

What and Who is a “Saint”?

Col 3:10 - And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

Some definitions:

Easton's Bible Dictionary: One separated from the world and consecrated to God; one holy by profession and by covenant; a believer in Christ

Unger's Bible Dictionary: Positionally every NT believer; experientially – a person eminent for piety and virtue: a consecrated person

Strong's definition: sacred – ceremonially or morally

Note: These definitions from those that apparently understand nothing of the need to rightly divide the Scriptures.

Who are “saints” named so in the Bible?

Aaron: an individually named “saint”:

Psa 106:16 - They envied Moses also in the camp, *and*
Aaron the saint of the LORD.

(Note: speaking of disobedient Israel)

An angel named individually as a “saint” (singular):

Dan 8:13-16 - Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain *saint* which spake, How long *shall be* the vision *concerning* the daily *sacrifice*, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed. And it came to pass, when I, *even* I Daniel, had seen the vision, and sought for the meaning, then, behold, there stood before me as the appearance of a man. And I heard a man's voice between *the banks of* Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this *man* to understand the vision.

Paul to the Philippians uses the singular form of the word “saint” once:

Phl 4:21 - Salute every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren which are with me greet you.

Where else in the Bible are “saints” identified?

Beings in the heavens referred to as a “saint”, or “saints”:

Job 15:15 - Behold, he putteth no trust in his saints; yea,
the heavens are not clean in his sight.

Psa 16:2-3 - *O my soul*, thou hast said unto the LORD,
Thou *art* my Lord: my goodness *extendeth* not to thee;
But to the saints that are in the earth, and *to* the
excellent, in whom *is* all my delight.

On earth the word “saints” is tied to the believing people of Israel throughout the OT:

Psa 132:9 - Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness; and let thy saints shout for joy.

Psa 148:14 - He also exalteth the horn of his people, the praise of all his saints; *even* of the children of Israel, a people near unto him. Praise ye the LORD.

Dan 7:18 - But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.

Dan 7:21-22 - I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

Zec 14:5 - And ye shall flee *to* the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, *and* all the saints with thee.

Mentions of the word “saints” in the “New Testament”. Who are these people here referred to as “saints”?

Mat 27:52 - And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,

Act 9:13 - Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem:

Act 9:32 - And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all *quarters*, he came down also to the saints which dwelt at Lydda.

Act 26:10 - Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them.

(NOTE: Paul before Agrippa)

Paul's epistles: who are these "saints"?

Rom 1:1-6 - Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared *to be* the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name: Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:

Rom 1:7 - To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rom 1:8 - First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

Dan 9:7 - O Lord, righteousness *belongeth* unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, *that are near*, and *that are far off*, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee.

- Jas 1:1-2a - James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting. My brethren,
- 1Pe 1:1-2a - Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father
- Jde 1:1-2a - Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called: Mercy unto you

- Rom 1:17 - For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.
- Rom 1:30, 32 - Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ... Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.
 - See Deut 21:18-23

Rom 2:17, 24 - Behold, thou art called a Jew, and retest in the law, and makest thy boast of God, ...

...For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written.

- See 2Sam 12:14, Isa 52:5

Now, we go back and again read Romans 1:13

- Rom 1:13 - Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.

Rom 12:13 - Distributing to the necessity of saints;
given to hospitality.

Rom 15:25 - But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister
unto the saints.

Rom 15:26 - For it hath pleased them of Macedonia
and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor
saints which are at Jerusalem.

1Co 1:2-3 - Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and *from* the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Phl 1:1-2 - Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and *from* the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Col 1:2 - To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- 2Ti 4:22 - The Lord Jesus Christ *be* with thy spirit. Grace *be* with you. Amen.
- 1Pe 1:1-2, 13 - Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. ... Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

1Co 6:2 - Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

- Mat 19:28 - And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.
- Psa 9:8 - And he shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness.
- Dan 7:22a - Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High;

Eph 1:1 - Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

Eph 2:19 - Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

Eph 4:12 - For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Phl 1:1 - Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

- 1Ti 3:1 - This *is* a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

Col 1:2 - To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The General Epistles:

But first...a little recap:

Where in the Bible is the word “saints” first mentioned?

Deu 33:1-3 - And this *is* the blessing, wherewith Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death. And he said, The LORD came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; he shined forth from mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands of saints: from his right hand *went* a fiery law for them. Yea, he loved the people; all his saints *are* in thy hand: and they sat down at thy feet; *every one* shall receive of thy words.

What is the significance of this first mention of the word “saints”?

“Rules of Interpretation” by Dr. David L. Cooper Th. M., Ph. D., Litt. D. (1886-1965)

The fourth rule of interpretation is **THE LAW OF FIRST MENTION.**

The meaning of the fourth rule:

The Law of First Mention may be said to be the principle that requires one to go to that portion of the Scriptures where a doctrine is mentioned for the first time and to study the first occurrence of the same in order to get the fundamental inherent meaning of that doctrine.

When this law is applied the simple precedes the complex.

Deu 33:1-3 - And this *is* the blessing, wherewith Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death. And he said, The LORD came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; he shined forth from mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands of saints: from his right hand *went* a fiery law for them. Yea, he loved the people; all his saints *are* in thy hand: and they sat down at thy feet; *every one* shall receive of thy words.

Jude 1:14-15 - And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard *speeches* which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

Now...on to the General, rather Hebraic Epistles:

Heb 13:24 - Salute all them that have the rule over you, and all the saints. They of Italy salute you.

Jude 1:3 - Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

Rev 13:7- And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

Rev 13:10 - He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

Rev 14:12 - Here is the patience of the saints: here *are* they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

Rev 15:3 - And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous *are* thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true *are* thy ways, thou King of saints.

Rev 16:6 - For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.

Rev 17:6 - And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

Rev 18:24 - And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

Rev 19:8 - And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

Rev 20:9 - And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

Some final thoughts:

1. If the word “saint” can refer to any believer in Christ, how would one know the audience being addressed?
2. Why, after the High Calling of God, will there be “saints” yet on the earth that will have to go through the Great Tribulation?
3. Reformed Protestant, Orthodox, Apostolic and the Catholic churches maintain that “saints” are of those that believe in Christ.
 - a. All these religions maintain that Christians WILL go through the Great Tribulation as indicated by use of the word “SAINTS” in the Revelation, and the Gospels, etc.
 - b. So...what’s the difference for those that rightly divide?
 - c. Those religions teach...Christians and Saints will be tested and judged in their service to God.
 - d. But NOT so the Body of Christ.

Answer:

The specific words of the King James Bible are our instructive authority.

What then is a “saint”?

One that is wholly separated and called to the service of God.

Who then is a “saint”?

The holy angels, and those of believing Israel.

The “What” and “Who” in the Body of Christ (Eph 5:30) -

The “What”:

Col 1:27 – to whom God would make known WHAT is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory

Eph 1:13 – sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise

Eph 1:14 – the purchased possession

Eph 1:14 – the praise of His glory

The “Who”

Eph 1:13 – those WHO also trusted in Christ “after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation”.

English: the use of commas in writing a list -

First example:

“I greeted Betty Sue and Marion in my email.”

How many people were greeted?

Second example:

“I greeted Betty, Sue, and Marion in my email.”

How many people were greeted?

Now, consider Ephesians 1:1

Eph 1:1 - Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

Using the rule of English we just exemplified –

- How many groups are being greeted by Paul in this verse?
- What and who is the first group?
- What and who is the second group?

Now, we are ready to continue our study in the Epistle of Paul to the Ephesians!