

DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

Daily meditation on the Word of God is imperative to our growth. As the people of God, we should commit reading Scripture every day. There are questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and one will be given to you. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number. The number before the colon will tell you the chapter to find. The numbers after the colon are the superscript numbers in your Bible indicating the verses to read.

Monday, August 8th – Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

Well, it is Monday on the campsite, and we are ready to dig into what holy means and what makes God holy. To do this well, we need to start at the beginning. This is the first creation story. It is believed to have been written by the priestly sect and is written as though it were a song of praise for what God has done. We discussed yesterday that holy means to be set-apart or separate, wholly different, or to distinguish as in from something else. It also represents purity and moral perfection. Read through the reading today slowly and out loud to yourself. Do not race through because you know the text but read the text as if it were new to you. As you read, consider what surprises you. What does this reveal to you about who God is? How does the word “holy” fit God? In other words, considering the definition and this text, why is God holy? Consider what was created and what God says about the creation? How does this point to purity and moral perfection? Holy is not a title for God but an attribute of God. It is who God is and God cannot be anything but holy. Now ponder how the world is after Adam and Eve disobey God. Are they pure any longer? Are they morally perfect? Have you disobeyed God? Are you pure and morally perfect? Is holy an attribute of you? God is holy, set apart, separated from us, who are not pure and morally perfect. God is not us and we are not gods. Take time today to ponder the holiness of God and praise him for who he is.

Tuesday, August 9th – Isaiah 55:1-9

As we continue to learn how and why God is holy, let's see holy in action. What is the invitation offered in verses 1-2? What strikes you about these verses? What are the two foods that are being referred to in these verses? What are the differences between the foods? To get the finest food, what do you need to do? Can you acquire this food on your own? Now read verses 3-5. What is God offering us in verses 3 & 4? What activities are we called to do to obtain these gifts (vs. 3)? When David did as God asked, what did God do with and for David (vs. 4)? If we answer and obey, what will God do in and through us (vs. 5)? Now read verses 6-7. What are we asked to do? Notice there are 5 actions: seek; call; change; banish; and turn. From these two verses, what is the difference between God and us? Who is immoral and who is morally perfect? Who are pure and how do you know? Now just to make sure we understand this fully, the difference, the holiness of God, read verses 8-9. What does this tell us about God? How do these words point to God being holy? Did you note that Isaiah attributes these words as coming from God? Take time today and consider where in your life you forget or act like God is not holy? Does your heart stir with sincere reverence and awe from this text? Can you see where God's holiness is both life giving and yet when impurity and immoral come before God's presence the holiness is consuming? Today consider where you personally need to answer the various calls in this text and receive the mercy and forgiveness promised.

Wednesday, August 10th Psalm 47:1-9

Today we will turn to the Psalms and see how they portray the holiness of God. Read through the Psalm noting repeated words. Who is in charge according to this Psalm? How does this Psalm point to the set-apart from us understanding of holiness? Consider verse 9 as you answer that? Have you ever pondered that God is completely other than us and fully describable yet, we use our finite language to describe the infinite God. Read through the Psalm again slowly. What stirs inside of you as you read who God is? What stirs inside of you knowing this is just a small part of the holiness of God. Spend some time praising God for reminding you that He is over all things and all rulers. Then spend the rest of this week resting in that knowledge.

Thursday, August 11th – Job 38 (through 41 if you want a fuller picture)

Today we return to the story of Job. Job has been declaring his innocence before God regarding the tragedies that had befallen him. Finally, at the end of Book, God comes and questions Job. Read through all of chapter 38 and see if you can answer any of the questions that God asks. Remember, we do have some scientific knowledge in regard to part of the answers. There are about 38 questions. How many could you answer? The truth is we understand the methods behind some of these questions like the mother of ice is our freezers or the freezing temperatures in the world. Or we know gravity has something to do with keeping the Gulf of Mexico from covering our properties with water. But how did gravity come to be and how did it come to be set at the precise calculations necessary? Why the formula $f=ma$ (Force = mass x acceleration)? Look at verses 34 and 35. Can we make it rain where there is drought? Can we control lightening in storms stopping it from striking? What is amazing in this text is that while we have some understanding, we cannot make any of this happen, in some cases even on a small scale, only God can. Not only can only God control these things, but God created them all, set them in place and life exists because of it. That, dear readers, is another example of the attribute of holy that is God. Take time to look outside, maybe take a walk, and while you may know some things about the nature that surrounds you, be in awe in that you have not made any of it.

Friday, August 12th – Isaiah 6:1-4 & 40:25

In the Book of Isaiah, Isaiah gives us descriptions of God. In Chapter 6, we read about Isaiah's encounter with God in a vision. This vision is in the throne room of God. Notice we do not get a description of what God looks like but we see his train filled the Temple. What else do we see in this description of God's throne room (vs. 2)? What do these seraphim call out to each other (vs. 3)? In many cases when words are repeated three times it shows completeness. God is completely holy in this song of praise. God's holiness indicates that unlike the world or Isaiah himself, God is morally perfect, pure and set-apart from all sin. God is wholly other than us. Now turn to 40:25. God asks a question. What is it? If you have time, read through verse 31. Some of this sounds like Job. Some of this tells us what holiness looks like when we encounter it in our lives. We have spent a week now looking at holiness and how and why God is considered holy. Today or tomorrow, write down what it means for God to be holy. We will fine tune this as we continue talking around the campfire sharing Holy Smoke stories.

Saturday, August 13th – In preparation for tomorrow's worship, please read Leviticus 15:25-30