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Jehovah-Maccaddeschem

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ARTICLE THIRTY-THREE: MACCADDSCHEM, THE FIFTH COMPOUND NAME OF JEHOVAH

“Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: ‘Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you’” (Exod. 31:13).

“Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God. And you shall keep My statutes, and perform them: I am the LORD who sanctifies you” (Lev. 20:7, 8).

This great name for God, first mentioned in Exodus, appears many times in the following book: Leviticus. To be sanctified is to be set apart, and that is what God desired to do for his people—to set them apart for special service.

In fact, we are told that upon finishing His work of creation, God did the following:

“Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made” (Gen. 2:3).

The New Testament summarizes this great truth in four-fold fashion:

- The method of sanctification: God’s Word

“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth” (Jn. 17:17).

- The agent of sanctification: the Holy Spirit

“That I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit” (Rom. 15:16).

- The completeness of sanctification: our entire being

“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thess. 5:23).

- The divine example: Jesus Christ Himself

“And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth” (Jn. 17:19).

Often students will drop by my office and ask: “How can I know the will of God in my life?” My usual response often surprises them: “Actually, I already know God’s perfect will for your life!” “But how can this be,” they answer. “I mean, we’ve just met. You don’t even know my name!”

I finally assure them that while this is true, I not only know His will for them, but also the very details involved!

- It is His will that you be pure.

“For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality” (1 Thess. 4:3).

- It is His will that you be thankful.

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thess. 5:18).

- It is His will that you present to Him your bodies.

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by the testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect" (Rom. 12:1, 2).

In fact Paul informs us that Jesus Christ has sanctified (set apart) His entire church, the entire body of believers!

"That he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word" (Eph. 5:26).

But consider this: God wants *us* to sanctify *Him*, which is to have a special place in our hearts reserved for Him.

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness. . . Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work" (2 Tim. 2:15, 16, 21).

"But in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15).

Well over a half century ago, I answered an invitational call along with some 400 other students given by Vance Havner at the famed Moody Memorial Church in Chicago, Illinois. He had just preached a powerful sermon on being set apart for the work of God. As we stood there at the altar, he looked at us and said:

"In a moment I'm going to offer up a public prayer for the entire group. However, before I do, I want each of you to bow your head and privately dedicate yourself. But, don't pray, 'Lord use me.'"

I still remember standing there in semi-shock. Don't pray, 'Lord use me'? Why? I mean, that is the reason I was standing at that altar! But, sensing our confusion, Havner continued:

"No, don't pray 'Lord use me.' He'll use you all right! In fact He'll probably wear you out! There's not enough of you to go around as it is. Instead this should be the language of your prayer: 'LORD, MAKE ME USABLE!'"

Let me say the truth and wisdom of that statement has been reaffirmed hundreds of times in my life during the following decade! It is as true today as back then, "LORD, MAKE ME USABLE!" It has been said that God does not require golden vessels, or silver vessels, but He does demand CLEAN VESSELS! All would be wise to heed Isaiah's warning:

“Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear” (Isa. 59:1, 2).

Song writer Barney Warren’s lyrics serve as a fitting summary in regard to this great name:

Since I am Sanctified

*The Comforter abides within,
Since I am sanctified;
He cleanseth all my heart from sin,
Since I am sanctified.*

*The blood by faith now reaches me,
In soul and body I am free,
And now I’ve constant victory,
Since I am sanctified.*

*The Comforter is all I need,
Since I am sanctified;
I’ve nothing but His grace to plead,
Since I am sanctified.
He guides me in the truth and right,
He helps me conquer in the fight,
His service is my heart’s delight,
Since I am sanctified.*

*The Comforter is life and peace,
Since I am sanctified;
His grace and glory do increase,
Since I am sanctified.
My heart with rapture overflows,
My life on earth much sweeter grows,
And in me dwells no hind’ring foes,
Since I am sanctified.*

*The Comforter is life complete,
Since I am sanctified;
In His rich favor I’m replete,
Since I am sanctified.
I’m never lonely, tired with care,
For He, a present help, is there,
And all my burdens He doth bear,
Since I am sanctified.*