LIFEPAC®

Bible

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BIBLE 1205
ATTRIBUTES OF GOD: HOLINESS AND GOODNESS

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Author **Barry G. Burrus, M.Div, M.A., B.S.**
Editor: Alan Christopherson, M.S.
Illustrations: John W. Mitchell
Kyle R. Bennett, A.S.
Alpha Omega Graphics

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THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD: HOLINESS AND GOODNESS

While studying this LIFEPAC®, you will investigate two **attributes** ascribed to God: His holiness and goodness. In the first section, you will discover how God desires His people to be holy, because He is holy and how this holiness is manifest in the lives of believers. In the second section, you will see how God's goodness flows forth to His creation and touches all that He has brought into being. Through this study you will come to understand that these attributes are not only a part of His character, but also that He has designed that they be communicated to His creation as well.

OBJECTIVES

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAC.

When you have finished this LIFEPAC, you should be able to:

1. Describe God's holiness.
2. Describe His goodness.

Survey the LIFEPAC. Ask yourself some questions about this study. Write your questions here.

I. THE HOLINESS OF GOD

Holiness is God's primary attribute. Understanding this is vital to our understanding of all His other attributes. Because God is Holy, the place of His dwelling, or habitation, is holy by virtue of His presence. Wherever God dwells is affected by His presence and power. Heaven is a holy place. The Tabernacle and Temple where He dwelt were also holy places. His people, must also be holy. God makes His people holy and set apart, or separated, for Him. This separation is evident in His designs for the nation of Israel, the priesthood, and the Church. In this section, we will examine God's holy Person, place, and people.

SECTION OBJECTIVES

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Describe God's holiness.
2. Identify the holiness of each member of the Trinity.
3. Categorize the places that reflect His holiness.
4. Relate God's holiness to His people.
5. Explain how the Bible reveals God's holiness.

VOCABULARY

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

allude	corporate	Incarnation
apostasy	deign	incumbent
attribute	denote	integrity
contrite	essential	profane

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

Read Psalm 33:21, 51, 89, 99:3-9; Hosea 11; John 1:1-14; and 1 Corinthians 2.

HIS PERSON

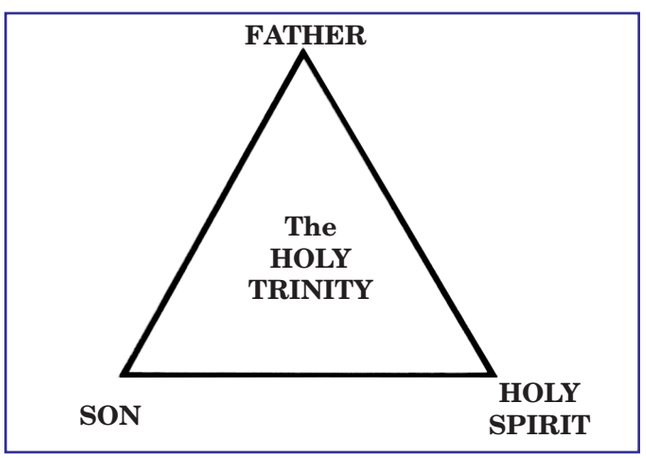
The root verb from which the adjective *holy* is derived actually means *to divide, separate* or *sanctify*. From this definition, we conclude that the holiness of God **denotes** His absolute separation from and exaltation above, His creation.

We learn about the holiness of God exclusively from the Scriptures. Exodus 15:11 expressed His exaltation above any other "gods," as a result of His holiness. From Isaiah 40:25, we realize that the Holy One cannot be equated with anyone or anything in His universe, for He is unique and unparalleled in comparison with created things. Isaiah 5:16 refers to two aspects of His holiness which exalt and set Him apart: justice (judgment), and righteousness. In Habakkuk 1:12 and 15, we see an emphasis on the essential purity of the Holy One, meaning there is nothing corrupt, evil or **profane** in Him. God is set apart from all impurity. His purity will not permit Him to behold evil or look upon iniquity. The Scriptures reveal a holy God who is not only separate and distinct from His creation, but also exalted over it.

The Biblical names of persons and places are usually very significant and expressive of their character. God's name is a holy expression of His Person and character. In Ezekiel 36:20-23 God explains that His judgments have been poured out upon His people because He has taken pity upon His holy name, which they profaned among the heathen. The Lord is jealous for the holiness of His name and will not allow it to be profaned any more, stating that He will make His holy name known in the midst of His people. The virgin Mary, in her song of exultation in Luke 1:49 exalts the name of the Lord as holy, as does the psalmist in Psalm 99:3. In the Psalm delivered by David into the hand of

Asaph and his brethren when the Ark of God was placed in a tent on Mount Zion, he twice refers to the holy name of God (1 Chronicles 16:10-35).

God's holiness is an integral part of His Person and name. It is that by which He swears an oath, as 1 Chronicles 16:16-17 plainly shows. When the Lord desired to establish His covenant with David (Psalm 89:34-36) regarding his seed and throne enduring forever, He swore by His holiness that the covenant would not be broken nor the words of His mouth altered. In Amos 4:2, the prophet recorded that God swore by His holiness that he would cause Israel to go into captivity due to her idolatry. His holiness is the very basis of His **integrity** and righteousness.



Father. Especially in the Old Testament, the way the Lord wanted to be known was by His holiness. Throughout the book of Leviticus, the words "I AM holy" (Leviticus 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:26; 21:3) are constantly repeated. Although no great emphasis is placed on the trinitarian Fatherhood of God in the Old Testament, those passages that do point to his Fatherhood usually make reference to His holiness. Isaiah recognized that the Lord who looks down from heaven, the habitation of His holiness, is the Father and Redeemer of Israel (Isaiah 63:15-16) as well as the Potter who formed them. (Isaiah 64:8). Hosea 11:1-12 records that the Holy One in the midst of Israel is as a Father Who loved His children, calling them out of Egypt, teaching them, helping them to walk, and setting meat before them. Psalm 89:1-4 and Isaiah 55:3-5 both depict the everlasting covenant made by the Holy One of Israel with David and his seed after him, to whom He would be a Father (Psalm 89:26-27). Although a definite reference is made to David himself, the primary emphasis is on the coming Messiah, the Son of the Father. The fulfillment of this prophecy is found in Luke 1:32-33 where Jesus, who will inherit the everlasting throne of His father David, is called the Son of the Most High.

In the New Testament, Jesus Christ revealed more fully that God is our Father, calling Him Holy Father (John 17:11). By virtue of His relationship with His Father and His sustaining those who believe in Him, the Son of God took the concept of a separate, righteous God, and clarified Him as God the Holy Father.

Match these items.

1.1 _____ David
1.2 _____ Isaiah
1.3 _____ Amos
1.4 _____ Mary
1.5 _____ Habakkuk
1.6 _____ Ezekiel
1.7 _____ Asaph

a. musician to whom David delivered his psalm when the Ark was returned
b. spoke of the Lord's holy name in a song of praise
c. psalmist, God swore a covenant concerning his seed and his throne
d. refers to God as Father and Redeemer of Israel
e. recorded God's promise concerning Israel's captivity
f. prophet who spoke of the purity of the Holy One
g. spoke of the Lord's pity and jealousy for His name

Son. Jesus Christ was the holy and divine Son of God, the Second Person of the Trinity. In denying His deity, we claim that He was nothing more than a pitifully insane man.

Jesus is acknowledged as both holy and the Son of God before His birth. In Luke 1:35, the archangel Gabriel assured Mary that, through the power of the Holy Spirit overshadowing her, the child who would born of her would be called "holy, the Son of God" The conception and birth of Jesus was a miraculous and critically important event. Without the virgin birth of Christ, mankind has no hope of salvation, for He would fail to fulfill the Messianic prophecies. Luke 2:23 (quoting Exodus 13:2) states that every firstborn male in a family was called holy to the Lord. However, Jesus' holiness was unique. He was holy due to His conception by the Holy Spirit's power. God becoming man in Jesus Christ is known as the **Incarnation**. Jesus was sinless and holy in His birth, the Son of God, and God the Son.

In His life, Jesus was clearly recognized as the Holy One and Son of God by His disciples. In John 6:69, Peter calls Jesus "the Holy One of God." The early disciples recognized Jesus as the Holy One and the Just (Acts 3:14). They realized that His righteousness and justice are a result of His holiness. In Acts 4:27-30, his disciples, praying to God as Sovereign Lord, twice refer to Jesus as "thy holy servant." Christ clearly communicated to his disciples that God was His Father (e.g., Matthew 10:32-33; 11:27; 16:17; Luke 22:29; 24:49; John 5:17-18; 8:38). The Father gave witness during Jesus' baptism (Matthew 3:17) and transfiguration (Matthew 17:5) that Jesus was His Beloved Son. During the ministry of Jesus, even Satan's unclean spirits recognized and acknowledged Jesus as the Holy One of God (Mark 1:24; Luke 4:34).

Christ's death and Resurrection testify that He was the Holy One of God. Peter (Acts 2:27) and Paul (Acts 13:35) both referred to Psalm 16:10 in proclaiming that Jesus Christ was the Holy One, who experienced no corruption while in the grave. The Redeemer was raised from the dead by the Father (Romans 6:4) and the power of the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 3:18), that He might make us free from the law of sin and death into the law of the Spirit of life in Christ (Romans 8:2).

Christ's Ascension into heaven also illustrates His unique holiness. Hebrews 7:22-28 presents a powerful picture of the heavenly High Priest, who is holy, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens. We see the Son of God, separate from sin and sinners, able to save those who come to God by Him as He ever lives to make intercession for them. Christ's holiness is absolutely essential to His ability to be the Redeemer of mankind.

He is exalted by the song of Moses and the Lamb as the Lord God Almighty who is just and true, the King of saints, and the One who alone is holy (Revelation 15:4). His justice and righteousness are facets of His holiness. We too must join those who sing this marvelous song and worship and praise the Holy One: Jesus, the Son of God!

Complete these activities.

1.8 List five events and/or phases of life in which Christ is declared to be holy.

a. _____ d. _____

b. _____ e. _____

c. _____

1.9 State the words which were used by the following people to describe the holiness of Jesus.

a. archangel Gabriel _____

b. early disciples _____

_____

c. unclean spirits _____

1.10 Name two aspects involving Christ's birth and death that are absolutely essential to His ability to be the Redeemer of mankind.

a. _____

b. _____