

Holy! Holy! Holy!

Listen and imagine with me.....

Isaiah 6

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. 2 Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called out to another and said,

*"Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, members read this together
The [a]whole earth is full of His glory."*

4 And the [b]foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the [c]temple was filling with smoke

And again, listen, imagine.....

Revelation 4:

After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things." 2 Immediately I was [a]in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne. 3 And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance; and there was a [b]rainbow around the throne, like an emerald in appearance. 4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads.

The Throne and Worship of the Creator

5 Out from the throne come flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God; 6 and before the throne there was something like a sea of glass, like crystal; and in the [c]center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind. 7 The first creature was like a lion, and the second creature like a calf, and the third creature had a face like that of a man, and the fourth creature was like a flying eagle. 8 And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night [d]they do not cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who [e]is to come." members read this together

Can you imagine? Can we begin to imagine? The throne room!!!!

Have any of you been invited as Isaiah was to "see the Lord"?

Have you been invited to "come up here"?

Holy!

Holy!

Holy!

Last time I shared with you, I brought a bunch of crazy glasses and we talked about perspective - how we see things....

No crazy glasses today...I don't know how to illustrate HOLY....

and today (as I share with you again) I need to tell you right up front,
I also don't know how to put HOLY into words

Holy!

Holy!

Holy!

Maybe if I say it enough times, we will "get it"....

It is what they do in the throne room....

members say it together

I've been frustrated with myself lately.....

habits that I just can't seem to break

inconsistencies

lack of follow through

centered a lot on myself.....

I've been discouraged as I read the facebook announcement of an old friend who is now in a special relationship - a lesbian relationship. And it made me think of others who have followed after Jesus and then turned other directions....

why, Lord?

how does this happen?

how do we stop the rising tide of compromise

(in the name of tolerance)?

how do I respond?

I've been a bit overwhelmed by the pastor of a church who looked at me in all sincerity and asked, "did you really say that only Christians can go to heaven?" And after I responded, rather dumbfoundedly, "Yes", she was sure that she just could not agree with that...

I went home and wept

how do I respond, Lord?

how can we call ourselves believers and not believe?

And the division in the country....what to say?

Christians who can't talk to each other....what grief God must experience

Who can you trust to tell truth....how have we fallen so far?

I don't know if you can identify with me - in any or all of these areas; maybe not today, but another day....

Let me go back to "I've been frustrated with myself lately"...

centered a lot on myself....

There it is!

set apart - like none other
transcendent - in a class by Himself
subject to nothing, no one - answers to no one

Holy!
Holy!
Holy!

The only character given three fold position....very significant in the ancient languages...
not God is love, love, love (though we would prefer that be the emphasis)
Holy encompasses love - it is His totally set apart character

1 Samuel 2:2
*"There is no one holy like the Lord,
Indeed, there is no one besides You,*

Things become holy if they are set apart to the Lord...holy water, holy Bible, holy hands lifted to God.....God is set apart to Himself....

There is none like Him!
And when people met up with Him in the Bible, they fell down - they fell down in fear and humility

When I first joined YWAM, one of their leaders was Joy Dawson, She could preach all day on the fear of the Lord!!!! And she could preach! And the importance of the fear of the Lord was imprinted on our hearts....
She told us about her giant notebook with the character of God in it - she had it beside her when she read the Bible and whenever she learned something new about His character, whenever she read again about His lovingkindness or His grace or His jealousy, she would add it to the page about that characteristic.
The more we know God, the more we realize His holiness - His set-apartness! There is none like Him!

I could share a long time about the fear of the Lord too
but I have not been walking in it consistently....

I find myself to be a living contradiction to the holy character of God...
oh, He still loves me....oh, how He loves me!!! (love is a part of His holiness)
And, yes, Christ's holiness clothes me; I can stand before God....
the veil was torn...
But am I walking in this holiness?
in the fear of the Lord?
in the recognition of His bigness, His set-apartness?

I WROTE ON MY BULLETIN THAT SUNDAY -
"I AM TOO COMFORTABLE IN HIS GRACE"

“BEWARE MUSHY ENCOURAGEMENT”

In 1 Peter He calls me to holiness:

14 *As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, 15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; 16 because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”*

He doesn't call me to holiness through grit-your-teeth good works, but by walking in His holiness, aware of His greatness...receiving His presence in us
How can that be?

Somehow I am trying to get my head around Holy! Holy! Holy!

I know that we heard a sermon last week that exhorted us to an even deeper step into love, His perfect love - received and given.

I know that many times we are encouraged that we don't yet understand the depth of his grace....and we emphasize His mercy and grace.

And many times (in Holland for sure) I was reminded that so many people have a wrong picture of God - this giant man in the clouds with a stick....so we must speak of His Father heart of love over and over.

But I have to say, in a country where it is every man for himself, where self-esteem was the focus of our children's education....in a world where the spirit of the age speaks tolerance for whatever you feel good doing...and religion is made to be pick and choose....I think we need to be reminded of Holy! Holy! Holy!

And we, as His, need to walk in the fear of the Lord!

Our God is holy....the God that abides in me, calls me to be holy as He is!

As I prepared for this week, the Lord showed me Holy! Holy! Holy! (and oh, I have been singing it all the time - and that is a good thing)

But He showed me these spellings:

Holy Hole-y Wholly

I shared the surface re: Holy

(I know that I must continue - in fact, I might get myself a big notebook like Joy...)

Hole-y

so grieves me...

political pressure,

“there is not absolute truth” the mantra of the day,

tolerance has taken on a new meaning.....

so we cut out the words of Leviticus and Romans 1 out of the Bible

and if it is okay to be in homosexual relationships, lets also cut out the section on qualifications for leadership and eldership...

and since “everyone is doing it”, God is probably okay with a little hanky panky....let’s cut out all that stuff about adultery and fornication...

science has “proven” so many things now....probably that story in Genesis 1 is only an allegory, let’s see, that means we need to cut out Job and Col. 1:19...

and we know that the flood could not have covered the whole earth - it doesn’t really need to be actually true, the idea of God saving man is there anyway...

there must have been an explanation for the river opening up, I guess we can leave that in...

God is love, so He couldn’t really have asked them to kill all those people - that must be another God.....cut, cut, cut....

and then we have thee redacted sections - the names have been blacked out to protect those involved....

those things God has shown us, commanded us (not suggested), that we choose to ignore time and time and time again....

We create our own Bible and our own GOD -

too safe

too familiar

too comfortable

we evaluate church by the level of entertainment

we pick and choose

We question whether a good God could do that.....yes, He can

Well, God can’t tell me who I can’t marry, after all I love them....yes, He can

God can do ANYTHING THAT HE WANTS!!!

We decide that we are good - that the good outlays the bad

We are sure that God can’t send someone to hell because they are so good...Yes, He

can and He will....He loves us so much that He told us that and He made a way and

we can choose....

He can DO ANYTHING HE WANTS!

God's word is HOLY.....it is Truth....believe it, stand on it, know it,.....

then you can share what Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man comes to the Father but by me"

then when the pastor says I stand in front every Sunday and tell everyone that we are all children of God, you can remind her that "to all who received Him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God..."

That one is still in the Bible - (funerals - they are in a better place....NO, not always....and we aren't alarmed by that, what motive do we have to tell the world the good news.....are we desperate? The holiness of God, the fear of God should make us desperate to tell the Good News, to stand up for truth and not let people live in their sins....no, that is not HATE, that is LOVE!

In these times, in America, today, God's answer is "I am"

His answer is I am Holy! Holy! Holy!

His truth is enough

He is enough

What do I do?

What do I say?

What has He said? what has He done?

Who is He?

Look to a Holy God!!!

Yes, conviction will come - hallelujah!!!

Only then can I receive forgiveness and go forward

Yes, I might fall on my face in humility - hallelujah!

Only then can I trust Him in all things

The Word of God is black and white - we must dare to say it

we must strive to live it (with His abiding presence)

WHOLLY

Back to Revelation....just before we see the throne...the church at Laodicea:

14 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the [a]Beginning of the creation of God, says this:

15 *'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. 16 So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. 17 Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, 18 I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.*

19 *Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent.*

20 *Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door,*

I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. 21 He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. 22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Spit out or sit on the throne with Him

“Jesus first” a pin that was handed out by Jerry Falwell
I still have one somewhere - seems a good sentiment
We had a youth group in Silver Bay when I taught school - God’s J.O.Y. - Jesus. Other. Yourself.

There I am again....even in third position, it is easy to sneak up on the throne....

again - Holy! Holy! Holy!

My challenge to you - consider God’s set-apartness, His unlike-any-otherness, His holiness....

it is not a comparison. there is none.

It is completely God!
Wholly God!
I am His!

Recognize that as we do look to a Holy God....we can know Him more and more, we can focus, and walk into life....
terror changes to freedom, because THAT GOD IS WORKING IN ME AND WITH ME...
THAT GOD CAN GIVE ME THE WORDS, THE COURAGE, THE WISDOM, THE GIFTS,
THE CONSISTENCY.....

I desire to be wholly committed

I long to hear the words “well done” at the end of this life / to sit on the throne with Him...

I want to share a “picture” that I received once - the Holiness and glory of God and the love of God....last week and this week :-)

I had previously had a sense of sitting on the Father’s lap....huge, mostly unclear but ...
Now, in the middle of a worship time, I felt myself at the back of the throne room peeking in....Father God sitting on the throne and everyone worshipping Him....I had hoped to go sit on His lap again, but realized that He was the center of attention... started to turn away and felt His beckoning...yes, He was waving me towards Himself....God has reminded me of that “picture” - He is holy!
In His HOLY character, He is also LOVE....
I choose to be WHOLLY His!!!