



Allow Me to Introduce Myself: The Holy One | Exodus 34:5-9

Exodus 34:5-9

⁵The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. ⁶The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.” ⁸And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped. ⁹And he said, “If now I have found favor in your sight, O Lord, please let the Lord go in the midst of us, for it is a stiff-necked people, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance.”

Exodus 34:5

⁵The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.

Terrible Beauty

Exodus 34:8

⁸And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped

“[Holiness is] the hushed, trembling and speechless humility of the creature in the presence of—whom or what? In the presence of that which is a *mystery* inexpressible and above all creature.” -Rudolph Otto

“How little people know who think holiness is dull. When one meets the real thing...it is irresistible.” -C.S. Lewis

“Holiness is a most beautiful and lovely thing. We drink in strange notions of holiness from our childhood, as if it were a melancholy, morose, sour and unpleasant thing; but there is nothing in it but what is sweet and ravishingly lovely.” -Jonathan Edwards

“Safe?” said Mr. Beaver; “don’t you hear what Mrs. Beaver tells you? Who said anything about safe? ‘Course he isn’t safe. But he’s good. He’s the King, I tell you.”—C.S. Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*

“I have come,” said a deep voice behind them. They turned and saw the Lion himself, so bright and real and strong that everything else began at once to look pale and shadowy compared with him.”—C.S. Lewis, *The Silver Chair*

Do we view God as terribly beautiful, as more awe-inspiring and desirable than anything else? Or do we view God as boring and uninspiring?

Unique Otherness

Exodus 15:11

“Who is like you among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness awesome in glorious deed, doing wonders?”

Isaiah 55:8

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.

⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

“God’s holiness is not simply the best we know infinitely better. We know nothing like divine holiness. It stands apart, unique, unapproachable, incomprehensible and unattainable. The natural [person] is blind to it. He [or she] may fear God’s power and admire His wisdom, but His holiness he cannot even imagine.” -A.W. Tozer

Do we honor God as greater than us? Or do we treat Him as a peer?

Moral Perfection

Psalms 24:3

Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place?

James 1:13

¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.

Do we appreciate and savor God’s moral perfection? Or do we ignore it in order to ignore our own moral imperfections?

Matthew 27:50-51

⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. ⁵¹ And **behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.** And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.