



KING'S CHAPEL

Daily Devotional - 1 Peter Study

Week 1 - Day 5 - The Holiness of God

Approaching God

Read Psalm 99:1-5

The LORD reigns, let the nations tremble; he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake. Great is the LORD in Zion; he is exalted over all the nations. Let them praise your great and awesome name— he is holy. The King is mighty, he loves justice— you have established equity; in Jacob you have done what is just and right. Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his footstool; he is holy.

Yesterday we heard Peter's charge from the Lord in Leviticus 11:44 - "You shall be holy, for I am holy." When applied to God, the word "holy" means there is none like him, that he is infinitely above us and all things in power, perfection, and righteousness. When people are holy it means they belong wholly to God. They serve not with divided loyalties, but with their whole heart. It means we are to be radically different because of our integrity, honesty, sympathy, forgiveness, sexual purity and financial generosity. That's what made the early Christians Peter was writing to different - they were holy. Take some time as we begin today's theme study to praise God for his holiness, and to ask him to reveal places in your life where he wants to make you more holy.

Theme Study: Holiness

Holiness: A biblical word that means "unique, set apart" In the Hebrew it is pronounced Qadosh. In the Greek it is Hagios

קדוש

HEBREW QADOSH

HOLINESS

ἅγιος

GREEK HAGIOS

Watch: The Bible Project Video on Holiness - 6 mins 30 seconds

[Click Here to Start the Video](#)

In this video we explore the paradox that God's holiness presents to human beings. God is the unique and set-apart Creator of all reality and the author of all goodness. However, that goodness can become dangerous to humans who are mortal and morally corrupt. Ultimately, this paradox is resolved by Jesus, who embodies God's holiness that comes to heal His creation.

Bible Reading & Meditation: Isaiah 6:1-8

Isaiah 6:1-8 - **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. **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 seraphim 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!"

Daily Study Questions

You may find it helpful to read through the commentary in "Resources for Further Study" at the end of today's study to answer these questions.

Questions for Study

- Isaiah the prophet had a strange vision where he was in the temple (where he didn't belong!) and in the direct presence of God. Try to place yourself in the temple along with Isaiah as he experiences this vision from the Lord. What is happening? What is he seeing? List some of the things that Isaiah mentions.
- Instead of being destroyed, God has a burning, holy coal taken from his presence and applied to Isaiah's lips. Why would Isaiah point to his lips as being unclean? What might be the significance of having "unholy lips?"
- Instead of the temple becoming contaminated by Isaiah's impurity, the opposite happens: God's holiness transfers to Isaiah and erases his sin and impurity. How is God's goodness both good and dangerous at the same time? How does this vision reveal God's heart for people who are unclean.
- After watching the video and reading the study section below, what are the most important things you have learned about holiness today? How is holiness rooted in an understand God's character?

Close in Prayer:

- How can I rejoice today in light of God's holiness and its implications for me?
- What do I need to repent of today in light of God's holiness and its implications for me?
- What requests do I need to make today in light of God's holiness?

Resources for Further Study

HOLINESS STUDY

God's holiness is His defining characteristic. The holiness of God is a term used in the Bible to describe both His goodness and His power. It is completely unique, and utterly all-powerful, radiating out from God like an energy. In fact, God's holiness is so overwhelming, that it can actually be dangerous to approach.

It's helpful to think of God like the sun. The sun is so bright and powerful that its energy radiates out through the solar system. It's a good, helpful thing to be within the sun's energy, but the sun itself is so powerful that it's dangerous to get too close. In scripture, where we see examples of mortal men approaching the presence of the almighty God, the exact same scenario that this metaphor depicts is played out. Take, for example, the story of Moses and the burning bush. As Moses approaches the burning bush (which as we know is the presence of God), God tells Moses to take off his shoes because he is on holy ground and warns him not to come any closer. It's an intense example of just how overwhelmingly powerful God's holiness is.

Other examples of God's holiness in the Bible can be found in verses depicting the Holy of Holies, the inner room of the Israelite temple where God Himself resided. Because the Israelites, and especially the priests that worked within the temple, were in such close proximity to God's holiness, they had to take great care in order to keep themselves pure.

For the Israelites, keeping oneself pure involved not only trying to remain morally pure but also ritually pure as well. The rituals that the Israelites had to follow in order to stay pure were numerous and included things such as staying away from dead animals, certain foods, and certain bodily fluids. While becoming ritually impure was never defined as being sinful, the problem was that the Israelites were not able to exist within such close proximity of God's holiness if they were ritually impure.

Later on in the Bible, we see incredible stories of God's holiness expanding out from the temple and purifying things that were otherwise impure. Isaiah, for example, has a vision where he enters the temple impure but is purified while he is there by a burning coal - a physical embodiment of God's holiness. Later on, Ezekiel also has a vision where the holiness of God pours out from the temple like a river, revitalizing and purifying all the land it comes into contact with.

These examples of God's holiness purifying impure things all lead up to Christ. Christ, who is God's holiness in human flesh, goes out into the land, healing the sick, raising the dead, and casting out demons - all of which are examples of God's holiness now purifying the things it comes into contact with.

Through all of these examples, we are able to piece together a compelling picture of the holiness of God. God's holiness is a powerful force that must be treated with the utmost respect. At the same time, God's holiness is a gift, able to heal a broken and impure world. Best of all, as followers of Christ, a part of God's holiness now resides in us as well, making it our mission to go out and spread the holiness of God to all the world.

To Summarize:

- Holiness means “set apart, unique”
- God’s holiness is so pure and good that it poses a paradox for humans living in a world ruined by sin.
- People, places, and things are considered “holy” because they have a close relationship with God, who is the source and definition of holiness.
- The prophets had strange visions of being in the direct presence of God and the effects of God’s holiness.
- When Jesus arrives on the scene announcing the arrival of God’s kingdom, he seems to identify and move towards people who were considered “unclean” and unfit to enter God’s presence in the temple.
- Jesus established the community of his followers as a new temple, where God’s holiness meets with his people and changes them forever.