

God is Holy (Part 2)

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study
Various Scripture

No other attribute of God is sounded with such frequency than His holiness. It is the seraphim, standing watch at the throne of God in the heavenly temple (Isa 6:1, 2). They eternally remind us of God's absolute holiness, saying repeatedly, "*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!*" No other creation of God matches God's absolute holiness. The sinless seraphim must cover his face and feet in the Almighty's presence.

What is the Biblical attribute of divine holiness?

- Holiness is God's absolute moral quality of perfection, free from sin (not a desire, thought, appetite, or action was amiss)
- Holiness is God's "*otherness*" or transcendence from creation & time constraints. In every sense, God is "set apart."
- God's holiness demands obedience, reverence, and fear.
- Holiness is throughout every other attribute. In other words, His love is a holy love. His wrath is a holy wrath. His justice is a holy justice. His truth is a holy truth.

No other attribute of God is raised to the superlative degree. Repetition, within the Hebrew culture, was a common way to convey a superlative meaning. The superlative (3rd) was used to convey the greatest degree of the adjective. God is holy (Holy). God is holier than all others (Holy, holy). God is the holiest with no measure of degree (Holy, holy, holy). He is infinitely holier than all!

I. God is Set Apart

- A. Holy (Hebrew – *qadash*) means separation.
 1. The picture is of an object being severed into two pieces.
 2. God is "set apart" from His creation (literally, "*cut apart*" or "*wholly other*")
- B. There is nothing and no one to compare God to in Holiness
 1. **Exodus 8:10**, *Moses said, "... so that you may know that there is no one like the Lord our God.*
 2. **Deuteronomy 33:26**, *"There is none like God, O Jeshurun, who rides through the heavens to your help, through the skies in his majesty.*
 3. **Psalm 86:8**, *There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours.*

II. God is Transcendent

- A. Transcendence – exceeding the usual limits; rising above the norm; surpassing an established limit, beyond the normal or physical limitations.
 1. The Latin prefix means "*beyond*."
 2. The word "*scandure*" means "*to climb*."
- B. Transcendence is seen in **Isaiah 6:1**, *In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple.* (Over all the Earth)
- C. God is enthroned over all people and creation
 1. **Psalm 22:3**, *Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.*
 2. The enthronement Psalms (**93-99**) connect the holiness of God with His lofty transcendence. **Psalm 99:1-3**, *The Lord reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake! 2 The Lord is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples. 3 Let them praise your great and awesome name! Holy is he!*

III. God is Majestic

- A. Majesty connects God to His sovereign power and authority.
 1. **Exodus 15:11** "*Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?*
 2. **Psalm 8:1**, *O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.*
 3. **Psalm 93:1**, *The LORD reigns; he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed; he has put on strength as his belt. Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved.*
- B. In ancient times, the greatness of a king was symbolized by the length of his robes (Isa 6:1)

IV. God is Awesome

- A. Moses describes Him as awesome.
 1. **Deuteronomy 7:21**, *...for the Lord your God is in your midst, a great and awesome God.*
 2. **Deuteronomy 10:17**, *For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe.*
- B. The Hebrew word awesome means to “*inspire awe or reverence or fear.*” Or maybe a combination of all three! This is what is inspired in Isaiah...
 1. **Isaiah 6:4**, *And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. (Ex 40:34; Rev 15:7-8; Psa 18:6-11)*
 2. There is nothing casual about being in the presence of the Holy God.
- C. The Response to Holiness
 1. **Isaiah 6:5**, *And I said: “Woe is me [sorrow, hardship, distress]! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”*

V. God is Flawless

- A. God is morally pure (thought, word, deed, and decisions) **Habakkuk 1:13**, *You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong, why do you idly look at traitors and remain silent when the wicked swallows up the man more righteous than he?*
- B. Divine Holiness is morally perfect **Matthew 5:48**, *You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*
- C. His Perfect Law **James 1:25**, *But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.*

VI. God is Unapproachable

- A. **Psalm 11:4–6**, *The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord’s throne is in heaven; his eyes see, his eyelids test the children of man. 5 The Lord tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence. 6 Let him rain coals on the wicked; fire and sulfur and a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup.*
- B. **Psalm 34:16**, *The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.*
- C. The whole sacrificial system of the Old Testament was designed to instill that sinful man was unable to approach holy God. **1 Timothy 6:16**, *Who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.*
 1. The system points to Jesus **2 Corinthians 5:21**, *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

VII. God is Convicting

- A. **1 John 1:5**, *This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.* God’s light is a revealing light that penetrates the deepest recesses of our hearts.
- B. Example Isaiah (**Isa 6:1-5**). Example of Peter (**Luke 5:8**). Example of John on Patmos (**Rev 1:16, 17**)

The Light for our Path – The Pursuit of Personal Holiness

- The pursuit of the Holiness of God is a standard every believer must pursue
 - **Leviticus 11:44**, *For I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. You shall not defile yourselves with any swarming thing that crawls on the ground.*
 - **Leviticus 11:45**, *For I am the Lord who brought you up out of the land of Egypt to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.”*
- Believers must continually turn away from sin, resist the devil, crucify the flesh, and flee temptation.
 - **1 Peter 1:14–16**, *As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”*
 - **Hebrews 12:14**, *Strive...for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.*