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Part I: The Glory of God and His Holiness (Ken Walston – Kenna Outreach Ministries)

I wish to humbly begin by proclaiming, that by no means do I want to pretend that I have any exact knowledge or understanding to either the fullness of the Glory of God or His Holiness, nor should it be said that any man (excluding the Living Son of God-Yeshua ADONAI) ever created and born by natural means into the fallen state of this world has ever seen It either (Past, Present or Future). In many references throughout the Judeo-Christian Bible, the translation of the phrases "His Glory" or "His Glory was revealed", is in reference to His Presence or manifestation of His Essence. The closest thing man has experienced is the Essence of God's Glory or Holiness which was revealed to only one man and that was Moses and not Face to Face, but from His Backside. Not even with Abraham, the Father of all Nations, did God reveal Himself in such fashion. Any documented references of manifestations or visitations by angels did not reflect the Glory of God, but only the Essence of Him; and any reference to what appeared to be the Son of Man or ADONAI in human form (like with the visitation at Abraham's tent of the three angelic beings dealing with the sins of Sodom & Gomorrah, or with the Transfiguration of Yeshua- *Matthew 17:1-2*), is in fact a suppression of God from His True Glory down to a lower level of earthly incarnation in order to meet us at our level. The human form of God does not reflect His *Shekinah*, but rather Glorification between the Father and the Son in Their relationship as the Godhead, by which the Son could then be seen as reflecting the Glory of God. In all instances, it is suppressed beyond our understanding in order that He may appear in the form of the highest order of creation (Human) and communicate to us. If He did not filter or suppress His Glory in His appearance to us, our flesh body, due to its inherent sin nature, would burn up at the very sight of Him. Thus, His sustaining Truth and Knowledge of His Glory is through the Holy Spirit and manifested through the Body of Mashiach (the Church).

God's Glory, whatever that is and whatever form it may be in Heaven, is something that no man has ever seem. It is something that exists and resides in the Abode of God; and by His Perfection, Purity and absolute Holiness, cannot be shared with any man or creature under the creation. This includes many of the Angelic Beings that reside in the Presence of God and worship Him relentlessly since the beginning of all creation in Heaven. The Seraphim (Seraph), who are the highest order of the hierarchy of angelic beings, are the closest to the Throne of God, in the direct Presence of God and they reflect the Essence and Power of God's Glory on them and even through them. They were created with six enormous wings, two that cover their legs and feet, two that cover their face and two that they fly with (*Isaiah 6:2-3*). They are called the "Fiery Beings", because of their fiery appearance reflecting God's Eternal Glory. They fly around the Throne singing Praise to the Most High, "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God of Hosts, the ruler of Heaven and Earth", "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!". They constantly sing Praises that reflect the continuing essence of what the Glory of God is expounding through His creation, both in Heaven and on Earth, the never-ending expanse of what God's Glorified Being is and the awesome and Eternal Power that emanates through Him.

Even Adam, in his created state of perfection, did not see the Glory of God in full measure. In the Book of Genesis, it reveals that God always called out to the man (Adam) and the man would

reply. It mentions that God brought every living creature He had made to the man so he could name them. Adam walked with God, had communion with Him, but not a physical manifestation of being, rather though the Holy Spirit that God had breathed into Adam, where at the moment He gave Life to the Man, and he became a Living Being.

What we bring to Him through our Faith in Yeshua ADONAI is Glorification (Praise and Honour), reverence to His Holy Name. In our finite minds of only being able to consider understanding and discovery through the physical means afforded by God, in regard to His physical creation, we've lost what that first man had, the ability to interact with the Holy God without restraint from sin being activated, the Holiness of thought and being (Spirit). Can you even imagine what it must have been like for Adam to be in a state of perfect being, filled with the Holy Spirit, not having the knowledge or understanding of "Good" verses "Evil", completely innocent and pure (naked) in thought and existence before God, to have been thrusted into such knowledge through the act of disobedience and in the Sight of God, blasphemy. To have to go from Communion with God, into the Judgement of God. To pass from Life into Death, to have the Holy Spirit depart from him and be an incarnate of sin (separation from God in perfect standing and purpose). Instead of knowledge and understanding, he received confusion and doubt as to his purpose and being. The essence of God's Glory was in the background, and the knowledge of evil was now prominent, and death was pronounced and lurking in the future for him and all mankind.

Part II: What does it mean that God is Holy, Holy, Holy

The phrase "Holy, Holy, Holy" appears twice in the Bible, once in the Old Testament-Tanakh (Isaiah 6:3) and once in the New Testament-HaBrit HaChadasha (Revelation 4:8). Both times, the phrase is sung by angelic creatures (Seraphim), and both times it occurs in the vision of a man who was transported to the Throne of God: first by the prophet Isaiah and then by the Apostle John. Before addressing the three-fold repetition of God's Holiness, it is important to understand what exactly is meant by God's Holiness, He is Holy (*Kodesh*).

The Holiness of God is the most difficult of all God's attributes to explain, partly because it is one of His essential attributes that is not shared inherently by man. We are created in God's image, and we can share many of His attributes, to a much lesser extent of course—love, hope, faithfulness, mercy etc., but some of God's attributes, such as omnipresence, omniscience, and omnipotence, will never be shared by His created beings. Similarly, Holiness is not something that we will possess as an inherent part of our nature; we only share in Holiness with our relationship to Yeshua ADONAI. It is an *imputed* Holiness. Only in ADONAI do we "become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21). God's Holiness is what separates Him from all other beings, what makes Him separate and distinct from everything else. God's Holiness is more than just His perfection or sinless purity; it is the essence of His "otherness," His Transcendence. God's Holiness embodies the mystery of His Awesomeness and causes us to gaze in wonder at Him as we begin to comprehend just a little of His Majesty.

Isaiah was a firsthand witness of God's Holiness in his vision described in Isaiah 6. Even though Isaiah was a prophet of God and a righteous man, his reaction to the vision of God's Holiness was to be aware of his own sinfulness and to despair for his life (Isaiah 6:5). Even the angels in God's presence, those who were crying, "Holy, Holy, Holy is the LORD Almighty," covered their faces and front covering with four of their six wings. Covering the face and front covering no doubt denotes the reverence and awe inspired by the immediate presence of God (Exodus 3:4-5). The Seraphim stood covered, as if concealing themselves in recognition of their inability to stand in the presence of the Holy One, but only reflect His Glory; and if the pure and Holy

Seraphim exhibit such reverence in the presence of YAHWEH (**IAM**-*Ehyeh*), with what profound awe should we, polluted and sinful creatures, presume to draw near to Him! The reverence shown to God by the angels should remind us of our own presumption when we rush thoughtlessly and irreverently into His Presence, as we often do because we do not understand His Holiness.

John's vision of the Throne of God in Revelation 4 was similar to that of Isaiah. Again, there were living creatures (Seraphim) around the throne loudly crying, "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty" (Revelation 4:8) in reverence and awe of the Holy One. John goes on to describe these creatures giving Glory and Honor and Reverence to God continually around His throne. Interestingly, John's reaction to the vision of God on His Throne is different from Isaiah's. There is no record of John falling down in terror and awareness of his own sinful state, perhaps because John had already encountered the risen Yeshua (HaMashiach) at the beginning of his vision (Revelation 1:17). Yeshua had placed His hand upon John and told him not to be afraid. In the same way, we can approach the Throne of Grace if we have the hand of Yeshua upon us in the form of His Righteousness, exchanged for our sin at the cross (2 Corinthians 5:21).

But why the three-fold repetition "Holy, Holy, Holy", (called the *Trihagion*)? The repetition of a name or an expression three times was quite common among the Jews. In Jeremiah 7:4, the Jews are represented by the prophet as saying, "The temple of the Lord" three times, expressing their intense confidence in their own worship, even though it was hypocritical and corrupt. Jeremiah 22:29,Ezekiel 21:27, and 2 Samuel 18:33 contain similar three-fold expressions of intensity. Therefore, when the angels around the throne sing or cry to one another, "Holy, Holy, Holy", they are expressing with force and passion the truth of the Supreme Holiness of God, that essential characteristic which expresses His Awesome and Majestic Nature.

In addition, the *Trihagion* expresses the Triune Nature of God, the three Personages of the Godhead, each equal in Holiness and Majesty. Yeshua ADONAI (HaMashiach) is the Holy One who would not "see decay" in the grave but would be resurrected to be exalted at the right hand of God (Acts 2:26;13:33-35). Yeshua is the "Holy and Righteous One" (Acts 3:14) whose death on the cross allows us to stand before the throne of our Holy God unashamed. The third Personage of the Trinity—the Holy Spirit (Ruach HaKodesh) by His very name denotes the importance of Holiness in the essence of the Godhead.

Finally, the two visions of the Seraphim around the throne crying, "Holy, Holy, Holy", clearly indicates that God is the same in both Testaments. Often, we think of the God of the Old Testament as a God of Wrath, and the God of the New Testament as a God of Love. But Isaiah and John present a unified picture of our Holy, Majestic, Awesome God who does not change (Malachi 3:6), who is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8), and "with whom is no variableness nor shadow of turning" (James 1:17)

Part III: The Command for Grace and Mercy

Leviticus 19:11
You shall not Lie.
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

This mitzvah (Commandment) is in reference to the Law of Action verse Consequence.
All of the Law of Moses (including the 10 Commandments) dealt with man's inherent evil (Sin) causing a sin nature to be morphed through each human because of their fallen state or separation from God due to sin. The true intent of the Law was to convict and rebuke man because of their separation from God and

to show man that there is Nothing we can do to make the wrong (sin) right with God. The Law kept man bound to Sin. There is NO Forgiveness in the Law, only accusation and judgment.

Romans 6:14
For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under The Law, but under Grace (God's Graceful Nature).

Galatians 5:18
But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.

So, the First Covenant of God (Old Testament) is still given by God and shall be in everlasting order before the Lord but has no binding force and restriction since the Second Covenant (New Testament) is now empowered to the Church (Body of Mashiach in Yeshua ADONAI). The Law bound men to their sin and required conformance to deeds and rituals to appease God's Wrath, so God could give atonement (Cover Up) for their sin, but the death and resurrection of Mashiach (Yeshua) has replaced the Law with Forgiveness and given Propitiation (Removal) of sin forever. Now everything that was dealing with sin and the death that was associated to sin, is now replaced by God's Gracefulness and is associated to Everlasting Life.

1John 2:22
Who is a liar? Who else but the person who rejects Yeshua ADONAI. This person who rejects the Father and the Son is an antichrist.

The Lawful Order of human righteousness through obeying the ordinance of the Law is now replaced by the Graceful Mercy of God's Everlasting Covenant with all of humankind and is delegated to a higher order of magnitude, which stands in Spirit of Truth and Righteousness before the Lord God Forever. Amen!
There is NO condemnation under Grace, no reason for forgiveness and no reason for repenting, for all things fall under the Grace of God through the Propitiation that Yeshua ADONAI did when He willfully gave His life as the Lamb of God; and took our place (all of humankind) as the Sin Offering (Atonement) according to the Law and replaced it with the Grace Offering and imposed Forgiveness and Propitiation of all our sins forever.

The Liar says that you have to do good works and keep from sinning and repenting continually in order to be forgiven; and the Truth of the Spirit says that you need not do anything in works in order to be forgiven, for Yeshua has paid the price for our sins in full on the Cross. That our Salvation comes first from the Propitiation of all sin through Yeshua and our testimony in Faith which proclaims Him to be Lord and God of our lives "Saves" us!