



What is God Like?
6 of 11
GOD IS HOLY.

Attributes of God - Part 2

ABSOLUTE INFINITY

Infinite in each attribute

ABSOLUTE ETERNITY

God inhabits eternity
Isaiah 57:15

IMMUTABILITY

Unchangeableness of God
James 1:17
Malachi 3:6

TRANSCENDENCE & IMMANENCE

Makes everything outside of Himself

LOVE

1 John 4:8

LIGHT

1 John 1:5

JUST AND THE JUSTIFIER AND RIGHTEOUS

Romans 3:25-26

GOOD

Mark 10:17-18

MERCIFUL

Deuteronomy 4:31
Psalm 136

HOLY & JEALOUS

Joshua 24:19

LONGSUFFERING

Romans 2:4
Exodus 34:6

TRUE

Exodus 34:6
Romans 3:4



The holiness of God is one of the most frequent attributes revealed by God in the Old Testament.

The word "holy" basically means separate or separation. Time after time, **God is called "The Holy One."**

This expression is found about 30 times
In the book of Isaiah alone - 5:16; 6:1-5;
God alone possesses **ALL holiness
because of His perfect moral excellence.**

Ex 15:11 (cf. Rev 15:4); Psa. 99:9; 89:35; Amos 4:2;
In the New Testament:, I John 1:5-6; (cf. Matt 5:14-16;).

“This is the message he has given us to announce to you:-
God is light and there is no darkness in him at all.
So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God
but go on living in spiritual darkness.
We are not living in the truth.”

KNOWING GOD / HIS HOLINESS.

God's children are challenged to:-

"be holy or separated from the world and sin"

"But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you to be his children is holy. For he himself has said,

"You must be holy because I am holy". 1 Peter 1:15-16;

Eph 1:4; "Long ago, even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes."

His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. (see 1 Pet 2:9;)

KNOWING GOD / HIS HOLINESS.

The word "**holy**" is also used to describe **things that relate to God:-**

Temple. (Hab. 2:20;)

sections of the Tabernacle. Ex. 26:33;)

The ground. (Exod. 3:5;)

The ark of the covenant and the tabernacle vessels. (I Kings 8:4;)

The Sabbath. (Exodus 20:8;)

Why holy? Because they were **separated to Gods service.**

The word is also applied, to men.

Ezra 8:28; 2 Kings 4:9; Ex 19:6;

In Exodus 15:1; **Moses is singing.**

“Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord:- “I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; he has thrown both horse and rider into the sea.”

In Exodus 20 we read how **God DELIVERED** His own people by blood - He took them out of Egypt, He saved them out of the bondage and He saved them with a view of delivering them.

That's the picture in **15 1-11; it's deliverance,**
that's what **salvation means,**
to be delivered from something!

They are being delivered from Egypt, and you remember that they got to the Red Sea and they couldn't cross it, and the Egyptian soldiers were behind them,
and they cried out to God.

And Moses said: **“Stand and see today - look - the salvation of God”**, and the waters opened and they went through, and when they got to the other side of the Red Sea the waters closed again, and the horses and the riders and the armies of the Egyptians were drowned.

And then Moses, at the other side of that great river, shouts and sings praises onto God and the whole people join together - and one of the expressions or stanzas within this great song of praise is found in. **Ex 15:11;**

"Who is like unto thee, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?"

**That's a wonderful expression,
not just 'holy' but 'glorious in holiness.'**

**In the Westminster shorter catechism
the question is asked that we are asking:-**

What is the holiness of God?

And the answer is given back:-

“The holiness of God is His essential property”.
in other words, it belongs to Him and only to Him.

**It is His essential property, that simply means
it's not only something He has,
it is something He is.**

It is His very nature, it is His essential property.

KNOWING GOD / HIS HOLINESS.

It continues “Whereby He is infinitely pure”.

He is not just pure, He is infinitely pure.

It goes on: “He loves and delights in His own purity”

**Who of us can say that, that we delight
in our own purity before God?**

But He delights in Himself,
He loves His own purity and holiness!

It goes on:- “And in all the resemblances
of it, which any of His creatures have.”

**So He loves holiness within Himself,
and if He sees it in other creature.**

KNOWING GOD / HIS HOLINESS.

**In other words, if His holiness is seen
in another one that He has made.**

He rejoices in it also.

**He has great delight and He loves holiness
in anyone. It concludes:-**

**'He is perfectly free from all impurity,
and hates it wherever He sees it'.**

What a picture of God!

What a dreadful picture of God!

**Yet in its dreadfulness there is the glory, and that's
what Moses is saying:- 'He is glorious in holiness!'**

The old puritan Thomas Watson said:
**“Holiness is the most sparkling jewel
of God's crown.”**

It is the name by which God is known.
It is not just an attribute of God,
God's holiness is His very name.

It's what God is called - if you like,
it is His definition. Indeed the Psalmist said
that, Psalm 111:9;

“Holy and reverend is your name.”
and **HIS** is the only name that's reverend.

He is called in Job, and right throughout the Old Testament, **'the Holy One'**.

Isaiah 6, the seraphim - didn't they cry, **'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is filled with His glory?'**

A similar picture is described in Revelation 4:8; In which the heavenly beings exclaim, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come."

So what is the holiness of God?

It is that characteristic of His being which takes pleasure in everything pure and holy, and hates everything which is morally evil.

Just as God is unlimited in other ways, so He is unlimited in His goodness.

Since there is nothing in His being which is evil,
it is impossible for God to be impure because
this would be contrary to His divine nature.

James declares, "Let no man say when
he is tempted, I am tempted of God:-
For God cannot be tempted with evil,
neither tempts He any man." (James 1:13;)

**It is His perfect holiness which makes it
impossible for sin to tempt Him.**

**IN the N.T. each member of the Godhead,
is referred to as holy;**

**Father. - John 17:11; The Son. - Acts 3:14;
and Holy Spirit. - Acts 13:52 (cf. Acts 2:38; 5:32;)**

**Holy, holy, holy, thrice holy is our God:-
and that holiness is what makes Him glorious.
If it's His power, His omnipotence,
the fact that He is Almighty,
that makes Him mighty.**

**His holiness is what makes Him glorious,
His holiness is what makes Him resplendent,
the eye cannot look upon Him.**

'His holiness consists in His perfect love of righteousness' it is a 100% love of all that is holy.

It doesn't fall short, it is absolutely perfect. Indeed, within the word of God the metaphors and similes that are given to describe that great holiness is 'perfect purity.'

It is white, perfect whiteness, perfect light - the most pure light in which there is no darkness at all, it is absolute uncreated light.

He delights in perfect righteousness.

He is a holy God. He is inherently holy – that simply means that He's holy by nature.

That is the positive aspect, and the negative is:-

He has a holy abhorrence of all that is evil.

The old prophet Habakkuk said:-

**'He is of purer eyes than to behold evil
and cannot look on iniquity.'**

**If you look through the word of God, the things
that are associated with God **are made holy**
because of their association
with such an holy One - they become holy!**

**When Moses, in Exodus, speaks of the burning
bush, **the ground becomes holy ground because**
God has spoken out of this bush. Within the same
book, the articles that are formed for temple worship
in the Tabernacle are denoted **as holy things**
because they are used to worship a holy God.**

The day that is set aside - one in seven:-
as the Sabbath, the day of rest in Exodus
is described as **His holy day**. The place
where He is to be worshipped is described
as **God's holy house**, and later **His holy temple**.

The outfit that the high priests were to adorn
themselves with was holy - and indeed, the crown
that they were to wear was entitled '**a holy crown**'
and across it was emblazoned
these great words: '**Holiness to the Lord.**'

The Ark of the Covenant that represented
God's holy presence with His people,
was the holy Ark of God.

The hill of Zion was God's holy hill.
The city of Jerusalem was God's holy city.

**And heaven itself, where God dwells,
is His holy habitation. All those things aren't God.
They have only come NEAR to God
and been made holy by Him.**

**It is not something about Him - but He as a being,
He is holy Himself. He's made up of holiness,
just as the sun shining through the window
is made up of light, God is made up of holiness.**

**His word, the expression of His thoughts,
if we could say that, His hearts desire
that is expressed audibly and linguistically
within the Bible that we have before us, it is holy.**

It is right to call it the Holy Bible:-

In fact, it is said of it that, like silver, it is refined seven times, and seven is the number of perfection.

It is perfectly holy!

His movements are holy, His decisions, the choices God makes are absolutely holy.

The Psalmist said it in Psalm 145:17:

'The Lord is holy in all of his works.'

God cannot do anything that is unholy or that falls short from something that is absolutely and perfectly holy! Indeed, when He made this creation around us, before Adam fell in sin, it was very good, wasn't it? **Because God can't make a thing that isn't very good.**

He is originally holy, that means that all holiness begins with God. He began holiness, and any holiness that is in the universe follows His pattern - it's not a new holiness.

It must reflect His holiness, because He is the originator of all holiness, the sum of all moral excellence found in the universe comes from God and God alone.

All good gifts come down from the Father of lights, from glory:- **all holiness comes from Him.**

It is such a holiness that, even in this universe of sin and wickedness and evil, it is unsullied from any of it.

**In Him is light, and God is light,
and in Him is no darkness at all.**

He's the **Author of holiness**, that means
He causes it in others.

Not only did He begin it, but if it ever happens
in your life or my life or anybody's life,
it's because God has started it within our life!

He made the angels holy - they are holy,
they cry 'Holy' **because they can come
into the presence of God in their holiness.**

Their holiness is not their own,
they could **lose** their holiness,
that's why the fall came about wasn't it?

**Lucifer lost it and he was kicked out of heaven,
and there was a whole band of angels lost it
with him - they can lose it because
it comes from God, it's not their own!**

**And it's not just a quality of God,
it's the essence of God:- It is no quality
of any human being to be holy, They are holy
because they are reflecting the holiness of God.**

Even the highest **seraph in heaven, the greatest
creature that God has ever created in the universe,
the holiness that it has is from God!**

He is transcendent in His holiness.

**Transcendent means to be above all things.
There's nobody reaches Him in His holiness.**

**1 Sam 2:2: 'There is none holy as the Lord,
there is none beside thee, neither is there any rock
like our God' - He's a wonderful God!**

**The holiness of God is pure,
like wine from the grape
it has not the least dash or
tincture of impurity mixed with it.**

To the congregation in Revelation it is said:-

“You have left your first love”?

The flame of our holiness can go out.

'Holiness', in us is subject to ebbing,
but **holiness in God is unchangeable.**

God doesn't conform to a standard.

We don't look at Him and say: 'Well,
He's got A, B and C, so that makes Him holy.'

**He is the standard! He is holiness in His essence!
That is why Moses says it is glorious holiness.**

In fact, it is beautiful holiness:-

**We worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness
because holiness is God's beauty,
holiness is what makes God beautiful.**

Stephen Charnock said:-

**“Power is God's hand', or His arm, 'Omniscience,
all-knowing, is His eye. Mercy is His bowels.
Eternity is His duration. But holiness is His beauty”.**

**You see, this is how God is known –
God is known, primarily, through His holiness.**

Whenever you read the word of God you don't hear His name expressed as '**His mighty name**', do you? or '**His wise name**', **sometimes** it is '**His great name**', but more often than not it is '**His holy name.**'

It is how God is known, it is His name,
in fact He swears upon His name:-
and by swearing upon His name.

Psalm 89 tells us He swears according to His holiness. **Why does He do that? Because His holiness is the fullest expression of who He is!**

**This is our God. He is absolute holiness
His holiness is what conveys to the world
the greatness of Him.**

**It is the name by which He wants to be known,
it's the attribute by which He wants to be
conveyed to everyone who comes near to Him.**

**It's the fullest expression of what and who He is,
it is the attribute of attributes,
it makes Him beautiful!**

**That is why in the vision of Isaiah 6;
is so important- the seraphim worshiped Him,
crying 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God of hosts.
The whole earth is filled with His glory.'**

**They worshipped Him with more wings
than they flew for Him! Because
God requires our worship in spirit and in truth,
We need to catch the vision of God's holiness.**

**If we look throughout the word of God at any person
who ever **saw God's holiness and glory**
(remember, they didn't see God) but anybody
that came close to this glorious holiness.**

**They fell prostrate, their knees went weak
and they fell on their face before God!**

**Some were described as dead men,
some are described as being in a trance.**

**The God we have in our mind is definitely too small.
We need to catch a vision of His Holiness.**

Where do we behold the holiness of God?

If we want to see it, where do we go?

The first place we go is His law. God's law.

**The first five books of the Bible
and the ten commandments
was God's law revealed.**

Why do we go to His law to find His holiness?

Because in His law **He forbids sin** in everything!
He doesn't permit it now and again, or this instance,
or this circumstance - **He forbids sin**
absolutely, in thoughts, in words, in deed.

He forbids sin in the holy place
of the tent, the Tabernacle.

He forbids sin in any religious movement that
He has within the word of God:– the priesthood.

He forbids sin in the home between a husband
and a wife, between a child and a parent.

He forbids sin in the workplace.

He forbids sin in everything! and everywhere!

That is perhaps the primary reason:-
Why God gave His law. He told them that you may discern between what is unclean and clean, and between what is holy and unholy.

If we want to know how holy God is, we need to look in His law.

Paul said it in Romans 7: **'Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.'**

The Psalmist said:- **“The commandment of the Lord is pure. The commandment of the Lord is holy, just and good. The commandments of the Lord enlighten the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever. The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.”**

**If we want to know the holiness of God,
we need to get to know the law of God.**

**Draw near to Sinai's mount, draw near to its foot
and see the lightning, hear the thunder,
see the smoke billowing in God's holiness,
and realise that God's holiness is unapproachable:-
for we all fall short of it!**

**Secondly we behold Gods Holiness at the cross.
Magnificently we see it in Calvary,
and at the same time, awfully and terribly,
we see it in the Lord Jesus Christ.**

It begs the question:-

How God must hate sin to do such a thing?

How He must hate sin to demand blood?

**To demand the blood of His own Son at Calvary
to make an atonement for it!**

**The holiness of God is also the basis of His
abhorrence of evil. Habakkuk declares:-**

" We are wicked, but they far more!

**Will You, who cannot allow sin in any form,
stand idly by while they swallow us up?**

**Should You be silent while the wicked
destroy those who are better than they?**

"(Hab 1:13;)

The Psalmist sings to God.

"You hate all workers of iniquity." (Psalm 5:5.)

**It is not the individual as an individual that He hates
it is the consequences of sin in the individuals life,
the destruction and havoc
that sin produces through that individual.**

**What is a small sin to man is a great sin to God.
A beautiful woman dressed in her finest clothing
detests dirt far more than a digger of ditches.**

**WHY? Because the former is clean
while the latter is contaminated by the soil.**

Even so God hates sin with a hatred which man, who is polluted with it, can hardly appreciate. The more one frees himself from the shackles of sin, the more he abhors its presence.

**Since God is completely holy,
His loathing of evil is the greatest of all.**

**The destruction of the world by the flood.
The burning of Sodom and Gomorrah.
The final destruction of the earth by fire.
are all expressions of God's hatred of sin.**

Because of HIS PERFECT HOLINESS.

**Stephen Charnock said in relation
to the holiness of God in the cross.**

**“Not all the vials of judgement that have,
or shall be, poured out upon the wicked world,
nor the flaming furnace of a sinners conscience,**

**nor the irreversible sentence pronounced against
the rebellious demons,**

**nor the groans of the damned creatures
give such a demonstration of God's hatred of sin
as the wrath of God let loose upon His Son.**

**Never did divine holiness appear more beautiful and
lovely than at the time our Saviour's countenance
was most marred in the midst of His dying groans.”**

**You see God's holiness in His law and in His cross,
thirdly you see His holiness in His hatred of sin.**

**One sin in the Garden of Eden
banished our forefather,
one sin against a holy God, is a damning sin.**

**One sin excluded Moses from the promised land.
One sin smote Elisha's servant with leprosy.**

**Ananias and Saphira in the New Testament
it was **one sin** about lying to the Holy Ghost
that cut them out of the land of the living!**

**Because God has set the standard for the universe,
and to preserve His creation.**

**God's wrath is His utter intolerance
of whatever degrades and destroys His creation.**

**Tozer said: 'God hates sin like a Mother hates
the polio that takes the life of her child'.**

God is a holy God, God must punish sin.

**That is why salvation through the blood of Christ
is such a demonstration of AMAZING GRACE**

God doesn't just forgive sin.

God REMOVES IT AS FAR AS THE EAST IS FROM THE WEST.

We need to catch a glimpse of the glory of God?

**Then like old Isaiah:- we will say 'Woe is me',
we will feel the awesome depravity of our own heart
and our own sinfulness, and become overwhelmed
by the presence of pure white light of holiness.**

Then we will say:- “Mine eyes have seen the King, Yahweh enthroned on high. surrounded by Adoring myriads singing see the Seraph's holy cry”.

Then we will say “O, woe is me, undone am I, Before the throne I prostrate lie”.

We need, to see God glorious in His holiness!

We don't need new plans, we don't need new strategies, we don't need new ways of preaching, we don't need new anything!

We need God, and we need to see God's holiness!

Unless we see God we become comfortable in our ungodliness, but a vision of God's holiness makes us uncomfortable.

Tozer said:- “Quite literally, a new channel must be cut through the desert of our minds to allow the sweet waters of truth, that will heal our great sickness, to flow in.’

God needs to cut a new channel in our minds, that He might reveal His holiness.

Because God is holy, He hates sin.

(Prov 15:26; 3:32; Hab 1:12-1;)

This is why sin separates us from God.

Isa 59:1-2; (cf. Romans 6:23).

Yet, God's holiness did not cause Him to be aloof from sinful man. In the Old Testament, we see God involved in the affairs of Israel.

Isaiah 57:15-21,

God has no evil in Him, and sin has no good in it, and the sins that you and I commit has deformed our soul and made it red with guilt, and black with filth.

The Bible says – sin is an accursed thing, for sin strikes at the holiness of God, and He had to therefore strike it upon His own Son! Wonder of wonders, **Jesus was made sin for us that WE might be made the righteousness of God in Him.**

God's holiness is seen in Christ's death on the cross. He provided the perfect atonement for sin.

John 1:29; Matthew 26:28; Revelation 1:5;

Therefore, if we wish to "BE HOLY today, it must be by THE WAY of the CROSS. (Galatians 2:20;)

Holiness which demands holiness provides grace to meet that demand.

That's marvellous, isn't it?

What does the old hymn writer say?

**“So sinful, so weary, Thine, Thine would I be.
Thou blessed Rock of Ages, I'm hiding in Thee.”**

**That which holiness demanded,
grace has provided in our Lord Jesus Christ.
Eph 1:1-11; We are blessed with all spiritual
blessings in heavenly places in Christ.
Aren't we? It's all Christ, isn't it?**

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blessings in heavenly places in Christ.
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**We are challenged to be holy.
Both in the Old Testament and in
the New Testament the saints of God were told:-
'Be ye holy, for I am holy'. It's amazing, isn't it?**

God doesn't call us to be almighty, does He?
He doesn't call us to know all things,
or to see all things – and the irony is:-

**The things He doesn't call us to do
are the things that we try to do.**

We **try** to be almighty, we **try** to get through
everything ourselves, we **try** to see everything
before we see it, **We predict things,**
we **try** to know everything, **We become know-it-alls.**

**But God hasn't told us to do those things,
He's told us to be holy:- which, ironically,
is the very thing we don't do!**

**God wants from us, most of all,
that we live to Him in living like Him.**

**The holiness of God should cause US to respect HIM
in our every action and word.
We should never address Him
in blasphemous language.**

May we see God as Isaiah saw Him

- Isa. 6:21 (Psa. 50:21; 99:5;)

The Christian derives his holiness from God.

Peter admonishes disciples of Christ,

"As children of obedience, not fashioning yourselves according to your former lusts in the times of your ignorance but like **as He who called you is holy, be yourselves also holy in all manner of living**; because it is written, **You shall be holy; for I am holy.**" 1 Peter 1:14-16;

The holiness of God should cause us to praise Him.

David sings, "Exalt ye the Lord our God, and worship at His footstool; for He is holy." (Psalm 99:5;)

A part of prayer to God which is too often neglected is such praise as that expressed by Jesus in the disciples prayer when He said, **"HOLY be your name."** (Luke 11:2;)

**Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?
Who is like you, glorious in holiness,
fearful in praises and doing wonders?'**

**Lord, we bless you and we praise you that you
are for us so who, or what, can stand against us?**

**And we pray, that your great holiness
may be imputed to us, for we know
that our sin was imputed to Christ.**

Lord, make us as holy as saved sinners can be.

In Christ, God has given us the perfect pattern
of holiness and as **we conform our lives to His**
we become holy and in truth
“partake of the divine nature.” (2 Peter 1:3-4;)

**We may then truly be called "saints"
which simply means "Holy ones".
Every child of God who is living a holy life
is a saint, set apart for Gods service.**

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6 of 11
GOD IS HOLY.

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Next in the series:- God Just & Good.