

God is Holy | Psalms 99:1-9 | 10/13/19

- God is Holy
 - **Read Psalms 99:1-9**
 - **What comes to mind when you think of a holy God?**
 - **God is separate and set apart from everything that He has created**
 - Holy means to be set apart for a special purpose or to set something apart from the common aspects of life (ordinary use).
 - This definition comes from the Hebrew word “Qadosh”
 - To be Holy is to be different or unique in comparison to this world.
 - **When the Bible refers to God as holy it means that God is uniquely separated from us.**
 - There is no one else like God he is unique and separated in in a special way and he is nothing like the world.
 - 1 Samuel 2:2
 - “There is no one holy like the LORD. There is no one besides You! And there is no rock like our God.”
 - **God being Holy, means He is also pure, good and righteous**
 - Another meaning that we get from Scripture from the word Holy is that it refers to something that is pure, good and righteous.
 - Something that is pure, the exact opposite of sin.
 - **God’s holiness also means He has never been stained with sin.**
 - To be holy is to be pure and God is the only one who is truly pure and free from sin.
 - Something that only God can truly be.
 - Psalms 145:17
 - “The LORD is righteous in all His ways and gracious in all His acts.”
 - Proverbs 30:5
 - “Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.”
 - 2 Corinthians 7:1
 - “Therefore, dear friends, since we have such promises, let us cleanse ourselves from every impurity of the flesh and spirit, completing our **sanctification** in the fear of God.”
 - Sanctification is the process with which we go through to be holy.
 - Psalms 24:3-5
 - “Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in His holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not set his mind on what is false, and who has not sworn deceitfully. He will receive blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.”
 - **God in his unique holiness is pure, good and righteous that is set apart from everything else.**
 - **There is no one else like God that is Holy like he is.**
 - **Why do you think God (who created us) is also separate from His creation?**
 - **Do you think it is hard for us to comprehend just how holy (pure, good and righteous) that God is?**
- **God calls us to be Holy**

- If we look at the Bible, we see not only is God Holy but that holy is used as an adjective for things that are common by themselves.
 - We have Holy ground, holy tabernacle, and even holy people.
 - **When Holy is used here it is when by the touch of God that these once common things are now considered Holy, they are set apart by God.**
 - Because without God nothing can be the holy that is God.
 - **But with God's touch and his will he can make something common like us and allow us to also be holy.**
- **Being a Christian God has called us to be Holy as he is, for us to be set apart from the world.**
 - 1 Peter 1:14-16
 - “As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy.”
 - **A Christian who strives to be obedient to God strives to live a holy life.**
 - For the Christian to be holy needs to live a life that is pure and righteous, that turns from sin and the evil ways of the world.
 - **The Christian will strive to be set apart from the world who wants to be pure and live righteously.**
 - 2 Timothy 2:20-22
 - “Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work. So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.”
 - **We are not to be conformed to the desire of our former ignorance, before we knew the truth we were conformed to the world and the desires of our sinful natures.**
 - But God has called us to be holy because God is holy, god is pure and without sin.
 - **We must strive to live a holy life that is pure and righteous by being obedient to God.**
 - Romans 12:1-2
 - “Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of god, I urge you to present your bodies as a **living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God**; this is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the **renewing of your mind**, so that you **may discern** what is the good, pleasing, and **perfect will of God.**”
 - A living sacrifice
 - Traditional Sacrifice
 - First fruits without blemish, best of crops.
 - Deuteronomy 15:21
 - “But if there is a defect in the animal, if it is lame or blind or has any serious defect, you must not sacrifice it to the Lord your God.”
 - A sacrifice that was given that was free of any blemish was considered holy and an acceptable sacrifice to God.
 - **Our living sacrifice must be Holy**

- So just like with the Holy sacrifices of the Old Testament God wants a Holy living sacrifice from us.
 - **We must give God our first fruits, not our leftovers.**
 - **If we live holy lives, we will shine like stars in the world.**
 - Philippians 2:15
 - “So that you may be blameless and pure, children of God who are faultless in a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine like stars in the world.”
 - To live our lives this way to strive to be holy as God has called us to be holy it to strive to be blameless and pure, children of God who are faultless in a crooked world.
 - What does living a holy life look like to you?
 - Holy for us means we have been separated by God to be pure, good and righteous. What kind of “bar” does that set for how we live our lives?
 - Do we disregard the holy life we are called to live?
- **God is Holy and ruler above all in the Heavens and the Earth. | Psalm 99:1-3**
 - *Read Psalm 99:1-3*
 - **We need to understand and acknowledge that God is the supreme ruler of both the Heavens and the Earth.**
 - He is holy, unique and separated because there is no other ruler like him.
 - To acknowledge this will help us to live that holy life that we are called to by God.
 - **When we think of God, we can sometimes not truly give him the respect that he deserves. We will acknowledge that he is God, but we do not fully give him the respect that he deserves as the lord of our lives.**
 - We do not fully comprehend and understand the power that he has.
 - **We see in this Psalm that “The LORD reigns!” is established up front and proper.**
 - Not only are we to believe that God is alive, but that he reigns over ALL.
 - He is ruler over Heaven and earth.
 - 1 Chronicles 16:31
 - “Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, “The LORD is King!”
 - **There is a difference between just acknowledging that God exists, and to acknowledge and put your trust in him knowing that he is your ruler and not only your ruler but also the ruler of all.**
 - God’s reign is not limited to a small kingdom of people or places and things, but all people places and things.
 - **To acknowledge and understand this truth puts God in a difference perspective beyond just simple acknowledgement of his existence.**
 - **That the God who created the Heavens and the earth still lives and IS your true and supreme ruler, which is above even the supreme court that we abide by.**
 - **We can overlook that God is ACTIVELY ruling.**
 - We can also overlook the fact that Gods reign and rule is ongoing. That he is the ruler of your life right this very moment.
 - **Its possible that we again acknowledge the existence of God and that we will meet him in Heaven, but since we don’t see him now that we still try to live our lives OUR way with us in the driver’s seat.**
 - We know we are to be obedient to God, but we still want to run our lives with US at the helm and not being submissive to God.

- **Just because we cannot see God now, does not mean that his lordship has changed.**
- God is actively ruling our lives and we must treat him with the respect he deserves and obey him.
- God is ACTIVELY ruling and watching everything that you say and do.
- If we truly understand and believe that God reigns on his throne, we will want to desire to obey him and to let him be the ruler in our lives.
- **Do you find yourself acknowledging God's presence, but not his Lordship over your life?**
- **What can we do to address this and remember that God is on his throne?**
- **We tremble before God out of respect and awe of His glory.**
 - If we truly understand the truth that God reigns over our lives, we cannot help but show him respect.
 - **In the first verse we see that "The LORD reigns! And Let the peoples tremble."**
 - **When we truly understand the holiness of God, we can't help but to not only be in awe in joy, but also tremble in fear.**
 - To tremble doesn't mean that God is big and scary, but that we fear God out of reverence or awe.
 - **This means we are to honor God by respecting him.**
 - To respect God and acknowledge him as ruler of our lives is completely different than just acknowledging his presence.
 - **Can you acknowledge the presence of someone but not show them any respect?**
 - **Our fear for God is respect like that of a father and child.**
 - A child who has an abundant amount of love and respect for their father and wants to please them.
 - The child has a fear of anxiety of offending his father, not because he is afraid of torture or punishment but because of displeasing him.
 - The child is fearful of displeasing the father who is their source of security and love.
 - This is the fear and respect we are to show God.
 - We (being a child of God) should show him a similar manner of respect.
 - We love God so much and we know we are embraced in his security and love that he has for us.
 - Jeremiah 33:9
 - "This city will bear on My behalf a name of joy, praise, and glory before all the nations of the earth, who will hear of all the good I will do for them. They will tremble with awe because of all the good and all the peace I will bring about for them."
 - **As a child of God, we should tremble with awe because of all that he has done for us.**
 - We should want to be obedient and to do his will.
 - We are fearful to disappoint God, because we know that when we do wrong that we are not being pleasing to the eyes of God.
 - **To fear the Lord is the beginning of wisdom**
 - Proverbs 9:10
 - "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding"

- If to fear the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, then it must be a foundational truth for our lives.
- It makes sense because if you fear the LORD (by respecting him like this child/father relationship) how will you live your life differently?
- **Don't you think that you would have greater wisdom knowing this truth?**
- Your decisions and thoughts are based in respect to God and not your own.
- **That is why knowledge of the Holy God "is understanding"**.
 - Because we truly understand who is on the throne and ruler of all.
- **In what ways do we show a lack of fear or a lack of respect for God?**
- **What does it look like when we properly fear and respect God for who He is?**
- **God is worthy of our praise and glory. | Psalm 99:3**
 - **Read Psalm 99:3**
 - We can also see very clearly that not only is God currently reigning on his throne in Heaven and that we must respect him and allow him to rule our lives.
 - **But that because of this he is worthy of our praise and glory.**
 - This is made abundantly clear when we see how the heavenly hosts that are in Heaven look upon God.
 - **God's Holiness in the heavens.**
 - God's holiness and authority does not just apply to Earth, but even to all the heavenly beings.
 - We see that God is enthroned above the cherubim in the heavens.
 - So how do they treat God, and do they consider God to be Holy?
 - To help us get a feel for the holiness of God and how we are to respect him, let us see how the heavenly beings treat God.
 - Psalms 89:5-7
 - "And the heavens will praise Your wonders, O LORD; Your faithfulness also in the assembly of the saints. For who in the heavens can be compared to the LORD? **God is greatly to be feared** in the assembly of the saints, and to be **held in reverence** by **all** those around him"
 - We see clearly from this psalm how those in the heavens respect God.
 - **We can see how God is greatly feared even in the council of the holy ones, and more awe-inspiring than all who surround him.**
 - Isaiah 6:1-3
 - "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!"
 - From this we see:
 - **Seraphim covering their face, they are in the presence of the most holy God.**
 - God creates everything thing for a purpose and we see that these angelic beings had extra wings to cover their face and their feet.

- They covered themselves because of the glory and the holiness of God.
 - In the OT when Moses went up the mountain to speak to God and he came down his face had a reflection of the glory of God and it was too much for the people to handle.
 - Exodus 34:29-30
 - Moses had to wear a veil after he came down from speaking with God.
 - **In fact, they do not consider God to just be holy, or holy holy, but holy, holy holy.**
 - The angels new of the uniqueness of God, his purity and righteousness.
 - **They considered God to be holy, holy, holy, which this triple repetition is only used twice in the Bible, and only when referencing the holiness of God.**
 - These angelic beings that God created to be in his presence fully understand the holiness of God, he is pure and full of righteousness unlike any other.
 - It would be well for us to also understand this and show God the same respect and fear that he deserves.
 - **Shouldn't we also see God on the throne actively ruling our lives and see him as holy, holy, holy?**
- **There is only one other place in the Bible where we see holy, holy, holy.**
 - Revelations 4:8
 - "Each of the four living creatures had six wings; they were covered with eyes around and inside. Day and night **they never stop, saying: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God, the Almighty, who was, who is, and who is coming.**"
 - So again, when we have recorded scriptures of an angelic being that is in the presence of God, we see just how holy that God is.
 - In fact, in this verse we see that day and night they NEVER stop saying how holy that God is.
- **What can we learn from seeing how the heavenly beings praise and give glory to God?**
- **Concepts that contribute to the holiness of God. | Psalm 99:4-5**
 - Justice
 - **God is always on the side of justice and he can never be unjust.**
 - He will punish those that need to be punished and he will bless those that should be rewarded.
 - We should also remember that God's timing for his justice may not line up with ours, we can think because of a tragedy that in our mind that God isn't just.
 - However, that is not true, because God's character is just, and he stands for true justice.
 - **What we don't always consider is God's mercy.**
 - If we think of the times where we want God's justice upon someone who has sinned against God and wronged us, but we forget about all the times that God has shown us mercy when we have wronged God.
 - Isaiah 30:18

- “Therefore the LORD is waiting to show you mercy, and is rising up to show you compassion, for the LORD is a just God. All who wait patiently for Him are happy.
 - Patiently can be the key word.
 - Fairness
 - God in his holiness has established fairness.
 - Much like God is just he is always fair even if we do not think so.
 - Righteousness
 - God always does what is right and what is best for us.
 - It describes his moral purity.
- **Even though God is holy, holy, holy he is always there for us | Psalm 99:6-9**
 - ***Read Psalm 99:6-9***
 - Even though God is holy, holy, holy he will still answer to those that call upon him
 - We can put our complete trust in him knowing that he will listen.
 - He answers our prayers and wants to speak with us.
 - God will give us his time. He has not removed himself from us, he does not sit on his throne and ignore his servants.
 - So even as we see how holy our God is, and we cannot possibly fathom his glory. We should be comforted knowing the love that God has for us.
 - That he will make time for us.