AS GOLD

- 99.999% (5 nines)

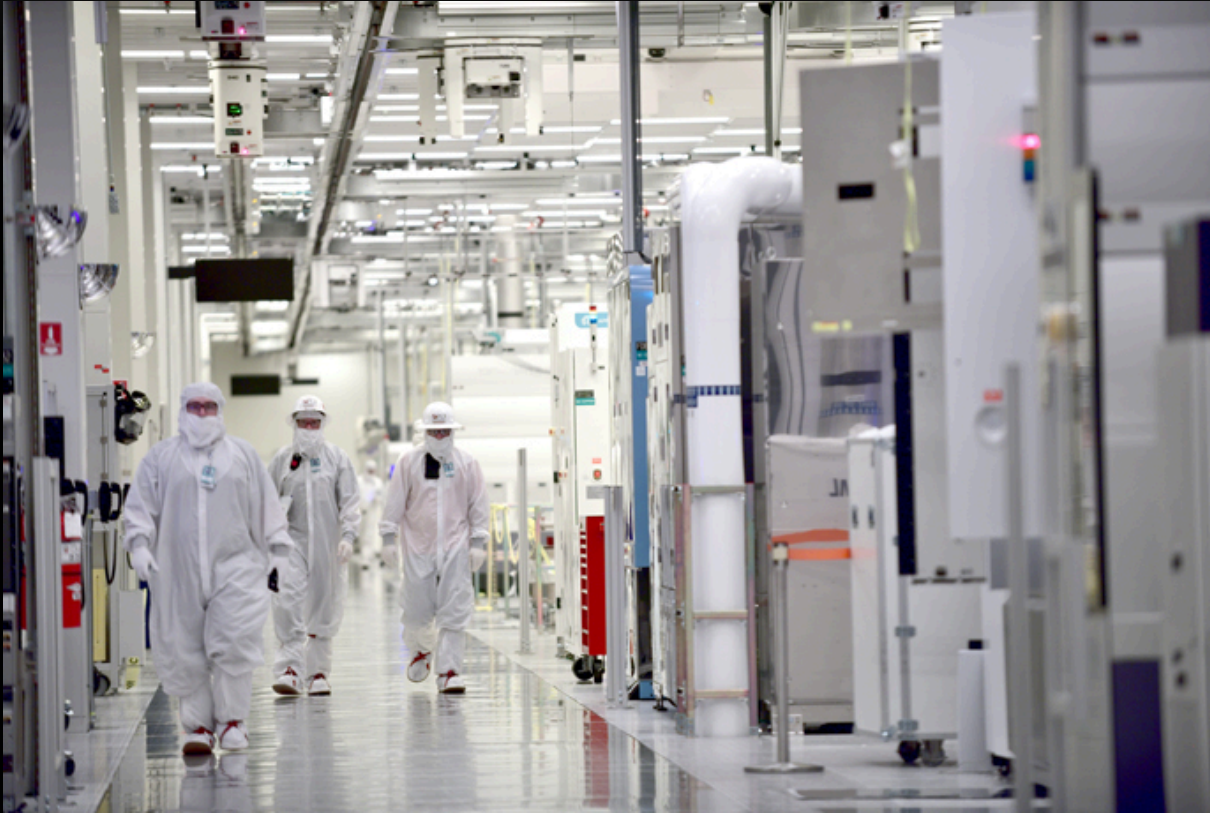
Levit 24:4,6 pure  
gold lampstand, table



*Kurt J Lesker  
Sigma-Aldrich  
Alibaba*

# TOTALLY CLEAN

- Class 4 cleanroom:  $<1$  particle ( $0.5\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ ) in  $4\text{ ft}^3$



**John 13:10** Jesus answered, “A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are **clean**, though not every one of you.”

# THROW AWAY THE SIN



# SIN OF ACHAN

- Joshua 7



# NEW TESTAMENT: WE ARE NOT EXECUTIONERS

- **Jesus told his disciples to put away their weapons (*Jn 18:11*).**
  - “My Kingdom is not of this world.” (*Jn 18:36*)
- **We still purify the church.**
  - Paul: “Purge the evil person from among you.” (*I Cor 5:13*)
  - Purpose: restoration, not punishment.





# NEW TESTAMENT: GOD HAS NOT CHANGED

- **Parable of the weeds**
  - Mat 13:24-30, 36-43
- **Parable of the net**
  - Mat 13:47-50
- **Weeping and gnashing of teeth**
  - Mat 8:12, 13:42,50, 22:13, 24:51, 25:30
- **Ananias & Sapphira**
  - Acts 5:1-11



# GOSPEL STARTING FROM WHO GOD IS

- **God is holy.**
  - Only the perfectly holy can enter His presence.
- **God is love.**
  - He longs for people to live forever in His presence.
- **People are sinful.**
- **Jesus died and rose.**
  - In Him we can be made holy if we believe.
  - In Him we will live forever if we trust.
  - To be saved, we have to humbly trust in Him, not ourselves.

# FALSE CONCEPTS OF GOD

- **False concepts of God keep them far from Him.**
  - **Stories related to gaps in someone's understanding of God**
    - Sunday school
    - God is love: Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)
    - God is holy: Parable of the weeds
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# MICHAEL MCCLYMOND, THE DEVIL'S REDEMPTION

- The great irony of Christian universalism lies in its eclipse of grace. The effort to extend grace to all has repeatedly ended up compromising or even eliminating the notion of grace. What seems to be 'all grace' turns out on inspection to be 'no grace.' Esoteric theologies have trouble accounting for a particular people of God, for particular divine actions in history, and for a particular Savior (*p.52, Digital Edition*)
- The issue of final salvation for all, or final salvation for some, does not stand alone but is intertwined with virtually everything that Christianity has to say about God's love and justice, human nature, sin, freedom, Jesus' life, Jesus' death on the cross, the Holy Spirit, the nature of the Church, and Jesus' return... How much, theologically speaking, is at stake in the debate on universalism. The answer is: *everything*. (*p.28*)

# WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE?

1. Only the holy can enter God's presence and live.
2. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
3. God loves us and made a way.
4. In Christ's blood we are washed clean.



# STILL SHOCKED?

- **Deut 7:2b**

- “You must devote them to complete destruction.
- You shall make no covenant with them and show no mercy to them.”

- **God is**

- God is right to judge.
  - God is Holy.
  - His people must be holy.
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# IT'S ALL ABOUT THE GOSPEL

- **Your loved ones can be made holy.**
    - Jesus is the only way.
    - They must repent.
  - **The Kingdom of God multiplies and glorifies Him.**
    - Parable of the Sower (*Mat 13:1-9,18-23*)
    - Mustard seed (*Mat 13:31-32*)
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# LOVE BECAUSE HE LOVES

- **Jesus: Be sons of your heavenly Father (*Mat 5:45*)**
- **We love because He first loved us (*1 John 4:19*)**



# BE HOLY

- **Be Holy because God is Holy**

- *Levit 11:44,45*
- Pure love for God
- Purge sin

**Be perfect (*Mat 5:48*)**

- Love your enemies.

**What will  
you do?**

