

God is Holy

This is a word which has become abused and used in ways which are far from the actual meaning, for example, the crusades were described as holy wars, Islam now use this sort of language to describe their jihad. Some people talk about the Pope as being the Holy Father or the holiest man on earth, others think of buildings as being holy, or places as being holy. We need to figure out what this means and then the standard of true holiness by which we need to live.

First mention of the word 'holy': **Gen 2:3** The Bible says that God made the world in six days and on the seventh day He rested, not because He was tired and needed a break, but because He was taking delight and pleasure in what He had made. There are seven days described here, but one day stands out, the seventh day. It was different from the other six. It was distinct, not like the others.

Ex 19:1,4-6 *"a holy nation"* this is put alongside *"among the peoples"* or other nations. What does the word holy mean here? Ever wonder what all the rules are for in the OT, don't eat unclean animals, don't stay in your house if there is mould etc so many rules, what is the point? The point in God giving these rules to this group of people was so that they would be different among the other nations when they got their country. Other nations lived in whatever way they pleased but here was Israel and they lived demonstrating the difference between clean things and unclean things and by doing so they were totally different from all the other nations, they were distinct. The nation of Israel was holy, not because they were all good and didn't sin, but because they were different from all the rest.

Even within the nation of Israel there were a group of people from a certain family who were described as holy. These were the priests, were they all good and without sin? They were different from the rest of the people because they were the ones chosen to be involved the sacrifices and offerings on behalf of the rest of the people. They had responsibilities given to them by the Lord which nobody else could do, which made them distinct from the rest of the people.

What does the word holy mean when we say that God is holy? We cannot just limit the meaning that God is holy because He has never sinned and cannot sin, this is one of the reasons why He is holy. God is holy or distinct in all of His attributes. Who else is like God? He is distinct, like no other. Listen to His own words on the subject.

"I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God." Isa 45:5

45:6,14,18,22; 46:9 The Lord is trying to teach people that He is unique.

Isaiah was someone responsible for communicating what God wanted to say to the people in Israel. He records an event which took place in his life which I am sure he would never forget.

*"In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: **"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."** At the sound of their*

voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

From the rules of grammar this is saying that God is not just holy, he is really holy, or really really holy. God is distinct distinct distinct. There is no one like Him, He is unique unique unique.

What affect should this have then on us when we realize just how holy God is in everyway? What affect did it have on Isaiah? If you are not convinced that God is any different from the rest of us, look at the Lord Jesus. He was a real man and shared in so many of the same experiences as us yet totally distinct. The way He spoke, the things He did, He came to show us what God is like.

But, most people were not convinced that He was the Son of God and that he was no different from any other person even though the evidence was overwhelming. So they conspired together and had him put to death thinking that this would be the end of Jesus. However, even though Jesus died a similar death to so many people, His death was unique because we read that *"He bore our sins in His own body on the tree."* He died the just, the Holy one, for the unjust and the unholy. Why? So that the way could be opened for you and I to be put right with the One True living God who is holy holy holy.