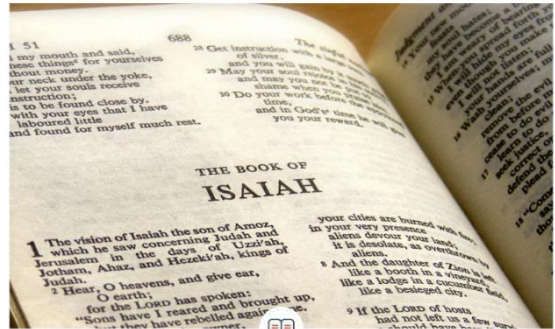


LifeGroup: Seeing God's holiness

Notes 26th October 2025

Introduction

The book of Isaiah is known for the prophet's vision of God being high and exalted, seated on a throne, with angelic beings calling: *"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory"* (Isaiah 6:3). Isaiah is overwhelmed, recognizing the vast gap between God's majesty, power, and purity and his own limitations and guilt. Yet the same holy God who reveals his glory also reaches out to cleanse and commission him.



In Hebrew, the word for “holy,” **kadosh**, means “**set apart**,” “**distinct**,” or “**other**.” To say God is holy acknowledges his complete otherness and uniqueness. His holiness also reflects moral and ethical perfection: everything about God — his will, law, and actions — is perfectly pure, just, and good. Because God is holy, his people are called to reflect that same holiness: *"You shall be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy"* (Leviticus 19:2).

Read Isaiah 57:14–21

At the heart of this passage is a profound truth: holiness is not distant or cold. God's perfect moral beauty does not stand aloof; it reaches down in mercy to restore what is broken.

Read Isaiah 57:15 again.

- **Among whom does the holy God dwell?**
- **What does it mean to be contrite and low in spirit?**
(Leader's guidance: recognizing our need for mercy, admitting our sin and weakness, yielding to God's renewing work.)
- **What do those who are contrite and low in spirit experience?**
(Leader's guidance: God revives them, giving new life, hope, and peace.)

Isaiah also contrasts the humble with the wicked. **Read Isaiah 57:20–21 again.**

- What is the contrasting experience of the “wicked”?

Wickedness is often associated with arrogance, self-sufficiency, and resistant to God's correction. It is their pride that makes them impermeable to grace. They are restless, turbulent, and never at peace, because God's holiness cannot dwell in a heart closed off by pride.

Pride says, *"I can manage on my own."*

Holiness says, *"Come near, and let me make you whole."*

God declares His desire in verse 18:

"I have seen their ways, but I will heal them; I will guide them and restore comfort to Israel's mourners, creating praise on their lips."

The Holy One doesn't crush the broken; he revives them. God's holiness moves toward healing, not destruction.

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If you have time, read together 1 Peter 1:13–22

(If not, go straight to the “Final Thought” and the “Prayer”)

When Peter writes, “Be holy, for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:16), he reminds believers that holiness is not about perfection or being distant from others. Rather, it is about belonging fully to God and reflecting his character in the way we live.

In this passage, notice:

- **How holiness begins with God’s work in us.**
(Leader guidance: Peter says we are born again through the living Word of God [1 Peter 1:23]. Holiness starts when God gives us a new heart through Jesus Christ.)
- **How holiness shapes a new way of thinking and hoping.**
(Leader guidance: In 1 Peter 1:13–15, believers are called to prepare their minds for action and set their hope fully on the grace of Jesus Christ. Holiness means living alert, purposeful, and hopeful lives that look forward to God’s goodness.)
- **How holiness expresses itself in love in action.**
(Leader guidance: [1 Peter 1: 22] True holiness always leads to love. Because God has made our hearts clean, we can love others sincerely — not just in words, but through compassion, forgiveness, and care.)

Final Thought

In Isaiah

*To see God’s holiness rightly is to see both his majesty and his mercy.
The high and holy God stoops low to revive the lowly. True holiness begins not with pride in our goodness, but with humble amazement at his grace.*

In 1 Peter

To be holy is God’s transforming work in us, shaping our hearts, our minds, and our actions so that we reflect his character to the world.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

You are high and lifted up, majestic and holy, yet full of mercy and compassion. Thank you for stooping low to revive the lowly, for reaching into our weakness with grace and healing.

Let your holiness take root in us. Transform our hearts, renew our minds, and guide our actions, that we may reflect your character in every part of our lives. Teach us to live not in pride, but in humble amazement at your grace, walking in hope, love, and obedience.

Amen