

Sept 14th 2008: Names of God: The Lord is Holy: Isaiah 6:1-8; 57:15-21: 1 Jn 3:1-3

One of the most moving passages....in relationship to the character of God.....must be Isa 6
Who can read that description.....without being deeply moved by an occasion filled....awe &

The hymn written.....man who lived 1783-1826.....still stirs the heart

**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.**

It was of course an exp...that affected Isaiah.....FROM then on.....Holy One of
In Isaiah 57:15 he talks about God....as the high and lofty One
Whose Name is HOLY

When.. young Xtian...it was this Name for God...and the character...seemed to suggest
That caused me some difficulty.....**It created** some conflicting thoughts

- **I really enjoyed thinking about God who so loved me**.....
But a God who was holy ???.....I just wasn't sure.....I liked that idea too much

Because holiness.....rule keeping

It generated thoughts of Sundays in our families.....

Holiness meant no fun....no joy....no laughter....but enforced perfection

- **I loved Jesus**
I read the Gospel stories about Him.....and his warmth....kindness.....love...overflow
I could easily spend time with Him.....No pressure whatever

And then...Jesus revealed.....about God that I truly cherish.....That God is my Father

- **That fatherhood of**.....spoke about last week
- **A Father who cares**.....delights in giving us joy.....
- **Delights to bless**Planning...Watching...loving

And surprisingly enough.....Jesus could address such a Father in John 17:11.....as
HOLY FATHER

At firstthese two terms seemed to be irreconcilable

If holy meant no fun.....Then the word could not preface.....**Father** Jesus described

But it does.....

So then I began to rethink the meaning of holiness.....as a **characteristic** of God
And what I discovered was something that thrills.....rather than repels

That delights my soul.....and draws me to God.....like a powerful magnet....

For you see...the essence of holiness.....**is to be set apart** from all others
And that's God.....He is unique

He is set apart from any other power.....forceor person
There can be no other like Him.....for he alone is Holy

And the other essence of holiness.....which must accompany this being set apart
Is that of Perfection.....There is within God no flaw or blemish
No weakness.....no wrong.....no sin or evil

*(With all the focus on elections.....Here locally and in the USA.....IT is obvious
that if you probe deep enough....you will find something unsavoury even in the
most upright candidate)*

But you won't with GOD.....**He is holy**.....that makes HIM completely trustworthy

God's Power is awesome.....**Yet it is His Holiness**.....makes His power so reliable
It can't be corrupted

His Love is amazing.....**Yet it is His Holiness**.....makes His love so dependable

In Fact→

- **There is no doubt that God is all-powerful**.....The Bible proclaims that
But never do we read: Powerful, Powerful, Powerful is the Lord of Host
- **There is even less doubt** that God is loving.....**We are** told that He is Love
But never do we hear the Cherabim proclaiming.....Love, Love, love is the Lord

But we do read Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord
Because it is His holiness....sets Him apart.....and Makes Him our God

Back at the beginning of time.....It was God who created.....in his holiness
He made man in His own image.....male and female He created them
In His own image of holiness.....He created them and all things...**It was good**

Do you think Adam and Eve enjoyed that holy place ??

It was full of joy....laughter....with no cares or fears....but perfect fellowship.....
Then sin entered.....and they had to leave that holy and perfect place
Did they want to leave.....Who would ??? God placed an angel.....

Since then no one has known an existence without sin

We live in an environment polluted.....and constantly corrupted by sin
And sin is part of the make up of each of us

- **If you were to lock yourself away.....**sin would still be with you
If you were to stand.....on the top of a snow covered mountain.....sin would still.....

- **We have never experienced.....**but we know from what wont be there
Such as sickness and death.....Sadness and sorrow....Anxiety....fear.....temptation...evil
That it could only be a blessed and wonderful place

Yet with God as holy.....us as sinners...how could such a place ever be possible ???

That's where the promise of Isaiah 57:15 becomes so incredible:-

**For this is what the high and lofty One says—
he who lives forever, whose name is holy:
"I live in a high and holy place,
but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit,
to revive the spirit of the lowly
and to revive the heart of the contrite.**

That the Holy One.....would once again invite us into fellowship.....imposs because sin
But God had already prepared....**to offer Himself**.....as a sacrifice to cover the sins.....

So Hebrews 9:26-28 says.....

But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. 27Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, 28so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

And those waiting for Him ??????

- **According to Isaiah** they are those who are humble or lowly in spirit
Who have recognized their inability to save themselves.....
- **And are contrite**.....in that they have turned to Jesus.....confessing their sins.....

Within such.....the Holy God comes to dwell

Putting within us....the desire even now.....to be like Him....**To be holy**

Passionately looking for that day.....the angel with the sword will finally be removed
And there will be a new heavens and a new earth
A place where no evil...no sin....no pain suffering or temptation will be

- **For then....those trusting in Jesus**.....will return with great joy and happiness.....
To paradise restored **to experience** for eternity.....the love of our holy God

As 1 John 3:2 promises

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

Not only shall we see our God in all His glory.....But we will enjoy perfect fellowship
For we then shall be like Him.....For we shall be HOLY.

