

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

FOR HE IS HOLY

PSALMS 99

Text: Psalms 99:5

Psalm 99:5

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

Introduction:

Sometimes it's hard to put into words when we want to accurately describe something, for instance – “How would you describe God?”

Loving? Merciful? Gracious? Just? What if you could use just one word to describe Him? Could you do it?

There are only 9 verses in this psalm and in these 9 verses we're going to get the answer to the question I asked.

Read Psalms 99

As you can see in this psalm if you could use just one word to describe God I believe it would be “Holy!”

Again, note Isaiah 6:

Isaiah 6:1-3

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.

Holiness is probably the most significant of all of God's characteristics. The word "Holy" in the Greek means separateness, a separation from sin or any kind of evil or impurity. God is the only One who possesses that characteristic in absolute perfection.

Note:

Psalm 111:9

*⁹ He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: **holy and reverend is his name.***

In this Psalm there are two area that show the Holiness of God

Note He is:

1. HOLY IN HIS PRINCIPLES (VS. 4-5)

Psalm 99:4-5

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.

God has a certain way of doing things? So do we, but the difference between the two is that God always operates from Holiness and righteousness and we don't!

That's why He set standards for us. He doesn't come down to our standards, we are to come up to His!

You know why?

Because He is our standard!

The Bible tells us in Isaiah 64:6:

Isaiah 64:6

*⁶ **But we are all as an unclean thing**, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

Understand:

God only moves in one direction – The Right Direction!

He always does the right thing the right way.

And He wants us to do the same.

Micah 6:8

⁸ He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

We are to do the right thing when the opportunity comes.

Look again at our text in verse 4:

Psalm 99:4

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

Remember Jacob?

He's one of the Old Testament patriarchs. He's a key player in the Old Testament.

The 12 tribes of Israel came from him. But did you know how he started out?

He was kind of a low-life! The Bible says he was mild mannered and dwelt in tents.

He didn't even go outside much! He was a mama's boy.

He conned his brother out of his birthright and got the blessing from his dad instead of his brother.

Needless to say, that caused quite a stir and as a result of that he had to flee for his life.

Note what happened? At a place called Bethel, Jacob had a life-changing encounter with the living God and he was never the same! That's what happens when the King establishes righteousness in our lives.

There's a change and we should thank Him for that change every day of our lives.

The one true living God is Holy in His Principles.

He always does the right thing, the right way and as a result, right things take place.

The final thing I want us to see in Psalm 99 about God is that God is:

2. HOLY IN HIS PRESENCE (VS. 6-9)

Psalm 99:6-9

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.

Notice in these verses there are 3 people mentioned here.

You have Moses, the prophet God used to bring the nation out of bondage.

Remember what God told Moses on Mt. Sinai when He spoke to Him from the burning bush?

What did He say?

He said, "Take off your sandals, for the ground on which you stand is Holy ground."

You know why it was Holy?

Because God was there! Even the ground where God is, is Holy!

Aaron is also mentioned here.

Aaron of course, was Moses' brother and was the first high priest. He presented the sacrifices in the Tabernacle. He went into the Holy of Holies.

The high priest had to make sure his life was in order and all sin in his life was confessed before he entered the Holy of Holies. He had to be pure because he was entering the presence of God.

Many of the priest weren't pure, they were defiled and offered sacrifices in the wrong way and it cost them their life!

The high priest had a major responsibility!

Then it mentions Samuel.

Now, Samuel's big moment as the prophet of Israel was when the people kept bugging him about having a king like the other nations.

So God sends them Saul to be Israel's first king and Samuel was the prophet during Saul's reign as king.

The unique thing about Samuel is that the Bible says in I Samuel 3, verse 1

1 Samuel 3:1

¹ *And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. **And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision.***

The Lord wasn't saying much to the prophets, but He did speak to a little boy and called him to be a great prophet of God.

God spoke to those who called upon Him and instructed them and showed them what to do. He's still the same today!

We should be thankful that our Holy God invites us to come to His throne boldly.

Close:

Notice that Psalm 99 uses the phrase "He is Holy" 3 times. He is Holy, He is Holy, He is Holy!

Even though God is Holy and separated from all evil and impurity, He loves a world that's lost in sin. He loves us so much that He sent the One that He loved the most to come and live here among us and be one of us.