

Evening Sermon Outline – April 25, 2021

“Holy, Holy, Holy!” Psalm 99

In several parts of Scripture, the holiness of God is celebrated. In some of these places there seems to be a hint at the Holy Trinity –

6 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. **2** Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. **3** And one cried to another and said: “**Holy, holy, holy** is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!” Isaiah 6:1–3 (NKJV)

2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and **One** sat on the throne. **3** And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and *there was* a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. **4** Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads. **5** And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. **6** Before the throne *there was* a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. **7** The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. **8** *The* four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: “**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!**” Revelation 4:2–8 (NKJV)

The two passages above are throne room of God passages. They picture for us a sovereign God, reigning as King over Heaven and earth! In the Isaiah passage has the seraphim crying “holy, holy, holy” while the Revelation passage has the four living creatures, crying the same “holy, holy, holy” --- the cherubim mentioned in Psalm 99 are also God’s throne room creatures and if these three kinds of Heavenly creatures are not exactly the same, they all have a similar calling.

All three passages, while emphasizing God’s Holiness, also seem to reference the Holy Trinity: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit –

I. *The Holy reign of God (The Father) is an awesome and fearful thing in Heaven and on earth –*

1 The LORD reigns; Let the peoples tremble! He dwells *between* the cherubim; Let the earth be moved! **2** The LORD is great in Zion, And He is high above all the peoples. **3** Let them praise Your great and awesome name— He is holy. Psalm 99:1-3 (NKJV)

1. *The reign of God in Heaven and earth is spoke of throughout Scripture, here it is first presented as a fearful thing - Let the peoples tremble!*

2. *Dwelling between the “cherubim” is a reference to Heaven and I believe means more than that God is in the sky, but rather He is infinitely above us in every way: more powerful, all knowing, unchanging, infinite, eternal, and holy, separate from us and ABOVE us. We should tremble before Him, ultimately because both our lives and our souls are in His hands –*

4 “**And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. **5** But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!**” Luke 12:4–5 (NKJV)

3. *When God is properly recognized in society the best churches, meaning those most truly committed to Him, will be full and He will be praised!*

II. *The Holy reign of the KING (Jesus Christ, God’s Son) brings justice and equity, and the fear of God, to the earth -*

4 The King’s strength also loves justice; You have established equity; You have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob. **5** Exalt the LORD our God, And worship at His footstool— He is holy.

We are not told specifically in this Psalm Who this King is, but it is clear Who the translator thinks the King is, and that is God, Christ! Christ is the Son of God and the Son of David, He is King, He:

1. *Has strength - :4*
2. *Loves justice - :4*
3. *Establishes equity - :4*

4. *Has executed justice and righteousness in Jacob - :4*
5. *When we exalt the LORD our God - :5*
6. *When we worship at His footstool (earth) - :5*

66 Thus says the LORD: “Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest? Isaiah 66:1 (NKJV)

7. *Again note, He is holy - :5 God the Son our Lord Jesus Christ is Holy*

The Son of God’s holiness is such that He was and is totally different than any mere man who walked the earth, before or after. As believers it is our goal to be like Jesus, to be holy, we are commanded to be holy –

¹⁵ **but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,**
¹⁶ **because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.” 1 Peter 1:15–16 (NKJV)**

8. *Note also, when verse :4 speaks about the King, it is talking about “government”*

When the King is holy, loves justice, is fair, is a craftsman, not a MIGHT-makes-RIGHT beast, but a Christ-like craftsman, society will be right, run by righteous laws, rather than just for the benefit of the politically powerful.

III. The Holiness of the Holy Spirit works in men’s hearts, and bringing about life and regeneration, resulting in PRAYER, a real, vital relationship with God -

⁶ **Moses and Aaron were among His priests, And Samuel was among those who called upon His name; They called upon the LORD, and He answered them. ⁷ He spoke to them in the cloudy pillar; They kept His testimonies and the ordinance He gave them. ⁸ You answered them, O LORD our God; You were to them God-Who-Forgives, Though You took vengeance on their deeds. ⁹ Exalt the LORD our God, And worship at His holy hill; For the LORD our God is holy. Psalm 99:6-9**

1. *In the previous verses, we were speaking about Government – Kings, here we are speaking about a relationship with God, religion and Moses and Aaron - His priests - :6*

2. *Samuel was a judge, a priest and a prophet, but here he is primarily recognized as a man who called upon His name*
3. *All of these men, and many others - They called upon the LORD, and He answered them. :6*
4. *God speaks to them - ⁷ He spoke to them in the cloudy pillar;*
5. *They keep His commands - They kept His testimonies and the ordinance He gave them.*
6. *When they fail, though God punishes, He also forgives – ⁸ You answered them, O LORD our God; You were to them God-Who-Forgives, Though You took vengeance on their deeds. Psalm 99:8*
7. *Again, we are called to exalt our God, worship Him, for He is holy - Psalm 99:9*

“Lord, teach us like Moses to hold up our hands in prayer and conquer Amalek, like Aaron to wave the censer between the living and the dead till the plague is stayed, and like Samuel to say to a guilty people, “God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you;” if thou wilt make us mighty with Thee in prayer, we shall also be kept faithful before Thee in the service which thou hast laid upon us.” C.H. Spurgeon

It is the Holy Spirit Who makes us mighty in prayer –

⁶ **Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Romans 8:26 (NKJV)**

¹⁰ **“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. Zechariah 12:10 (NKJV) See also Ephesians 6:18.**

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