

Chapter Four: The God of the Bible is Holy **None Other by John MacArthur**

“The holiness of God is not to be conceived of as one attribute among others; it is rather a general term representing the conception of His consummate perfection and total glory. It is His infinite moral perfection crowning His infinite intelligence and power.”¹

Warm-Up:

1. **Memory Verse:** Who is like You among the gods, O LORD? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, Awesome in praises, working wonders? (Ex. 15:11)

2. The verse above is part of a hymn of praise and thanksgiving. This section is emphasizing God’s uniqueness. As you treasure this verse in your heart, list out the unique qualities Moses associates to God (Yahweh). Then open your study time with a prayer of praise and thanksgiving.

Prepare and Discuss:

3. Read Isaiah 6:1-6.
 - a. How does Isaiah describe God’s holiness?²

 - b. What did God’s majesty, holiness, and glory make Isaiah realize? (v. 5)

 - c. What needed to happen to Isaiah so that he could remain in the presence of God and live to tell about it? (v. 6)

 - d. Share a time in your own life when you were overwhelmed by God’s holiness. In what way was your response like Isaiah?

¹Archibald Alexander Hodge, *Outlines of Theology*, (New York: Robert Carter and Brothers, 1866), 127-28

²John MacArthur, *None Other: Discovering the God of the Bible*, (Orlando: FL: Reformation Trust, 2017), 68, 80-82.

4. How is God's holiness manifested in each biblical account below?³
- a. The Creation (Gen. 1:31; Ecc. 7:29):
 - b. The Law of God (Ps. 19:7; Rom. 7:12):
 - c. The Judgment of God (Gen. 18:25; 2 Tim. 4:8):
 - d. Heaven (Rev. 4):
5. God's holiness is also revealed in the birth, life and death of Jesus Christ. Read each passage below, then describe how Jesus is set apart. Note down any truths that are new to you.
- a. Hebrews 1:1-3:⁴
 - b. Luke 1:30-35:⁵
 - c. Luke 3:21-22:⁶
 - d. 1 Peter 1:18-19:⁷
6. Explain the two Latin phrases from your reading that theologians use to make an important distinction when referring to Christ's impeccability (absence of sin).⁸
- a. He is *non-posse peccare*:
 - b. He is *posse non peccare*:

³MacArthur, 69-71.

⁴Ibid, 72.

⁵Ibid, 72-73

⁶Ibid, 73

⁷Ibid, 74

⁸MacArthur, 74-75

7. Based on your reading, why is it impossible for Christ to sin?⁹
8. List out ways in which Christ's holy example is an encouragement to you.

Application:

9. Believers will never live up to Christ's perfect holiness this side of heaven. However, Christ's sacrifice grants us positional holiness before God (Heb. 10:10). Yet, God's Word not only describes positional holiness but also practical holiness (1 Pet. 1:14-16). Thankfully, Jesus left us an example so that we might follow in His footsteps. As you read each passage below, summarize how Christ viewed the world, its temptations, and how He responded considering those pressures. Then list specific ways in which you can be an imitator of Him, when faced with similar temptation or difficulty in your own life to the glory of God (Eph. 5:1).

Matthew 4:1-11:

Luke 5:27-32:¹⁰

1 Peter 2:13-17:

1 Peter 2:18-25:

10. End your time by writing out a prayer to God, expressing your thankfulness for His holiness, telling Him you are thankful—then pray it back to Him.

⁹Ibid, 75

¹⁰Ibid, 77-78

Digging Deeper:

To enhance your study and worship time, we invite you to listen to the following sermon given by Pastor John MacArthur: *The Holiness of God* <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/GTY100/the-holiness-of-god>.

Holy, Holy, Holy¹¹

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who were, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy; merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

¹¹Reginald Heer and John B. Dykes, *Hymns of Grace*, 48.