**THE DECEPTION OF OTHER GODS**

Sunday School Lesson 1

*Deceptions of the Devil*

1 Samuel 2:2

8/22/2021

**Introduction:** For our last lesson in this series, we are going to consider the holiness of God. First, let’s recap everything that we have learned throughout the last three months regarding God and His nature. We started this series with a look at the Lord’s self-existence. We noted that He is an infinite God. He is the Alpha and Omega. Next, we considered His immutability. This is referring to the fact that the Lord never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. We then spent three weeks on the “omni” attributes of the Lord. He is omnipresent, omnipotent, and omniscient. He is in all things, and He is all-powerful. Additionally, this means that He is all-knowing. There is nowhere that man can escape to avoid the presence, knowledge, and power of God. The Lord is also self-sufficient. He does not need anything from anyone. He exists within Himself and by Himself. We then looked at the jealousy, love, and mercy of God. These three attributes work closely together. God’s loving nature emphasizes His jealousy. God’s loving nature powers His wonderful mercy. God is love. Lastly, we reflected upon the Lord’s justice and faithfulness. The Lord is impartial in His dealings with man. He always handles us justly, and He is faithful in all that He does as well. Some other attributes of God that were not studied individually but were mentioned during this series are His truthfulness, goodness, transcendence, longsuffering, and wisdom. Let’s quickly define *holy* now. It is best defined as proper, whole, pure, entire, perfectly good, or perfect. Also, it may refer to hallowed, consecrated, or sacred.

1. **THERE IS ONLY ONE WHO IS HOLY. THE LORD IS HOLY, HOLY, HOLY.**
2. **Notice that He is referred to as the Holy One throughout the Bible (2 Kings 19:22; Job 6:10; Psalm 16:10, 71:22, 78:41, 89:18; Isaiah 1:4, 5:19, 10:17, 12:6, 17:7, 43:3-15; Ezekiel 39:7; Hosea 11:9).** The Lord is the Holy One in the midst of us. This title is only for the Lord. It is found so frequently in the Bible that there was insufficient space to list all of the references in the lesson. The title denotes a clear difference between Him and everyone else. Often, the title is listed as the Holy One of Israel. While the nation was supposed to be a holy nation, there is One that has always been at the center of that nation. He is the symbol of holiness for the rest of the world. His purity and righteousness consecrate Him from everyone else. He is naturally set apart; therefore, we need redemption and reconciliation back to the Lord. We cannot stand in the presence of His holiness. Devils detest His holy presence. This is why the devils told the Lord to let them alone. They knew that He is the Holy One (Mark 1:24). During His earthly ministry, the Lord stood out in His holiness, but He was still sadly reviled by men (Acts 3:14).
3. **Notice that He is not just holy. He is holy, holy, holy (Isaiah 6:3, 40:25; Revelation 4:8, 15:4).** There are only seven times in the Bible where something is repeated perfectly in triplicate. Two of those instances reference the same thing – the holiness of God! He is called holy, holy, holy. It is the only attribute in the entire Bible that is repeated with this amount of emphasis. Truly, there is no one who is holy like the Lord. He is the thrice holy God. In both texts, we find heavenly beings crying out about the holiness of the Lord. In Revelation 4:8, we are told that these beasts in Heaven called the Lord holy, holy, holy both day and night. They never cease from calling Him by this title! Is there anything in all of Scripture that speaks to the extent of the Lord’s holiness more than this verse? The Bible does not say this expressly, but the impression that we are given from Revelation 4 is that these beasts will be crying this out for all of eternity. When we stop to truly consider the holiness of God, it should cause us marvel and praise Him for who He is. Consider this next time you sing the phrase holy, holy, holy.
4. **THE PLACE WHERE THE LORD DWELLS IS HOLY.**
5. **Notice that wherever the Lord dwells is considered a holy place (Isaiah 57:15, 63:15; Exodus 3:5, 26:34, 28:29; Joshua 5:15; Deuteronomy 26:15; 2 Chronicles 30:27; Psalm 11:4, 20:6).** Both Moses and Joshua were instructed to take off their shoes because they stood on holy ground. Why was the ground holy? The presence of the Lord was there. The Lord dwells in holy places. The inner most part of the tabernacle had the most holy place. The presence of the Lord was regarded as being there in that place. Only the high priest would dare to enter into there, and he had to follow very specific guidelines. The results of not following those guidelines were swift and harsh. Heaven is also called the holy habitation of the Lord. It is a holy place. It must be separated from this wicked world because the world is not holy. Revelation 21:1-4 tells us that the holy city of New Jerusalem will one day come down and again be with man. This won’t happen, though, until after the Lord creates the new heaven and the new earth. God in all of His holiness will dwell with mankind.
6. **Notice that the holy Lord God dwells within His present-day temple (1 Corinthians 3:17; Ephesians 1:4, 2:21; 1 Peter 1:15-16; Romans 12:1).** That present-day temple is the believer. When we consider the prior thought regarding the holy dwelling places of the Lord, the thought that we are His current dwelling place ought to convict us greatly regarding the condition of our bodily temple. 1 Corinthians clearly tells us that this temple is a holy temple. Since the Lord dwells there, it must be holy. Consequently, 1 Thessalonians 4:7 tells us that God has called us unto holiness. While we know that the only way possible for us to be considered holy enough for the Lord’s dwelling is the perfect intercession of our great High Priest, we are also told in the Word of God that we are to be holy. Romans 12:1 commands us to present our bodies as a holy, living, and acceptable sacrifice. The best analogy of this would be to consider how we behave when we know that we have visitors coming over to our home. We work harder to make our home presentable. The holy, holy, holy God dwells within us. Be ye holy!
7. **THE NAME OF THE LORD SHOULD ALWAYS BE HOLY.**
8. **Notice that there should be great rejoicing and a heart of thanksgiving at the holy name of the Lord (1 Chronicles 16:10-35, 29:16; Psalm 33:21, 99:3, 105:3, 106:47, 111:9, 145:21; Luke 1:49).** I love the words of Mark found in Luke 1. Upon hearing the blessed news of the arrival of the Saviour, Mary spoke words of rejoicing unto the Lord. Notice what is said in Luke 1:49. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. Mary praised the holy name of the Lord. None of us can claim to have a holy name. We might strive for a good name, but a holy name escapes us. The Lord is very pleased with His name. He knows that it is holy. He loves His holy name. We can see this from how often His name is regarded as holy in the Bible. The response at the name of the Lord from us as believers ought to be rejoicing and thanksgiving. When we hear His name, what is our reaction? We all have reactions when certain names are spoken. Do we act like the Lord’s name is holy, or do we diminish the value and purity of His name?
9. **Notice that the Lord takes action to preserve the holiness of His name (Ezekiel 36:22, 20:39; Amos 2:7; Leviticus 20:3, 22:2-32; John 17:11; Psalm 106:8).** We know that the Lord will take action for the sake of His name. Since His name is holy, then we understand that He will do whatever is necessary to keep His name holy. He regularly proves the holiness of His name on this earth. There are several accounts throughout the Old Testament where a child of God called upon Him to act in accordance with His name. The Lord Jesus Christ also called upon His Holy Father to act according to His name. He called for the Father to keep through His own name. Despite the holiness of the Lord’s name, there are still those in this world who disparage and blaspheme His name. It seems that it is all too common today for the name of the Lord to be ill-spoken of by people all around us. His name is used in vain on regular, daily occurrence. The Lord is greatly displeased with this, but He is also displeased with the believers who profane the holy name of the Lord with their words and actions.
10. **THE MEMBERS OF THE GODHEAD ARE TOTALLY HOLY – FATHER, SON, AND SPIRIT.**
11. **Notice that the Son and the Father are equal in their holiness. They are both called the Holy One (Hebrews 7:26; Revelation 3:7; Acts 4:27-30; Isaiah 30:15; Luke 4:34; John 17:11; Psalm 99:5-9).** The title of the Holy One is not just for the Father or just for the Son. They share this title together. The Old Testament is filled with references to the holiness of God the Father. The New Testament speaks on several occasions regarding the holiness of the Son. The unbelieving Jews of that day rejected the equal holiness that the Son has with His Father. They did not see Jesus as that holy High Priest. Those who believed saw Him for who He is. The book of Acts refers to Jesus as the holy child. He did not reach holiness when He became an adult on this earth. He was born holy. In fact, before He was born, He was already holy. We could also consider the holiness of the Word of God. Romans chapter one and seven both mention the holiness of the Bible. Since the Word is Christ, we have further support for His holiness.
12. **Notice that the Spirit of the Lord is most often named as the Holy Spirit (Psalm 51:11; Isaiah 63:10-11; Luke 11:13; John 14:26; Ephesians 4:30; Acts 2:4; Matthew 12:31).** Have you ever stopped to consider that the Spirit of God is regarded routinely in the Bible as the Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost? It seems that we have become so familiar with His name that we don’t even take the time to fully acknowledge that His Spirit is holy. What significance does that carry for us? First, it tells us that we ought to be careful not to grieve the holiness of His Spirit. It is sinfulness and uncleanness that grieves holiness. Additionally, the Bible warns about blaspheming the Holy Spirit of God. His Spirit should not be undermined or ignored. His Spirit is just as holy as the Heavenly Father and His only begotten Son. We ought to revere the Spirit with the same enthusiasm and respect that we give unto God the Father and God the Son. All members of the Godhead are perfectly and completely holy!