

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Holy, Holy, Holy!

Bill Brinkworth

“2 And immediately I [John] was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. ... 8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. 9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever.” Revelation 4:2-9

In Revelation 4:2-9, the reader gets a glimpse of the throne room of Heaven. Another peek is revealed in Isaiah 6:1-3. In both views, we read of similar creatures that surround the heavenly throne and worship God.

Those creatures (Revelation 4 calls them “beasts;” Isaiah identifies them as “seraphim”), because of their nearness to God’s throne must know quite a bit about Him. They know more about what God has created than we do. We only see what is here on Earth. They look about Heaven and see creatures, including seraphim, cherubim, angels, and other glorious things, that we cannot even imagine. However, they were not praising God for all that is in His Heaven.

They must know that all the stars are more than our limited human minds can imagine and count. It most likely would not surprise them to know that the largest star we know about is VY Canis Majoris, which is estimated at over 1,800 times the size of our sun. Yet, all those amazing stellar creations were created by God in one day. However, the heavenly host are not singing His praises about His wonderful creations.

The seraphim must also know about God’s patience in allowing Earth’s inhabitants many opportunities to come to and obey Him. They also must know how so many curse His name, and openly rebel against their own Creator. Those creatures know of the Almighty’s wrath, that He can release when it is time and necessary. Yet, with all they know of what God has done for all those in Heaven and here on Earth, they do not praise Him for His character.

In both instances, in Isaiah and Revelation, they praised Him for His holiness. “... Holy! Holy! Holy! ...” cried the Heavenly host. Of all the wonderful things those creatures must know about

Him, they are most impressed and respectful of God's holiness! There is no sin in Heaven, as God cannot be near such wickedness, so those singing God's praises do not sin, yet they praise God for His holiness!

Holiness is important to God. That is why He also desires us to be Holy. We certainly will never be as holy as our Creator, but Christians should still strive to live a holy life.

It is expected of us to flee and avoid sin and emulate our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Our goal should be to please God by making our lives as holy as we can. Living a holy life is possible, or He would not expect it of us!

"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy." I Peter 1:15-16

"Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God." Lev. 20:7

"The essence of true holiness consists of conforming to the nature and will of God." — Dr. Lucas

Holiness

Dr. T. W. Jenkyn

Holiness, in the Scriptures, means a hallowed state. It is a full, entire, and impartial consecration to the service and the use of God. It is a definite separation and dedication for His purposes and pleasure. Not to be in this state would be diverting our sacred purpose to which we should be devoted.

"The goal of a Christian should be to be holy, and happiness will follow."

— Author Unknown

Personal Holiness

Dr. T. W. Jenkyn

Personal holiness is the first and foremost tribute which we owe to the Holy Spirit to be used by our Master. We are to offer Him no other service until that is given.

A Roman sent to Caesar a present of a royal crown while he was openly rebelling against Caesar's throne. Caesar returned the gift with the message, "First of all, yield obedience, and then send presents."

The spirit and the truth of His message are addressed by the Holy Spirit to every Christian and to every church. He desires our obedient hearts before our worldly "sacrifices" and offerings.

"Real holiness has love for its essence, humility for its clothing, the good of others as its employment, and the honor of God as its end." — Emmons

Reasons Why the Believer Should be Holy

Edited from 500 Bible Readings, Marsh

- Because of what God is.
“The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.” Ps. 145:17
- Because of what He has done.
“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
- Because He commands it.
Lev. 19:2
- Because of His relationship to us.
“Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God.” Lev. 20:7
- Because of His choice of us.
“And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the LORD am holy, and have severed you from other people, that ye should be mine.” Lev. 20:26
- Because of our relationship to Him.
“They shall be holy unto their God, and not profane the name of their God: for the offerings of the LORD made by fire, and the bread of their God, they do offer: therefore they shall be holy.” Lev. 21:6

“It is a great deal better to live a holy life than to talk about it. Lighthouses do not ring bells and fire cannons to call attention to their shining. They just shine.”

— Moody

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

Hymn by Reginald Heber

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.
3. Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
Perfect in power, in love and purity.
4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

Destiny of Holiness

Oswald Chambers, Edited from My Utmost for His Highest, Sept. 1

The preaching of the Gospel awakens an intense resentment because it reveals that I am unholy. God has one destined end for mankind through holiness.

His one aim is the production of saints... He did not come to save men out of pity. He came to save men because He had created them to be holy. The Atonement He gave is the way God can put me back into perfect union with Himself, without sin's shadow, through the death of Jesus Christ.

Never tolerate, through sympathy with yourself or others, any practice that is not in keeping in line with a holy God. Holiness means unsullied walking with the feet, unsullied talking with the tongue, and unsullied thinking with the mind. Every detail of our lives is under God's scrutiny. Holiness is not only what God gives me, but what I show others that God has helped me to be.

“I believe the holier a man becomes, the more he mourns over the unholiness that remains in him.” — *Spurgeon*