

TOTALLY AWESOME September 18, 2022

We want to know WHO God is, & what God is like!

Ephesians 3:8b ...He graciously gave me the privilege of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ.

Philippians 3:10a I want to know Christ...

MSG I gave up all that inferior stuff so I could know Christ personally...

TPT I continually long to know the wonders of Jesus...

Hebrews 1:3 TPT The Son is the dazzling radiance of God's splendor (*the out-shining of God's glory*) the exact expression of God's true nature - His mirror image! (*reflection*). He holds the universe together & expands it by the mighty power of His spoken word. He accomplished for us the complete cleansing of sins, & then took His seat on the highest throne at the right hand (*place of highest honor & authority*) of the Majestic One.

We will only be as successful as our conception of God.

GOD'S HOLINESS

Holiness is another incomprehensible & overwhelming attribute.

God's holiness flows from the essence of His being. God doesn't have holiness, He is Himself, Holy. He is infinite (& so is His holiness).

Proverbs 9:10 Fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom.

Knowledge of the Holy One results in good judgment.

"Holy" means to be set apart; sacred; purity; unmixed w/ nothing else in it. Holy means honor, Truth, & Righteousness. He is the All-Holy One.

Exodus 15:11 Who is like You among the gods, O Lord - glorious in holiness, awesome in splendor, performing great wonders?

Leonardo DaVinci – The Last Supper

15'x 29' – a monastery in Milan, Italy 1495-1498

Jonathan Edwards – *"A true love of God must begin w/ a delight in His holiness, and not w/ a delight in any other attribute; for no other attribute is truly lovely w/out this."*

*We not only have an inability to grasp the holiness of God intellectually, but as we encounter **it**, there's a sense of personal unworthiness. Today we live by our own concepts of morality, there's little to no value in holiness; there's sin & impurities everywhere. We make excuses & overlook evil & all the while pursuing our own feelings & our happiness.*

Isaiah 6:1 It was in the year King Uzziah died (740 b.c.) that I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, & the train of His robe filled the Temple. ² Attending Him were mighty seraphim (*fiery ones-burning w/ love & passion for God*), each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, w/ two they covered their feet, & w/ two they flew. *They covered as much as possible, recognizing their unworthiness in the presence of the Holy One. If these pure & holy seraphim exhibit such reverence in the presence of the Lord, what about us, polluted & flesh creatures? Their reverence to God should remind us of our own presumptions when we rush thoughtlessly & irreverently into His presence, as we often do because we don't understand His holiness.*

3 They were calling out to each other, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Heaven's Armies! The whole earth is filled w/ His glory!" (*Repeatedly proclaiming His supreme holiness & glory. There is only one other place in scripture where a word is repeated 3 times. No God is love love love or peace peace peace. Only holy holy holy*) The angels are expressing, w/ force & passion the supreme holiness of God, - conveying His majestic nature.

4 Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, & the entire building was filled w/ smoke. **5** Then I said, "It's all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, & I live among a people w/ filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the Lord of Heaven's Armies." (*When Isaiah realized who God was he instantly realized who he was. And repented*)

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me w/ a burning coal he had taken from the altar w/ a pair of tongs. **7** He touched my lips w/ it & said, "See, this coal has touched your lips. Now your guilt is removed, & your sins are forgiven." **8** Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?" I said, "Here I am. Send me."

The only other passage w/ this “three times God’s holiness” is in...

Revelation 4:8 Each of these living beings had six wings, & their wings were covered all over w/ eyes, inside & out. Day after day & night after night they keep on saying, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty - the one who always was, who is, & who is still to come.”

*John’s vision is like Isaiah’s, & yet John’s response is different. John doesn’t fall down in terror of his own sin. Perhaps because John already encountered Jesus at the beginning of his vision in **chapter 1**, where Jesus placed His hand on John & told him not to be afraid. In the same way, we can approach the throne of grace if we have the hand of Jesus on us in the form of His righteousness, exchanged for our sin at the cross.*

*These two visions clearly show that God is the same in both testaments. Often we think the God of the Old Testament is a God of wrath & in the New Testament He’s a God of love. Isaiah & John present a unified view of our holy, majestic, awesome God. *God’s holiness is eternal.**

C.S. Lewis – “God is the only comfort. He is also the supreme terror... Some people talk as if meeting the gaze of absolute goodness would be fun. They need to think again. They are only playing w/ religion.”

AND in The Lion, the Witch, & the Wardrobe – “He’s not a tame Lion – but He is good.”

Holiness is what separates God from all other beings, & is distinct from everything else. God’s holiness is more than just His perfection or sinless purity; it’s the essence of His transcendence. God’s holiness causes us to gaze in wonder & attempt to comprehend His majesty.

The holiness of God is a tough attribute to comprehend because it’s not inherent to humans. We’re created in God’s image & we can share many of His attributes - love, faithfulness, mercy, etc. But some of God’s attributes, i.e., omnipresence, omniscience, & omnipotence, will never be shared by humans. Holiness isn’t something that we have as a built-in part of our nature; we only become holy in relationship to Jesus. Only in Jesus do we “become the righteousness of God”

2 Corinthians 5:21 God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be ***made right*** w/ God through Christ.

The standard of all morality is God's absolute, perfect holiness. Anything that falls short can never measure up for fellowship w/ a holy God. We're all in that group. All have sinned & come short of the glory of God.

God wants us to come to Him boldly, & as we have a more accurate view of who God is & His awesome holiness, we'll connect w/ Him differently. Maybe we would repent of "hanging on" sins. Perhaps we wouldn't insult His Majesty by coming to Him w/ a shopping list of requests.

A true vision of His holiness will cause us to live lives of repentance.

Oh Father, I pray that you would keep upon us a sense of holiness that we can't sin and simply minimize & excuse it away. I pray that we would have hearts of humility and repentance.