



THE  
HOLINESS  
OF GOD

Isaiah 6:1-4

## The Holiness Of God

- Idiom - is a phrase or expression whose meaning cannot be understood from the literal definition of its individual words, but rather carries a specific figurative meaning known through common use
  - When we know something is easy, we say
    - "It's a piece of cake"
    - "Under the weather"
    - "When pigs fly"
    - "Cost an arm and a leg"

## The Holiness Of God

- What does the idiom “Seeing from a different angle” mean?
  - Approaching a problem, story, or subject from a new, alternative perspective, viewpoint, or through a different, often fresher, lens
  - Sometimes in computer programming problems I would get tunnel vision following the logic and code
  - Watching how some people (*experts*) look at a masterful painting

## The Holiness Of God

- God is defined as Holy in Scripture but nowhere in Scripture does it define the word, “Holy”
  - What does it mean for God to be holy?
  - How can our finite minds even begin to grasp what it means for God to be holy?

## The Holiness Of God

- We need to be like looking at a masterpiece painting
  - Trying to see what the Master saw when painting it
  - What were they trying to say with this picture with the colors, textures....
- We must discover its meaning by seeing how it is used in various contexts of Scripture
- We will look at this through three different angles to reveal part of the meaning of the holiness of God

## Scripture

- **Isaiah 6:1-4 NIV**, 1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3 And they were calling to one another:
  - “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” 4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

## The Holiness Of God

- Dr. Robb Brunansky states there are three angles for to us in understanding the holiness of God
  - The first angle is that God's holiness is manifest in His incomparable preeminence
  - The second angle is that God's holiness is manifest in His incorruptible purity
  - The third angle is that God's holiness is manifest in His infinite perfections

## **God's holiness is clear, obvious, and easily perceived in His incomparable preeminence**

- Preeminence - the state of being superior, supreme, or more distinguished than others in quality, rank, or importance
- The word holy is derived from a word that means to cut or to separate
  - You hear it in the idiom, "A cut above"

## God's holiness is clear, obvious, and easily perceived in His incomparable preeminence

- So the first idea of God's holiness is the idea that God is separate from us, a cut above anything in creation
  - There is nothing in creation like God
  - He is incomparably preeminent in that He is above everything, and nothing compares to Him
  - **Exodus 15:11 NIV**, 11 Who among the gods is like you, Lord? Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?

## God's holiness is clear, obvious, and easily perceived in His incomparable preeminence

- **Exodus 15:11 NIV**, 11 Who among the gods is like you, Lord? Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?
  - Two things about God's holiness in this verse, His holiness is majestic, and His holiness puts Him in a class all by Himself
  - God's holiness speaks to His majesty and to His exaltedness over all that exists in creation

## God's holiness is clear, obvious, and easily perceived in His incomparable preeminence

- **Isaiah 6:1-4 NIV**, 1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple.
  - The Lord high and exalted speaks of His majesty and glory
  - The Lord seated on a throne speaks of His absolute authority
  - The Lord's train of his robe filled the temple speaks of His presence and power filling all space, leaving no room for any other authority

## **God's holiness is clear, obvious, and easily perceived in His incomparable preeminence**

- There is nothing in creation like God; He is incomparably preeminent in that He is above everything, and nothing compares to Him
- In Isaiah 40, Isaiah invites a comparison between God and things of the world

## God's holiness is clear, obvious, and easily perceived in His incomparable preeminence

- **Isaiah 40:12-17 TLB**, 12 Who else has held the oceans in his hands and measured off the heavens with his ruler? Who else knows the weight of all the earth and weighs the mountains and the hills? 13 Who can advise the Spirit of the Lord or be his teacher or give him counsel? 14 Has he ever needed anyone's advice? Did he need instruction as to what is right and best? 15 No, for all the peoples of the world are nothing in comparison with him—they are but a drop in the bucket, dust on the scales. He picks up the islands as though they had no weight at all.

## God's holiness is clear, obvious, and easily perceived in His incomparable preeminence

- **Isaiah 40:12-17 TLB** 16 All of Lebanon's forests do not contain sufficient fuel to consume a sacrifice large enough to honor him, nor are all its animals enough to offer to our God. 17 All the nations are as nothing to him; in his eyes they are less than nothing—mere emptiness and froth.

## **God's holiness is clear, obvious, and easily perceived in His incomparable preeminence**

- The more questions Isaiah asks, the more obvious it becomes that there is no one like God
  - No one is like God in His majestic holiness
  - No one has power like His
  - No one has sovereignty like His
  - No one has wisdom like His, and no one creates like He does
  - God is in a class by Himself

## **God's holiness is clear, obvious, and easily perceived in His incomparable preeminence**

- R.C. Sproul, "God is an infinite cut above everything else. He is so far above and beyond us that He seems almost totally foreign to us."
  - Yes, we call Him Father and Friend but never forget who your Heavenly Father is

## God's holiness is clear, obvious, and easily perceived in His incorruptible purity

- This aspect of God's holiness speaks to His perfect righteousness and justice
- **1st John 1:5 NIV**, 5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.
  - **John 1:5 NIV**, The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome/understood/extinguished it.

## God's holiness is clear, obvious, and easily perceived in His incorruptible purity

- **1st John 1:5 NIV**, 5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.
  - God does not do anything evil or unjust or even shades toward darkness
  - He does not think anything evil
  - He is never tempted by evil
  - God has no hint of darkness in Him at all
  - He is pure light, righteousness, and goodness in all He does or allows

## God's holiness is clear, obvious, and easily perceived in His incorruptible purity

- **Habakkuk 1:12-13 NIV**, 12 Lord, are you not from everlasting? My God, my Holy One, you will never die. You, Lord, have appointed them to execute judgment; you, my Rock, have ordained them to punish.
  - 13 Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrongdoing. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?

## God's holiness is clear, obvious, and easily perceived in His incorruptible purity

- God is too pure to approve evil, and He cannot look on wickedness with favor
  - But It seemed to Habakkuk like that was what God was doing
  - **Vs. 13**, Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?
  - Habakkuk was reassuring himself that God is holy; and although it might look like God was acting in an unholy way, that was impossible

## God's holiness is clear, obvious, and easily perceived in His incorruptible purity

- God is too pure to approve evil, and He cannot look on wickedness with favor
  - **Habakkuk 3:17-18 NIV**, 17 Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls,
    - 18 yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.

## God's holiness is clear, obvious, and easily perceived in His incorruptible purity

- **James 1:13-14 NIV**, 13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.
  - God wants nothing to do with evil at all because He is incorruptibly pure

## God's holiness is clear, obvious, and easily perceived in His incorruptible purity

- The biggest spiritual problem of our culture is that individuals think they're generally good people because they've never encountered the holiness of God
  - **Jeremiah 17:9 NIV**, The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

## **God's holiness is clear, obvious, and easily perceived in His incorruptible purity**

- We must declare to the unbelievers in our culture – not that God wants them to have a better life or to help them with their problems or to be all that they can be
  - But that God is holy, and that they are standing on the precipice of hell because they are wicked people who deserve judgment

## God's holiness is clear, obvious, and easily perceived in His incorruptible purity

- **Vs. 2**, Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying.
  - Two wings over the eyes represents reverence, righteousness and perfection of God Almighty
  - Two wings over the feet represents humility
  - And the Two wings they used to fly shows they were in action
    - To be in service for All Mighty God you must meet these requirements.

## God's holiness is clear, obvious, or easily perceived in His infinite perfections

- This phrase simply means that God's holiness is not one of His attributes, but that His holiness permeates everything about Him
  - God is holy in all His perfections (*love, grace, mercy, discipline*)
- R.C. Sproul once noted that “only once in sacred Scripture is an attribute of God elevated to the third degree...”
  - **Vs. 3**, And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

## **God's holiness is clear, obvious, or easily perceived in His infinite perfections**

- The Bible never says that God is love, love, love; or mercy, mercy, mercy; or wrath, wrath, wrath; or justice, justice, justice
  - It does say that He is holy, holy, holy
- God's love is a holy kind of love
  - God's love is never perverse, self-centered, worldly, lustful, or any other worldly characteristic of love because of His holiness

## God's holiness is clear, obvious, or easily perceived in His infinite perfections

- God's wrath and judgement is a holy wrath and judgement
  - God's wrath is not an outburst of wrath like ours when we give into the flesh
    - It only shows itself at appropriate times and towards appropriate objects because of His holiness

## **God's holiness is clear, obvious, or easily perceived in His infinite perfections**

- God's grace does not violate His holiness even while He displays grace to sinners, because that grace comes at great cost in the death of His Son
  - God shows us a holy grace
- We know, too, that God's omnipotence, jealousy, patience, and kindness are all holy

## God's holiness is clear, obvious, or easily perceived in His infinite perfections

- These perfections of God are infinitely greater than what can be seen in mankind, even the most humble, graceful and loving person
  - We are not to look at human grace, mercy, love, or wrath – and think that we see what God is like because we've seen what men are like
  - Instead, we are to look at God's Word to learn what grace, mercy, love, and wrath are supposed to be like
    - And then conform ourselves to God's holy perfections

## The Holiness Of God

- **Vs. 4**, At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.
  - This represents to finite man the overwhelming, tangible presence, power, and holiness of God
  - The smoke acted as a veil signifying God's glory and the inability of sinful man to approach Him directly
- So, how can we even think or hope we can have access to this Holy God?

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- **Hebrews 4:14-16 NIV**, we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.
  - 16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.
- Why did God supply such a great High Priest for us?
- Since God is holy, how did He supply such a great High Priest for us?

## The Holiness Of God

- When we talk about God's holiness, we can barely wrap our minds around it or adequately capture it in human language
  - We can only begin to grasp it as we meditate on it, allowing His Holy Spirit to lead us to His truth
- The greatest question from today
  - Seeing the greatness of God's holiness, it leads me to wonder how it is that a holy God can have a relationship with sinful people?
  - The only answer is because of Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God



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