

Holiness

By Steve Pruitt

Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the LORD our God is holy!

Psalm 99:9 ESV

After the letters to the seven churches in Asia John begins to record what he saw in his heavenly vision. In chapter four he gives a description of the throne room and tells of the four living creatures who do not rest day and night saying, *Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is and is to come.* What revelation did these creatures have that prompted their "non-stop" worship?

To begin to answer that question we don't have to look much further than their first three words, "Holy, holy, holy." The number three in scripture is often used to signify that something is full or complete. For instance we have the Trinity that consists of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Trinity is the fullness of God. By repeating holy three times these creatures were beholding something that is completely holy. The Greek word used for holy in Revelation 4:8 is *hagios*. *Hagios* means sacred, physically pure and morally blameless. God may be more holy than he is anything else. There is no evil, corruption or sin neither in him nor around him. Wherever his presence resides is holy.

We get a picture of God's holiness in Exodus 3:5 when Moses encounters a burning bush that is not consumed. As Moses approached the bush he is instructed to remove his shoes because the place where he is standing is holy ground. What made that ground more holy than the surrounding areas? God was there in his manifest presence.

The psalmists were aware of the holiness of God having written, *You are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel.* (Psalm 22:3) They also understood that God's holiness was an attribute which entitles him to be worshiped. *Let them praise your great and awesome name--He is holy.* (Psalm 99:3) *Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his footstool--He is holy.* (Psalm 99:5) *Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his holy hill; for the Lord our God is holy.* (Psalm 99:9)

Could it be that today's church has lost its sense of awe at the holiness of God? Could that be the reason that in so many places ritual has taken the place of relationship and true worship? To be true worshipers we must have a revelation of the holiness of God and be in pursuit of holiness in our personal lives. For not only is God holy, he expects holiness from his worshipers. Hebrews 12:14 says, *Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.*

Are you pursuing holiness? Do you take seriously the command to be holy as God is holy? Ask the Father to reveal any obstacles in your life that hinders your pursuit of holiness.

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Scriptures for meditation:

- Psalm 29:2
- Romans 6:19
- Psalm 22:3
- 2 Corinthians 7:1
- 1 Thessalonians 4:7