

## Attributes of God

### (Holiness)

Holy has 2 distinct meanings. One meaning is primary and one is secondary. Most people are more familiar of the secondary meaning of the word holy.

- 1.) Primary- The word Holy comes from the Hebrew word “Kadosh” which means: to set apart, separateness, apartness, sacred, cut out from, otherness.
- 2.) Secondary-Pure and righteous actions, morally good.

- The Holiness of God is the attribute from which all of His attributes flow.
- His Holiness corresponds to all other attributes (no one else has aseity, omnipotence, omnipresence, omniscience, immutability etc).
- He is incomprehensibly other than and indescribably separate than anyone or anything else. He is the only one who is outside of the created order as He is before all things, has life in Himself, and is the creator of all things.
- God is unique, distinct, transcendent. He is not like anything or anyone.
- In heaven there will still be a separation of us compared to Him. He is the creator and even in our glorified bodies we will always be creatures.
- Understanding the holiness of God is vital and necessary as it is the foundation of all other thoughts and understanding of God.

#### Biblical Texts on God’s holiness:

**Ex 15:11** Who is like You among the gods, Lord? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, Awesome in praises, working wonders?

**1 Sam 2:2** There is no one holy like the Lord, Indeed, there is no one besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God.

**Isaiah 40:25** “To whom then will you liken Me That I would be *his* equal?” says the Holy One.

**Isaiah 57:15** For this is what the high and exalted One Who <sup>[a]</sup>lives forever, whose name is Holy, says: “I dwell *in* a high and holy place, And *also* with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite.

**Psalms 99:9** Exalt the Lord our God and worship at His holy hill, For holy is the Lord our God.

**Psalms 96:9** Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!

**1 Chronicles 16:29** Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name; Bring an <sup>[a]</sup>offering, and come before Him; Worship the Lord in <sup>[b]</sup>holy array.

**1 Peter 1:16** Since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

**Isaiah 46:9** Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; *I am* God, and there is no one like Me

**Exodus 3:13-14** Then Moses said to God, “Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you.’ Now they may say to me, ‘What is His name?’ What shall I say to them?” <sup>14</sup> And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM”; and He said, “This is what you shall say to the sons of Israel: I AM has sent me to you.”

**Luke 1:49** “For the Mighty One has done great things for me; And holy is His name.

## Isaiah 6-Holy, Holy, Holy

### Verse 1

- King Uzziah had began to reign at the age of 16 years old and had reigned for 52 years. He had started his reign walking in the ways of the Lord, but pride was his downfall. He enjoyed great power and prestige with Judah experiencing peace, prosperity, and power under his leadership. He was innovative in war and had invented engines of war to shoot arrows and stones. His fame grew and so did his pride which was his downfall. Pride comes before the fall. He thought since he was such a powerful and capable king, he could also perform the role of the priest. He entered the temple to burn incense and was then struck with leprosy. He was cut off the people and lived in a separate house until the day he died. (2 Chronicles 26).
- The king of Judah (Uzziah)dies, but Isaiah who is beginning His prophet ministry sees the true King and Priest from the tribe of Judah.
- Isaiah has a vision and this vision in Isaiah 6 is comparable to Revelation chapter 4.
- In antiquity, the length of a king's robe expressed power, status, and authority. The longer the king's robe the more power and majesty they were said to have. The train of God's robe fills ever part of the temple as He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords whose glory fill all the earth.
- The earthly temple was a shadow of the heavenly temple where God's throne is and God's holiness, majesty, and glory fills is all!

### Verse 2

- The seraphim are angelic creatures. The seraphim like all other creatures are created by their creator for where they will reside. These angelic creatures are made to be in the present of the Holy God.
- They have a total of 6 wings
  - **2 wings cover their faces.** Although made to be in the immediate presence of God, they cannot look upon the full holiness, glory, and majesty of God.
    - In Exodus 33:18-23, Moses had pleaded to see God's glory. He was told that he or no man could see the face of God and live. The term face and back are anthropomorphic terms for us to understand. The mention of face refers to a direct vision of God's glory as compared to the "back side" which is an indirect manifestation of a God's glory. Even after a passing glimpse of an indirect manifestation of the glory and holiness of God, Moses face shined (Exodus 34:29-35). The people who saw Moses were afraid because of his face shining from the glory of God and Moses placed a veil over his face.
  - **2 wings covered the feet.** This has reference to Moses and the burning bush. When Moses came near the burning bush God told him to remove his sandals for the ground he was standing on was holy ground (Exodus 3:5) as he was standing in the presence of God. Removing his sandals was a sign of reverence. The seraphim were in the presence of God which was holy and in reverence their feet were covered.
  - **2 wings were used for flight.** This is so they can be ready for service for God.

### Verse 3

- Repetition of words or names was how importance was expressed. There are a few occasions in the Bible were there is a repetition of words or names. In regard to a name, the repetition of the name is a sign importance, intimacy, or urgency.
  - Abraham, Abraham (Genesis 22:11)
  - Jacob, Jacob (Genesis 46:2)
  - Moses (Exodus 3:4)
  - Samuel, Samuel (1 Samuel 3:10)
  - Martha, Martha (Luke 10: 41)
  - Simon, Simon (Luke 22:31)
  - Jerusalem, Jerusalem (Matthew 23:37)
  - Saul, Saul (Acts 9:4)
  - Lord, Lord (Matthew 7:21-22)

- Eli, Eli- My God, My God (Matthew 27:46)
- Jesus uses truly, truly to convey importance in his teaching- one example is John 5:24

● When there is a threefold repetition, it is of the ultimate importance. There is only one attribute of God that is elevated to a threefold repetition: Holy, Holy, Holy!

- Revelation 4:1-8 After these things I looked, and behold, a door *standing* open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like *the sound* of a trumpet speaking with me, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things.”<sup>2</sup> Immediately I was <sup>[a]</sup>in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne.<sup>3</sup> And He who was sitting *was* like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance; and *there was* a <sup>[b]</sup>rainbow around the throne, like an emerald in appearance.<sup>4</sup> Around the throne *were* twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones *I saw* twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads.<sup>5</sup> Out from the throne come flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. And *there were* seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God;<sup>6</sup> and before the throne *there was something* like a sea of glass, like crystal; and in the <sup>[c]</sup>center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind.<sup>7</sup> The first creature *was* like a lion, and the second creature like a calf, and the third creature had a face like that of a man, and the fourth creature *was* like a flying eagle.<sup>8</sup> **And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night <sup>[d]</sup>they do not cease to say, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who <sup>[e]</sup>is to come.”**

● **Verse 4**

- o The foundations of the thresholds trembled at His holiness and glory. The temple was filled with smoke.
- o The mention of trembling and smoke are a reference to His holiness, power, glory, wrath, and judgment.
- **Exodus 19:16-20** So it came about on the third day, when it was morning, that there were <sup>[a]</sup>thunder and lightning flashes and a thick cloud upon the mountain and a very loud trumpet sound, so that all the people who *were* in the camp trembled.<sup>17</sup> And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they stood at the <sup>[b]</sup>foot of the mountain.<sup>18</sup> Now Mount Sinai *was* all in smoke because the Lord descended upon it in fire; and its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain <sup>[c]</sup>quaked violently.<sup>19</sup> When the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and God answered him with <sup>[d]</sup>thunder.<sup>20</sup> The Lord came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain; and the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.
- **Exodus 20:18-20** All the people perceived the <sup>[a]</sup>thunder and the lightning flashes and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw *it*, they trembled and stood at a distance.<sup>19</sup> Then they said to Moses, “Speak <sup>[b]</sup>to us yourself and we will listen; but let not God speak <sup>[c]</sup>to us, or we will die.”<sup>20</sup> Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of Him may <sup>[d]</sup>remain with you, so that you may not sin.”
- **Revelation 15:1-8** Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels who had seven plagues, *which are* the last, because in them the wrath of God is finished.<sup>2</sup> And I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had been victorious <sup>[a]</sup>over the beast and his image and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God.<sup>3</sup> And they \*sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, “Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the <sup>[b]</sup>nations!<sup>4</sup> “Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For all the nations will come and worship before You, For Your <sup>[c]</sup>righteous acts have been revealed.”<sup>5</sup> After these things I looked, and the <sup>[d]</sup>temple of the tabernacle of testimony in heaven was opened,<sup>6</sup> and the seven angels who had the seven plagues came out of the <sup>[e]</sup>temple, clothed in <sup>[f]</sup>linen, clean *and* bright, and girded around their

chests with golden sashes. <sup>7</sup>Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever. <sup>8</sup>And the <sup>[a]</sup>temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power; and no one was able to enter the <sup>[b]</sup>temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.

The clearest sensation that a human being has when he experiences the holy is an overpowering and overwhelming sense of creatureliness. That is, when we are in the presence of God, we are humbled and become most aware of ourselves as creatures. This is the opposite of Satan's original temptation, "You shall be as gods. R.C Sproul

"The modern movement of worship is designed to break down barriers between man and God, to remove the veil, as it were, from the fearsome holiness of God, which might cause us to tremble. It is designed to make us feel comfortable."— R.C. Sproul

Men are never duly touched and impressed with a conviction of their insignificance, until they have contrasted themselves with the majesty of God. -R.C Sproul

God is not going to negotiate His holiness in order to accommodate us. – R.C. Sproul

- Understanding the holiness of God is of the ultimate importance to the Christian as it shapes all aspects of our lives.
- The more we realize the gulf between who we are as creatures and who He is the holy God, the more we grow in worship, obedience, trust, prayer, sanctification, fear of the Lord, thankfulness, and awe.
- Silenced by holiness

He is HOLY, HOLY, HOLY!