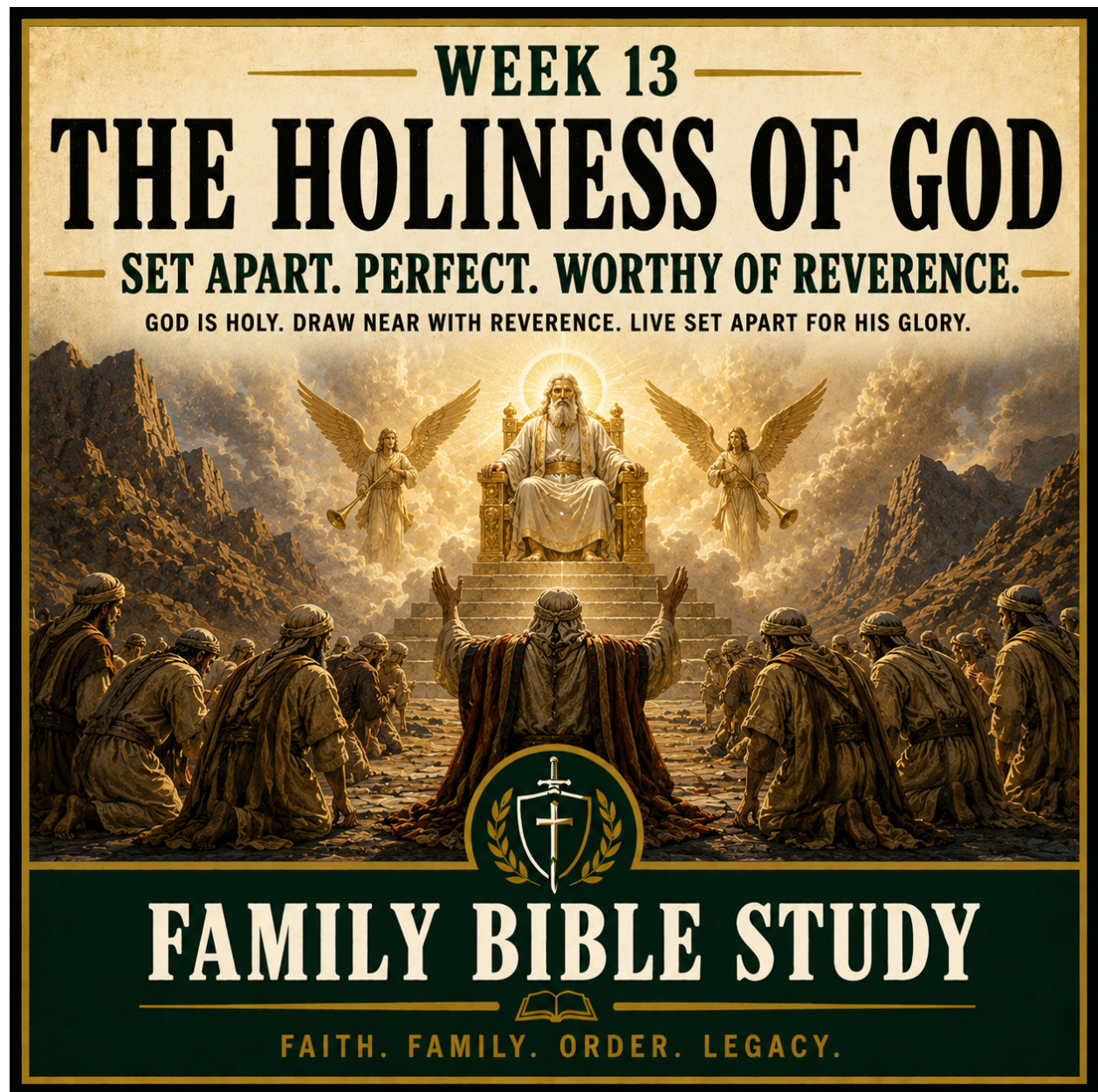




Week 13: The Holiness of God - Set Apart. Perfect. Worthy of Reverence.

A Sabbath Family Bible Study

 Introduction

To say that God is holy means that He is completely set apart, perfect in righteousness, pure in all His ways, and without sin. There is none like Him. His holiness separates Him from everything corrupt, common, and evil, and it demands reverence from everyone who comes before Him.

In Scripture, encounters with God's holiness produce humility and awe. Moses could not behold His glory. Isaiah cried, "Woe is me!" when he saw the Lord upon His throne. In heaven, the living creatures proclaim, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty." God's holiness reveals both His absolute perfection and the seriousness of our own sin.

But God does not reveal His holiness for us to admire from a distance. He calls His people to reflect it: "*Be ye holy; for I am holy.*" Those who belong to God are to be set apart from the sinful ways of the world and increasingly shaped by His character, His commandments, and His purposes.

This week, we will learn that holiness should change how we worship, obey, speak, work, and live within our homes. As a family, we should cultivate reverence for God and reject the temptation to treat Him or His Word casually. Our God is holy, and He calls His people to be holy.



Scripture Reading

(Isaiah 6:1–8; Leviticus 10:1–3; 1 Peter 1:13–16; Revelation 4:8–11, Psalm 99:1–9)

With Commentary Throughout

Isaiah 6:1–8 - Encountering the Holiness of God

1 In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

2 Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

4 And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

5 Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

6 Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar:

7 And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.

8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

Commentary

Isaiah's vision gives us a breathtaking picture of the absolute holiness and majesty of God. The Lord sits high upon His throne while even the mighty seraphim cover themselves before Him and proclaim, "*Holy, holy, holy.*" When Isaiah encounters God's holiness, his first response is humility. Seeing God clearly caused Isaiah to see his own sin: "*Woe is me! for I am undone.*"

The coal from the altar touches Isaiah's lips, symbolizing that his iniquity has been taken away and his sin purged. Only after cleansing does Isaiah hear God's call and answer, "*Here am I; send me.*"

This gives us an important pattern: reverence, repentance, cleansing, and obedience. The more clearly we understand God's holiness, the less casually we will treat sin and worship. But encountering the holiness of God should ultimately move us toward faithful service. A household that truly reveres God will increasingly say together, "*Here am I; send me.*"

Leviticus 10:1–3 - God's Holiness Must Be Reverenced

1 And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not.

2 And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.

3 Then Moses said unto Aaron, This is it that the LORD spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And Aaron held his peace.

Commentary

Nadab and Abihu were priests with the privilege of serving near the presence of God, yet they offered "strange fire" which the Lord had not commanded. Their judgment demonstrates that God's holiness is not something man can redefine according to personal preference. Good intentions do not give us permission to disregard what God has commanded.

God declares, "*I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me.*" The closer the privilege of approaching God, the greater the responsibility to treat Him with reverence. We are reminded

that worship is not about making God conform to our desires, but approaching Him with humility, obedience, and holy fear. God determines how He is to be honored, and His holiness must never be treated lightly.

1 Peter 1:13–16 - God Calls His People to Holiness

13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

Commentary

God's holiness is something we are commanded to reflect in the way we live. Peter calls believers "*obedient children*," reminding us that belonging to God should produce a life increasingly shaped by the character and commands of our Father rather than by our former desires or the patterns of the world.

The command is simple and demanding: "*Be ye holy; for I am holy.*" Biblical holiness means being set apart for God. It reaches into "*all manner of conversation*", our whole conduct and manner of life. Our thoughts, speech, relationships, habits, entertainment, work, and worship must increasingly demonstrate that we belong to Him.

Families therefore have a responsibility to cultivate homes that are visibly set apart for God. We should ask whether each action we take honors the Lord. A holy God calls His people to be a holy people, distinct from the world and devoted to His purposes only.

Revelation 4:8–11 - Heaven Proclaims the Holiness of God

8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,

10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Commentary

The worship of heaven centers upon the fact that God is holy. Day and night the heavenly creatures proclaim, “*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty.*” Their response to God's holiness is reverence, worship, thanksgiving, and complete submission. Even the elders cast their crowns before His throne.

This passage also reminds us *why* God alone deserves such worship: He created all things. Everything exists because of His will and for His purposes. Our lives therefore do not belong to ourselves; we were created for the glory of God.

Families can learn from the worship surrounding God's throne. Our homes should be places where God is treated as holy, His authority is honored, and gratitude and worship are woven into everyday life. From Isaiah's vision to John's revelation, heaven's declaration remains unchanged: God is holy, God is Almighty, and God alone is worthy of glory, honor, and praise.



Discussion Questions for All Ages

Young Children:

- What does it mean that God is holy?
- Why did Isaiah say “Woe is me” when he saw God?
- How should we act when we pray or read the Bible?

Older Children & Teens:

- Why did God punish Nadab and Abihu so severely?
- What are some ways we can show God respect in our daily lives?
- What does it mean to “be holy” in how we speak or behave?

Adults:

- How has modern Christianity lost a sense of God's holiness?
- What areas of your life or household need to be “set apart” more fully for God?

- How can we cultivate greater reverence for God in our home and worship?
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Psalm Reading - Psalm 99:1–9

The LORD Our God Is Holy

1 The LORD reigneth; let the people tremble: he sitteth between the cherubims; let the earth be moved.

2 The LORD is great in Zion; and he is high above all the people.

3 Let them praise thy great and terrible name; for it is holy.

4 The king's strength also loveth judgment; thou dost establish equity, thou executest judgment and righteousness in Jacob.

5 Exalt ye the LORD our God, and worship at his footstool; for he is holy.

6 Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among them that call upon his name; they called upon the LORD, and he answered them.

7 He spake unto them in the cloudy pillar: they kept his testimonies, and the ordinance that he gave them.

8 Thou answeredst them, O LORD our God: thou wast a God that forgavest them, though thou tookest vengeance of their inventions.

9 Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy.

Commentary

Psalm 99 brings us back to the central truth of this week's study: *"the LORD our God is holy."* Because He reigns above all people, the proper response to His presence is reverence, worship, and obedience.

The Psalm also holds together two truths about God's character: He forgives, yet He does not treat sin lightly. Moses, Aaron, and Samuel called upon Him and He answered them, but His mercy never required Him to abandon His holiness or justice. This is the same God Isaiah encountered and the same God whose holiness is proclaimed in heaven.

Reverence for God should shape the atmosphere of the home. We worship Him because He is great, obey Him because He is righteous, trust Him because He is faithful, and turn from sin because *"the LORD our God is holy."*

Hymn: “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”

By Reginald Heber (1826)

A classic hymn reflecting Isaiah 6 and Revelation 4

1.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

2.

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

3.

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.

4.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name in earth and sky and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!



Family Application Points

1. Reverence in Worship:

Teach children that worship is not casual. Model quiet, respectful hearts during prayer, reading, and singing. Remove distractions and treat God's Word with awe.

2. Set Apart the Home:

Evaluate what is allowed in the home, media, speech, clothing, attitudes. Remove what defiles. A holy God cannot dwell in an unholy place.

3. Guard the Lord's Day:

Treat the Sabbath with reverence and joy. Avoid turning it into a day of selfish pleasure or chaos. Let it reflect God's holiness through restful worship and order.

4. **Reflect God's Character:**

Encourage each family member to "be holy" in a specific area this week, speech, work ethic, kindness, or modesty. Holiness is practical, not just ceremonial.

5. **Discuss God's Majesty Daily:**

Begin the day or end the night by remembering God's greatness. Read a verse or pray aloud together with focus on His holiness.



A Sabbath Feast Prayer (Used later when the Sabbath Meal is Ready)

"Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your Sabbath - a holy day of rest, joy, and renewal. As we partake in this meal, may our hearts be lifted in gratitude for Your provision and peace. Let this table reflect the peace of Your Kingdom and the love that binds our household together in Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen."



Closing Prayer

O Holy God, You are high and lifted up, clothed in majesty and perfect in purity. Forgive us for treating You lightly, for coming before You with casual hearts or worldly minds. Teach us to tremble at Your Word and to live as people set apart for Your glory. May our home be a sanctuary of reverence, where Your holiness is honored and Your presence is welcomed. Purify our hearts, refine our thoughts, and make us holy as You are holy. In Jesus' name, our Mediator and High Priest, we pray. Amen.