

The Nature of God—Essence and Attributes

I. Essence of God

Spirituality
Immensity

Self-Existence
Eternity

II. Attributes of God

A. Non-moral Attributes

Omniscience
Omnipotence

Omnipresence
Immutability

B. Moral Attributes

Holiness
Goodness

Righteousness and Justice
Truth

Biblical Terms related to Holiness

Hebrew: “kadosh”

Greek: “hagios”

Holy

Holiness

Holies

Saint/s

Sanctify

Sanctification

Sanctuary

Holiness of God—toward a definition

God is perfect, free from all evil; He knows all things; there is no spot or flaw in His will; He loves all truth and righteousness, values purity; He is without sin, and His love is selfless. His holiness is not passive, but active, seen particularly in His activity of judging sin by sending sinners to Hell for all eternity. Hell, then, is not just an expression of God's wrath, but of His holiness. It is holy wrath.

God is absolutely separate from and exalted above His creatures, and He is absolutely separate from moral evil and sin.

Two aspects of the holiness of God:

--Moral Purity

--Majestic Transcendence

Two Aspects of the Holiness of God:

Moral Purity

Leviticus 11:44

I Peter 1:15-16

Isaiah 5:16

Habakkuk 1:13

Isaiah 6

Majestic Transcendence

Exodus 15:11

I Samuel 2:2

Isaiah 57:15

Revelation 4:8

Psalms 113:4-5

Isaiah 6

Cf. “Micah” Who is like the LORD?

“Michael” Who is like God?

The Holiness of God-----Thomas Watson

I. God is holy INTRINSICALLY.

II. God is holy PRIMARILY.

III. God is holy EFFICIENTLY.

IV. God is holy TRANSCENDENTALLY.

The Idea of the Holy

Rudolf Otto

“Mysterium Tremendum”

Element of Awefulness

Element of Overpoweringness (majesty)

Element of Energy or Urgency

Psalm 99

Description

Injunction

Reason

:1-3

Sovereign
Great
High above

people tremble!
earth be shaken!
praise His name!

He is holy!

:4-5

Strong
Just
Equitable
Righteous

Exalt the LORD
our God!
Worship at His
footstool!

He is holy!

:6-9

Compassionate
Forgiving
Vengeful

Exalt the LORD
our God!
Worship at His
holy hill!

The LORD
our God
is holy!

Man's Response to the Holiness of God

Recognize there is a chasm between God and the sinner.

If man is to approach God, he must do so through the merits of Another.

We should approach God “with reverence and godly fear.”

“Humiliation, contrition, and confession flow from a Scriptural view of the holiness of God.”

Henry Thiessen