

This utter holiness of God is a frequent plea in the mouth of those who cry from the depths. His spirit is holy, His arm is holy, His name is holy; He speaks in holiness; His heavens, His habitation, are holy; His throne is holy; He is the Holy One of Israel; His earthly habitation, Zion, is holy, *i. e.*, consecrated to Him, and His palace there is holy. All who worship Him acceptably must be holy. Holiness becomes His house forever.

This holiness of God is the sum of all perfections and includes perfect truth as a part of that sum; but the Psalmists never tire of singing the truth of Jehovah. He is the God of truth, who keeps truth forever; all His decisions, His teachings, His commandments, His works are truth. The sum of His word is truth. He is plenteous in grace and truth. His truth is a shield and buckler to all who trust it. He desires truth in the inward parts of man. He destroys those who speak lies, and abhors the deceitful man. The false tongue, the false heart—deception—are marks of the enemies of God, but those who get understanding through the precepts of Jehovah hate every false way; they love those precepts and hate and abhor falsehood. These also know their own hearts, and pray: "Establish me according to Thy word. Remove from me the way of falsehood. Teach me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts, and see if there be any way of wickedness in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

To God so conceived the Psalmists come with the confession of their sin, without excuse, and cast themselves just as they are upon the grace and tender mercy of their pardoning God. "For Thou art good and ready to forgive, and abundant in grace to all who call upon Thee." Again and again they confess that they and all men are sinners, that all their forefathers sinned; their guilt is not hidden from God; it is too heavy for them to bear, and allows them no peace. They pray for pardon because their guilt is great—for pardon from all their sins. They are sure that Jehovah does pardon and expiate all the sins and apostasies and guilt of His people when they seek Him in truth and confess their sins. His pardon leads not to loose living, but to true love and reverential awe of God, and to taking heed to one's self so as not to sin. "There is forgiveness with Thee, that Thou mayest be feared." "Thy word have I laid up in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee."

The Psalmists, then, believed God—Jehovah—to be the only God, omnipotent, holy, the God of truth, good, slow to anger, ready to forgive, abundant in grace, tenderly merciful. "As a father is tenderly merciful to his children, so Jehovah is tenderly merciful to those who lovingly fear Him." They had learned to know Him and His word through His pardon and grace, and this knowledge brought with it the lofty ethics they commend to themselves and all others. He alone is an accepted worshiper of Jehovah who walketh uprightly and worketh righteousness and speaketh truth in His heart—he that