

Holy, Holy, Holy

And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. – Isaiah 6:3

Isaiah's vision of the throne of Jehovah is populated by the class of angels referenced as seraphim, emphatically adoring His holiness. The scene that the apostle John is given audience to in Revelation chapter 4 is similar, where the four beasts (perhaps cherubim) lead both men and angels in their worship of the ruler of the universe with the chorus, "Holy, holy, holy, LORD God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come" (Rev. 4:8). Thus, both Old and New Testament prophets and apostles alike confirm with the establishment of many witnesses this pinnacle of all of our God's magnificent attributes – that He is holy.

Apprehending the holiness of God is essential to right worship and right living. It has been described as the beauty of all that God is. The word itself denotes God's uniqueness – that there is none like Him. He is separate from His creation, higher and apart from it and perfectly complete in a way that leaves men and angels awestruck. The Lord's holiness is perhaps something better "felt than told." Anyone who has engaged in humble worship of Jehovah and sensed His presence understands the overwhelming and unsearchable nature of His holiness. It is remarkable that such a God makes Himself available to fallen men and women.

God's holiness is propounded for us throughout the length and breadth of the sacred scriptures. Everything about Him is holy. His law is holy. His name is holy. His order of worship is holy. His covenant is holy. Everywhere He reveals Himself to man – be it with Moses at the burning bush, or with the children of Israel in the tabernacle, or with the nation of Israel in the temple, or with His gospel in the heart of every believer – becomes a holy place.

The New Testament reveals each person of the Triune, thrice holy Godhead, to be holy. In Matthew 1:18, it is His Holy Ghost that will bring forth Messiah. In John 17:11, Jesus prays in utmost earnestness to His Holy Father. In Acts 3:14, the early church recognizes the Son of God to Himself be holy.

The most humbling truth surrounding this attribute of the Almighty is that this Holy God is willing to make sinful men holy as well. He required Israel to be holy because He is holy (Lev. 19:2). He is preparing the present Himself with a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing, but holy and without blemish (Eph. 5:27). He anticipates our hands to be holy (1 Tim. 2:8), that our prayers be unhindered. Our very calling is holy (2 Tim. 1:9). He condescends to call us a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people (1 Pet. 2:9). What love is this that this Holy God has for His people!

Brothers and sisters, let us be holy as Him who has called us expects and enables us to be. And let us be ever grateful and eternally adore our thrice holy Creator Who was, and is, and is to come. -- *D. Murcek*