

ALL THE SAINTS (Holy Holy Holy)

Holy Holy Holy written by Reginald Heber and John B. Dykes. Public Domain. New bridge written by Michael Farren, Henry Seeley, and James Tealy. ©2013 Centricity Music Publishing / ASCAP, Centricity Songs / BMI, CentricSongs/BMI and Farren Love And War Publishing / SESAC (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

*All the saints adore You
Laying crowns before You
Lifting praise unto You
You are holy
All the angels bow down
Hosts of heaven cry out
With one voice with one sound
You are holy*

The hymn was written in 1826 by the Bishop of the Church of England, Reginald Heber. The lyric is drawn from the scene in Revelation 4 of saints and angels gathered around the throne declaring, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God, the Almighty, who was, who is, and who is coming" (Rev 4:8 HCSB). Angels are also quoted declaring God's threefold holiness in Isaiah 6. Linguists call this declaration that God is "holy, holy, holy," an emphatic triplet. In ancient Hebrew this triplet would be more like our English equivalent: "holy, holier, holiest." To say that the God we worship is "holy, holy, holy" is to declare that His righteousness is unblemished, supreme, elevated far above any other example of purity we will find. In these Biblical scenes, angels are not simply declaring that God is holy but that God is *uniquely* Holy.

The God we worship is Holy Holy Holy and so is our eternal home, Redemption City, the Holy City pictured in Revelation 21. Redemption City is described as a place of unblemished purity. In Redemption City, God's holiness is so radiant that "The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, because God's glory illuminates it, and its lamp is the Lamb" (Rev. 21:23 HCSB). In Revelation 21:27, John is told that the Holy City is so pure, "Nothing profane will ever enter it."

The original hymn lyric Reginald Heber penned as well as the new bridge lyric we've added are glimpses of a heavenly scene. We are joining with all the saints and angels to declare God's uniquely unblemished holiness. Yahweh is not simply holy. Neither is He holy, holy. The God who reigns from His throne in Redemption City is holy holy holy!