

Awestruck: Reigniting the Awe of Our Salvation

January Week 1 Devotional: “The Holiness of God — Who He Is”

Since 2020, The Chapel has faithfully walked through entire books of the Bible together—Romans, Ephesians, 1 Thessalonians, Matthew, and Hebrews. This kind of verse-by-verse, expository preaching is vital because it helps us understand the whole counsel of God.

As we prayed about the direction for this year, we sensed the Lord leading us to complement that approach with something different on Sunday mornings. While Wednesday nights will continue our verse-by-verse studies, our Sunday gatherings will focus on topical studies centered on the attributes of God**.

This shift supports our 2026 theme: “Awestruck: Reigniting the Awe of Our Salvation.” The goal is simple but profound: to rediscover who God is so that our worship, obedience, and love for Him grow deeper. Each month we will focus on one attribute of God—studying what Scripture teaches, why it matters, and how it should transform our lives. January begins with the holiness of God.

Understanding God’s Attributes

Scripture reveals two categories of God’s attributes:

1. Non-Communicable Attributes (God Alone): These belong uniquely to God and cannot be shared with humanity:

- Self-existence (Acts 17:25)
- Eternity (Psalm 90:2)
- Immutability (Malachi 3:6)
- Omnipresence (Psalm 139:7–10)
- Omniscience (Psalm 147:5)
- Omnipotence (Jeremiah 32:17)
- Sovereignty (Daniel 4:35)

These attributes reveal how great God is and inspire awe.

2. Communicable Attributes (Shared with God’s People): These reflect God’s character and are meant to be displayed in His people:

- Holiness
- Love
- Mercy
- Grace
- Justice

- Faithfulness

These attributes reveal who we are becoming in Christ.

Why I believe God's Holiness Is His Greatest Attribute

Among all of God's attributes, Scripture gives special emphasis to holiness. It is the only attribute repeated three times in succession: Isaiah 6:3 and Revelation 4:8

This threefold repetition signals supremacy and importance. God's holiness is not one attribute among many—it is the foundation of all His attributes. God's love is holy love. God's justice is holy justice. God's mercy is holy mercy. Without holiness, God's attributes would contradict one another. Holiness brings them into perfect harmony.

Three Characteristics Regarding Holiness as it pertains to God:

I. God Is Holy in His Nature

Biblically, holy means "set apart"—utterly unique and morally perfect. God does not merely act holy; He is holy. Holiness is intrinsic to His nature.

Scripture Focus: Isaiah 6:3 — "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts." Revelation 4:8 — "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"

1. God Is Set Apart in His Being

"To whom then will you liken Me, or to whom shall I be equal?" says the Holy One. (Isaiah 40:25). God is unlike anything else in creation—uncreated, eternal, and infinite. Yet, though He is above creation, He is not distant from it.

2. God Is Morally Perfect

God is incapable of evil—not because of limitation, but because evil is contrary to His nature. "You are of purer eyes than to behold evil. (Habakkuk 1:13) "God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone." (James 1:13) God does not conform to a moral standard—He is the standard.

3. God's Holiness Harmonizes All His Attributes

Holiness qualifies everything God does. His love never compromises justice. His mercy never ignores righteousness. His wrath is never sinful. Holiness is the radiant sum of all God's perfections.

II. God Is Holy in His Glory

God's glory is the visible display of His intrinsic worth, beauty, power, and holiness. The Hebrew word for glory carries the idea of "weight"—the overwhelming significance of who God is. Like the sun, God's glory does not increase when we notice it. It simply reveals what has always been true—bringing light, warmth, and life.

- Holiness: Who God is
- Glory : Who God is on display

1. God's Glory Exposes and Purifies

When Isaiah encountered God's glory, his response was confession—not applause: "Woe is me, for I am undone!" (Isaiah 6:5) God's glory produces reverence, not casual familiarity.

2. God's Glory Is Always Righteous

"Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne." (Psalm 97:2) Because God is holy, sin causes us to "fall short of His glory" (Romans 3:23). To miss God's glory is to fail to reflect His holy character.

3. God's Holiness and Glory Meet at the Cross

"The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified." (John 12:23) At the cross, Holiness is upheld (sin judged) and Grace is displayed (sinners saved). God did not set aside His holiness to save us—His glory shines *because* His holiness was satisfied in Christ.

III. God Is Holy in His Authority

God's authority flows from His holy nature. Unlike human authority, His rule is pure, just, and trustworthy.

1. God's Authority Is Intrinsic

"Our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases." (Psalm 115:3) God answers to no one. His authority is not granted—it is inherent.

2. God's Authority Is Morally Perfect

"All His ways are justice... righteous and upright is He." (Deuteronomy 32:4) "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul." (Psalm 19:7) God's commands are always for our good.

3. God's Authority Judges Evil and Protects Righteousness

"He will render to each one according to his deeds." (Romans 2:6) Because God is holy, He must judge sin. Yet His judgment is never unjust or cruel—it is perfectly righteous.

What Does This Mean for Us?

God's holiness calls us to:

- Worship with reverence, not routine
- Approach God through Christ, our mediator
- Pursue holiness, empowered by the Holy Spirit

Reflection Questions

1. How does God's holiness reshape the way you view your salvation?
2. Where might familiarity have dulled your sense of awe?
3. What does pursuing holiness look like in your daily life this week?