

Study Guide: God's Holiness

Wednesday, July 29, 2026

This study guide explores the attribute of God's holiness based on the teachings provided in the source. Holiness is a central theme of the Bible, representing God's purity and His separation from everything evil or worldly. Through the visions of the prophet Isaiah and the questions of the prophet Habakkuk, we can better understand how great God is and why He deserves our deepest reverence and humble worship.

Understanding Holiness

In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word for holy is **Gadosh**. This term means to be completely "set apart" or sacred. God is Gadosh because He is flawless and entirely separated from sin, the devil, and the fallen nature of the world. While God's Holy Spirit is among us, He remains distinct and pure, creating a vast gap between His absolute perfection and our human imperfection.

The Vision in Isaiah 6

In the Bible, when a word is repeated, it is done to show supreme importance. While the Bible does not say God is "love, love, love" or "mercy, mercy, mercy," it specifically describes Him as "**Holy, holy, holy**" (Isaiah 6:3, NKJV). This repetition elevates His holiness above all other attributes.

Isaiah describes seeing the Lord on a throne, surrounded by **Seraphim**. These are high-ranking angelic beings whose name comes from the Hebrew root **Safara**, meaning "to burn." They are "the burning ones," blazing with the glory of God because they dwell in His immediate presence.

Quiz: Reviewing the Lesson

Instructions: Answer the following questions in 2-3 complete sentences based on the information provided in the lesson.

1. What is the meaning of the Hebrew word *Gadosh*, and how does it apply to God?
2. Why is the word "holy" repeated three times in the presence of the Lord in Isaiah 6?
3. Describe the physical appearance and the number of wings the Seraphim have.
4. Why do the Seraphim use two of their wings to cover their faces?
5. What does the act of the Seraphim covering their feet symbolize?
6. When Isaiah saw the Lord, he said he was "undone" or "ruined." What did he mean by this?

7. Why did the Seraphim use tongs to pick up the coal from the altar instead of their hands?
 8. What was the prophet Habakkuk's primary complaint or question to God regarding the state of his society?
 9. According to the lesson, how does Romans 3:23 relate to our standing before a holy God?
 10. What role does vulnerability play in how we should worship God in church?
-

Answer Key

1. The Hebrew word *Gadosh* means to be sacred, pure, and completely set apart. It describes how God is entirely separated from sin, evil, the devil, and the world.
2. Repetition in the Bible is used to emphasize supreme importance. By saying "Holy, holy, holy," the scripture elevates holiness as the primary attribute of God above all others.
3. The Seraphim are described as angelic beings that "burn" with God's glory. Each one has six wings: two to cover the face, two to cover the feet, and two for flying.
4. The Seraphim cover their faces as a sign of reverence. Even though they are sinless beings, they must shield themselves from the blazing, intense glory of God's holiness.
5. In the ancient world, exposing the feet could be seen as disrespectful. By covering their feet, these powerful beings demonstrate profound humility and make themselves as small as possible in God's presence.
6. Isaiah felt he was "disintegrating" or falling apart at the seams because he realized his own filthiness. In the light of God's absolute purity, he recognized that he was a man of "unclean lips" and lived among sinful people.
7. The coal was so holy and pure that even the sinless Seraphim would not touch it with their hands. Their use of tongs shows the high level of respect and awe they have for anything belonging to the Lord.
8. Habakkuk was frustrated because God seemed inactive while violence and iniquity ran rampant. He questioned why a pure God would allow the wicked to devour those who seemed more righteous.
9. Romans 3:23 states that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." This confirms that no human is perfect and that we all require God's purification, just as Isaiah did.

10. To worship God truly, we must lay down our pride and be vulnerable like children. This means focusing entirely on Him and being willing to be moved by the Holy Spirit without worrying about what others think.
-

Essay Questions

Instructions: Use the themes discussed in the study guide to write a detailed response to the following prompts.

1. **The Anatomy of Reverence:** Explain the connection between the physical actions of the Seraphim (covering face and feet) and the way humans should approach God in prayer and worship.
 2. **The Purifying Fire:** Discuss the significance of the "live coal" taken from the altar. Why was it necessary for Isaiah's lips to be touched, and what does this represent for a believer's heart?
 3. **The Justice of God:** Habakkuk struggled to understand why God used the Babylonians (wicked people) for His purposes. Explain how God remains "just" even when His plans are difficult for humans to understand.
 4. **Distractions in the Sanctuary:** The lesson mentions that people are often "just bodies in the seats" during church. Analyze the internal and external distractions that prevent people from experiencing the holiness of God today.
 5. **Set Apart for a Purpose:** If God is "Gadosh" (set apart), how should that influence the way a Christian lives their daily life in a world that is full of sin and violence?
-

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Babylonians:** The wicked nation that God used to bring judgment and accomplish His mission, as discussed in the book of Habakkuk.
- **Gadosh:** A Hebrew word meaning holy, sacred, or set apart from the common or sinful.
- **Humility:** The act of acknowledging one's lowliness; shown by the Seraphim covering their feet.
- **Iniquity:** Immoral or unfair behavior; sin.
- **NKJV:** The New King James Version of the Bible, which is the translation used for all scripture references in this study.
- **Purged:** To be cleansed or purified from sin or guilt.
- **Reverence:** A feeling of profound respect and awe, especially toward God.

- **Safara:** The Hebrew root word for Seraphim, meaning to burn or consume with fire.
- **Seraphim:** An exalted order of angelic beings known as "the burning ones" who worship God at His throne.
- **Tongs:** An instrument used by the Seraphim to handle the holy coal from the altar, demonstrating that the coal was too sacred to touch by hand.
- **Undone:** A state of disintegrating or falling apart; the feeling Isaiah had when he realized his sinfulness in the presence of God.

Scriptural References (NKJV)

- **Proverbs 3:5:** "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;"
- **1 Samuel 2:2:** "No one is holy like the LORD, For there is none besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God."
- **Isaiah 6:3:** "And one cried to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!'"
- **Isaiah 6:5:** "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.'"
- **Isaiah 6:7:** "And he touched my mouth with it, and said: 'Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged.'"
- **Romans 3:23:** "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"
- **Habakkuk 1:13:** "You are of pure eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness. Why do You look on those who deal treacherously, And hold Your tongue when the wicked devours A person more righteous than he?"