

THE BIBLE CALLS GOD HOLY MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, MORE THAN SOVEREIGN, MORE THAN JUST, MORE THAN MERCIFUL, OR LOVING. HOLY IS THE ONLY EPITHET OF GOD THAT IS REPEATED THREE TIMES FOR EMPHASIS: HOLY, HOLY, HOLY.

James Montgomery Boice

The LORD reigns! Let the peoples tremble.
He is enthroned above the cherubim.
Let the earth quake.

² Yahweh is great in Zion;
He is exalted above all the peoples.

³ Let them praise Your great
and awe-inspiring name.
He is holy.

⁴ The mighty King loves justice.
You have established fairness;
You have administered justice
and righteousness in Jacob.

⁵ Exalt the LORD our God;
bow in worship at His footstool.
He is holy.

⁶ Moses and Aaron were among His priests;
Samuel also was among those calling on His name.
They called to Yahweh and He answered them.

⁷ He spoke to them in a pillar of cloud;
they kept His decrees and the statutes He gave them.

⁸ LORD our God, You answered them.
You were a forgiving God to them,
an avenger of their sinful actions.

⁹ Exalt the LORD our God;
bow in worship at His holy mountain,
for the LORD our God is holy.

SPEAKING FROM THE PILLAR

PSALM 99

The psalm is filled with images of worship and the reign of the Lord. We are introduced to the cherubim, the wonder of Zion, worship at the throne of the Almighty, the ministry of the Law and the Prophets, and the words of God coming from a pillar.

The cherub (plural, cherubim) is first mentioned in Genesis 3:24. They are not described, but their job is to guard the way to the tree of life. They carried a flaming sword in performing their duties.

Theologians assume they are angelic beings. As Moses was instructed to make representatives of the cherubim at the ends of the Mercy Seat, they are winged creatures. Their job guarding the Ark is emphasized.

Cherubim are also mentioned in Exodus, 2 Samuel 22:11, several psalms, and Ezekiel 4. In Ezekiel their faces are described as that of a bull, a lion, an eagle and a man.

