

Homework - Week 6

Jehovah Mekkodishkem (M'Kaddesh) *The Lord Who Sanctifies*

Observe It

Jehovah Mekkodishkem is only mentioned twice in the Bible. The first mention is Exodus 31:13. Read Exodus 31:12-13 and record your observations below.

Who:

What:

When:

Where:

Why:

Read the rest of the chapter (Exodus 31:14-18) and note what God gave Moses after this conversation about sanctification and the Sabbath (verse 18).

Depending on the version that you are reading, Exodus 31:13 ends with *"I am the LORD (Jehovah) who...makes you holy OR sanctifies you OR sets you apart."* All of these translations come from the same Hebrew word *qadash*, which means "to consecrate, sanctify, prepare, dedicate, be hallowed, be holy, be sanctified, or be separate." It is from this Hebrew word that we get the word *Mekkodishkem* or *M'Kaddesh*. **Notice that it is the LORD who sanctifies them. It is not something they can work for or accomplish on their own.**

What was the sign to the people that He was the LORD who sanctified them? (see Exodus 31:13)

The very first time this word *qadash* (sanctify) appears in Scriptures is in Genesis 2:3. Read that verse and record what was "sanctified" or "set apart" in that verse.

I don't think it was a coincidence that God declared himself as "The Lord who Sanctifies" immediately before He gave Moses the Ten Commandments (Law) to share with the people. It would have been easy for the Israelites to receive the Law and conclude that obedience was the gateway to holiness. Yet, God wanted them to remember that HE was the one who made them holy. It was not something they could do on their own. The Sabbath was to be a weekly reminder to them that God did the sanctifying, and it was that truth which brought true rest. This same principle applies to us today.

Read Hebrews 10:10-14 and I Thessalonians 5:23-24 and record what they say about our holiness in Christ:

The second mention of this name Jehovah Mekkodishkem is found in Leviticus 20:7-8. Read these verses and note below the following:

Man's role -

God's role -

While it is true that God is the one that sanctifies us and makes us holy, there are also plenty of Scriptures that instruct us to pursue holiness. Read the following Scriptures and record what they say about our role in holiness:

Ezekiel 36:27

Philippians 2:12-13

Titus 2:11-14

I Peter 1:14-16

So, God is the One who makes us holy, and also the One that calls us to holiness. He tells us to be holy, just as He is holy (I Peter 1:15-16). Yet holiness is not simply checking off the list of "thou-shall-nots." It is so much more than a legalistic mindset obsessed with following the letter of the Law. Instead, holiness is the opportunity that we have to partake in the very nature of God. It is the beautiful process of being transformed closer to His likeness with each passing day.

Read II Peter 1:3-4 and record below the tools that God has given us to live a holy life.

What a privilege that we get to share in His divine nature! And the good news is that God has already given us everything we need for godly living through the power of the Holy Spirit and the truth of His Word.

Experience It

What is your experience with the word *holiness*? Do you think of it in a positive or negative light?

Have you experienced trying to be holy in your own strength? What was the result?

What difference does it make knowing that you have the tools needed to be holy (the Holy Spirit and God's Word)?

Express It

The name Jehovah M'Kaddesh reminds us that God has set us apart. He intends for us to look different than the world around us. When you look at your life today, does it look set apart? Why or why not?

Are there any specific areas of your life where the Holy Spirit is calling you to a higher standard of holiness? Are you resisting, and if so why?

Pray It

Spend some time praying about what you learned in your study of Jehovah M'Kaddesh. Ask God to increase your understanding and experience of this part of His character, and pray that He would give you wisdom to know how to express it to those around you.

Jehovah Nissi
The Lord Is My Banner

Observe It

Jehovah Nissi is only mentioned once in the Bible. Read Exodus 17:8-16 and record your observations below.

Who:

What:

When:

Where:

Why:

What was Moses holding in his hand during the battle? (Exodus 17:9)

This was the same rod of God that brought the plagues in Egypt, parted the Red Sea, and had just struck the rock and brought forth water (Exodus 17:5-6). It represented the mighty hand and outstretched arm of God, and it served as a reminder to the people of Israel that victory belonged to God. When they were under His banner, victory was always assured!

The Hebrew word *Nissi* is most often translated “banner,” but can also be translated “standard or ensign.” In ancient times, a banner was not necessarily a flag like we tend to use. Instead, it was usually a bare pole with a bright shiny ornament attached to the end. It would glitter in the sun and could be seen from far off. It was often carried at the head of a military unit and was a rallying point for the troops before and during a battle. *A banner was a sign of presence, protection, and victory.*

The Israelites were facing a physical enemy (the Amalekites), yet we face a different kind of enemy. Read the following Scriptures and note the enemies and battles we face:

Romans 7:18-20

Ephesians 6:10-12

I Peter 5:8

Just like the Israelites could look up and see Moses holding high the banner of God's rod, we have a banner and His name is Jesus! Read the following verses and note below how Jesus is our Banner: John 3:14, Ephesians 1:19-22, Hebrews 12:2-3, and I Peter 3:22.

Experience It

How did the Israelites experience God as their banner in Exodus 17?

The rod was a physical reminder to the Israelites of the mighty things that God had done for them. It signified His presence, protection, and provision. Do you have any physical reminders that have spiritual significance to you? If so, how do they encourage you?

Just like Aaron and Hur helped Moses, has God ever sent others to help you in the midst of a battle? Who was it and how did they help? What difference did they make?

When you are in the middle of a battle (physical, emotional, or spiritual), what banner do you tend to raise up and rely on? Is it Jesus or is it your own strength, money, power, or control?

Express It

What are some practical ways that you can keep your eyes on the banner of Jesus in the midst of battles?

The story of Aaron and Hur holding up Moses' hands when he got weary is such a beautiful picture of the power of community. Do you know someone who is in the midst of a battle right now? Is there a practical way that you can "lift their hands" and help them? Be specific.

Pray It

Spend some time praying about what you learned in your study of Jehovah Nissi. Ask God to increase your understanding and experience of this part of His character, and pray that He would give you wisdom to know how to express it to those around you.

Jehovah Shammah

The Lord Is There

When we look at the Bible as a whole, there is a common theme woven from Genesis all the way to Revelation. It is the beautiful love story of Yahweh, the one true God, on a rescue mission to bring healing, forgiveness and restoration to mankind. Disobedience and sin destroyed the perfect harmony between God and His creation in Genesis, yet God had a plan from the very beginning to rescue us. Every story and book in the Bible points to Jesus, our rescuer, and if there is one thing we see over and over it is that God desires more than anything else to be *with us*. The final name that we are going to look at is actually a name given to a city (the new Jerusalem), but it's closely tied to God's glory and presence and reminds us of the God who always longs to be with us.

Observe It

Jehovah Shammah is only mentioned once in the Bible, and it is in Ezekiel 48:35. Read this verse and record your observations below.

It is important to understand the setting and context of this passage. Ezekiel was writing to the Israelites who had been taken captive by the Babylonians. This captivity was a result of their rebellion and disobedience against God. In addition to their captivity, God's judgement also consisted of the destruction of their land, including the city of Jerusalem and the beautiful temple that King Solomon had built. This temple was where God's glory and presence had resided, and now for the first time since they left Egypt the Israelites no longer had Yahweh's presence with them. (See Ezekiel 10 regarding the departure of God's glory from the temple.)

God gave Ezekiel visions and prophecies of renewal, hope and restoration to encourage His exiled people. One of these visions was of a future, beautiful temple where God would return with His glory (Ezekiel 40-48). This vision also included a new holy city where His people would live again, and it is here that we see this name *Jehovah Shammah - The Lord is There*. (Ezekiel 48:35)

Experience It

Considering the condition of the Israelites when Ezekiel shared this vision (living in captivity and without the Lord's presence), why do you think this name was so significant for them?

The name Jehovah Shammah speaks of God's presence with His people. Have you experienced God's presence with you? What does that look like? What are some ways that you are most aware of His presence?

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit did not dwell in the hearts of individuals but came upon them temporarily, enabling them for special tasks. However, in the New Testament Jesus promised that after He left the Holy Spirit would come and remain with them. Read John 14:16-17 and note below what it says about the Holy Spirit.

What are some ways you experience or recognize the Holy Spirit in your life?

Express It

If we believe that the Holy Spirit resides in us and never leaves us (John 14:17), what practical difference should that make in our lives?

Read I Corinthians 6:19-20. This passage tells us that we are not our own, but belong to God. What are the implications of that? Do we treat the Holy Spirit like an owner or a temporary guest?

God is in and around us all the time. However, we often get so busy with our daily lives that we live *unaware* of His presence. What are some practical ways that you can become more aware of God's presence in your life?

If God is always with us, we should be reflecting His presence to those around us. What might that look like in your life this week? Be specific!

Pray It

Spend some time praying about what you learned in your study of Jehovah Shammah. Ask God to increase your understanding and experience of this part of His character, and pray that He would give you wisdom to know how to express it to those around you.