

THE DOCTRINE OF GOD: THE GOD WHO IS HOLY

"Hence that drama and amazement with which, as Scripture uniformly relates, holy men were struck and overwhelmed whenever they beheld the presence of God.... Men are never duly touched and impressed with a conviction of their insignificance until they have contrasted themselves with the majesty of God." — John Calvin

GOD IS HOLY

With two wings they covered their _____.

Exodus 33:19–23 says, "And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The Lord.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. ²⁰But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live."²¹And the Lord said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, ²²and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."²⁴" (see also **Exodus 34:29–35**)

With two wings they covered their _____.

Exodus 3:2–6 says, "And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. ³And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned."⁴When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."⁵Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."⁶And 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 at God."

And one seraphim said _____, _____, _____.

I. HOLY AS _____ (WHOLLY _____/TRANSCENDENT)

There is an eternal distinction between Creator and creature. God is wholly separate from his creation as the Creator. He is not of it. Rather he made it, rules it, sustains it, upholds it and guides it to its intended end. In theological or philosophical terms we call this aspect of God's holiness his transcendence. God is transcendent in the fact that he is completely other. Wholly separate and entirely different from his creation.

Psalms 24:1–3 says, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, ²for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. ³Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?"

Exodus 15:11 says, "Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?"

1 Samuel 2:2 says, "There is none holy like the Lord: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God."

II. HOLY AS _____ (_____ AND UNDEFILED)

God is sinless. He cannot lie. He cannot speak falsely. He cannot break his promises. He cannot commit evil or do wrong. It is not that he submits to a standard of holiness higher than himself, he is the standard of holiness. Whatever the Lord does is right.

III. HOLY AS _____ (COMMUNICATIVE)

God, in his holiness, communicates his holiness. He redeems, forgives, restores, atones, and makes his people holy.

Exodus 19:6 says, "you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation"

1 Peter 2:4–5, 9–10 says, "As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."

Leviticus 19:2 says, "Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy" (see also **1 Peter 1:16**).

Romans 1:7 says, "To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints (lit. holy ones)" (see also **1 Corinthians 1:2**)

Ephesians 2:21 says, "in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord"

Ephesians 5:26–27 says, "that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish."