

GOD: A Short Autobiography

"GOD is Perfect & Holy!"

Psalm 139:19-24

Pastor Jason Dennett's Notes

NKJV - "Oh, that You would slay the wicked, O God! Depart from me, therefore, you bloodthirsty men. For they speak against You wickedly; Your enemies take Your name in vain. Do I not hate them, O Lord, who hate You? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies. Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting."

Years ago there was a photographer named Usef Karf, who photographed famous people. He put it a book called "Portraits of Greatness" in which he photographed in large format style, 90 of the worlds most famous people. For example, the most famous picture of Winston Churchill, comes from this collection. However, people who viewed the book noted that out of the 90 individuals that were portrayed, 70 of them were very unattractive. 35 individuals has moles or warts in their pictures; 13 had liverspots; 20 had acne; and 2 individuals had visible scars. Karf was criticized because he had used the detail of his lens, and the large format photography to capture people's appearance as they really truly are...and people didn't like it!

People also feel like this towards GOD, viewing today's attribute of Holiness, as something they don't like very much. After all, it is completely true, that because of God's absolute Holiness that many of His actions are motivated: His punishment of sin; His wrath upon the wicked; His vengeance upon evil individuals; Hell and the Lake of Fire were created, because our GOD is a consuming fire, in His absolute and perfect Holiness. However, it IS the most frequently mentioned attribute of God in the entire Bible - GOD is called "holy" more than He is called Loving, Merciful, or Gracious!! Today we will see that God's Holiness actually shows us His awesome beauty, His matchless glory, and His infinite perfection.

I. GOD's Holiness **DEFENDED** (v.19-22)

II. GOD's Holiness **REQUESTED** (v.23-24)

I. GOD's Holiness **DEFENDED (v.19-22)** - "Oh, that You would slay the wicked, O God! Depart from me, therefore, you bloodthirsty men. For they speak against You wickedly; Your enemies take Your name in vain. Do I not hate them, O Lord, who hate You? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies."

- David passionately and zealously seeks to defend the honor and beauty of GOD's **HOLINESS**. Much as Peter pulled out a sword and tried to use it physically to protect Jesus, David pulls out a sword verbally comes to GOD's defense. (??)
- **It brings up an important point in reading your Bible:** We must remember that the authors of Scripture were flawed humans, and that just because something is recorded in Scripture doesn't necessarily mean it reflects the heart and character of GOD Himself.
 - **Psalm 14:1 NKJV** - "The fool has said in his heart 'There is no God!'"
 - **Matt 26:56 NKJV** - "Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled."
 - **Exodus 32:14 NLT** - "...the Lord changed his mind about the terrible disaster he had threatened to bring on his people."
- **What is a good biblical definition of "HOLINESS"??**
 - Hebrew Word "**kodesh**"; Greek Word "**hagios**"
 - "**Holy**" **470x** in OT; **229x** in NT

- **Both the Hebrew and Greek word mean the same thing:** “to have the quality or character of being sacred, pure, morally blameless, separate from evil, and set apart for GOD.” (*What does it **NOT** mean??*)
 - **William Evans, a bible scholar, said this of God’s holiness:** “If there is any difference in the importance in the attributes of GOD, it seems that holiness occupies the first place. It is the one attribute that GOD would have his people remember more than any other.” (“Our Father...*holy* be your Name..” ; “*Holy* One” ; “*Holy* Spirit”)
 - *Kyoto Japan - The Temple of 1,000 Buddha’s...*
- **“Rule of 1st Mention” - Exo 3:2-5** - “..the *Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire* from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. Then Moses said, “I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.” So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then He said, “*Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.*”
 - **Lev 11:44-45** - “For I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy. Neither shall you defile yourselves with any creeping thing that creeps on the earth. For I am the Lord who brings you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God. *You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.*”
 - “God promises that if we pursue holiness, we will ultimately receive happiness.” - *Jl Packer*
 - “Holiness and usefulness go hand in hand.” - *Elizabeth Prentiss*
 - **According to the Bible, HOLINESS will produce great things in the life of a Christian:**
 - Holiness = **Wholeness!** (Eze 18:20)
 - Holiness = **Healthiness!** (Gal 6:8)
 - Holiness = **Happiness!** (Psalm 1:1,2)
 - Holiness = **Usefulness!** (2 Chron 16:9)
 - **Isa 6:1-7** - “I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: “*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord* of hosts; the whole *earth is full of His glory!*” And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. So I said: “*Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.*” Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it, and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; *Your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged.*”
 - **We see 3 stages in Isaiah’s encounter with the LORD:**
 - **1. Revelation** - GOD’s perfect holiness was revealed.
 - **GOD is HOLY in His Essence & Nature** - “GOD is completely sacred, infinitely pure, morally perfect, separate from all evil. GOD is the very definition of beauty, majesty, goodness, and perfection.”
 - **2. Separation** - Isaiah became aware of his own sinfulness.
 - “You don’t impress the officials at NASA with a paper airplane.” You don’t boast about your crayon sketches if you’re in the presence of Picasso. You don’t claim equality with Einstein because you can write H2O. And you don’t boast about your goodness in the presence of the perfect.” - *Max Lucado*
 - **3. Purification** - GOD graciously made a way for him to be cleansed.
 - “Because GOD is perfectly holy, He cannot look on sin with indifference.” - *Sean McDowell*

- **Is it possible that our culture at large, and even many of our churches have fallen into “hyper-grace”?** Is it possible that many times, without realizing it, Christians practice “sloppy agape” and rationalize away things that the Lord would have us to change in our lives?
 - *“We must wear our holiness, not as a Sunday jacket, but like everyday clothing.” - Charles Spurgeon*
 - *“We are called to live lives that more fully reflect God’s character. Holiness is our eternal destiny, but it is also our present responsibility.” - Mark Denver*

II. GOD’s Holiness REQUESTED (v.23-24) - “Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.”

- **“Search me..know me..try me..lead me..”** - David is expressing the desire of his heart, for the LORD to make him more holy. After reminding himself of our perfectly holy the LORD is, wanting to please the LORD, David requests God’s help in making Him more separate, more clean, more pure, more holy in his daily life.
 - *“A holy Christian is an awesome weapon in the hands of God.” - Spurgeon*
 - *“We cannot make ourselves holy. We can become holy only through the power of Christ and the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives.” - H. Blackaby*