

FROM BROKENNESS TO HEALING: FLEE UNHOLINESS AND PURSUE HOLINESS

Ezra 9-10

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PURSUE HOLINESS: RECOGNIZE UNHOLINESS (9:1-2)

After these things had been done, the officials approached me and said,

1. “The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands with their abominations, from the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites.

• Canaanites:	Family line of Ham:	the son of Ham (Gen 10:6)
• Hittites:	Family line of Ham:	the son of Heth, son of Canaan, son of Ham (Gen 10:15)
• Perizzites:	Family line of Ham:	the family of Canann, the son of Ham
• Jebusites:	Family line of Ham:	the son of Canaan, the son of Ham (Gen 10:16)
• Ammonites:	Family line of Lot:	the son of Lot and his daughter (Gen 19:38)
• Moabites:	Family line of Lot:	the son of Lot and his daughter (Gen 19:37)
• Egyptians:	Family line of Ham:	the son of Ham, brother of Canaan (Gen 10:6)
• Amorites:	Family line of Ham:	the son of Canaan (Gen 10:16)

Canaanite Gods

• El	King of the gods	• Yamm	Sea god
• Asherah	Mother of the gods	• Mot	Death god
• Baal	Storm and Fertility god	• Resheph	Pestilence god
• Anat	Sexuality and War god	• Kothar	Skilled worker god
• Dagan	Grain god		

2. For they have taken some of their daughters to be wives for themselves and for their sons,

“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 7:1-5 ESV)

3. so that the holy race has mixed itself with the peoples of the lands.

“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. (Deuteronomy 7:6-11 ESV)

4. And in this faithlessness the hand of the officials and chief men has been foremost.”

“And because you listen to these rules and keep and do them, the LORD your God will keep with you the covenant and the steadfast love that he swore to your fathers. He will love you, bless you, and multiply you. He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, your grain and your wine and your oil, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock, in the land that he swore to your fathers to give you. You shall be blessed above all peoples. There shall not be male or female barren among you or among your livestock. And the LORD will take away from you all sickness, and none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which you knew, will he inflict on you, but he will lay them on all who hate you. And you shall consume all the peoples that the LORD your God will give over to you. Your eye shall not pity them, neither shall you serve their gods, for that would be a snare to you. (Deuteronomy 7:12-16 ESV)

The Holiness of Yahweh over the Unholiness of Baal: 4 Stories

I. Moses and The Red Sea:

Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying,

“I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the **sea**. The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is his name. “Pharaoh's chariots and his host he cast into the **sea**, and his chosen officers were sunk in the **Red Sea**. The **floods** covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone. Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power, your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy. In the greatness of your majesty you overthrow your adversaries; you send out your fury; it consumes them like stubble. At the blast of your nostrils the **waters** piled up; the **floods** stood up in a heap; the deeps congealed in the heart of the **sea**.

The enemy said,

‘I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them. I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them.’

You blew with your wind; the **sea** covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters.

“Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders? You stretched out your right hand; the earth swallowed them. “You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed; you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.

The peoples have heard; they tremble; pangs have seized the inhabitants of Philistia. Now are the chiefs of Edom dismayed; trembling seizes the leaders of Moab; all the inhabitants of Canaan have melted away. Terror and dread fall upon them; because of the greatness of your arm, they are still as a stone, till your people, O LORD,

pass by, till the people pass by whom you have purchased. You will bring them in and plant them on your own mountain, the place, O LORD, which you have made for your abode, the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established. The LORD will reign forever and ever.” (Exodus 15:1-18 ESV)

2. Jesus Calms the Sea:

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them,

“Let us go across to the other side.”

And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him,

“Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”

And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea,

“Peace! Be still!”

And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them,

“Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?”

And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “**Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?**” (Mark 4:35-41 ESV)

3. Elijah and Fire From Heaven

Now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab,

“As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word.” (1 Kings 17:1 ESV)

Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal,

“Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many, and call upon the name of your god, but put no fire to it.”

And they took the bull that was given them, and they prepared it and called upon the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying,

“O Baal, answer us!”

But there was no voice, and no one answered. And they limped around the altar that they had made. And at noon Elijah mocked them, saying,

“Cry aloud, for he is a god. Either he is musing, or he is relieving himself, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened.”

And they cried aloud and cut themselves after their custom with swords and lances, until the blood gushed out upon them. And as midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice. No one answered; no one paid attention. Then Elijah said to all the people,

“Come near to me.”

And all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been thrown down. Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD came, saying,

“Israel shall be your name,”

and with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD. And he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two seahs of seed. And he put the wood in order and cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood. And he said,

“Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood.”

And he said,

“Do it a second time.”

And they did it a second time. And he said,

“Do it a third time.”

And they did it a third time. And the water ran around the altar and filled the trench also with water. And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said,

“O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back.”

Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said,

“The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is God.”

And Elijah said to them, “Seize the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape.”

And they seized them. And Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon and slaughtered them there. (1 Kings 18:25-40 ESV)

And Elijah said to Ahab,

“Go up, eat and drink, for there is a sound of the rushing of rain.”

So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Mount Carmel. And he bowed himself down on the earth and put his face between his knees. And he said to his servant,

“Go up now, look toward the sea.”

And he went up and looked and said,

“There is nothing.”

And he said,

“Go again,”

seven times. And at the seventh time he said,

“Behold, a little cloud like a man's hand is rising from the sea.”

And he said,

“Go up, say to Ahab,

‘Prepare your chariot and go down, lest the rain stop you.’”

And in a little while the heavens grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode and went to Jezreel. And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah, and he gathered up his garment and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel. (1 Kings 18:41-46 ESV)

4. Jesus and The Transfiguration

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. And Peter said to Jesus,

“Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.”

For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud,

“This is my beloved Son; listen to him.”

And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead might mean. And they asked him,

“Why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?”

And he said to them,

“Elijah does come first to restore all things. And how is it written of the Son of Man that he should suffer many things and be treated with contempt? But I tell you that Elijah has come, and they did to him whatever they pleased, as it is written of him.” (Mark 9:2-13 ESV)

Clash of Two Opposing World Views: Holiness vs Unholiness

1. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” (Genesis 1:28 ESV)
2. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” (Genesis 3:15 ESV)

1	Adam (Eve)		
2	Abel	Cain	Seth
3		Enoch	Enosh
4		Irada	Kenan
5		Mehujael	Mahalalel
6		Methushael	Jared
7		Lamech (Adah) (Zillah)	Enoch
8			Methuselah
9			Lamech
10			Noah

		Noah							
1	Japheth		Ham				Shem		
2	Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, Tiras		Cush, Egypt. Put, Canaan				Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, Aram		
3	(Gomer) Ashkenaz, Riphath, Togarman	(Javan) Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, Dodanim	(Cush) Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah , Sabteca, Nimrod	(Egypt) Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim, Pathrusim, Casluhim, Cophtorim	(Put)	(Canaan) Sidon, Heth, Jebusties Amorites Girgashites Hivites Arkites Sinites, Arvadites Zemarites Hamathites	(Arpachshad) Shelah	(Aram) Uz, Hul, Gether, Mash	
4			Sheba, Dedan				Eber		
5							Peleg	Joktan	
6							Reu	Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, Obal, Abimael, Sheba, Ophir, Havilah, Jobab	
7							Serug		
8							Nahor		
9							Terah		
10							Abram		

The Genealogy of the Father of the Jews: Abraham				
1 st Genealogy: The Birth of the People of God		2 nd Genealogy: The Death of the People of God		3 rd Genealogy: The Rebirth of the People of God
In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. (Genesis 1:1-2 ESV)		This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created . (Genesis 5:1-2 ESV)		These are the generations of Shem. When Shem was 100 years old, he fathered Arpachshad two years after the flood. (Genesis 11:10 ESV)
Light	1	Adam	1	Shem
Expanse	2	Seth	2	Arpachshad
Land and Seas	3	Enosh	3	Shelah
Plants	4	Kenan	4	Eber
Sun and Moon	5	Mahalalel	5	Pelog
Birds and Fish	6	Jared	6	Ren
Animals	7	Enoch	7	Serug
Man	8	Methuselah	8	Nahor
Be Fruitful and Multiply	9	Lamech	9	Terah
Food	10	Noah	10	Abram

The Genealogy of the Abraham's Son: Jesus Christ					
	The Birth of the Nation of Israel (2100-970 BC)		The Death of the Nation of Israel (970-597 BC)		The Rebirth of the Nation of Israel (586-5 BC)
1	Abraham	15	Solomon (970-930 BC)	29	Jechoniah
2	Isaac	16	Rehoboam (930-915 BC)	30	Shealtiel
3	Jacob	17	Abijah (915-912 BC)	31	Zerubbabel
4	Judah	18	Asaph (912-871 BC)	32	Abiud
5	Perez and Zerah (Tamar)	19	Jehoshaphat (871-849 BC)	33	Eliakim
6	Hezron	20	Joram (849-842 BC)	34	Azor
7	Ram	21	Uzziah (767-740 BC)	35	Zadok
8	Amminadab	22	Jothan (750-735 BC)	36	Achim
9	Nahshon	23	Ahaz (735-715 BC)	37	Eliud
10	Salomon (Rahab)	24	Hezekiah (715-687 BC)	38	Eleazer
11	Boaz (Ruth)	25	Manasseh (687-642 BC)	39	Matthan
12	Obed	26	Amos/Amon (642-640 BC)	40	Jacob
13	Jesse	27	Josiah (640-609 BC)	41	Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom
14	David (Bathsheba) (1010-970 BC)	28	Jechoniah (598-597 BC)	42	Jesus was born, who is called the Christ

