

“Holy, Holy, Holy!”

2 Chronicles 26:1-21; Isaiah 6:1-8

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- None of us are special in everything and every way
- God is in a class by Himself, for He is HOLY

Holy, Holy, Holy!

A. Revelation of God’s Holiness

1. The Pervasiveness of God’s holiness
 - a. Boundaries set at Mt. Sinai
 - b. The temple with the “Holy place” and the “Holy of Holies”
 - c. Theme of the book of Leviticus: “The Holiness of God”
 - d. Third person of the trinity: The “Holy” Spirit
2. The Definition of holiness—*“to be set apart as special”*
3. The Implications of God’s Holiness
 - a. Because God is holy, He is absolutely perfect, in a class by Himself!
 - Exodus 15:2-- *“The Lord is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; He is my God and I will praise Him; My Father’s God, and I will exalt Him.”*
 - Exodus 15:11-- *“Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, glorious in holiness, fearful in praise, doing wonders?”*
 - b. Because God is holy, He cannot sin nor be tempted with sin.
 - Habakkuk 1:13-- *“You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, and cannot look on wickedness.”*
 - James 1:13-- *“God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.”*
 - c. Because God is holy, He sets the standards of right and wrong.
 - Leviticus 11:44-- *“For I am the Lord, your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy.”*

B. Responses to God’s Holiness

- Isaiah 6:1-- *“In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the LORD sitting on the throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple.”*
1. Some respond by PROFANING God’s Holiness
 - a. Illustrated in the Life of Uzziah
 - 1) For most of his life, Uzziah was a good, successful king.
 - 2 Chronicles 26:1-5-- *“Now all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king instead of his father Amaziah. He built Elath and restored it to Judah, after the king rested with his fathers. Uzziah was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-two years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Jecholiah of Jerusalem. And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done. He sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God; and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him prosper.”*
 - 2 Chronicles 26:15-- *“His fame”, according to verse 15, “spread far and wide, for he was marvelously helped till he became strong!”*
 - 2) His sin of transgressing in the temple.
 - 2 Chronicles 26:16-- *But when he was strong his heart was lifted up, to his destruction, for he transgressed against the LORD his God by entering the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense.”*
 - 3) The consequences for his sin.
 - 2 Chronicles 26:17-21-- *“So Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him were eighty priests of the LORD—valiant men. And they withstood King Uzziah, and said to him, ‘It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron, who are consecrated to burn incense. Get out of the sanctuary, for you have trespassed! You shall have no*

honor from the LORD God.' Then Uzziah became furious; and he had a censer in his hand to burn incense. And while he was angry with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead, before the priests in the house of the LORD, beside the incense altar. And Azariah the chief priest and all the priests looked at him, and there, on his forehead, he was leprous; so they thrust him out of that place. Indeed he also hurried to get out, because the LORD had struck him. King Uzziah was a leper until the day of his death. He dwelt in an isolated house, because he was a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the LORD. Then Jotham, his son was over the king's house, judging the people of the land."

b. Profaning God's holiness results in judgment by God

1) Case of Nadab and Abihu

- Leviticus 10:1-2-- "each took their censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD."
- Leviticus 10:3-- "This is what the Lord spoke, saying: 'By those who come near to Me I must be regarded as holy; and before all the people I must be glorified'".

2) Case of Moses and Aaron

- Numbers 20:12-- "Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them."

c. Ways in which we profane God's holiness today

1) Taking God's name in vain—swearing

2) Making a mockery of all that is sacred

3) Placing God's Word on the same level as any other book

4) Calling "Evil, good" and "Good, evil"

5) Giving allegiance to other gods

- Exodus 20:3-- "You shall have no other gods before Me."
- Matthew 4:10-- "Worship the LORD your God, and Him only shall you serve."

6) By simply ignoring God, snubbing Him.

7) By disobeying His commands.—Leviticus 22:31-32

- Leviticus 22:31-32-- "Therefore you shall keep My commandments, and perform them: I am the LORD. You shall not profane My holy name, but I will be hallowed among the children of Israel."

2. Some respond by RECOGNIZING their own sinfulness, REPENTING of their sin, and OFFERING their bodies to God as living sacrifices

a. Illustrated by the Prophet Isaiah

1) Isaiah's CONVICTION and CONFESSION in the presence of holiness

- Isaiah 6:1-4-- "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. 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. And one cried to another, and said, 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!' And the posts of the doors were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke."
- Isaiah 6:5-- "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.'"
- Job 42:5-6-- "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear. But now my eye sees You. Therefore, I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

2) Isaiah's CLEANSING by God

- Isaiah 6:6-7-- "Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal when he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it, and said: 'Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, and your sin is purged.'"

3) Isaiah's CONSECRATION

- Isaiah 6:8-- "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!'"

a) Sent to an unresponsive people headed for judgment

- Isaiah 6:9-10-- "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive. Make the hearts 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 hearts, and return and be healed.'"
- Isaiah 6:11-- "until the cities are laid waste and without inhabitant, the houses are without a man, the land is utterly desolate."

- b) A remnant will respond positively. A *“holy seed in the stump”*
- Isaiah 6:13-- *“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 in the stump.”*

b. Amplified by the Apostle Paul in letter to the Romans

- 1) Our utter sinfulness in light of God’s holiness
 - Romans 3:10-12-- *“There is none righteous, no not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seek after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who do good, no not one!”*
 - Romans 3:23-- *“For all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God”*
- 2) Our cleansing by Christ’s death
 - Romans 3:24-- *“being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”*
 - Romans 5:8-- *“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*
- 3) Our consecration as we offer our bodies as living sacrifices
 - Romans 12:1-2-- *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”*
 - 2 Timothy 2:21-- *“vessel for honor, sanctified, useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.”*