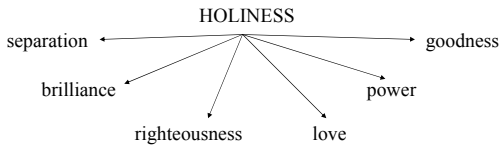




Holiness – what do we really mean?

- ❖ It is what makes God, God -- and us, not God!
- ❖ Fundamentally, it is a statement about God’s character.
- ❖ One of the Wesleyan distinctives is our emphasis on growing in our own holiness. “Be holy, as I am holy.” (Lev 19:2)



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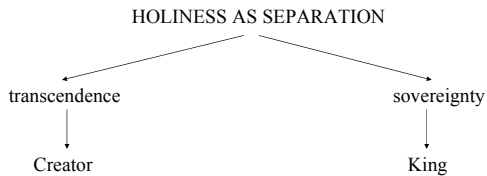
Holiness and the Old Testament Law

- ❖ The law given to Moses and Israel in the Old Testament had two components
 - > Ethical – such as the Ten Commandments, by which we are still live because they express how we are to live in relationship with God and one another
 - > Ceremonial – e.g., sacrifices and laws such as not eating certain foods or not using two types of fiber in a single cloth. Though we are not bound by these laws, they were given to the Israelites to teach them about moral holiness.
 - Some things are holy and acceptable to God; some things are not
 - Some things are clean, some are not; some are holy, some are not
- ❖ In some ways, the OT law is a teaching tool, used to teach God’s people about holiness.

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Holy God as Creator and King



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Holy God – Transcendent Creator

- ❖ God the Creator
 - > The first story of creation!
 - > Isaiah 42:5
- ❖ God as cultivator, builder, and potter
 - > Matthew 21:33-43; 1 Cor 3:6-7; Jer 31:4; Jer 18:1-11
- ❖ Jesus is the creator and giver of life – John 1:1-18
- ❖ The Spirit gives life – Job 33:4; 2 Cor 3:6
- ❖ When we consider God as creator, we think of salvation as the restoration of the image of God in us all. We are regenerated and reborn – there is a new act of creation!
 - > "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new." (2 Cor 5:17)

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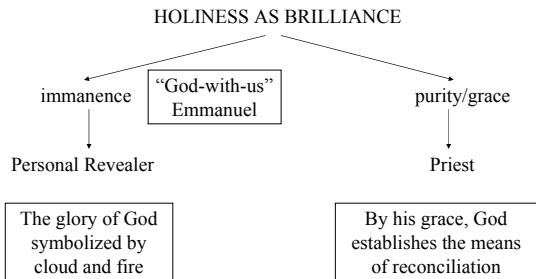
Holy God as King

- ❖ God is King; God is in charge of his kingdom!
- ❖ Israel was never to have an earthly king; the LORD God Almighty was to be their king.
 - > LORD in our Old Testament is based on the Hebrew, *adonai*, meaning Lord or Master. A kingly word stands in for the name of God.
- ❖ *Christ* is another kingly title – meaning Messiah/the anointed one. The kings of Israel were anointed. Jesus is also referred to as Lord – *kyrios* in the Greek. Of course, Jesus is the servant king and master!
- ❖ Images of salvation
 - > God pardons (Exodus 34:9)
 - > We enter the kingdom of God
 - > Anselm – Our sin dishonors the sovereign, whose honor must be restored. While it is humans who owe the "satisfaction;" only God can pay it – hence, Jesus must do for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

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Holy God as Personal Revealer and Priest



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Holy God as Personal Revealer

- ❖ God's immanence = his personal presence
 - > Personal relations, faithfulness, friend
 - "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13)
 - > Remember our relational God
- ❖ God's immanence = his word
 - > God talks with us, revealing his truth
 - > God is a teacher and a prophet
 - Psalm 25:4-5, 8, 9
 - Jesus is *rabbi*, meaning "teacher"
- ❖ This portrait teaches us that salvation is reconciliation and restoration of our personal relationship with God.
 - > Receiving Christ (1 John 1:3; 1 Cor 1:9)

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Holy God as Priest

- ❖ By his grace, God provides the priestly system, providing a means of atonement.
- ❖ Jesus is the High Priest of the New Covenant
 - > Particularly in Hebrews – see Heb 2:17
- ❖ Jesus is also the sacrifice offered to God
 - > "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29)
- ❖ In this portrait, salvation is cleansing and purification
 - Jer 33:8; Isaiah 1:16; 1 Cor 6:11
 - > Jesus' sacrifice, his death on the cross, covers up our sin so it is no longer a barrier between humanity and God, thereby averting God's wrath or making him favorable toward the sinner. See 1 John 2:1-2, Heb 2:17; Romans 3:25.

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