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God is Holy

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GOD IS HOLY

THE DEFINITION OF HOLINESS

The words holy, holier, holiest, and holiness are mentioned over 175 times.

- In the Old Testament the verb *holy* and the noun in the Hebrew language is *kadosh*, meaning:
 - A. To consecrate, to sanctify, to prepare, to dedicate, to separate (the verb)
 - B. Apartness, sacredness, separateness (the noun)
- In the New Testament the Greek word for holy is *hagious*, meaning:
 - A. Sacred, pure, morally blameless, consecrated
 - B. Innocent, modest, perfect, chaste, clean, pure (terms as suggested by Pastor Mitch Horton)
- **The primary meaning of holy is to separate.**
- A. W. Tozer writes:

“Holy” is the way God is. To be holy He does not conform to a standard. He is that standard. He is absolutely holy with an infinite, incomprehensible fullness of purity that is incapable of being other than it is. Because He is holy, His attributes are holy; that is, whatever we think of as belonging to God must be thought of as holy.

God is holy and He has made holiness the moral condition necessary to the health of His universe. Sin’s temporary presence in the world only accents this. Whatever is holy is healthy; evil is a moral sickness that must end ultimately in death. The formation of the language itself suggests this, the English word holy deriving from the Anglo-Saxon *halig*, *hal*, meaning, “well, whole.”

Since God’s first concern for His universe is its moral health, that is, its holiness, whatever is contrary to this is necessarily under His eternal displeasure. To preserve His creation God must destroy whatever would destroy it. When He arises to put down iniquity and save the world from irreparable moral collapse, He is said to be angry. Every wrathful judgment in the history of the world has been a holy act of preservation. The holiness of God, the wrath of God, and the health of the creation are inseparably united. God’s wrath is His utter intolerance of whatever degrades and destroys. He hates iniquity as a mother hates the polio that takes the life of her child. (*The Knowledge of the Holy*, Harper Collins, Grand Rapids, MI, p. 113)

- **Holiness involves moral and ethical wholeness:**

- A. It speaks of faultless and absolute perfection.
- B. It is transcendent uniqueness.
- C. As it relates to man it is unknown and unknowable.
- D. Even Adam, the first man, prior to his fall was not holy but rather sinless and innocent.

- In a sense there are both negative and positive aspects to God's holiness:

Negative: The absence of any unclean or evil element

Positive: The abundance of every clean and pure element

THE CHALLENGE INVOLVED IN EXPLAINING GOD'S HOLINESS

There is an excellent article as found in the *Beacon's Dictionary of Theology* (Dennis F. Kinlaw, Beacon Hill Press, Kansas City, MO, 1984, pp. 258,259.) Here are the author's words regarding the nature of this challenge:

Holiness. When God began to reveal himself to Israel, one of His problems was language. Man's speech was as fallen as man himself. To reveal himself, God had to redeem man's words. Nowhere is that story more obvious than in the development of a biblical vocabulary for holiness.

Every culture differentiates the sacred from the secular and has terminology to make that distinction. Canaan already had such terms when Israel adopted its language. The problem was that what was holy to the Canaanite was abominable to Jehovah. In Canaan, the temple prostitute was a holy woman and the homosexual priest was a holy man (cf. Gen. 38:21-23); Deut. 23:17, 18). The result of this is that the adjective "holy" is not found in the English translation of the Book of Genesis. The words for the holy had to be filled with new content before they were usable. That process begins in Exod. 3:5 and continues throughout the Pentateuch. Only Jehovah and that which is associated with Him is to merit that description.

A significant change occurs in the use of the term "holy" in the N.T. Whereas the thrust of the O.T. is to establish the holiness of Jehovah, the N.T. speaks relatively little of this. It is assumed. Now the emphasis is upon Jesus being "the Holy One" (Mark. 1:24; Luke 4:34; Acts 3:14; cf. John 6:69) and upon the holiness of the Spirit (the ever-present adjective "holy"). The Trinitarian implications of this are obvious. But the N.T. from Acts on uses the plural adjective *hagioi* consistently for the believers who made up the Early Church. Thus the term primarily reserved for Jehovah in the O.T. has now become clear enough and stable enough in meaning that it can be used of the Christian believer. As such it speaks of God's will for every believer (1 Thess. 4:3-7), God's provision for every believer (Col. 1:22), and God's requirement for every believer (Rev. 22:11). The God who is holy has now provided through the atonement of the Holy One, Jesus, and

through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, the possibility of likeness unto Him who alone is holy in himself.

THE IMPORTANCE OF GOD'S HOLINESS

- Let it be understood that at the very outset that all of God's attributes are equally important! If this be not the case He would cease to be God! Even one slightly inferior attribute would the absolute and universal perfection He possesses!
- However, having said this, there is one attribute more prominent than all others. And that one? Well, if you had but three words to describe the God of the Bible it would be . . . God is holy!
- It has been suggested that his holiness is the union of all other attributes, as pure white light is the union of all the colored rays of the spectrum. Note but a few biblical references:

"Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy" (Lev. 19:2, NKJV).

"Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy" (Psa. 99:9, NKJV).

"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation" (1 Pet. 1:15, NKJV).

- There are two scriptural passages which serve to underline this prominent attribute. One is in the Old Testament, the other in the New Testament. Both involve the angels in heaven as they worship the God of Glory:

A. As heard by the seraphim:

"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!'" (Isa. 6:1-3, NKJV)

B. As heard by the four living creatures:

"Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: 'Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!'" (Rev. 4:6-8, NKJV)

- As can be observed, each worship service contains the three-fold phrase: Holy, Holy, Holy. It almost seems one “holy” is not sufficient. These two events are unique for nowhere else do we read, “Love, Love, Love” or “Grace, Grace, Grace” in the worship of God!

THE TRINITY AND GOD'S HOLINESS

Each member of the Godhead of course shares the same quantity and quality of holiness:

- **The Father is holy**

“Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are” (Jn. 17:11, NKJV)

- **The Son is holy**

A. As seen in His human nature

“And the angel answered and said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God’” (Lk. 1:35, NKJV).

“. . . by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus” (Acts 4:30, NKJV).

B. As seen in His divine nature

“. . . saying, ‘Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!’” (Mk. 1:24, NKJV)

“. . . saying, ‘Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!’” (Lk. 4:34, NKJV).

“But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you” (Acts 3:14, NKJV).

“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true, ‘He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens’” (Rev. 3:7, NKJV).

- **The Third Person is holy**

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit” (Mt. 1:18, NKJV).

“And the angel answered and said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God’” (Lk. 1:35, NKJV).

“For John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now” (Acts 1:5, NKJV).

“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption” (Eph. 4:30, NKJV).

THE LAW AND GOD’S HOLINESS

- **The law is holy, just, good, and spiritual (Rom. 7:12, 14).**

- Jesus came to fulfill the law:

“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill” (Mt. 5:17, NKJV).

“For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes” (Rom. 10:4, NKJV).

- **The purpose of the law:**

“Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor” (Gal. 3:24, 25, NKJV).

- Thus, all three sections of the law of Moses carried with it the holiness of God:

A. The moral law was holy: involving the Ten Commandments

1. The preparation for the moral law (Exod. 19:10-25)
2. The proclamation of the moral law (Exod. 20:1-17)

B. The spiritual law was holy: involving the furniture pieces and the feasts related to the tabernacle (Exod. 37, 38; Lev. 23).

C. The civil law was holy: involving areas of diet, cleansing, personal relationships, land, warfare, etc. (Lev. 11-26).

ISRAEL AND GOD’S HOLINESS

“For you are a holy people to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples who are on the face of the earth” (Deut. 14:2, NKJV).

“Prepare yourself and be ready, you and all your companies that are gathered about you; and be a guard for them” (Ezek. 38:7, NKJV).

The phrase, *the holy One of Israel*, is used 34 times in the Old Testament. Of these, 28 times can be found in the book of Isaiah.

- **The past selection of Israel**

A. The facts involved regarding this selection

“And this is the case of the manslayer who flees there, that he may live: Whoever kills his neighbor unintentionally, not having hated him in time past—as when a man goes to the woods with his neighbor to cut timber, and his hand swings a stroke with the ax to cut down the tree, and the head slips from the handle and strikes his neighbor so that he dies—he shall flee to one of these cities and live; lest the avenger of blood, while his anger is hot, pursue the manslayer and overtake him, because the way is long, and kill him, though he was not deserving of death, since he had not hated the victim in time past” (Deut. 19:4-6, NKJV).

B. The reason for this selection

“For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt” (Deut. 7:6-8, NKJV).

“For you are a holy people to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples who are on the face of the earth” (Deut. 14:2, NKJV).

C. The blessings following this selection

“They are the people of Israel, chosen to be God’s adopted children. God revealed his glory to them. He made covenants with them and gave them his law. He gave them the privilege of worshiping him and receiving his wonderful promises. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are their ancestors, and Christ himself was an Israelite as far as his human nature is concerned. And he is God, the one who rules over everything and is worthy of eternal praise! Amen” (Rom. 9:4, 5, NLT).

- **The present rejection of Israel**

In a sentence, it was because of their unbelief!

“He came to his own people, and even they rejected him” (Jn. 1:11, NLT).

“Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief” (Mt. 13:58, NKJV).

“Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. And He said to them, ‘It is written, My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a ‘den of thieves’” (Mt. 21:12, 13, NKJV).

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’” (Mt. 23:37-39, NKJV)

- **The future restoration of Israel**

“I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying, ‘LORD, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life’? But what does the divine response say to him? ‘I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.’ Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace” (Rom. 11:1-5, NKJV).

“And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: ‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob’” (Rom. 11:26, NKJV).

VARIOUS VISIONS OF GOD’S HOLINESS

- **As seen by Moses**

The great lawgiver was allowed to view God’s holiness on four separate occasions, all occurring on Mt. Sinai.

A. First occasion

“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. 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. Then Moses said, ‘I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.’ 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.’ Then He said, ‘Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. 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” (Exod. 3:1-6, NKJV).

B. Second occasion

“Then Moses went up, also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and they saw the God of Israel. And there was under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in its clarity” (Exod. 24:9, 10, NKJV).

C. Third occasion

“And he said, ‘Please, show me Your glory.’ Then He said, ‘I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.’ But He said, ‘You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.’ And the LORD said, ‘Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. Then I

will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen” (Exod. 33:18-23, NKJV).

D. Fourth occasion

“Now it was so, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the Testimony were in Moses’ hand when he came down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone while he talked with Him. So when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. Then Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned to him; and Moses talked with them. Afterward all the children of Israel came near, and he gave them as commandments all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face. But whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with Him, he would take the veil off until he came out; and he would come out and speak to the children of Israel whatever he had been commanded. And whenever the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses’ face shone, then Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with Him” (Exod. 34:29-35, NKJV).

- **As seen by Abraham**

“Then the LORD appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day” (Gen. 18:1, NKJV).

“And he said, ‘Brethren and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran’” (Acts 7:2, NKJV).

“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad” (Jn. 8:56, NKJV).

“ . . . for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God” (Heb. 11:10, NKJV).

- **As seen by Jacob**

“Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran. So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: ‘I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you’” (Gen. 28:10-15, NKJV).

- **As seen by Job**

“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” (Job 42:5, 6, NKJV).

- **As seen by Isaiah**

“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 door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. 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’” (Isa. 6:1-5, NKJV).

- **As seen by Daniel**

“I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; a fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened. ‘I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed’” (Dan. 7:9, 10, 13, 14, NKJV).

“I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz! His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude. And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision; but a great terror fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves” (Dan. 10:5-7, NKJV).

- **As seen by Paul**

“It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me. And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure” (2 Cor. 12:1-7, NKJV).

- **As seen by Stephen**

“When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and said, ‘Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God’. Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not charge them with this sin.’ And when he had said this, he fell asleep” (Acts 7:54-60, NKJV).

- **As seen by John**

“I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet” (Rev. 1:10, NKJV).

“Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, ‘Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death’” (Rev. 1:12-18, NKJV).

THE CITY OF JERUSALEM AND GOD’S HOLINESS

“Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in His holy mountain. Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion on the sides of the north, the city of the great King. God is in her palaces; He is known as her refuge” (Psa. 48:1-3, NKJV).

“As we have heard, so we have seen in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the city of our God: God will establish it forever” (Psa. 48:8, NKJV).

“If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its skill! If I do not remember you, let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth—If I do not exalt Jerusalem above my chief joy” (Psa. 137:5, 6, NKJV).

- **The city in Abraham’s time**

“Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said: ‘Blessed be Abram of God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.’ And he gave him a tithe of all” (Gen. 14:18-20).

- **The city in David's time**

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the LORD.' Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem! Jerusalem is built as a city that is compact together, where the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, to the Testimony of Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD. For thrones are set there for judgment, the thrones of the house of David. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May they prosper who love you'" (Psa. 122:1-6, NKJV).

- **The city in Jesus' time**

"And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called JESUS, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the LORD'), and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, 'A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons'" (Lk. 2:21-24, NKJV).

"Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple" (Mt. 4:5, NKJV).

"But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King" (Mt. 5:34, 35, NKJV).

". . . and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many" (Mt. 27:52, 53, NKJV).

"And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled" (Lk. 21:24, NKJV).

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' " (Mt. 23:37-39, NKJV)

- **The city in the Tribulation**

"Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem" (Zech. 12:2, NKJV).

"Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, and your spoil will be divided in your midst. For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken, the houses rifled, and the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, but the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle" (Zech. 14:1-3, NKJV).

“But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months” (Rev. 11:2, NKJV).

- **The city in the Millennium**

- A. The earthly city**

“There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn. The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved; He uttered His voice, the earth melted. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Come, behold the works of the LORD, Who has made desolations in the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariot in the fire. Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” (Psa. 46:4-10, NKJV).

“Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in His holy mountain. Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion on the sides of the north, the city of the great King” (Psa. 48:1, 2, NKJV).

“As we have heard, so we have seen in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the city of our God: God will establish it forever” (Psa. 48:8, NKJV).

“In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian will come into Egypt and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians will serve with the Assyrians. In that day Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria—a blessing in the midst of the land, whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, ‘Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance’” (Isa. 19:23-25, NKJV).

“The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the excellence of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the excellency of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are fearful-hearted, be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God; He will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. The parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water; in the habitation of jackals, where each lay, there shall be grass with reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and a road, and it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, but it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast go up on it; it shall not be found there. But the redeemed shall walk there” (Isa. 35:1-9, NKJV).

“Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising” (Isa. 60:1-3, NKJV).

“Awake, awake! Put on your strength, O Zion; put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city! For the uncircumcised and the unclean shall no longer come to you” (Isa. 52:1, NKJV).

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’” (Isa. 52:7, NKJV)

“All the way around shall be eighteen thousand cubits; and the name of the city from that day shall be: THE LORD IS THERE” (Ezek. 48:35, NKJV).

B. The eternal city

“By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going” (Heb. 11:8, NKJV).

“ . . . for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God” (Heb. 11:10, NKJV).

“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels” (Heb. 12:22, NKJV).

“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away’” (Rev. 21:1-4, NKJV).

“Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, ‘Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.’ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal” (Rev. 21:9-11, NKJV).

THE SACRED BUILDINGS AND GOD’S HOLINESS

- **Those on earth**

A. The tabernacle in Moses’ day

“And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by My glory” (Exod. 29:43, NKJV).

“Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys. But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up. For the cloud of the LORD was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys” (Exod. 40:34-38, NKJV).

“Now on the day that the tabernacle was raised up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the Testimony; from evening until morning it was above the tabernacle like the appearance of fire. So it was always: the cloud covered it by day, and the appearance of fire by night” (Num. 9:15, 16, NKJV).

B. The first temple in Solomon’s day

“Then Solomon spoke: ‘The LORD said He would dwell in the dark cloud. I have surely built You an exalted house, and a place for You to dwell in forever.’ Then the king turned around and blessed the whole assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel was standing. And he said: ‘Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, who has fulfilled with His hands what He spoke with His mouth to my father David, saying, Since the day that I brought My people out of the land of Egypt, I have chosen no city from any tribe of Israel in which to build a house, that My name might be there, nor did I choose any man to be a ruler over My people Israel. Yet I have chosen Jerusalem, that My name may be there, and I have chosen David to be over My people Israel.’ Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a temple for the name of the LORD God of Israel. But the LORD said to my father David, ‘Whereas it was in your heart to build a temple for My name, you did well in that it was in your heart. Nevertheless you shall not build the temple, but your son who will come from your body, he shall build the temple for My name.’ So the LORD has fulfilled His word which He spoke, and I have filled the position of my father David, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised; and I have built the temple for the name of the LORD God of Israel. . . Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands” (2 Chron. 6:1-10, 12, NKJV).

“When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. And the priests could not enter the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD’s house. When all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD on the temple, they bowed their faces to the ground on the pavement, and worshiped and praised the LORD, saying: For He is good, for His mercy endures forever” (2 Chron. 7:1-3, NKJV).

C. The second temple in Jesus’ day

“No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him. Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, I am not the Christ” (Jn. 1:18-20, NKJV).

“No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him. Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, ‘I am not the Christ’” (Mt. 24:1, 2, NKJV).

“Then He went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in it saying to them, ‘It is written, ‘My house is a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a ‘den of thieves’” (Lk. 19:45, 46, NKJV).

D. The third temple during the Great Tribulation

“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place’ (whoever reads, let him understand), ‘then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains’” (Mt. 24:15, 16, NKJV).

“But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one. And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you” (2 Thess. 3:3, 4, NKJV).

E. The fourth and final temple during the Millennium

(See Ezekiel 40-48)

- **The one in heaven**

A. According to David

“The LORD is in His holy temple, the LORD’s throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men” (Psa. 11:4, NKJV).

B. According to Isaiah

“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” (Isa. 6:1, NKJV).

C. According to Habakkuk

“But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him” (Hab. 2:20, NKJV).

D. According to the author of Hebrews

“But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption” (Heb. 9:11, 12, NKJV).

E. According to John the Apostle

“Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel’s hand” (Rev. 8:3, 4, NKJV).

“Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail” (Rev. 11:19, NKJV).

“After these things I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened . . . The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed” (Rev. 15:5, 8, NKJV).

THE ELECT ANGELS AND GOD’S HOLINESS

- **Their classification**

- A. As referred to in the book of Matthew**

“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory” (Mt. 25:31, NKJV).

- B. As referred to in the book of Mark**

“For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels” (Mk. 8:38, NKJV).

- C. As referred to in the book of Luke**

“For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father’s, and of the holy angels” (Lk. 9:26, NKJV).

- D. As referred to in the book of Revelation**

“ . . . he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb” (Rev. 14:10, NKJV).

- **Their celebration**

- A. As heard by Isaiah**

“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!' (Isa. 6:1-3, NKJV).

B. As heard by John

“. . . he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb” (Rev. 14:10, NKJV).

- Question: Do angels sing? Isaiah hears them crying out while John hears them speaking. But do they actually sing? Some Bible students would say yes, but others, no. Well, whatever the case if they do, there is a song they cannot sing! Hymn writer Johnson Oatman mentions this in musical fashion:

Holy, Holy, is What the Angels Sing

*There is singing up in Heaven
such as we have never known,
Where the angels sing the praises
of the Lamb upon the throne,
Their sweet harps are ever tuneful,
and their voices always clear,
O that we might be more like them
while we serve the Master here!*

Refrain

Holy, holy, is what the angels sing,
And I expect to help them make the courts of Heaven ring;
But when I sing redemption's story, they will fold their wings,
For angels never felt the joys that our salvation brings.

*But I hear another anthem,
blending voices clear and strong,
Unto Him who hath redeemed us
and hath bought us, is the song;
We have come through tribulation
to this land so fair and bright,
In the fountain freely flowing
He hath made our garments white.*

*Then the angels stand and listen,
for they cannot join the song,
Like the sound of many waters,
by that happy, blood washed throng,*

*For they sing about great trials,
battles fought and vict'ries won,
And they praise their great Redeemer,
who hath said to them, Well done.*

*So, although I'm not an angel,
yet I know that over there
I will join a blessed chorus
that the angels cannot share;
I will sing about my Savior,
who upon dark Calvary
Freely pardoned my transgressions,
died to set a sinner free.*

- So then, whether angels do or do not sing, the Bible makes it clear that they are intensely interested in our salvation!

“ . . . receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls. Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into” (1 Peter 1:9-12, NKJV).

THE SCRIPTURES AND GOD'S HOLINESS

“Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures” (Rom. 1:1, 2, NKJV).

“ . . . and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (2 Tim. 3:15, NKJV).

- **Every chapter in the Bible is holy in regard to the following:**

A. Because of its author

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Tim. 3:16, NKJV).

“ . . . for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:21, NKJV).

B. Because of its accuracy

“For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled” (Mt. 5:18, NKJV).

C. Because of its eternity

“Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven” (Psa. 119:89, NKJV).

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away” (Mt. 24:35, NKJV).

- **Edwin Hodder’s beautiful hymn summarizes all the above:**

Thy Word is Like a Garden, Lord

*Thy Word is like a garden, Lord, with flowers bright and fair;
And everyone who seeks may pluck a lovely cluster there.
Thy Word is like a deep, deep mine; and jewels rich and rare
Are hidden in its mighty depths for every searcher there.*

*Thy Word is like a starry host: a thousand rays of light
Are seen to guide the traveler and make his pathway bright.
Thy Word is like an armory, where soldiers may repair;
And find, for life’s long battle day, all needful weapons there.*

*Oh, may I love Thy precious Word, may I explore the mine,
May I its fragrant flowers glean, may light upon me shine!
Oh, may I find my armor there! Thy Word my trusty sword,
I’ll learn to fight with every foe the battle of the Lord.*

THE THRONE AND GOD’S HOLINESS

- **The ones on the throne**

There are two at different times:

A. The Father: From eternity past to the incarnation

1. As described in the Old Testament
 - a. By Isaiah (6:1)
 - b. By Ezekiel (1:26-28)
 - c. By Daniel (7:9)
2. As described in the New Testament
 - a. By the book of Hebrews (8:1; 12:1, 2)
 - b. By the book of Revelation (4:1-3; 5:1; 7:13)

B. The Son: From the incarnation through the eternal ages (Rev. 20:11; 21:5; 22:1, 3)

- **The groups surrounding this throne**

A. Specialized angels

1. The seraphim (Isa. 6:1-3)
2. The cherubim (Gen. 3:24; Ezek. 10:1)
3. The four living creatures (Rev. 4:6-8)

B. Two named angels

1. Michael (Dan. 10:13; 12:1; Jude 9; Rev. 12:7)
2. Gabriel (Dan. 8:16; 9:21; Lk. 1:19, 26)

C. Multiplied millions of regular angels (Dan. 7:10; Lk. 2:13, 14; Rev. 5:11, 12)

D. Those who will be martyred during the Great Tribulation (Rev. 6:9-11)

E. The 24 elders (Rev. 4:4)

F. Seven trumpet sounding angels of judgment (Rev. 4:5; 8:2)

G. 144,000 Jewish men (Rev. 7:4-8; 14:1-5)

H. All the redeemed who have ever lived (Rev. 7:9, 10, 13, 14)

- **The nature of this throne: It is—**

A. A gracious throne (Heb. 4:16)

B. A shining throne (Ezek. 10:1; Rev. 4:3)

C. A glorious throne (1 Sam. 2:8)

D. An eternal throne (Lam. 5:19; Psa. 45:6)

E. A ruling throne (Psa. 103:19)

F. A righteous throne (Psa. 89:14)

G. An all-sufficient throne (Rev. 7:17; 22:1, 2)

H. A judicial throne

1. Rewarding the faithful (Mt. 19:27-29)
2. Punishing the wicked (Rev. 20:11-15)

OUR BODIES AND THE HOLINESS OF GOD

- **What God has done and is doing for us**

“ . . . just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love” (Eph. 1:4, NKJV).

“ . . . and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight” (Col. 1:20-22, NKJV).

“Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints” (1 Thess. 3:11-13, NKJV).

- **What we should be doing for Him**

- A. Presenting our bodies as living sacrifices (Rom. 12:1, 2)**

- B. Acknowledging our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 3:16, 17)**

- C. Putting off the old nature and putting on the new nature (Eph. 4:1, 23-26)**

- D. Giving no place to the devil (Eph. 4:27)**

- E. Guarding our language (Eph. 4:29)**

- F. Learning through chastisement (Heb. 12:10, 14)**

CHRIST'S BODY AND THE HOLINESS OF GOD
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- **Specific verses**

- A. With Christ as its Chief Cornerstone, the church becomes a holy temple.**

“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord” (Eph. 2:19-21, NKJV).

- B. With Christ as its husband, the church becomes a holy bride.**

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish” (Eph. 5:25-27, NKJV).

- C. With Christ as its Great High Priest, the church becomes a holy royal priesthood.**

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9, NKJV).

“John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen” (Rev. 1:4-6, NKJV).

- **Supporting verses**

“ . . . to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places” (Eph. 3:10, NKJV).

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen” (Eph. 3:20, 21, NKJV).

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” (Eph 4:11, 12, NKJV).

“ . . . from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love” (Eph 4:16, NKJV).

“And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence” (Col. 1:18, NKJV).

“ . . . to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect” (Heb. 12:23, NKJV).

“ . . . but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Tim. 3:15, NKJV).

DIVINE NAMES AND THE HOLINESS OF GOD

- **The testimony of God**

“Then Moses said to God, ‘Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, The God of your fathers has sent me to you, and they say to me, ‘What is His name?’ what shall I say to them?’ And God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ And He said, ‘Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, I AM has sent me to you.’ Moreover God said to Moses, ‘Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations’” (Exod. 3:13-15, NKJV).

“For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: ‘I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones’” (Isa. 57:15, NKJV).

- **The testimony of David**

“O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth, who have set Your glory above the heavens!” (Psa. 8:1, NKJV).

“Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield. For our heart shall rejoice in Him, because we have trusted in His holy name” (Psa. 33:20, 21, NKJV).

“Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name!” (Psa. 103:1, NKJV).

“He has sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever: Holy and awesome is His name” (Psa. 111:9, NKJV).

- **The testimony of Jesus**

“In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name” (Mt. 6:9, NKJV).

(See also Isa. 42:8; 62:2; Jer. 10:6; Exod. 34:5; Psa. 83:18.)

THE MILLENNIUM AND THE HOLINESS OF GOD

“Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion” (Psa. 2:6, NKJV).

“For our shield belongs to the LORD, and our king to the Holy One of Israel” (Psa. 89:18, NKJV).

“Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, for Your judgments have been manifested” (Rev. 15:4, NKJV).

- **The name involved: Who is this holy monarch?**

- A. As announced to Mary by the angel Gabriel**

“Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth . . . Then the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS’” (Lk. 1:26, 30, 31, NKJV).

- B. As announced to Joseph by the angel Gabriel**

“But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins’” (Mt. 1:20, 21, NKJV).

- **The nature involved**

What will be the characteristics in place during a thousand-year reign by the holy Son of God?

- A. A time of joy (Psa. 98:4; Zeph. 3:17)
- B. A reign of righteousness (Psa. 98:9)
- C. A time of instruction (Isa. 2:3; Mic. 4:2)
- D. An all-inclusive reign (Isa. 2:2; 60:3)
- E. Universal peace (Mic. 4:3; Isa. 2:4)
- F. An eternal reign (Isa. 9:7; Dan. 7:14; Heb. 1:8)
- G. Harmony within the animal kingdom (Isa. 11:6-9; 65:25; Rom. 8:21)
- H. No tears, sorrow, or death (Isa. 25:8)
- I. Healing of the deformed (Isa. 29:18, 19; 35:5, 6; 42:16)
- J. Abundant crops, no hunger, no thirst (Isa. 30:23; 55:13; 49:10)
- K. Increase of light (Isa. 30:26; 60:19, 20)
- L. Topographical changes (Isa. 35:8; 40:4; Amos 9:13; Mic. 4:1; Zech. 14:8)
- M. Protection (Mic. 4:4)
- N. Greatly increased knowledge of God (Hab. 2:14)
- O. Universal holiness (Zech. 14:20)
- P. Universal worship (Phil. 2:10, 11; Rev. 5:13)

THE PROPHETS, APOSTLES, AND THE HOLINESS OF GOD

“Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: ‘Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people, and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David, as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, who have been since the world began’ (Lk. 1:67-70, NKJV).

Both Paul and Peter write in regard to the ministries of these holy men of God.

- **As referred to by Paul**

“For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you” (Eph. 3:1, 2, NKJV).

“ . . . which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel” (Eph. 3:5, 6, NKJV).

- **As referred to by Peter**

“ . . . knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:20, 21, NKJV).

“Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior” (2 Peter 3:1, 2, NKJV).

MAN'S SIN AND THE HOLINESS OF GOD

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness” (Rom. 1:18, NKJV).

“As it is written: ‘There is none righteous, no, not one; there is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one.’ ‘Their throat is an open tomb; with their tongues they have practiced deceit’; ‘the poison of asps is under their lips’; ‘whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.’ ‘Their feet are swift to shed blood; destruction and misery are in their ways; and the way of peace they have not known.’ ‘There is no fear of God before their eyes’” (Rom. 3:10-18, NKJV).

Each sin man commits is a direct assault on and affront to God’s holiness. Thus, all sin must be punished.

- **The first was by a worldwide flood**

“So the LORD said, ‘I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them . . . And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die’” (Gen. 6:7, 17, NKJV).

- **The final will be by a worldwide fire**

“But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men” (2 Peter 3:7, NKJV).

“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?” (2 Peter 3:10-12, NKJV).

- **The most prolonged will be the Great Tribulation**

“For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened” (Mt. 24:21, 22, NKJV).

“But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth will tremble, and the nations will not be able to endure His indignation” (Jer. 10:10, NKJV).

“Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?’” (Rev. 6:14-17, NKJV).

“Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, ‘If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name’” (Rev. 14:9-11, NKJV).

- **The most important by far was at Calvary**

Here four incredible truths are on display:

A. The wrath of God

“He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?” (Rom. 8:32, NKJV)

“And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?’ that is, ‘My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?’” (Mt. 27:46, NKJV).

B. The holiness of God

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Cor. 5:21, NKJV).

“And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, ‘My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.’ He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, ‘O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will’” (Mt. 26:37-39, NKJV).

C. The love of God

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (Jn. 3:16, NKJV).

“For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:6-8, NKJV).

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Gal. 2:20, NKJV).

D. The gift of God

“This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief” (1 Tim. 1:15, NKJV).

“ . . . knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you” (1 Peter 1:18-20).

“All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Rev. 13:8, NKJV).