**Sermon Title: The Holiness of God Our Savior**

**Sermon Text: Psalm 99**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to a recognition of the innate holiness of God and praise.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 3 aspects of the holiness of God that should empower praise.**

**Introduction:** The theme of the Psalm is summarized in (vv. 3, 5, 9) “the Lord Our God is Holy.” Holiness related to God refers to the utter separateness of God’s being from all other creatures and things, as well as His moral separateness from sin. This Holy God, also desires and pursues an intimate relationship and demonstrates mercy with Israel in the Old Testament and the Church in the New Testament. Therefore, He should be celebrated and praised.

**I. God our Savior is transcendent because of His holiness. Vv.1-3**

**II. God our Savior is immanent because of His holiness. Vv.4-7**

**III. God our Savior is consistent because of His holiness. Vv.8-9**

**I. God our Savior is transcendent because of His holiness. Vv.1-3**

 “Transcendent, this means that God is far ‘above’ the creation in the sense that He is greater than the creation and He is independent of it.” [**Wayne Gruden, “Systematic Theology” An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine, p.267**]

 God is distinct from His creation. He is not part of it, He has made it and rules over it.

 A. The **proclamation**. V.1a

 B. The **position**. V.1b

 He sits enthroned above the cherubim. The Ark of the Covenant was regarded as the throne of the invisible God.

 **Psalm 80:1** Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock; You who dwell *between* the cherubim, shine forth!

 **Psalm 18:6-19** In my distress I called upon the LORD, And cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry came before Him, *even* to His ears. **7** Then the earth shook and trembled; The foundations of the hills also quaked and were shaken, Because He was angry. **8** Smoke went up from His nostrils, And devouring fire from His mouth; Coals were kindled by it. **9** He bowed the heavens also, and came down With darkness under His feet. **10** And He rode upon a cherub, and flew; He flew upon the wings of the wind. **11** He made darkness His secret place; His canopy around Him *was* dark waters *And* thick clouds of the skies. **12** From the brightness before Him, His thick clouds passed with hailstones and coals of fire. **13** The LORD thundered from heaven, And the Most High uttered His voice, Hailstones and coals of fire. **14** He sent out His arrows and scattered the foe, Lightnings in abundance, and He vanquished them. **15** Then the channels of the sea were seen, The foundations of the world were uncovered At Your rebuke, O LORD, At the blast of the breath of Your nostrils. **16** He sent from above, He took me; He drew me out of many waters. **17** He delivered me from my strong enemy, From those who hated me, For they were too strong for me. **18** They confronted me in the day of my calamity, But the LORD was my support. **19** He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me.

 The Ark of the Covenant was the central symbol of God’s presence with His people Israel, its mysteries remained veiled within the inner sanctuary of the living God. (**1 Kings 6:23-28**)

 C. The **place**. V.2

 Zion is poetic description of the city of Jerusalem, seemly used by Old Testament writers when special spiritual and religious significance was being attached to the city. This was God’s chosen center of worship. (**Psalm 122; 125; 132; 133**)

 1. His is high above the people.

 **Psalm 57:9** I will praise You, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing to You among the nations.

 **Psalm 67:3** Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You.

 D. The **praise**. V.3

 He is an awe-inspiring name (lit. “to be feared”) denoting both respect and worship.

 (**vv.3, 5, 9**)

 **Isaiah 6:3** And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy *is* the LORD of hosts; The whole earth *is* full of His glory!"

 Holy in the fact that, “Separation from all that is common or unclean. In respect to God, holiness means not only that God is separate from all that is unclean and evil, but also that God is positively pure and thus distinct from all others.”

 Application: “The absolute, innate Holiness of God means that sinners have to be separated from Him unless a way can be found to constitute them holy. And that way has been provided in the merits of Jesus Christ.” [**Charles C. Ryrie, “Basic Theology” p.42**]

**II. God our Savior is immanent because of His holiness. Vv.4-7**

 The technical term used to speak of God’s involvement in creation is the word “immanent,” meaning “remaining in” creation.

 The God of the Bible is not an abstract deity removed from, and uninterested in His creation. The Bible is the story of God’s involvement with His creation, and particularly the people in it.”

 [**Ibid., p.267**]

 **Job 12:10** In whose hand *is* the life of every living thing, And the breath of all mankind?

 **Acts 17:25** "Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.

 **Acts 17:28** "for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said,`For we are also His offspring.'

 **Colossians 1:17** And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

 **Hebrews 1:3** who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged oursins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

 **Ephesians 4:6** one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in youall.

 A. The King **exacts** loving justice. V.4a

 B. The King **establishes** equity. V.4b

 C. The King **executes** justice. V.4c

 D. The King **exemplifies** righteousness. V.4d

 “Though related to holiness, righteousness is nevertheless a distinct attribute of God. Righteousness relates to God’s justice. Righteousness has to do with law, morality, and justice.” [**Ibid. p.48 (Ryrie)**]

 Nothing in God’s actions or lack of actions, or nature violates the law of God, morality, or justice.

 Therefore, we are to exalt the Lord our God, and worship at His footstool (v.5). Footstools were included with the thrones of the Kings of Israel.

 **2 Chronicles 9:18** The throne *had* six steps, with a footstool of gold, *which were* fastened to the throne; there were armrests on either side of the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the armrests.

 For He is holy.

 E. Example of the Immanency of God by prayerfulness. V.6

 They all served as intercessory and prophet roles as priest administering God’s justice among His people. They communed and communicated closely with God, obeying and teaching His commands.

 These were 3 of the nation of Israel’s famous heroes given as examples, the psalmist is demonstrating that the Holy God has had an endearing, intimate, and saving relationship with His people.

 **1 Samuel 7:9** And Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered *it as* a whole burnt offering to the LORD. Then Samuel cried out to the LORD for Israel, and the LORD answered him.

 **1 Samuel 12:18** So Samuel called to the LORD, and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day; and all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel.

 **Exodus 14:19** And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them.

 **Exodus 16:10** Now it came to pass, as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.

 **Exodus 33:9** And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood *at* the door of the tabernacle, and *the LORD* talked with Moses.

**III. God our Savior is consistent because of His holiness. Vv.8-9**

 A. He is consistent to **answer** prayer. V.8a

 B. He is consistent to **forgive** sins. V.8b

 C. He is consistent to **discipline** His children. V.8c

 **Hebrews 12:1-5** Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **2** looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **3** For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. **4** You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. **5** And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;

 Therefore, His people ought to exalt (praise, celebrate, worship) because He is Holy!