The Nature of God—Essence and Attributes

I. Essence of God

- Spirituality
- Self-Existence
- Immensity
- Eternity

II. Attributes of God

A. Non-moral Attributes

- Omniscience
- Omnipotence
- Omnipresence
- Immutability

B. Moral Attributes

- Holiness
- Goodness
- Righteousness and Justice
- Truth

(H.C. Thiessen)
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

**Majestic Transcendence**
Exodus 15:11
I Samuel 2:2
Isaiah 57:15
Revelation 4:8
Psalm 113:4-5

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

“Mysterium Tremendum”

Element of Awefulness

Element of Overpoweringness (majesty)

Element of Energy or Urgency
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Injunction</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>:1-3</td>
<td>Sovereign</td>
<td>people tremble!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Great</td>
<td>earth be shaken!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High above</td>
<td>praise His name!</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>He is holy!</td>
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<tr>
<td>:4-5</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Exalt the LORD</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Just</td>
<td>our God!</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Equitable</td>
<td>Worship at His</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Righteous</td>
<td>footstool!</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>He is holy!</td>
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<tr>
<td>:6-9</td>
<td>Compassionate</td>
<td>Exalt the LORD</td>
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<td>Forgiving</td>
<td>our God!</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Vengeful</td>
<td>Worship at His</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>holy hill!</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>The LORD our God is holy!</td>
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</table>
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