

# Behold Our God: Reflections in Psalms

[Psalm 99](#)

“God is Holy”—October 22, 2023



## Introduction

When we consider the concept of holiness, we are thinking about the “set apart nature” of that object or person. When we consider the holiness of God, we see not only His “apartness” but the moral correctness of His divine nature. All His attributes are bound together and cannot be separated. We must look at the full expression of God’s character, and this aspect of holiness supports all the other attributes. It undergirds every aspect of who God is. Holiness is at the foundation of Who He is.

## Sermon Outline

1. God is holy in His reign. Vs. 1-3
2. God is holy in His justice. Vs. 4-5
3. God is holy in His provision. Vs. 6-9

## Read & Discuss

### 1. Read Vs. 1 – 3

Psalm 99 is part of a collection of psalms that highlight God's reign. As these psalms were to be sung, there was a call to respond. The response here is for the people to tremble and the earth to quake.

When we begin to grasp the holiness of God, it is appropriate to tremble before Him. God has intimate knowledge over all things. He reigns over every circumstance of life. He is sovereign. When you consider that, you begin to truly understand the distance between who we are and Who God is. ([Exodus 15:11](#)) There is a proper response when being confronted with the holiness of God. The vision of God leads to humbled silence and trembling.

First you tremble, then you praise. ([vs. 3](#)) However, we would do well to resist the temptation to praise a tame God made in our own image. His majesty cannot be watered down. He is holy in His reign. What are some of the ways you have heard others describe God? What is your view of God?

**Additional reading:** Ps. 93, 96, and 97; Job 40 and 42; Habakkuk 3; Isaiah 6:1-4

### 2. Read Vs. 4 – 5

God is the sovereign King of everything, and He loves justice. His justice is rooted in His goodness. It is an overflow of His holy nature. However, He is ruthless in the execution of His justice, but it is good, right and perfect.

Do you love justice? Or do you love rules and legislation that benefits you? This deserves serious thought and consideration. We often support the decision that benefits us the most. God loves justice. His righteousness determines His justice.

If we are honest, we put God just one step above us. If we really look at God's absolute wisdom, virtue, and perfection, we have to see who we really are and that equality with God is not to be grasped. We elevate Him. We obey Him. We humble ourselves before Him. We submit to Him. Do you clearly see yourself in light of a sovereign and perfectly just God?

### 3. Read Vs. 6 – 9

When you see yourself for who you are in light of God's holiness, you may ask, what place do we have in His presence? How can we ever draw near? God is holy in His provision of grace.

The priest in the Old Testament would be the ones who would be the go-between for man to God. While imperfect, they were faithful to call out to God on behalf of sinful man. God answered them. Because of the sacrifice, God forgave. How can God be merciful and just? The provision itself had to be holy.

These priests point to another priest. ([Ps. 110](#)) This priest is also a King. ([Hebrews 4:14-5:10](#)) He is a priest who can sympathize with us. He is greater than Moses, Aaron, and Samuel. He would offer Himself as a holy, perfect sacrifice and close the gap between a holy God and sinful man.

Jesus, God's Son is holy. The disciples saw Jesus' power - the "otherness" of Jesus. Over the time that walked with Jesus, they came to see and understand Who He was. They were confronted with the reality of the holiness of God. Have you come to a place of complete agreement with God about who you are? How did you respond? Were you undone like Isaiah, Job, Habakkuk, Peter, or the Psalmist? Our sin in our undoing! But praise God, He answers with grace. He answers with a sacrifice that satisfies the demands of justice and forgives sin. ([1 John 1:9](#)) Have you trusted in Christ and experienced the freedom of God's forgiveness?

**Additional Reading:** Mark 1:21-24; 4:35-41; John 6:67-69; Luke 5:1-8

### **Prayer of Response**

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come. If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at [fbcum.org](http://fbcum.org)

<b>Next week's sermon text:</b> we turn to <a href="#">Genesis 45:1-28</a> " <b>Sent to Save Life</b> "
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