



GOD IS HOLY

To many people today, holiness is a foreign concept. For the authors of Scripture, however, holiness is one of God's most prominent attributes. It denotes both God's separation from creation as the infinitely superior One and His absolute moral purity. How can we be reconciled back to God?

There is no place on earth that we can flee to from the presence of God. There is no place we can hide from the holy. Our thoughts are not our own. Jesus always knows our thoughts. Our desires and the inclinations of our heart are laid bare in the sight of a sovereign and holy God.

Matthew 9:4-6 (NIV)

Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "Get up, take your mat and go home."

GOD'S EXALTED STATUS

To say that God is holy is to attest that He is separated above His creation. The Hebrew word translated into English as "holy" primarily indicates separation or the act of setting apart. God is therefore distinctly and infinitely superior to His creation and His creatures.

Revelation 15:4 (NASB)

"Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For all the nations will come and worship before You, For Your righteous acts have been revealed."

Ezekiel 39:7 (NASB)

"My holy name I will make known in the midst of My people Israel; and I will not let My holy name be profaned anymore. And the nations will know that I am the Lord, the Holy One in Israel."

God is completely without sin or moral blemish. All of God's decisions and judgments are perfect. As an infinitely holy being, God is not neutral toward good or evil. God takes delight in all that is true, worthy, and upright. Because God's very nature is one of purity, He cannot tolerate sin. It is only through the righteousness of Jesus Christ that guilty sinners can be reconciled to God.

JUST ONE SIN IS TOO MANY?

Sin is increasing even while many people believe they have no sin. God's judgment scales are not 51-49, but rather must be 100-0. With man this is impossible. There are those who would have us to believe the world is getting better. They would have us to believe that because we have more medicine.....more knowledge.....more technology.....and more energy available to us now than ever before that the world is better than it has ever been before. But for those of us who have a biblical world-view, the world is not getting better. In fact, it is worse than it has ever been before!

Romans 3:23 (NASB)

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

1 John 1:8 (NASB)

If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

Isaiah 64:6 (NIV)

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

AVOIDING THE WRATH OF GOD

When reflecting on the limited capacity of the human mind, it is difficult to fathom that God really knows everything perfectly. There are some today who would limit God's knowledge, arguing that it interferes with the free choices of individuals, but this runs counter to the clear and consistent teaching of Scripture. All of our deeds are recorded in the books.

Our God is a holy God and will one day pour out His wrath on the wicked. If we shrink at such a thought then we have not understood Him rightly and have made Him into our own idol, surely as if He were made of stone. Only those whose names are in the book of life will live with God.

It should grieve us to realize that daily we violate His holiness, insult His justice, and make light of His grace. Our casual indifference should give us pause. His wrath is divine, fierce, and everlasting. How we must hate Him to treat Him with such contempt! While many people prefer not to think about the wrath of God, the Bible is clear. In Scripture, God's wrath serves as a warning to unbelievers and a reason for holy living for His people. Only the Lamb of God (Jesus) saves us.

Revelation 22:14-15 (NASB)

Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.