

Seeing God As A Holy God

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October 14, 2011

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Isa. 6:1-8

We serve a God who is so wonderful that we cannot begin to fathom His greatness.

Our Father framed the worlds and the heavens with His great might and everything therein. Think about just how awesome that is!

He merely spoke things into existence.

We can look on the grand scale, at how perfect are His ways in forming the planets, the solar systems, and the stars.

We can look upon the earth and see the perfect design of the land, the sea, and the protective atmosphere.

We marvel that He brings the sunshine and the rain, the seed time and the harvest time.

We look at the plant life, from the tiny flora to the giant redwoods.

We look at human life, and the intricate design of the body — how the body sees with the eyes, hears with the ears, and thinks with the mind, and remembers with the brain, as well as a host of other bodily functions.

When we look upon all of these things, we are in awe of His creative greatness.

God is many things.

We serve a God who is omnipresent, or everywhere.

His presence is pervasive and encompassing. Psalms 139:7-10, *“Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.”*

Whether in the heights of joy or the pits of despair, our God is there with us.

Our God is omniscient, or all knowing.

There is nothing that we can do, say, or think, that God does not know about. Luke 6:7-8, *“And the scribes and Pharisees watched him, whether*

he would heal on the sabbath day; that they might find an accusation against him. But he knew their thoughts, ..."

He has an all-seeing eye watching us.

Our God is omnipotent, or all powerful.

He can build mountains or tear them down. He can churn the waters of the deep and calm the raging sea.

Matt. 8:23-27, "And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him. And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!"

Our God can put men in rule and He can bring them to their knees as He sees fit.

All power in heaven and earth is His.

Our God is steadfast and sure in a world where precious little else is.

We can count on Him in everything: for protection, for wisdom, for blessings physical and spiritual.

James 1:17, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

Our God is pure.

He is absolutely devoid of any flaws, imperfections, or weaknesses.

He is the perfect light which dispels all the darkness of sin.

He casts no shadow of evil. 1 John 1:5, *"This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all."*

Likewise, we are to walk in the light as He is in the light (1 John 1:7).

Our God is infinite.

He is from everlasting unto everlasting.

That is something that is impossible for the mind to grasp. Everything to man has to have a beginning and an end. Yet when we

think of a beginning, then our mind asks us what was before the beginning? That is God.

Our destiny, one way or another, will also be forever.

Matt. 25:31-46, "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."

We need to consider all of the wonderful aspects of God.

Not easy for the mind of man to do by itself.

Paul wrote, Rom. 11:33-36, "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen."

We have God's word, written and recorded in the Bible, which gives us a good understanding about Him.

In short, God is the Great I Am, and deserving of all honor and majesty and praise. Psalms 72:19, *“And blessed be his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with his glory; Amen, and Amen.”*

There are so many aspects of God: wise, merciful, gracious, longsuffering, loving, just, and everlasting.

But the fundamental aspect of God is that he is holy.

Our God is Holy.

Our God is called holy in the Bible much more than any other superlative.

- Lev. 19:2, *“Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy.”*
- 1 Sam. 2:2, *“There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.”*
- Psalms 22:3, *“But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.”*
- Psalms 99:9, *“Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy.”*

Holy comes from a word that means “set apart from others”.

God is indeed set apart from all others and is incomparable.

In short, He is set apart from all that is not God. Rev. 15:4, *“Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.”*

We are reminded of the lyrics of that blessed old song, “Holy, Holy, Holy”:

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy! there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

We've never physically seen our holy God.

We have never experienced His holiness like some spoken of in the Bible.

If we were to experience the holiness of the Awesome God, we would be just as humbled and broken in spirit as those men!

We'd feel as a lump of clay in the hands of the Master potter.

The Bible tells us of the following men who have experienced the holiness of God...

Men who have experienced God's holiness.

Moses.

Moses knew that God was holy.

We recall what God said to Moses when he approached the burning bush. Exo. 3:1-5, *"Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb. And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground."*

Even the ground whereon God stood was holy.

On Mt. Sinai with God, when Moses received the Law on the second set of tables of stone after Moses had broken the first set, Moses saw God's glory in the cloud that descended before him.

- Exo. 34:1-8, *"And the LORD said unto Moses, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first: and I will write upon these tables the words that were in the first tables, which thou brakest. And be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning unto mount Sinai, and present thyself there to me in the top of the mount. And no man shall come up with thee, neither let any man be seen throughout all the mount; neither let the flocks nor herds feed before that mount. And he hewed two tables of stone like unto the first; and Moses rose up early in the morning, and went up unto mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand the two tables of stone. And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there,*

and proclaimed the name of the LORD. And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation. And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped."

- Exo. 34:29-35, *"And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him. And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him. And Moses called unto them; and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned unto him: and Moses talked with them. And afterward all the children of Israel came nigh: and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him in mount Sinai. And till Moses had done speaking with them, he put a vail on his face. But when Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he took the vail off, until he came out. And he came out, and spake unto the children of Israel that which he was commanded. And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone: and Moses put the vail upon his face again, until he went in to speak with him."*

Job.

After his travails, Job saw God in a vision.

Job 42:5-6, *"I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes."*

In contrast, Job sees himself as disgusting and vile.

This is a man whom God had earlier called a perfect and upright man, yet when compared to God, Job saw himself as vile.

Isaiah.

In the year that King Uzziah died, God's prophet Isaiah had a vision of God's glory.

Isa. 6:1-8, *"In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his*

face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto 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 moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, 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 mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.*"

There are very few triplicates mentioned in the Bible. Used in the Hebrew as denoting emphasis. The only triple attribute used to describe God is the word "Holy".

Note that after Isaiah had received this vision of God that he said of himself, "*Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips*".

Isaiah only saw a vision of God's holiness in a dream and was completely undone until the angel had cleansed his lips.

Isaiah had done a tremendous work for the Lord afterward.

John the Revelator.

John gazed up into heaven and saw a vision of a glorified Christ, with hair as white wool and eyes aflame.

John's reaction, Rev. 1:17, "*And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last.*"

John, too, was completely undone.

Each of these men reacted similarly when encountering God's unsearchable holiness.

They were awe-stricken, prostrate in humbleness.

They saw themselves as sinners in comparison with a Holy God and undeservedly offered themselves to the service of their Maker.

And they were moved to worship and serve the Lord enthusiastically.

Why is it so important that we see God as a Holy God?

Because then we will see ourselves as we really are.

Only then, will we see ourselves as the lowly, meager, and totally dependent creatures we really are.

Until we see God's holiness, we will never be able to fully deal with our own sinful nature.

Rom. 3:23, *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God,"*

Because then we will worship Him as He should be worshipped.

When we see God as Holy, we will worship Him in reverence in our assemblies.

We will be in awe of His holiness and worship Him with Godly fear.

- Psalms 99:5, *"Exalt ye the LORD our God, and worship at his footstool; for he is holy."*
- Psalms 30:4, *"Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness."*
- Psalms 33:8, *"Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him."*
- Lev. 19:30, *"Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD."*
- Psalms 89:7, *"God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him."*
- Eccl. 5:1, *"Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil."*
- Rom. 14:11, *"For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."*

Because if we see God as Holy, then we will be holy.

- 2 Cor. 7:1, *"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."*

- Luke 1:74-75, *“That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.”*

Because if we see God as Holy, then we will long to be with Him for eternity ourselves.

Rev. 21:1-7, “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.”

