



THE HOLINESS OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

God's holiness is the vital truth and foundation of Bible teaching. He alone is infinitely, immutably, independently holy. In the Scriptures¹ He is frequently called the Holy One and is consistently praised for the holiness of His name, nature and works. Moral excellence and absolute purity are the very essence of His divine nature. The Apostle John declares in I John 1:5 . . . *God is Light and in Him is no darkness at all*. The brightness of His beauty is the reflection of He Who is altogether lovely, whose very name is Holy.

God's primary goal for man is . . . *be holy, for I Am holy* (I Peter 1:16). However, because of the law of sin² that dwells in man's mortal body, he is unable to obey God's command. Nevertheless, the Son of God whose name is Jesus, offered Himself as a pure and spotless sacrifice whose blood continuously purifies man from his sins. God's gift of salvation enables man to partake of His Holiness and join the hosts of heaven throughout the ages declaring, *Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come* (Revelation 4:8).

THEME SCRIPTURE

Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at His holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy (Psalm 99:9).

¹ Scriptures: the Bible, God's written Word as He has made Himself known throughout different periods in history to holy men of God. They are the revelation of God's predestined, perfect, perpetual plan of the ages.

² law of sin: Romans 7:23 . . . *I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin* [transgression of God's law] *which is in my members*.

SECTION I – Definition

1. WRITE your own definition of *holiness*. _____

Dictionary Definition

To be holy is to be exalted or worthy of complete devotion as one perfect in goodness and righteousness; divine; the state of being holy; it is a life of holiness and total devotion to God; sanctification.

Biblical Definition

The Hebrew word for *holiness* is *qodesh* meaning, a sacred place or thing; sanctify, consecrated, dedicated, hallowed, saint and sanctuary: apartness, sacredness, separateness.

When referring to the *holiness* of God, the word holy in Greek is *hageos* which means sacred, physically pure; morally blameless or religious; ceremonially consecrated, holy, saint.

Scripture Descriptions

2. READ the following Scriptures on God's holiness. UNDERLINE the words and/or phrases that speak of the holiness of God.

Exodus 15:11 *Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?*

Psalms 24:3-5 *Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.*

Isaiah 6:3 *And one [seraphim]³ cried to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;⁴ the whole earth is full of His glory!'*

Isaiah 57:15 *For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: 'I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.'*

Habakkuk 1:13a *You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, and cannot look on wickedness.*

³ seraphim – Hebrew *saraph* burning: majestic beings with six wings, human hands and voices, in attendance before God: Celestial beings whom Isaiah saw standing before the enthroned LORD when he was called to the prophetic ministry (Isaiah 6:2, 3, 6, 7).

⁴ LORD of hosts: LORD of innumerable armies seen and unseen.

Mark 1:24	<i>Jesus of Nazareth . . . the Holy One of God.</i>
Luke 1:49	<i>He [Jesus] who is mighty has done great things for me and holy is His name.</i>
I Peter 1:15, 16	<i>But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I AM holy.'</i>

3. What did you learn about God’s holiness from these Scriptures? _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

PERSONAL

How has the holiness of God influenced you to be holy? _____

SECTION II – Man’s Encounter with God’s Holiness

Moses’ Encounter with the Holy God

READ Exodus Chapter 3:1-12.

1. What was Moses doing for Jethro, his father-in-law, the priest of Midian⁵ (v. 1)? _____
- _____

⁵ Midian – Hebrew *Midyan* strife: son of Abraham by Keturah progenitor of the tribe of Midianites or Arabians; located in the desert north of the Arabian Peninsula.

Where did Moses lead the flock? _____

What did he come to? _____ 6

2. Who appeared to Moses (v. 2)? _____ 7

How did the Angel of the LORD appear to him? _____

What supernatural quality did the bush display? _____

3. Why did Moses turn aside to behold the burning bush (v. 3)? _____

4. The LORD saw that Moses had turned to look at the bush. Where was the LORD when He called Moses (v. 4)? _____

How did Moses respond? _____

5. What instructions did the LORD give to Moses (v. 5)? _____

_____ 8

6. How did the LORD describe Himself (v. 6)? _____

How did this profoundly affect Moses? _____

7. What did the LORD see, hear, and know regarding His people who were in Egypt (vv. 7-10)? _____

⁶ Horeb: the mountain of God; desert; another name for Mt. Sinai; the mountain where Moses brought water out of the rock; where the LORD gave Moses the Ten Commandments.

⁷ Angel of the LORD: a theophany, an appearance by the LORD, taking on a divine or human form in order to be visible to man; the Person of Jesus Christ in the Old Testament; Genesis 18:2, 3; 22:11; Exodus 3:2; Joshua 5:13-15; Judges 13:21, 22.

⁸ holy ground: there was no inherent holiness in the spot of ground, but a relative holiness on account of the presence of God; only while the purity and holiness of God was present was it holy.

What was His response to their oppression? _____

8. What was God's divine call upon Moses (vv. 10-12)? _____

Moses having been well educated and trained in the house of Pharaoh and now a fugitive in the backside of the desert, how did he respond to the call of God who is holy?

WRITE out verse 12, God's powerful promise to Moses. _____

PERSONAL

Have you ever been profoundly aware of the holiness of God through prayer, worship, the Word of God, creation, or a personal experience? EXPLAIN.

How did it make you feel? _____

Isaiah's Encounter with the Holy God

READ Isaiah 6:1-6.

1. What did the Prophet Isaiah see the year that King Uzziah⁹ died (vv. 1-3)? _____

⁹ King Uzziah: his name means *my strength is Jehovah*, son of Amaziah of Judah; a popular powerful king of Judah who reigned from 792-740 BC; the prophets Zachariah and Isaiah were his contemporaries.

What did one seraphim cry out to another in worship of the LORD? _____

2. What were the affects of the seraphim's cry on the temple (v. 4)? _____

3. What did Isaiah confess (v. 5)? _____

What brought him to this confession? _____

4. How did one of the celestial beings react to Isaiah's confession of sin (v. 6, 7)? _____

10

5. After Isaiah's sin was purged, what question did he hear from the Lord (v. 8)? _____

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How did he zealously answer? _____

6. What was God's command (v. 9a)? _____

¹⁰ purge – Hebrew *kaphar* to cover: condone, pardon, cancel, appease, atone for, forgive, be merciful.

¹¹ Us: Triune God; God the Father, Son & Holy Spirit; Genesis 1:1, 2, 26, 27; John 1:1,14.

PERSONAL

How have you answered the Lord when He has revealed His holiness to you personally? _____

God has called us all to reach the lost. How have you answered the call? _____

SECTION III – Scriptural References of God’s Holiness

God commands us to be holy as He is holy. The following Scriptures tell us how the Holy Spirit will enable us as we yield to Him.

1. MATCH the Scripture reference to its corresponding statement.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ___ I Corinthians 6:9-11 | a. through the knowledge of Him and His precious promises |
| ___ II Corinthians 7:1 | b. through the hope of Christ’s return, we purify ourselves |
| ___ James 4:8 | c. through the blood of Jesus Christ |
| ___ I Peter 1:22a | d. purifying our souls by obeying the truth through the Spirit |
| ___ II Peter 1:3-4 | e. by drawing near to God |
| ___ I John 1:7 | f. by His precious promises and the fear of God |
| ___ I John 3:2-3 | g. through the washing, sanctification, and justification in Jesus Christ |

PERSONAL

According to these Scriptures, what will you do to put on His holiness? _____

Holiness, as applied to man, is more than acting holy. It is holiness of heart, the inward man: conscience, thoughts, will, and emotions, which manifest itself in holy behavior. It is cleansing ourselves daily from the defilement of our flesh and spirit through faith in Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

When we accept Jesus as Lord and Savior of our lives and receive His forgiveness, we then can stand immediately pure in His sight. Despising the shame, He whose name is Holy took the blame for the sins of mankind and they were nailed with Him on the cross. Jesus was pierced with spikes and with thorns and hung on a cross (symbol of the curse of sin) between heaven and earth. The foolish laughed and scorned while the host of heaven bowed in silent adoration and beheld the Holy One become sin.

2. WRITE from the following Scriptures how God, who is holy, finished the work of redemption¹² of sinful man.

John 3:16 _____

I Corinthians 1:30 _____

II Corinthians 5:21 _____

Ephesians 1:7 _____

I John 2:2 _____

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PRAYER

Take a moment to thank Jesus that through His sacrifice on the cross for the forgiveness of your sin He has imputed His holiness to you.

¹² redemption – Hebrew to tear loose; a ransom; to buy back: Jesus paid the ransom for the sins of the world.

¹³ propitiation – Greek *hilasmos* atonement: the sacrifice that atones (covers) man's sins; Jesus was the sacrifice that bore the wrath of God for sinful man through His death on the cross.

THEME SCRIPTURE

WRITE the THEME SCRIPTURE.

(Psalm 99:9).

*Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!*

Revelation 4:8b

NOTES: _____

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Due to the holy nature of God, the first letter of all references to Him,
His holy name, and His Word have been capitalized.

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