

***One of the unanswered
questions in a postmodern
age is:***

***What is the meaning
of it all?***

Edward Carnell
(Philosopher)



“I am a Christian in part
because it provides a story
that, better than any other,
gives meaning to what I
experience inwardly and
observe outwardly in this
world.”

***The one characteristic of God that all of
the world's great religions share is***



***“Holy, Holy, Holy
is the Lord God almighty”***

***Divine
Holiness***

“God is light, and in Him
there is no darkness at all.”
— 1 John 1:5

***“Holiness is the most
important single
attribute of God.”***

Augustus H. Strong
(Father of Baptist theologians)

***If we fail to see God's
holiness, we will fail to fully
appreciate all of the other
important attributes of God.***

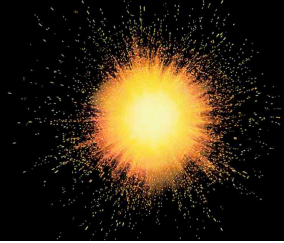
Matthew 6

“²² The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!”

Holiness = set apart as undefiled

Majestic power

God is the infinite
“I AM” the first cause
of all that exists.



Moral purity

God is perfect love
and the light of life.



Majestic power

Moral purity

Isaiah 6

“³ And one called out to another and said, “Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory.” ⁴ And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke.

Isaiah 6

“⁵ Then I said, “Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.” ⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. ⁷ He touched my mouth with it and said, “Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven.””

Majestic power

Moral purity

John 1

“¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.”

John 1

“⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. ⁹ There was the true light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.”

Majestic power

Moral purity

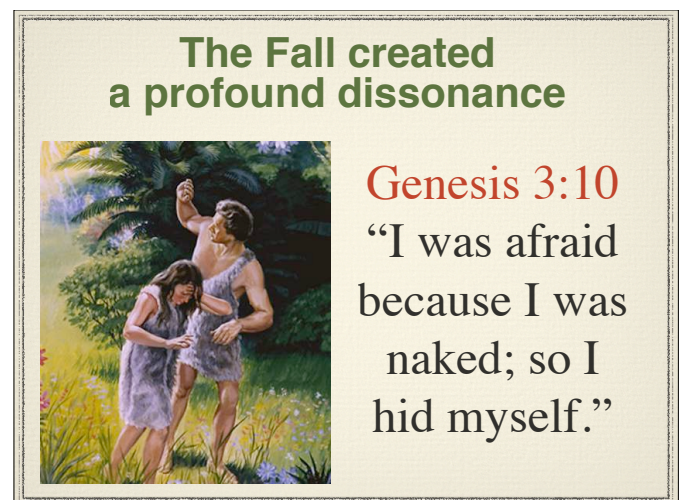
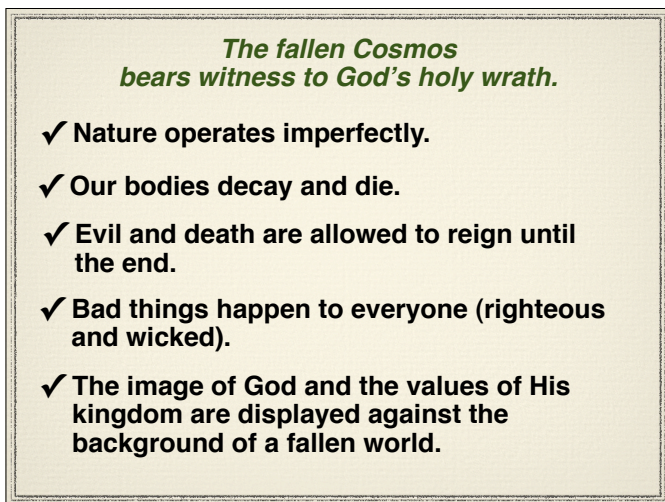
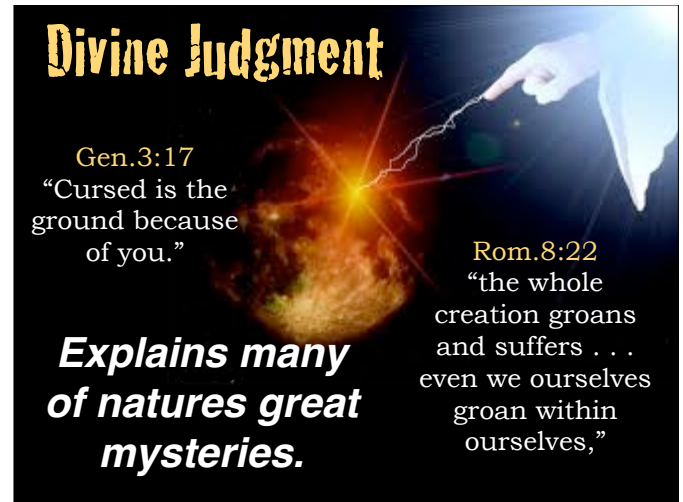
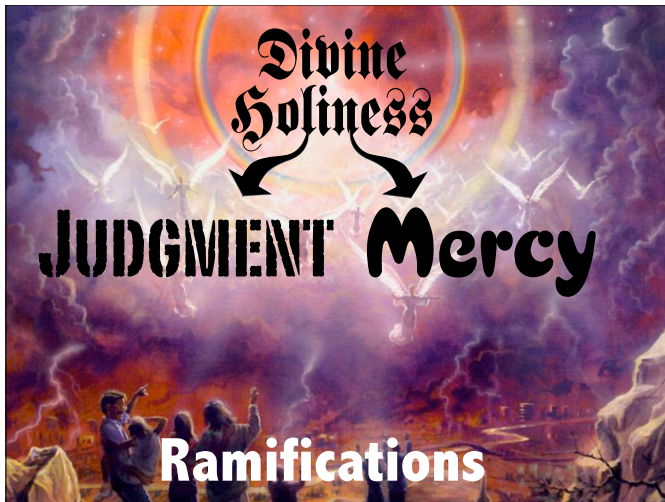
Colossians 1

“¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things have been created by Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”

Colossians 1

“¹⁹ For it was the Father’s good pleasure for all the fulness to dwell in Him, ²⁰ and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.”

Our response to the holiness of God resulting in God’s judgment and His loving provision for us is key to understanding many of the mysteries of our common experience.



Dissonance - moral conflict

Romans 7:19

“For the good that I wish, I do not do; but I practice the very evil that I do not wish.”

James 4:1

“What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? **Is not the source your pleasures that wage war** on your members?”

Personal ↔ Social

Inner spiritual
conflict



Outer social
conflict

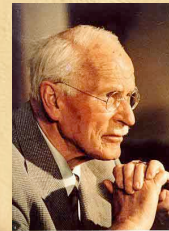


Lily Tomlin
(comedian)



“The biggest source of stress in life is reality and those who chose to live in it.”

Carl Jung



“Through pride we are ever deceiving ourselves. But deep down below the surface of the average conscience a still, small voice says to us, ‘Something is out of tune’.”

Divine Judgment



*Is the
foundation of
the Gospel*

2 Cor.5:21

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf,”

Divine Judgment



Rom.5:9

“having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him”

*Is the context
of our joy*

Romans 8

“1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are **in Christ Jesus**. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. 3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, **God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin**, He condemned sin in the flesh,”

In a culture that ignores the holiness of God there can be no deep insight into the most profound mysteries of nature.

1. If there is no holiness, there is no **true beauty**.
2. If there is no holy judgment, there is no deep explanation for many **physical phenomena**:
 - physical death,
 - social injustice,
 - pain and suffering,
 - corruption of nature.
3. If there is no holiness, there is no deep explanation for **human imagination**, longings, hopes, and fears.
4. If there is no holiness there is no basis for the universal impulse to **worship**.

H. Richard Niebuhr
(Neo-orthodox Christian theological-ethicists
Yale Divinity School)



“The theology of liberal protestantism was a God without wrath who brought men without sin into a kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a cross.”

In a culture that ignores the holiness of God there is no rational basis of right and wrong.

1. If the Cosmos is all there is, was, or will be, then **God's holiness is meaningless**.
2. If holiness is meaningless, then **ethics, morality, justice, and virtue are baseless, and arbitrary**.
3. If morality is arbitrary, then **there can be no basis for a common sense of good and evil**.
4. But we all have a sense of **good and evil**.
5. We have reason to believe that we **bear the image** of a holy God.