



The Things That Matter

Christian Life Assembly


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Holy, Holy, Holy

- **“When God is our Holy Father, sovereignty, holiness, omniscience, and immutability do not terrify us; they leave us full of awe and gratitude. Sovereignty is only tyrannical if it is unbounded by goodness; holiness is only terrifying if it is untempered by grace; omniscience is only taunting if it is unaccompanied by mercy; and immutability is only torturous if there is no guarantee of goodwill.” — Ravi Zacharias**
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Holy, Holy, Holy

- **“Repentance must dig the foundations, but holiness shall erect the structure, and bring forth the top-stone. Repentance is the clearing away of the rubbish of the past temple of sin; holiness builds the new temple which the Lord our God shall inherit. Repentance and desires after holiness never can be separated.” — Charles H. Spurgeon**





Holy, Holy, Holy

- “But saints and angels behold that glory of God which consists in the beauty of His holiness; and it is this sight only that will melt and humble the hearts of men, wean them from the world, draw them to God, and effectually change them. A sight of the awful greatness of God may overpower men's strength, and be more than they can endure; but if the moral beauty of God be hid, the enmity of the heart will remain in its full strength. No love will be enkindled; the will, instead of being effectually gained, will remain inflexible. But the first glimpse of the moral and spiritual glory of God shining into the heart produces all these effects as it were with omnipotent power, which nothing can withstand.” — Jonathan Edwards
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Holy, Holy, Holy

- "The holiness of God is not to be conceived of as one attribute among others. It is rather a general term representing the conception of God's consummate perfection and total glory." A.A. Hodge
- "Holiness is the most sparkling jewel of God's crown. It is the name by which he is known." Thomas Watson
- "Holiness is to be regarded, not as a distinct attribute, but as the sum of all God's moral perfection." R.L. Dabney





Holy, Holy, Holy

- 40 hágios – properly, different (unlike), other ("otherness"), holy; for the believer, 40 (hágios) means "likeness of nature with the Lord" because "different from the world."
- The fundamental (core) meaning of 40 (hágios) is "different" – thus a temple in the 1st century was hagogion ("holy") because different from other buildings (Wm. Barclay). In the NT, 40 /hágios ("holy") has the "technical" meaning "different from the world" because "like the Lord."
- [40 (hágios) implies something "set apart" and therefore "different (distinguished/distinct)" – i.e. "other," because special to the Lord.






Holy, Holy, Holy

- **Isaiah 6:1** It was in the year King Uzziah died that I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. **2** Attending him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. **3** They were calling out to each other, “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Heaven’s Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory!” **4** Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke. **5** Then I said, “It’s all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the LORD of Heaven’s Armies.” **6** Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. **7** He touched my lips with it and said, “See, this coal has touched your lips. Now your guilt is removed, and 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.”





Holy, Holy, Holy

- King Uzziah reigned in Jerusalem for 52 years – he was a good king and became symbolic of God’s blessing on His people.
 - But Israel was not reveling in the grandeur and holiness of God, instead they were living as though they were their own god.
 - This is very typical of God’s people living in prosperity in all times.
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Holy, Holy, Holy

- Chapter 5 of Isaiah spells out for us the conditions of the land as Uzziah's reign was coming to an end.
- Even Uzziah, in his last year or so began backsliding from God's commands.
- Isaiah is about to be recruited as God's lead prosecutor and make God's case against Israel.






Holy, Holy, Holy

- **Isaiah 5:8** What sorrow for you who buy up house after house and field after field, until everyone is evicted and you live alone in the land.
 - **Isaiah 5:11** What sorrow for those who get up early in the morning looking for a drink of alcohol and spend long evenings drinking wine to make themselves flaming drunk.
 - **Isaiah 5:20** What sorrow for those who say that evil is good and good is evil, that dark is light and light is dark, that bitter is sweet and sweet is bitter.
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Holy, Holy, Holy

- Isaiah 6:9 And he said, “Yes, go, and say to this people, ‘Listen carefully, but do not understand. Watch closely, but learn nothing.’ 10 Harden the hearts of these people. Plug their ears and shut their eyes. That way, they will not see with their eyes, nor hear with their ears, nor understand with their hearts and turn to me for healing.” 11 Then I said, “Lord, how long will this go on?” And he replied, “Until their towns are empty, their houses are deserted, and the whole country is a wasteland; 12 until the LORD has sent everyone away, and the entire land of Israel lies deserted. 13 If even a tenth—a remnant—survive, it will be invaded again and burned. But as a terebinth or oak tree leaves a stump when it is cut down, so Israel’s stump will be a holy seed.”
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Holy, Holy, Holy

- This is how a Holy God deals with His people when they no longer reflect His holiness.
- Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.
- The backdrop of Isaiah's vision of God's holiness is that of Israel in full rebellion against His holiness.





Holy, Holy, Holy

- The best way I have to describe the holiness of God is to say that His holiness is the sum total of all that He is.
- Sovereignty, omnipresence, omnipotence, omniscience, love, mercy, grace, kindness, generosity, and the list goes on.
- He is totally unlike (other than) any one else in all of history, and in all of the universe.






Holy, Holy, Holy

- **1st Peter 1:16** For the Scriptures say, “You must be holy because I am holy.”
- Rather than think of the application here as “You must be other than”, think about it as “You must become a godly sort of different”.
- **1st Peter 3:15** Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.





Holy, Holy, Holy

- **Luke 7:36** One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him, so Jesus went to his home and sat down to eat. **37** When a certain immoral woman from that city heard he was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume. **38** Then she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping. Her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing his feet and putting perfume on them. **39** When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. She’s a sinner!”
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Holy, Holy, Holy

- The woman in the story is a prostitute, and probably a rather successful one because she has a bottle of expensive perfume.
- This woman is touching Jesus in a very intimate fashion – even rubbing perfume on His feet and kissing them.
- The Pharisee is beside himself because he knows what he would be thinking if a ‘loose’ woman were rubbing and kissing his feet – impure thoughts, no doubt.





Holy, Holy, Holy

- In the exchange between the woman and Jesus, Jesus is not enticed, or adversely affected by the touches of the woman.
- On the contrary, He is moved with compassion for her and she, in turn, is moved towards faith.
- Heb 4:15 This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.






Holy, Holy, Holy

- **When we are becoming like our God, we will do the affecting and infecting of our surroundings and culture.**
- **Our problem is often that we become what our world is trying to press us into.**
- **When we are pursuing God (James 4:8) we are given the power to influence those around us.**





Holy, Holy, Holy

- “God does not require a perfect, sinless life to have fellowship with Him, but He does require that we be serious about holiness, that we grieve over sin in our lives instead of justifying it, and that we earnestly pursue holiness as a way of life.” Jerry Bridges
 - Exodus 15:11 11 “Who is like You among the gods, O Lord? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, Awesome in praises, working wonders?”
 - Psalm 111:9 He has sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever: *Holy and awesome is His name.*
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Holy, Holy, Holy

- Rev 4:8 The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come.
- Why the repetition? Because it is a way of underscoring something of great importance. (verily, verily)
- We never read that God is love, love, love, or mercy, mercy, mercy – we see “holy, holy, holy” because that is the best way to fully describe all that He is without shouting out all of the individual attributes.






Holy, Holy, Holy

- There is no better way for man to see God's holiness than to see Jesus. (perhaps 2nd best is Christ in us)
- John 1:18 No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God, is near to the Father's heart. *He has revealed God to us.*
- Heb 1:2 And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe. 3 *The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God.*





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 - If the inanimate objects like the temple’s foundation were moved by the holiness of God, why aren’t we?
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Holy, Holy, Holy

- We have these promises.
- Heb 10:14 For by that one offering he forever made perfect those *who are being made holy.*
- Phil 1:6 And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.





Holy, Holy, Holy

“It is a great deal better to live a holy life than to talk about it. We are told to let our light shine, and if it does we won’t need to tell anybody it does. The light will be its own witness. Lighthouses don’t ring bells and fire cannon to call attention to their shining—they just shine.”

R.A. Torrey





Questions

