

Small Group & Personal Bible Study Lesson

Pastor Dennis Hadley

God Is Holy

During this series we will be looking at who God is. This week we will see how God is Holy, meaning that He set apart. When faced with the reality of the Holiness of God, men and angels are brought to their knees in awe and in humility as they begin to understand how far we fall short of His Holiness.

This Weeks Memory Passage: Psalm 99:5

Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his footstool; He is Holy.

Before the Throne of Our God, “Holy, Holy, Holy”

Take a moment to stop and read two accounts of the response of men and angles before the throne of a Holy God from Isaiah 6 and Revelation 4. Notice the repeated words, Holy, Holy, Holy. The repetition underscores God’s infinite holiness. When we gaze into the holiness of God, we cannot help but respond as Isaiah did in humility, worship, and an obedient response to the call.

Isaiah 6:1-8

¹ In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. ² Above him were seraphs, 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. ⁵ "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty." ⁶ Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for." ⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

- How does Isaiah describe the Holiness of God?

Isaiah talks about the Lord seated high and exalted (set apart from the rest). He says the train of his robe filled the temple. It is hard to understand the meaning of this vision but it certainly indicates His Lordship, His greatness and honor due. He sees the angles declaring His glory and holiness. Even the angles cover their faces, perhaps because they cannot gaze into the glory of God? These angelic beings declare the holiness of God to one another. They are consumed by His holiness. We see shaking and smoke indicating the power of the Almighty God.

Isaiah sees himself as he really is when set against the back drop of the holiness of God and he says, “I am ruined!”

- What do you think went through His mind as He saw the Lord?
Fear, humility, reality of how far short He falls of God’s glory. And at the same time, awe and wonder of how such a great God could choose Him.
- What was Isaiah’s response to the Holiness of God?
He first responds with confession as a sinner and finds forgiveness. Then He next responds with obedience to God’s call when He hears His voice calling. Isaiah says, “Here am I. Send me!”

Revelation 4

¹After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." ²At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. ³And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian. A rainbow, resembling an emerald, encircled the throne. ⁴Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their

heads. ⁵From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. Before the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirit of God. ⁶Also before the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.

In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. ⁷The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. ⁸Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. **Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."** ⁹Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives forever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

"You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they were created
and have their being."

- How does John describe the Holiness of God?
John has such a hard time describing what He sees that he doesn't use the terms we might expect. Instead he talks of stones, gems, and colors. Like Isaiah, the power is described as flashed of lighting and rumblings of thunder. All of these words help me to grasp that God is not like me. I cannot apply my limited view of God to who He really is. John goes on to speak of the ones who surround the throne worshipping our Holy God. All of this leads me to realize how holy (set apart) he really is.
- What do you think went through His mind as He saw the Lord?
John had to be speechless. Confused, yes. Terrified, maybe. Comforted, probably. In awe, most definitely.
- What response do you see to the Holiness of God in Revelation 4?
Worship is the response that we see very clearly in both of these passages. The people fall down. They lay their crowns (meaning all of who they are and have ever done). They worship!

Daily Scripture Meditation Reading:

God's Holiness revealed in the Psalms

- Day 1: Psalm 22
 - Day 2: Psalm 71
 - Day 3: Psalm 89
 - Day 4: Psalm 99
 - Day 5: Psalm 111
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- How has reading from the Psalms, as well as Isaiah 6 and Revelation 4 this week revealed that God is Holy?
Ask people to share
 - What does the truth that God is Holy mean to you personally?
Ask people to share
 - How should God's Holiness affect the way you live your life?
This should lead me to live completely for God. And to worship Him from the very depths of my being.
 - What should this truth lead you to do in your daily walk with God?
Ask people to share

*Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his holy mountain,
For the LORD our God is Holy. Psalm 99:9*