

Approaching God

Begin your time with an opening prayer

Take a moment to quiet your heart and ask God to help you experience his presence today. Ask Him to free you from any distractions as you begin to read and meditate on today's passages.

Today's Theme: God is Holy

God is perfect, pure, and undefiled. He does not sin, nor is he the author of any sin.

Bible Reading, Study & Meditation - Slowly Read the Following Passages

Start with Engaging the Text: Take a few minutes to highlight, circle, or underline key words.

Leviticus 20:23-26

23 Do not live according to the customs of the people I am driving out before you. It is because they do these shameful things that I detest them. 24 But I have promised you, 'You will possess their land because I will give it to you as your possession-a land flowing with milk and honey.' I am the LORD your God, who has set you apart from all other people. 25 "You must therefore make a distinction between ceremonially clean and unclean animals, and between clean and unclean birds. You must not defile yourselves by eating any unclean animal or bird or creature that scurries along the ground. I have identified them as being unclean for you. 26 You must be holy because I, the LORD, am holy. I have set you apart from all other people to be my very own.

Isaiah 6:1-7

1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3 And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." 4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. 5 "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD

Almighty." 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

Hebrews 7:26-28

26 Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. 27 Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. 28 For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.

1 Peter 1:14-16

14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

Meditation - GOD IS HOLY

Read the short essay from He Reads Truth

"As God's image-bearers, we're called to reflect His holiness. God says, "You are to be holy to me because I, the LORD, am holy" (Leviticus 20:26). It is a seemingly impossible task. We have all been stained by sin and bear on our backs the weight of a sinful nature. Try as we might, we all "fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

When confronted with God's holiness in the heavenly throne room, Isaiah's response was nothing short of terror: "Woe is me for I am ruined because I am a man of unclean lips" (Isaiah 6:5). That's how stark the contrast is between God's perfect, holy nature and our utter lack of holiness. It's not even close.

To be holy is to be set apart, uncommon, and raised up. God is all of these things, and we are not. But His response to Isaiah's woeful plea was not to leave Isaiah ruined before the throne. Instead, He extended mercy and made atonement for Isaiah's sin (Isaiah 6:6–7). God, in His perfection, has made a way for His people to be holy, for nothing is impossible with Him (Luke 1:37).

Because of Jesus's sacrifice for us on the cross, all things are being made new (Revelation 21:5). We have been given God's Spirit to walk with Him and practice holiness daily. Someday, all who know Christ will be perfected in Him. On that day, we will reflect God's holiness to all creation, just as God designed it to be from the beginning.

In the meantime, God has given us the righteousness of His Son, making us holy in His sight. We are now set apart as His "holy nation" (1 Peter 2:9) and a temple for His Spirit. The holy presence of God that once made Isaiah tremble lives inside of believers. Our hope in Christ is so sure that God already regards us as people who no longer fall short, who have become holy, just as He is holy.

(from the website: <u>hereadstruth.com</u>)

Daily Reflection Questions

- 1. What 1 or 2 verses of today's scripture passages <u>most</u> stood out to you? What was significant for you in those verses?
- 2. How would you briefly summarize what it means that "God is Holy" in your own words?
- 3. In what areas of your life right now do you most need to believe and trust in this particular attribute of God? How might your life be different if you were able to trust and truly believe that God is Holy?

Close in Prayer:

- What can I REJOICE IN as a result of today's study?
- What do I need to REPENT OF as a result of today's study?
- What do I want to REQUEST FROM God today?