

“Holiness of God”

Isaiah 6.1-13 (2 Chronicles 26)

POPULAR UNDERSTANDING - Holiness understood only Morally

Holiness Churches, Movement

HOLINESS SCALE - God 100% - Average Joe 30-40% - ZGC - maybe 60%

Billy Graham - Mother Theresa - Pope Francis - 90's!

OUR HOLINESS NOT EVEN A BLIP ON GOD'S RADAR SCREEN

BASIC MEANING - “Holy” = SEPARATE, SEPARATENESS

Classic Passage HOLINESS OF GOD - CALL OF ISAIAH TO MINISTRY

ISAIAH ONLY OT PROPHET TO CALL GOD "the Holy One of Israel"

BASIC MEANING - “Holy” = SEPARATE, SEPARATENESS

GEERHARDUS VOS “divine holiness...is not really an attribute to be coordinated with the other attributes distinguished in the divine nature. It is something co-extensive with and applicable to everything that can be predicated of God: He is holy in everything that characterizes Him and reveals Him, holy in His goodness and grace, no less than in His righteousness and wrath.”

MOST MENTIONED Attribute of GOD IN BIBLE Holy, Holy, Holy

1. Holiness reveals GOD'S MAJESTY

VISION OF ISAIAH // Revelation of Jesus seen by Apostle John

Isaiah 6 // Rev 4 - John sees Throne Room of God - 4 living creatures

Day & Night singing - “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, who is, and who is to come” 4.8

THRONE ROOM OF GREAT KING

v. 1 “high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple”

MAJESTY connects HOLINESS to SOVEREIGNTY - Great Authority

a. TEMPLE // Tabernacle - Stretch out Limousine // Tico - A Holy Place

1) Sign of God's Nearness - placed in middle camp / midst of His people

Greek - could enter any of temples of ancient Greece pray before statue of god

Roman - could freely enter any of temples of Rome

JEW - Could NOT ENTER - Most Holy Place / Only High Priest

once a year - after offering sacrifice for self & people - in Holy Dress

ANYONE ELSE WHO DARED ENTER CONSUMED BY FIRE

2) Sign of God's Distance - Transcendence - Separation

HOLY - not because of Special Rocks and Mortar of Construction

HOLY because of WHO LIVED THERE - HOLY, AWESOME GOD

Thick Veil - took 4 men to lift it - between Holy Place & Most Holy Place

VEIL = means "to separate" or "to hide"

ANOTHER VEIL BTWN HOLY PLACE & OUTER COURTYARD

ANOTHER VEIL BTWN COURTYARD AND CAMP OF PEOPLE

IN ALL THIS WE SEE - Holiness of God - SEPARATION

b. SERAPHIM - Sinless Creatures v. 2 "w/ 2 wings covered their faces"

WHY? - NOT for MORAL IMPERFECTIONS / MERE CREATURES

6.1 "seated on a throne, high and exalted" - TRANSCENDENT MAJESTY

PRIMARILY - Transcendence, Greatness, Unapproachableness

RED SEA - opened walked on dry ground - closed destroyed enemies

Exod 15.11 “Who among the gods is like you, O Lord? Who is like you - majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?”

God answered Hannah’s prayer - gave her son - Samuel

1 Sam 2.2 “There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.”

God told Isaiah

Isa 8.13 “The Lord Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, he is the one you are to fear; he is the one you are to dread.”

Hosea 11.9 “I am God and not a man - the Holy One among you.”

2. God’s Holiness REVEALS HIS WILL

Holiness is NOT ABSTRACT or STATIC, IMPERSONAL CONCEPT

HOLY GOD HAS A PURPOSE, PLAN, WILL -

Declaring Himself as the “Holy One” - God’s Delight is His Glory

Exod 20.5 “I the Lord your God am a jealous God”

MODERN MAN FINDS THIS REPUGNANT - SCANDALOUS IDEA

HOLY JEALOUSY - // human marriage / right anger at any violation vow

Two have become One - No one else is Allowed in that Intimate Circle

God REJECTS any ATTACK ON HIS RIGHTFUL HONOR & GLORY

6.1 "year that King Uzziah died" more than Historical FOOTNOTE

UZZIAH - KING OF JUDAH - reigned from about 791 to 740 BC

Relative to Most of the Kings - UZZIAH WAS A GOOD MAN v. 4

In terms of ACCOMPLISHMENTS - HE WAS A GREAT MAN v. 8

"built towers in Jerusalem and fortified them" ... "livestock...fields...vineyards"

"well trained army..made machines and weapons of war"

AS A RESULT - BECAME A PROUD MAN v. 16

DANGER OF SUCCESS - THINK IT IS FROM OUR OWN HAND

v. 4 "just as his father Amaziah had done" HOW WAS THAT?

2 Chron 25.2 "He did what was right in the Lord's eyes, but not wholeheartedly"

NOT GOOD ENOUGH - SAD LEGACY OF PARENT

Jeremiah 29.13 "You will seek me and you will find me when you seek me with all your heart"

UZZIAH's Courtisans FLATTERED HIM WITH THEIR FALSE PRAISE

GREAT KING SURROUNDED BY SERAPHIM - FIERY ANGELIC BEINGS

- NEVER STOPPED SINGING THEIR PRAISE

NEVER STOP SINGING PRAISES OF HIM WHO ALONE IS WORTHY

Psalm 47.8 "God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne"

Uzziah's WRONG Approach to God - Insistence

UZZIAH BRASHLY ENTERED GOD'S PRESENCE UNINVITED

EXODUS 30 - only Levitical priests - offered sacrifice

UZZIAH WANTED TO BE LIKE PAGAN KINGS AROUND HIM

KINGS & PRIESTS - SOME WERE CONSIDERED GODS / JAPAN

HIGH PRIEST in GOD'S PRESENCE WORE HAT / MITRE / TURBAN

PRECIOUS STONE OVER FOREHEAD INSCRIBED "Holy to the Lord"

UZZIAH - NO BUSINESS OFFERING SACRIFICE

RECEIVED SYMBOL - OF GOD'S HOLINESS ON FOREHEAD - LEPROSY

- DEADLY WASTING DISEASE

LEPER WAS TO CALL OUT ABOUT HIMSELF "unclean, unclean, unclean"

CONTRAST - Angels of God ever praise Him saying Holy, Holy, Holy

3. Holiness of God reveals His JUDGEMENT / WRATH

As UZZIAH was BROUGHT LOW - GOD was LIFTED UP

HOLINESS OF GOD IS A THREAT TO MAN

ESSENTIAL PART OF GOD'S HOLINESS - not like human anger

WRATH OF GOD - unlike any Human Emotion / Experience

NECESSARY & PROPER STANCE OF HOLY GOD TO

ALL THAT OPPOSES HIM - HE IS SERIOUS ABOUT BEING GOD

MOST TERRIBLE THING ABOUT SIN -

Not what does to man, families, children, society, or environment

WHAT IT DOES TO GOD - IT MAKES HIM ANGRY - TERRIBLE

"It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" Heb 10.31

GOD INVITES ISAIAH WHERE MAN HAS NO BUSINESS BEING

HOLINESS OF GOD MAKES HIM UNDESIREABLE -

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY & HOLINESS Challenge man's sin & pride

IN LIGHT OF GOD'S HOLINESS ISAIAH SEES HIMSELF

v. 5 ISAIAH CONSCIOUS OF HIS OWN SIN -

EXPOSED BY SEARCH LIGHT OF GOD'S HOLINESS

ISAIAH SEES SELF - LEPROUS LIPS - LIVE AMONG LEPERS

TEMPLE FILLED WITH SMOKE

GOD IS ALSO ETHICALLY DISTINCT FROM MAN - ethical holiness

Definite MORAL APPLICATION

Isaiah realized his sinfulness in presence of God's holiness

AFTER THE GREAT CATCH OF FISH - Peter had tried and failed

Luke 5.8 "Go away from me Lord; I am a sinful man!"

Habakkuk 1.13

"Your eyes are too pure to look on evil, you cannot tolerate wrong."

3.16 "I heard and my heart pounded, my lips quivered at the sound; decay crept into my bones, and my legs trembled"

1 John 1.5 "God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all"

NOT PLEASANT EXPERIENCE - FACE TO FACE w/ HOLY GOD

Apostle John "When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead" R 1.17

HOLY GOD CANNOT CO-EXIST WITH UNHOLINESS

God must destroy the unholy or purge out the sin

If this overwhelming dread is experienced by Righteous Prophets and Chosen Apostles - what hope do we have in His Holy Presence?

4. God's Holiness REVEALS HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS

VERSE OF SCRIPTURE - jumped off page to RC priest - Martin Luther

ENGAGED IN A STRUGGLE TO GAIN HOLINESS - Done it all!

After all that - No More Holy - No Greater Experience of God's Peace

APOSTLE PAUL QUOTED FROM HABAKKAK

Rom 1.17 "For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith.'"

RIGHTEOUS GOD MAKE UNRIGHTEOUS SINNERS RIGHTEOUS
RIGHTEOUSLY.

SOBERING REALITY - God does not lower standards for those who come

"Make every effort to...be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord"
Heb 12.14

SAVING REMEDY - God meets His own standards for us in Christ

GOD WOULD NOT ALLOW UZZIAH BE BOTH KING & PRIEST

UZZIAH NOT MESSIAH- ONLY JESUS - KING, PRIEST, PROPHET

John 12.41 INTRIGUING "Isaiah saw Jesus' glory and spoke about Him"

DID HE SEE CROSS? HOLY ONE "high and lifted up"

"Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifice, which can never take away sins. But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God...by on sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy"
Heb 10.11-13

"we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all"
Heb 10.10

"He entered the Most Holy Place once and for all by His own blood, having obtained eternal redemption"
Heb 9.12

MOMENT OF DEATH - VEIL IN MOST HOLY PLACE OF TEMPLE
TORN IN TWO - FROM TOP TO BOTTOM - WAY NOW OPEN

PICTURE OF JESUS - LIVE COAL FROM ALTAR OF GOD v. 6,7

COAL of ALTAR -SPECIFIC Confession - SPECIFIC applic of Mercy

Lamb of God - sent from heaven - take away the sin of the world - Jn 1.29

BELIEVER IN CHRIST - MADE HOLY 2 WAYS -

1) DECLARATIVE ACT - being “set apart” from world for the Lord

“To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ - their Lord and ours”
1 Cor 1.2

word HOLY - from Germanic languages / SAINT or SANCTIFIED from Romance languages - ROOT MEANING IS IDENTICAL - “set apart”

2) PROCESS OF SANCTIFICATION - being made more Holy in Christ

1 Peter 1.15 “just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: ‘Be holy, because I am holy.’”

GOD IS HOLY - HEAVEN IS HOLY - THRONE IS HOLY

those who dwell in His presence must be holy

Only Jesus makes us holy –

Ephes 1.4 “he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight”

COMMANDMENTS ARE HOLY - Law ethical boundary

WRITTEN ON OUR HEARTS - Walk in Holiness - DWELL w/ GOD

GOD RESISTS PROUD BUT INVITES HUMBLE TO RECEIVE GRACE

UZZIAH DIED - ISAIAH GRANTED NEW LIFE

PROCESS OF BEING MADE HOLY - SANCTIFICATION -

a. See “I saw the Lord high and lifted”

BEHOLD HIM IN PAGES OF SCRIPTURE - WORSHIP - PRAYER

REJOICE THAT WE ARE HIS - set apart from world for the Savior

KNOW THAT PROCESS WILL BE COMPLETED FULLY SOMEDAY

Great Song last week - Richie “We shall see Him as He is” 1 Jn 3.2

PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT US- Mt 6.9 “Hallowed by your name -

MAY YOUR NAME BE KEPT HOLY”

NT REALITY - HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL is now

Our Father in Heaven - OUR HOLY FATHER

b. Submit

TERRIBLE ENCOUNTER WITH HOLY ONE - run away or bow down

GIVE YOURSELF TO HIM - DAILY - FULLY - GREAT STRUGGLE

LEARN TO HATE SIN - opposite of Holiness

REALITY - IN OURSELVES - WE Love Sin and Hate Holiness

BUT IF WE DO NOT HATE SIN, WE WILL HATE GOD WHO REQUIRES
HOLINESS FROM US

GREAT TENSION DURING LIFE OF CHRIST

1) Some saw His Holiness and learned to hate sin and follow Him

2) Others, saw and grew to hate Him - eventually nailing Him to cross

Isa 57.15 “For this is what the high and lofty One says - he who lives forever, whose name is holy; ‘I live in a high and holy place, but I am also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit.’”

c. **Serve - WE HAVE BEEN SET APART FOR SERVICE**

v. 8 “Here I am, send me!”

RESPONSE TO GRACE - NOT TO RECEIVE GRACE

CALLED in WORSHIP - Are WE TUNED IN?? LISTENING to God ??

HOLINESS OF GOD - LIFE CHANGING - LIFE SHAPING

NEW PURPOSE - SERVE THE HOLY ONE - He is calling us today!

NOBLE PURPOSE in AGE OF APATHY - heart stirred by Holy God

When ARMIES of Alexander the Great marched on an enemy city

HE WOULD BURN A TORCH OUTSIDE THE CITY GATES

whoever came to surrender while torch burned was spared

After the torch burned out - No More Mercy

HOLY GOD HAS SET LIGHT OF HIS WORD IN THIS WORLD

time for surrender - wants none to perish - all to repent & believe

TORCH WILL BE EXTINGUISHED - Comes with His Holy Angels