

Holiness of God

Roxborough Bible Chapel

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Outline

- Why study the characteristics of God?
 - Holiness is just one of these characteristics
- Holiness – Definition
- Exodus 3:1-6
- Exodus 19:10-25
- Isaiah 6
- Miscellaneous Verses
- Book of Leviticus – Core idea is holy character of God
- Our Response

General - Characteristics of God

- Why is it important to study the characteristics of God?
 - To know God better
 - Knowing God = Salvation
 - John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.
 - Because God wants us to know who He is
 - Hosea 6:6 For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.
 - To glorify God (to praise and worship Him)

Holiness of God - Definition

- Dictionary definition = exalted or worthy of complete devotion as one perfect in goodness and righteousness
 - Psalms 99:9 Exalt the LORD our God, And worship at His holy hill; For the LORD our God *is* holy.
- Pure
- Devoted
- Dedicated for a Purpose
- Separated
- Morally blameless
- Ceremonially Consecrated



Holiness of God – Exodus 3:1-6

- 1 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.
- 2 And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.
- 3 Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn."
- 4 So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."
- 5 Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand *is* holy ground."
- 6 Moreover He said, "I *am* the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.



Holiness of God – Exodus 19:10-25

- **10** Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes.
- **11** And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the LORD will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.
- **12** You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, 'Take heed to yourselves *that* you do *not* go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death.
- **13** Not a hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot *with an arrow*; whether man or beast, he shall not live.' When the trumpet sounds long, they shall come near the mountain."
- **14** So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and sanctified the people, and they washed their clothes.
- **15** And he said to the people, "Be ready for the third day; do not come near *your wives*."
- **16** Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who *were* in the camp trembled.
- **17** And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.
- **18** Now Mount Sinai *was* completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly.
- **19** And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice.
- **20** Then the LORD came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain. And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.
- **21** And the LORD said to Moses, "Go down and warn the people, lest they break through to gaze at the LORD, and many of them perish.
- **22** Also let the priests who come near the LORD consecrate themselves, lest the LORD break out against them."
- **23** But Moses said to the LORD, "The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai; for You warned us, saying, 'Set bounds around the mountain and consecrate it.' "
- **24** Then the LORD said to him, "Away! Get down and then come up, you and Aaron with you. But do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the LORD, lest He break out against them."
- **25** So Moses went down to the people and spoke to them.

Holiness of God – Isaiah 6:1-7

- 1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His *robe* filled the temple.
- 2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.
- 3 And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy *is* the LORD of hosts; The whole earth *is* full of His glory!"
- 4 And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.
- 5 So I said: "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 my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts."
- 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal *which* he had taken with the tongs from the altar.
- 7 And he touched my mouth *with it*, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged."



Holiness of God – Isaiah 6:8-13

- 8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here *am* I! Send me."
- 9 And He said, "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.'
- 10 "Make the heart of this people dull, And their ears heavy, And shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, And return and be healed."
- 11 Then I said, "Lord, how long?" And He answered: "Until the cities are laid waste and without inhabitant, The houses are without a man, The land is utterly desolate,
- 12 The LORD has removed men far away, And the forsaken places *are* many in the midst of the land.
- 13 But yet a tenth *will be* in it, And will return and be for consuming, As a terebinth tree or as an oak, Whose stump *remains* when it is cut down. So the holy seed *shall be* its stump."

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Miscellaneous Verses

- Leviticus 10:1-3 Nadab and Abihu's profane fire
 - 1 Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them.
 - 2 So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.
 - 3 And Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD spoke, saying: 'By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.' " So Aaron held his peace.
- II Corinthians 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
 - Holiness is linked to the fear of God.
- Leviticus 19:2 "Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them: 'You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God *am* holy.'

Holiness of God in Leviticus

- Core idea = Holy character of God and the will of God for Israel's holiness
- Two repeated phrases (used over 50 times)
 - “I am the Lord”
 - “I am holy”
- Leviticus 10:1-3 – Profane fire from Nadab and Abihu
- Leviticus 11 – Foods Permitted and Forbidden
- Leviticus 12 – Ritual After Childbirth
- Leviticus 13 – Law Concerning Leprosy
- Leviticus 14 – Ritual for Cleansing Healed Lepers
- Leviticus 14 – Law Concerning Leprous Houses
- Leviticus 15 – Law Concerning Bodily Discharges
- Leviticus 16 – The Day of Atonement

Holiness of God – Our Response

- Meditate on the comparison between us (sinners) and a holy God
 - God’s love for us becomes so much more precious to think that a holy God would become sin for us.
 - II Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
 - He was made sin for us so that we can have a relationship with Him.
 - Contrasted with man’s sinfulness helps us appreciate how abundant and marvelous is God’s mercy (Psalm 51)
- Think more seriously of our sin and how it offends a holy God
 - I Corinthians 13:6 [Love] ...does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;
- Results of Knowing God’s Holiness – Desire to be holy ourselves
- Can we be too holy for no earthly good?
 - Just the opposite.
 - Ask God for wisdom to know how to be holy but not “holier than thou”
- Balancing God’s holiness with His mercy
- Have a reverential fear when we speak with Him (the privilege of prayer)