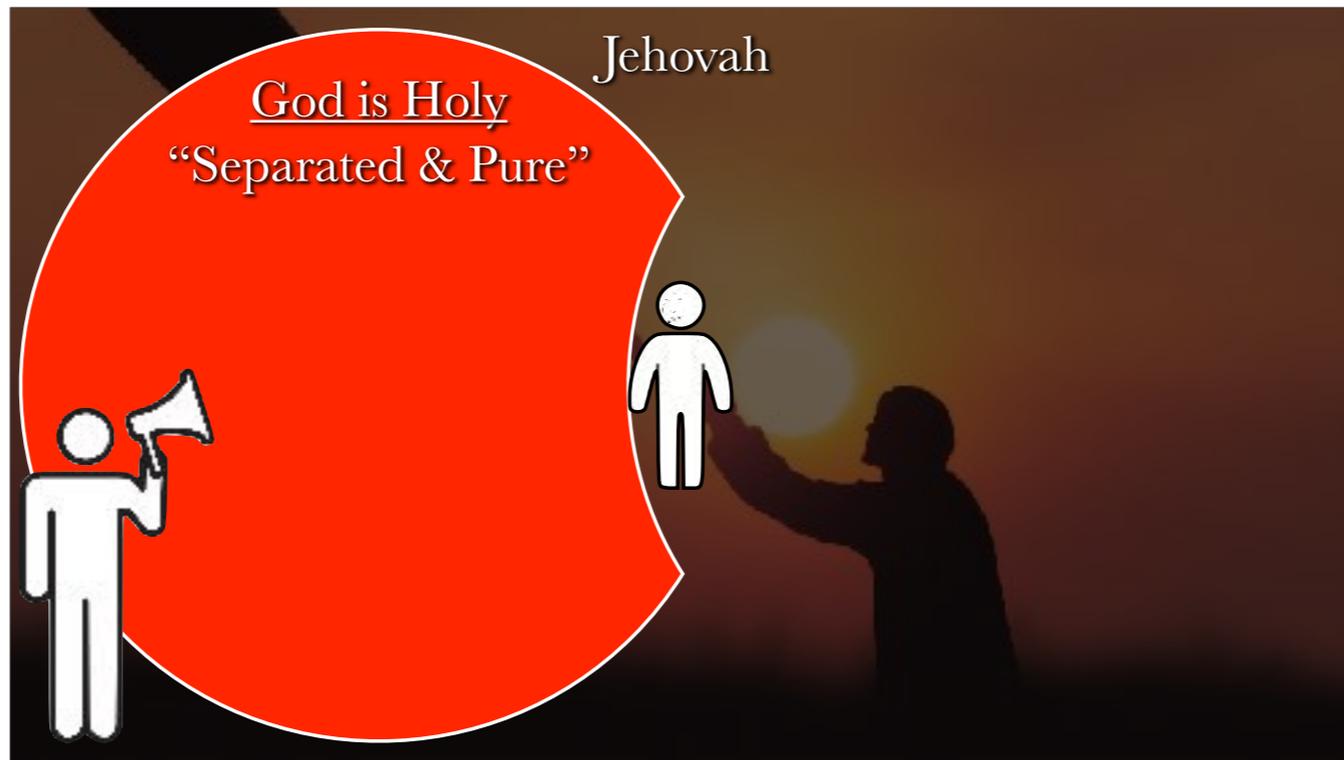
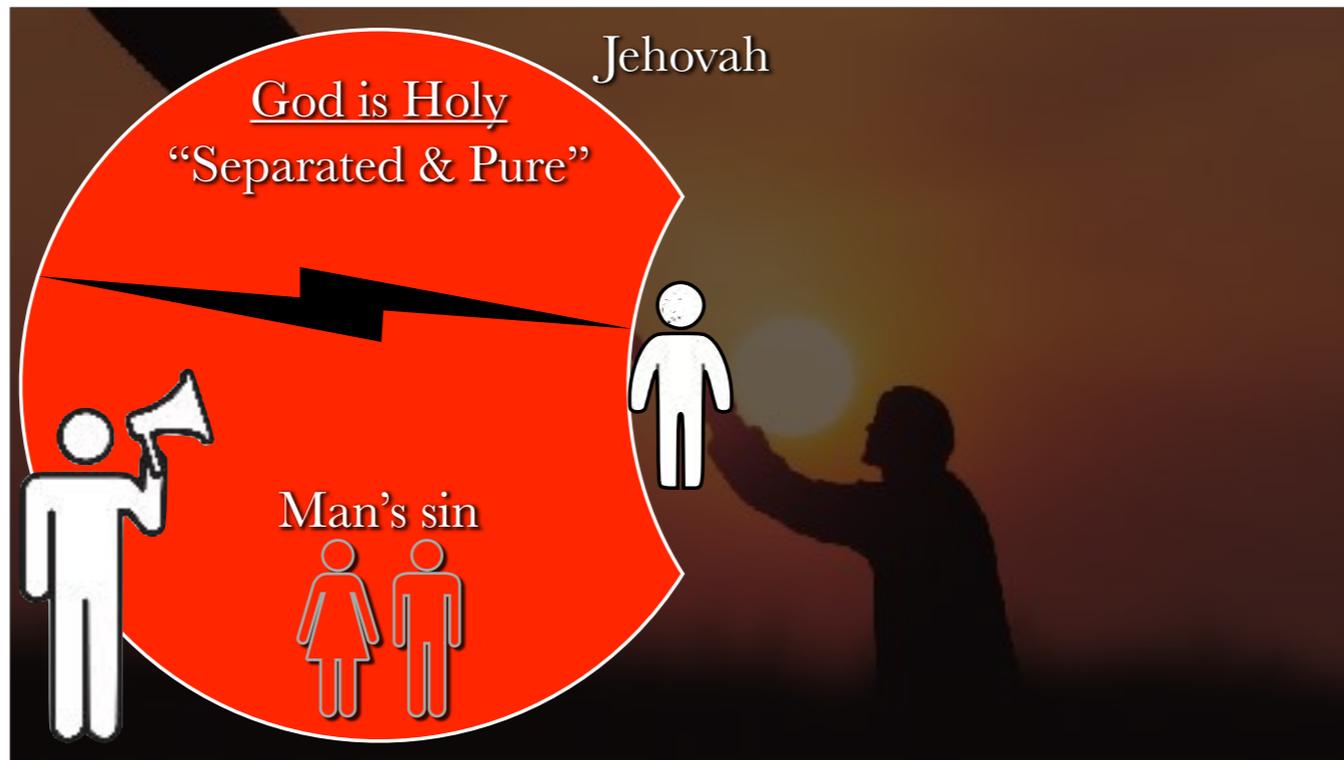


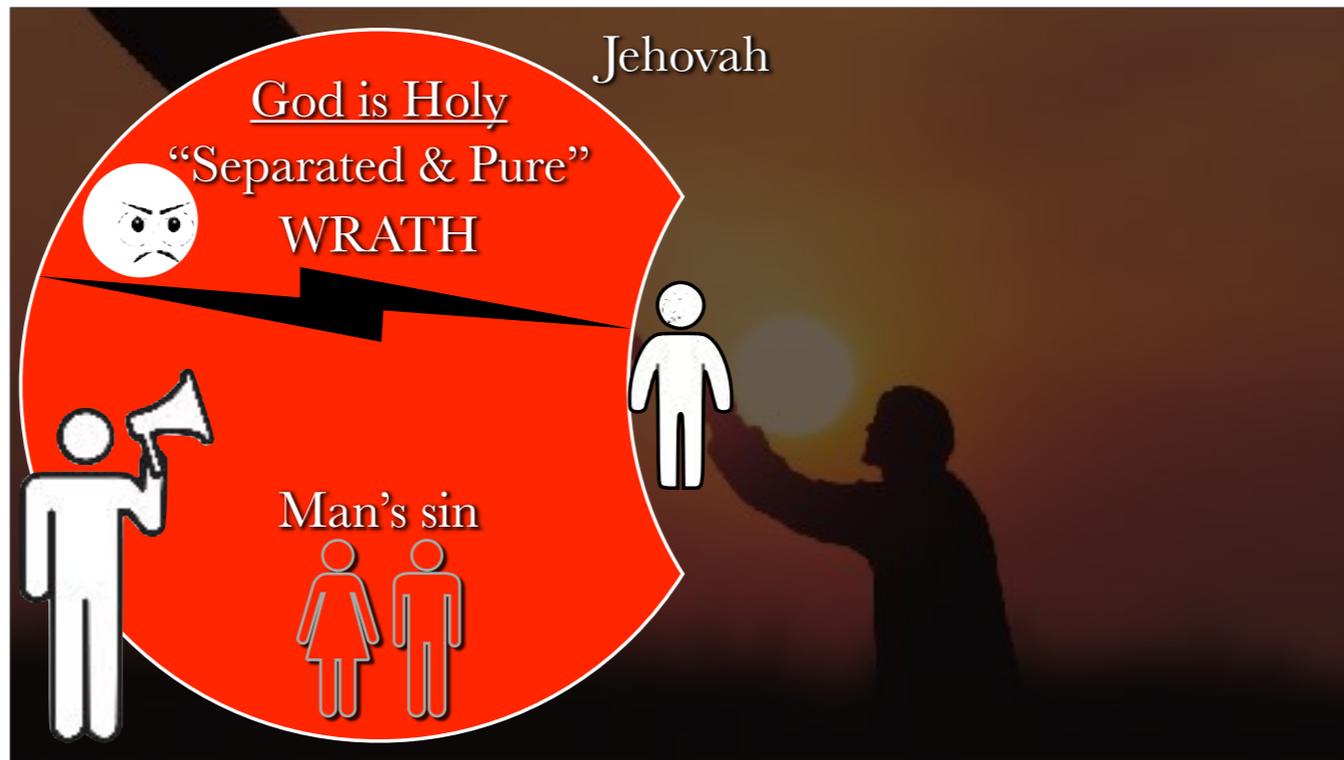
- There is paradox most of us struggle with between understanding God's holiness and understanding God's love.
- Often we will decide to lean into one or the other aspect that we decide is more important, or prevalent.



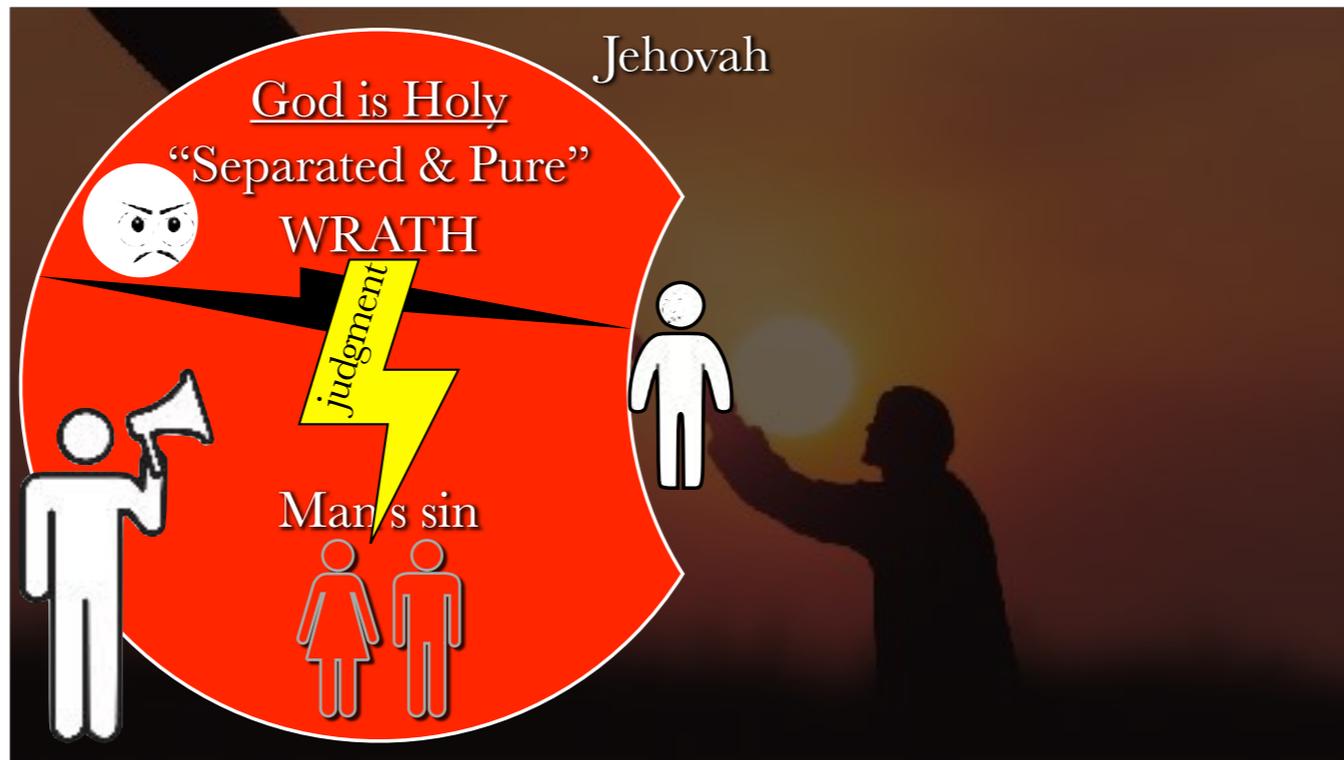
- For most people, the idea of “holy” is almost exclusively: pure, or separated.
- Of course, this is true ... but insufficient as we noted last week.
 - It’s not the complete meaning of holy, but for most this it.
 - But for the time being, let’s stay with the usual thought process.
- God’s holiness is speaking of the fact that He is pure, clean, righteous in a way we are not.



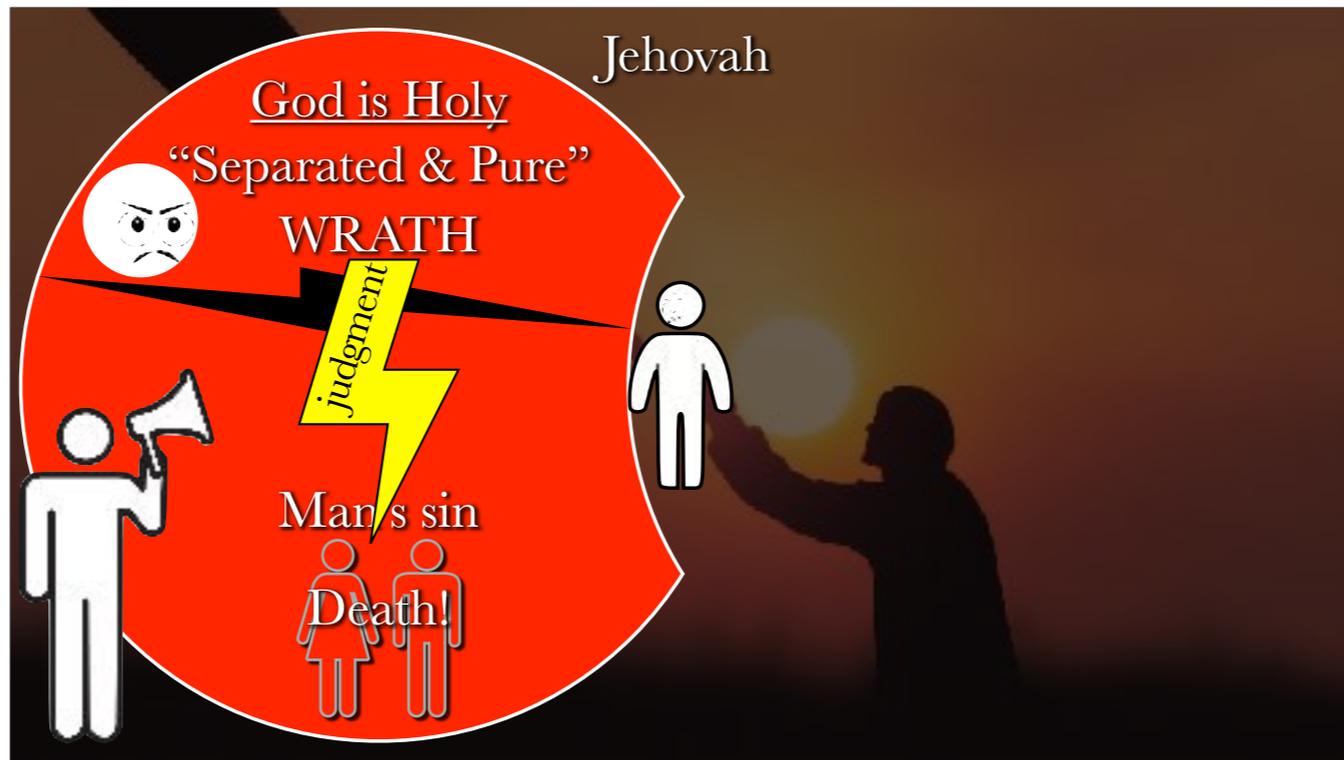
- In contrast with God's holiness is man's sinfulness.
- How does a holy God deal with sin in those He created?
 - Habakkuk 1:13: "You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong"
 - God is pure, man is impure.
 - Isaiah 59:2: "your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear."



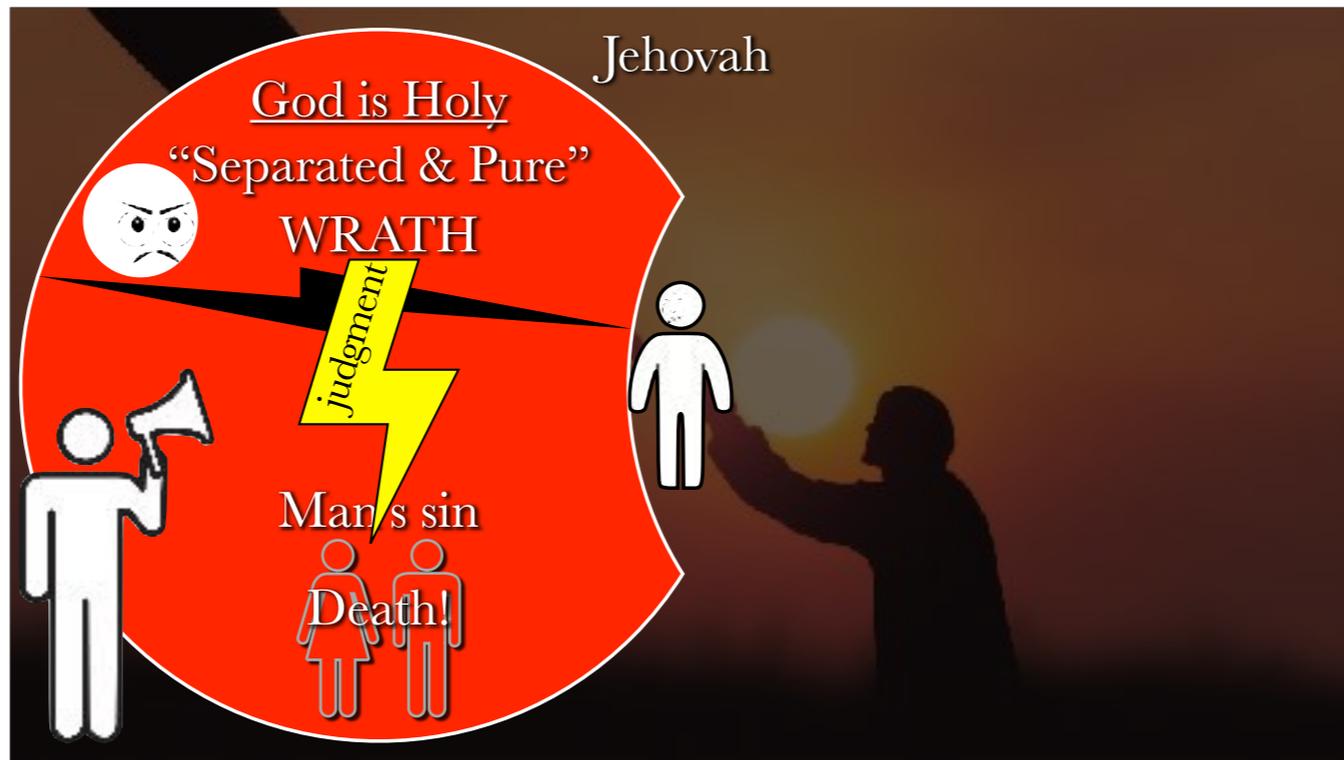
- God's wrath is his response to man's sin.
 - Romans 1:18: For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.



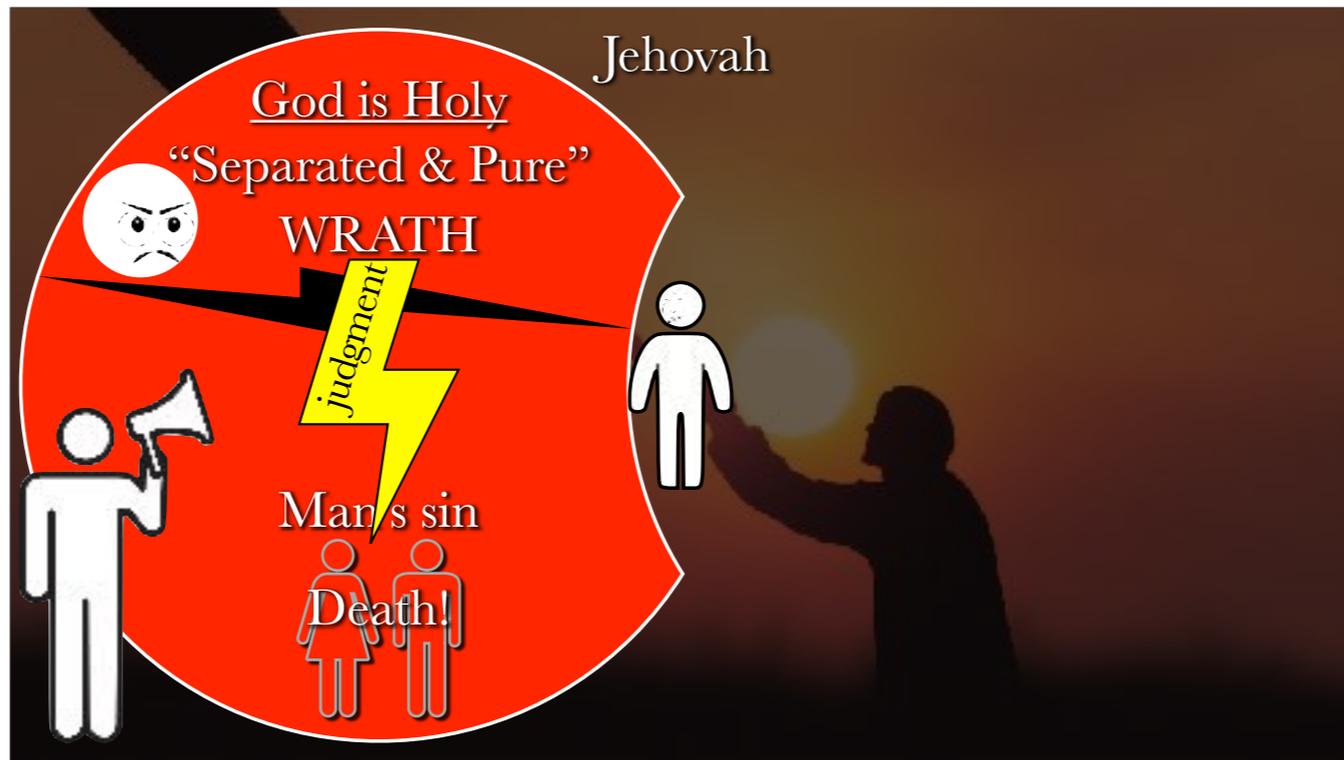
- And God's wrath leads to His judgment, condemnation.
 - Romans 2:5: But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.



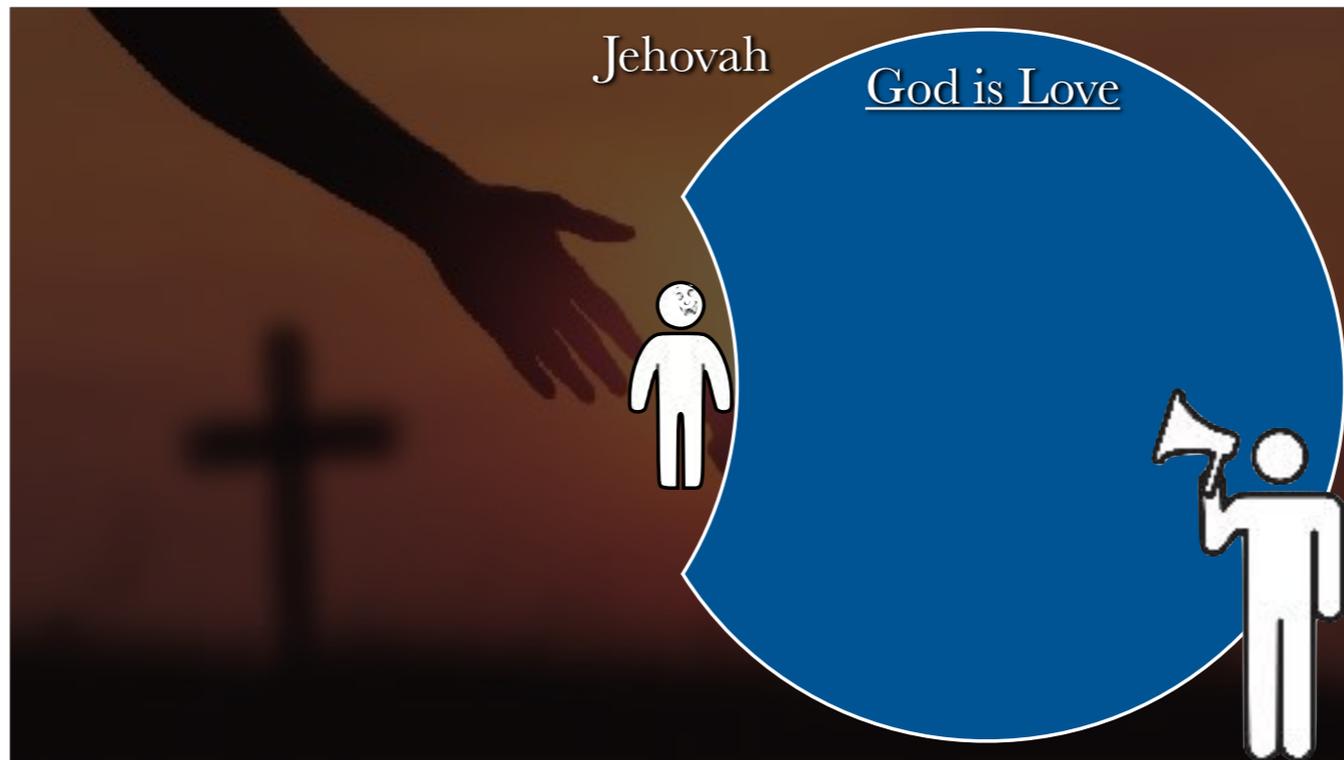
- Wages of sin is death:
 - Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death ...



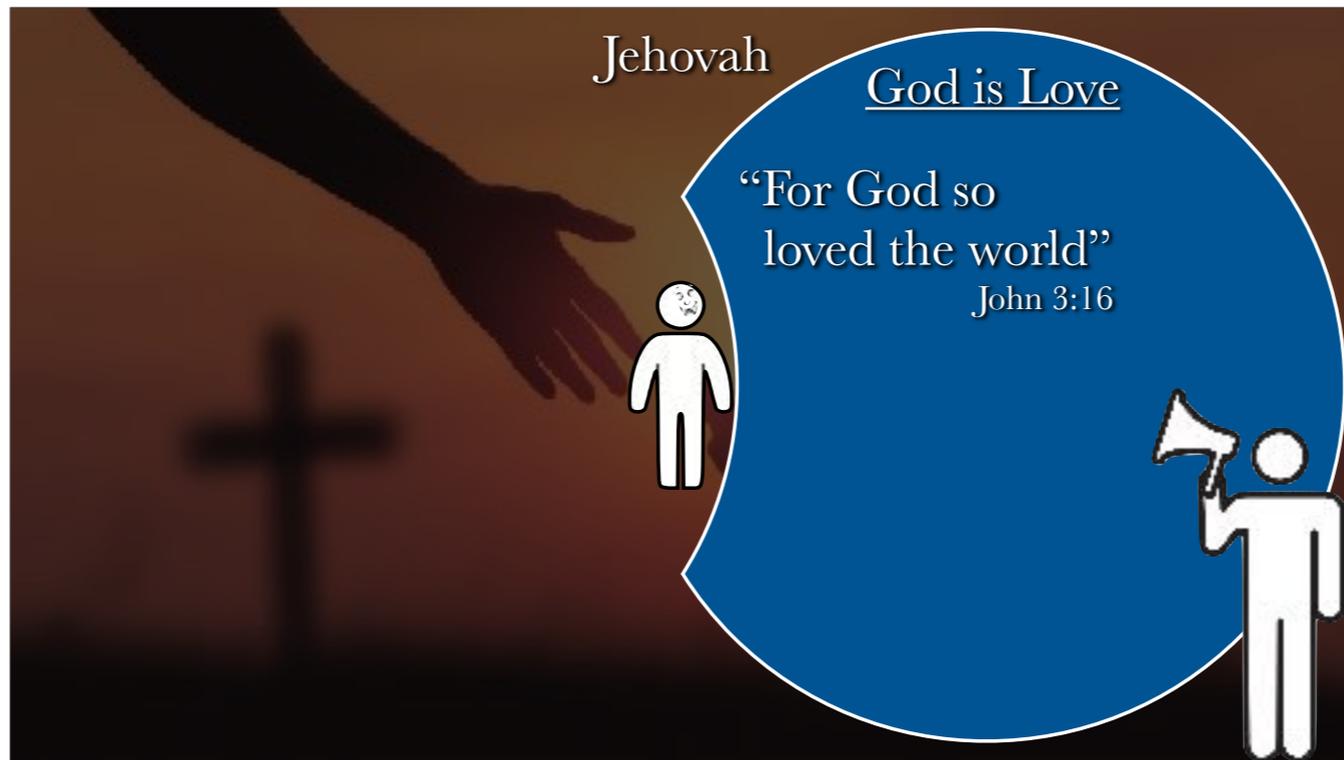
- God's holiness leads directly to God's just judgment against sinful, rebellious man.
 - Isaiah: Woe is me, for I am lost — Isaiah 6:5
 - Paul:
 - Romans 7:24-25 — Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!
 - Most famous lesson of the puritans: “Sinners in the hand of an angry God”



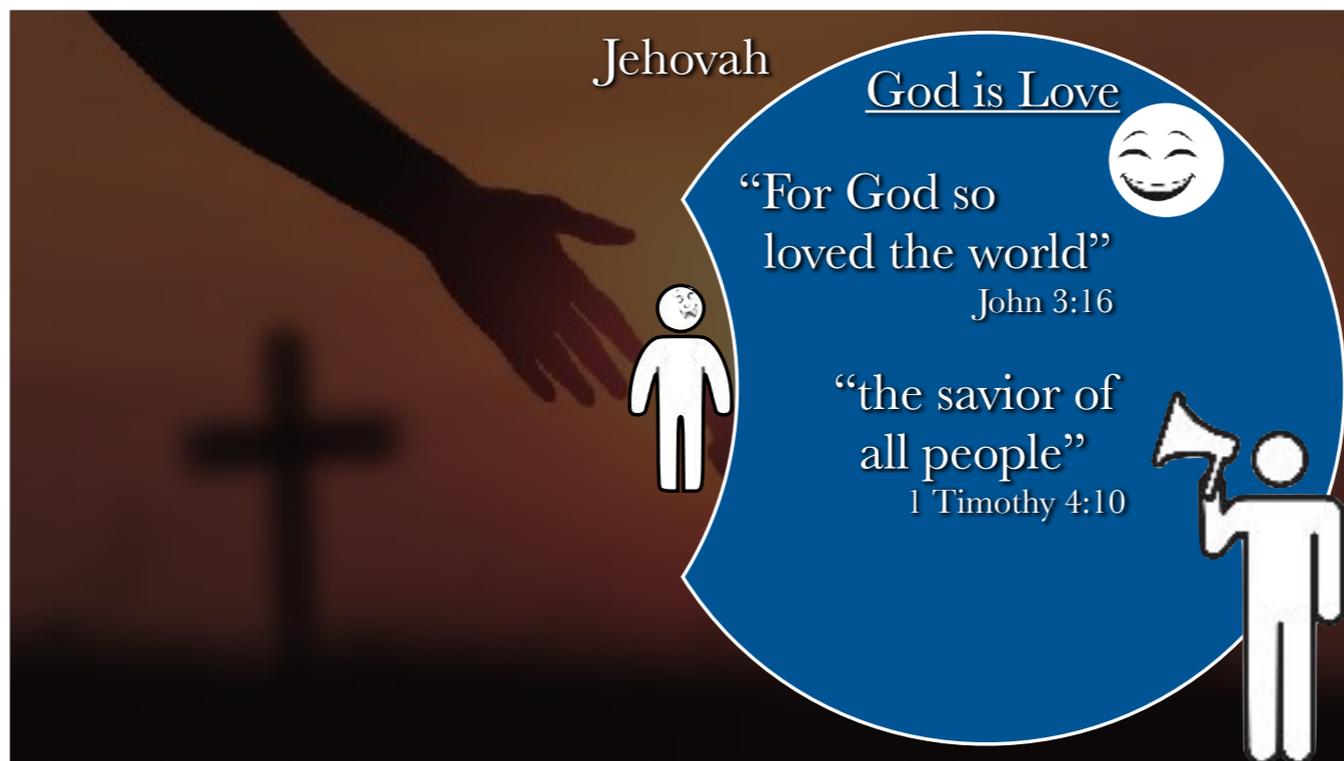
- God's holiness separates, pushes us away from Jehovah.
- But!
 - Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



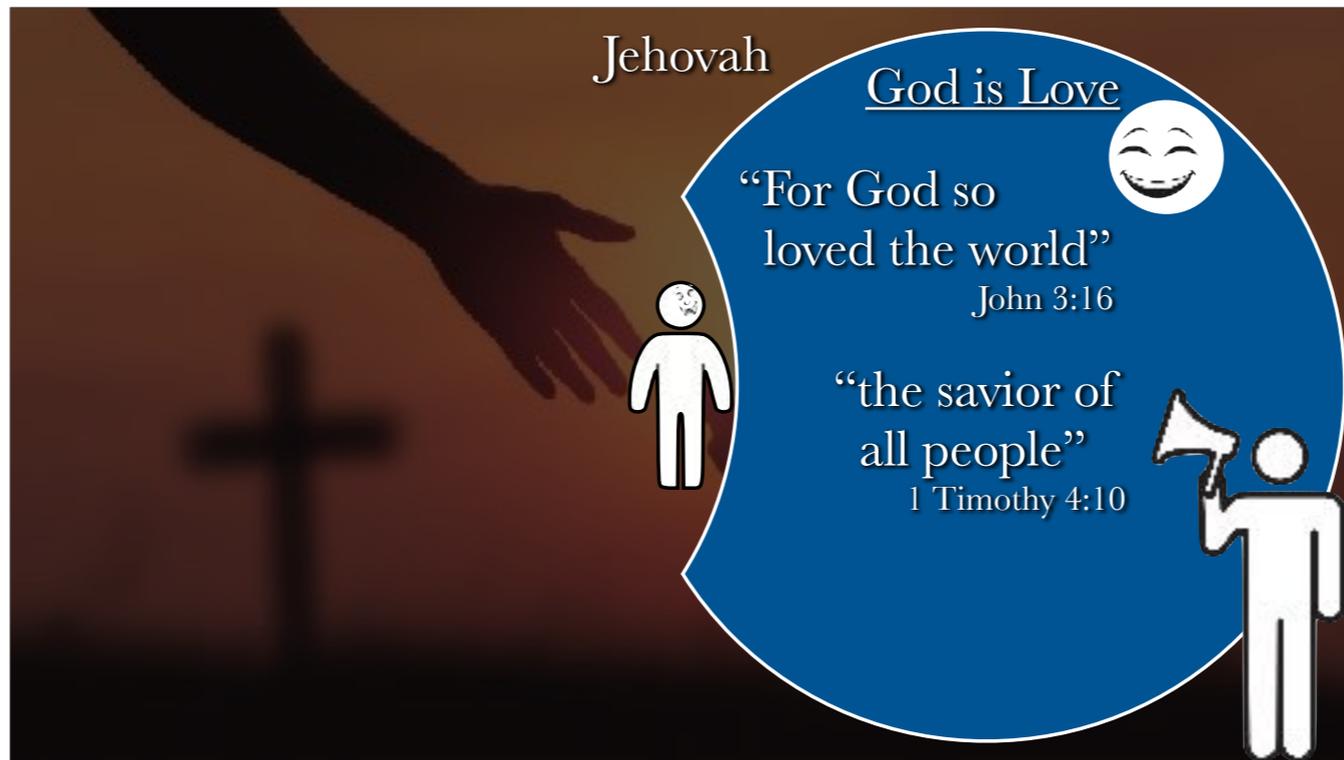
- On the other hand, and seeming to many people to contradict this is God's love.
 - Love, grace, mercy.



- John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
- 1 Timothy 2:3-4 — This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.



- 1 Timothy 4:10 For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.



- The way that most people understand God’s love is based almost completely on their own experiences of love, and how they define love.
 - Different words used: emotion, sweet, indulgent, tolerant.
 - Generalizing, this is how some parents, grandparents treat their children
 - give them anything they want
 - indulge their desires.



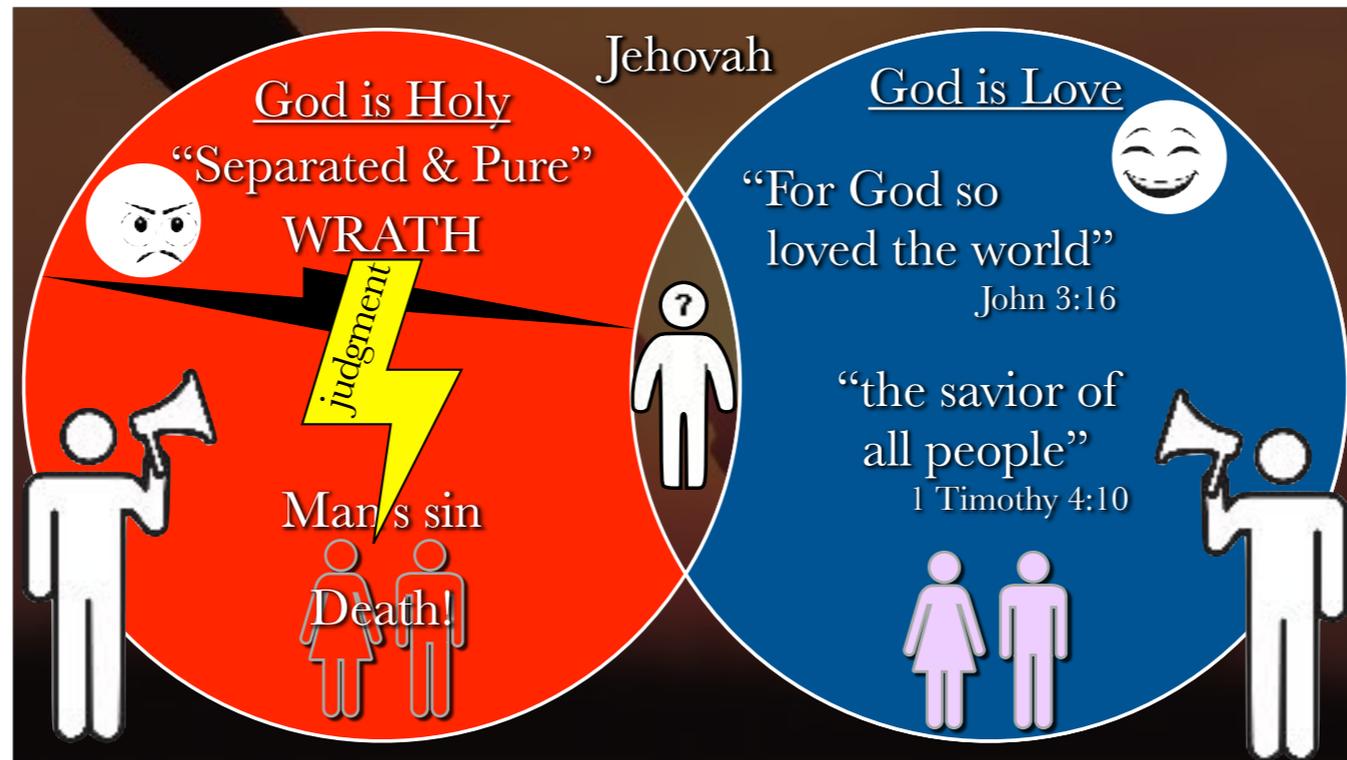
- Do not wrong.
 - Well, we sin, of course because we're human.
 - But most of us don't do anything really evil.



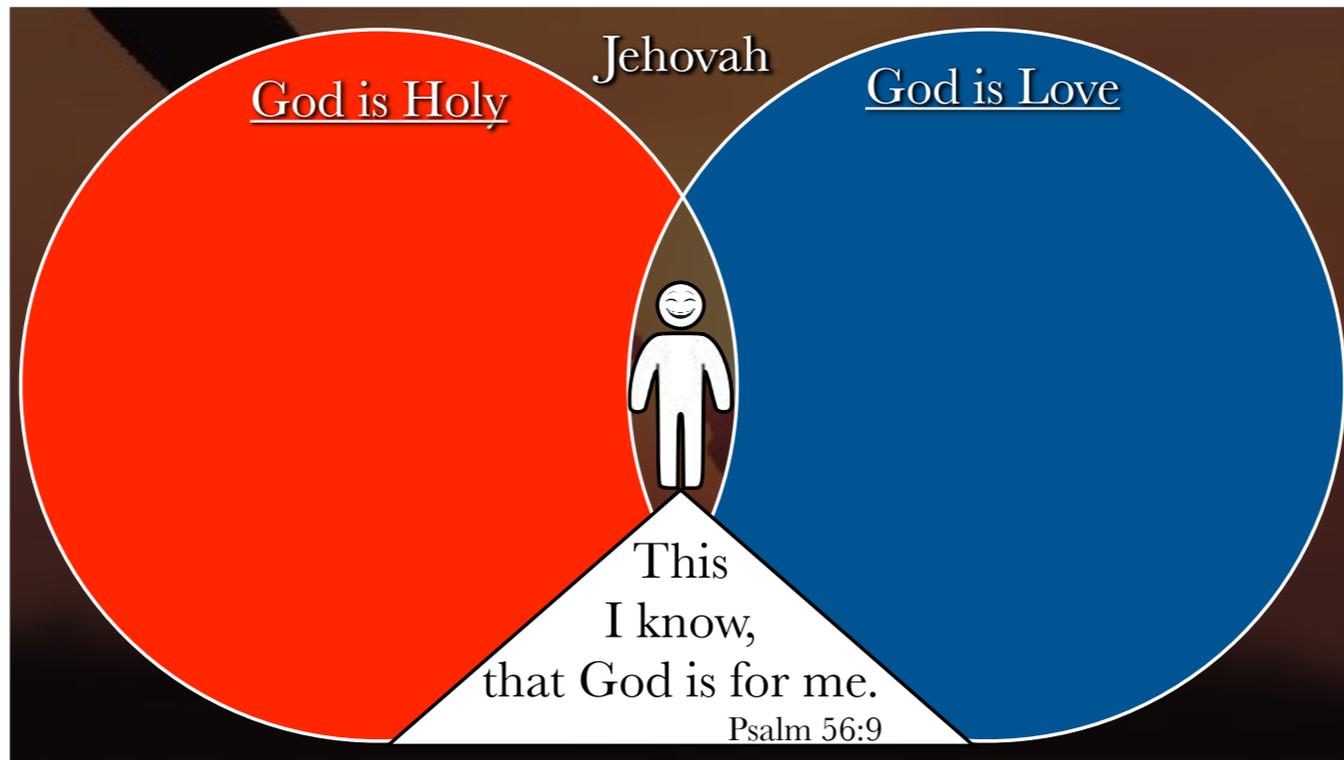
- God want's me to be happy!
 - We picture him as being essentially happy with us.
 - Therefore he's willing to tolerate, be indulgent
 - (Sin is not really all that bad... God won't condemn me!)



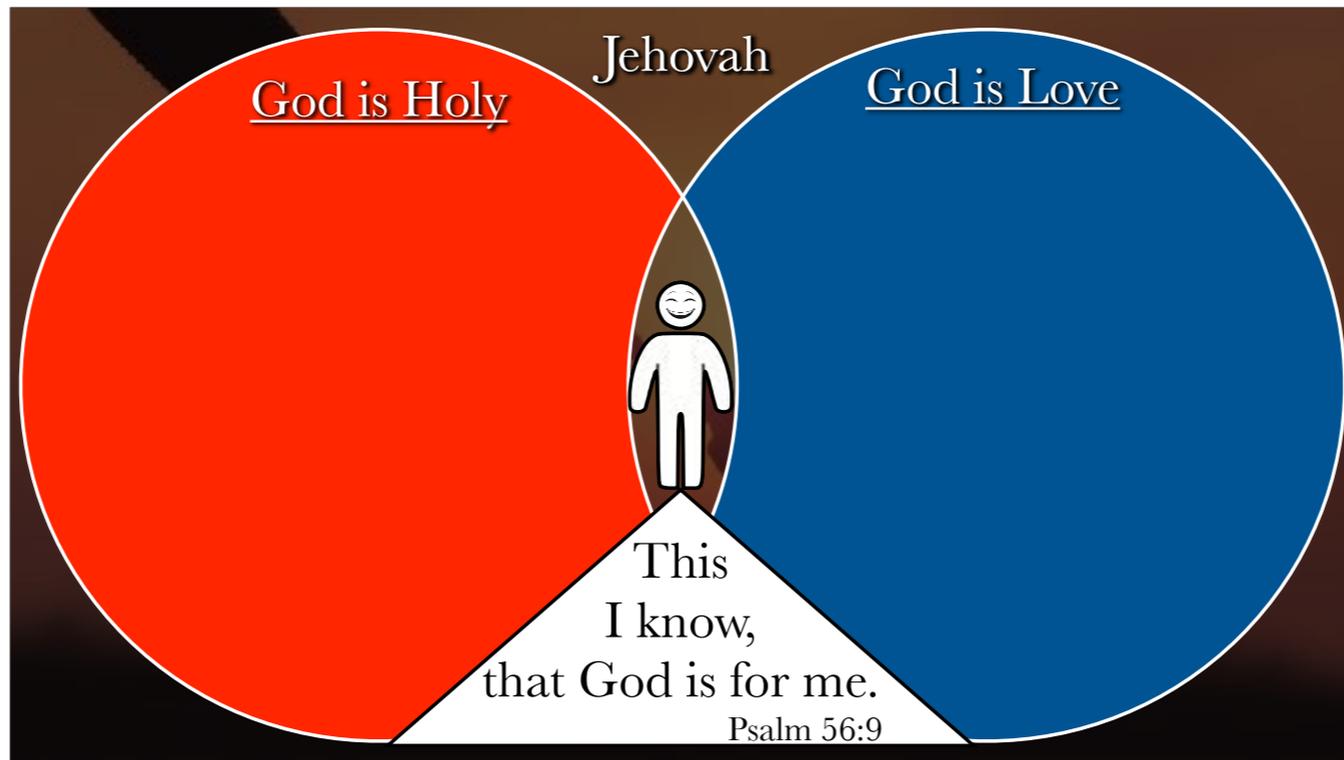
- How can a loving God... ?
 - send someone to hell for eternity for stealing bread when they were feeding starving children?
 - Therefore, there cannot really be any judgment against sin.
 - And everyone will be saved.



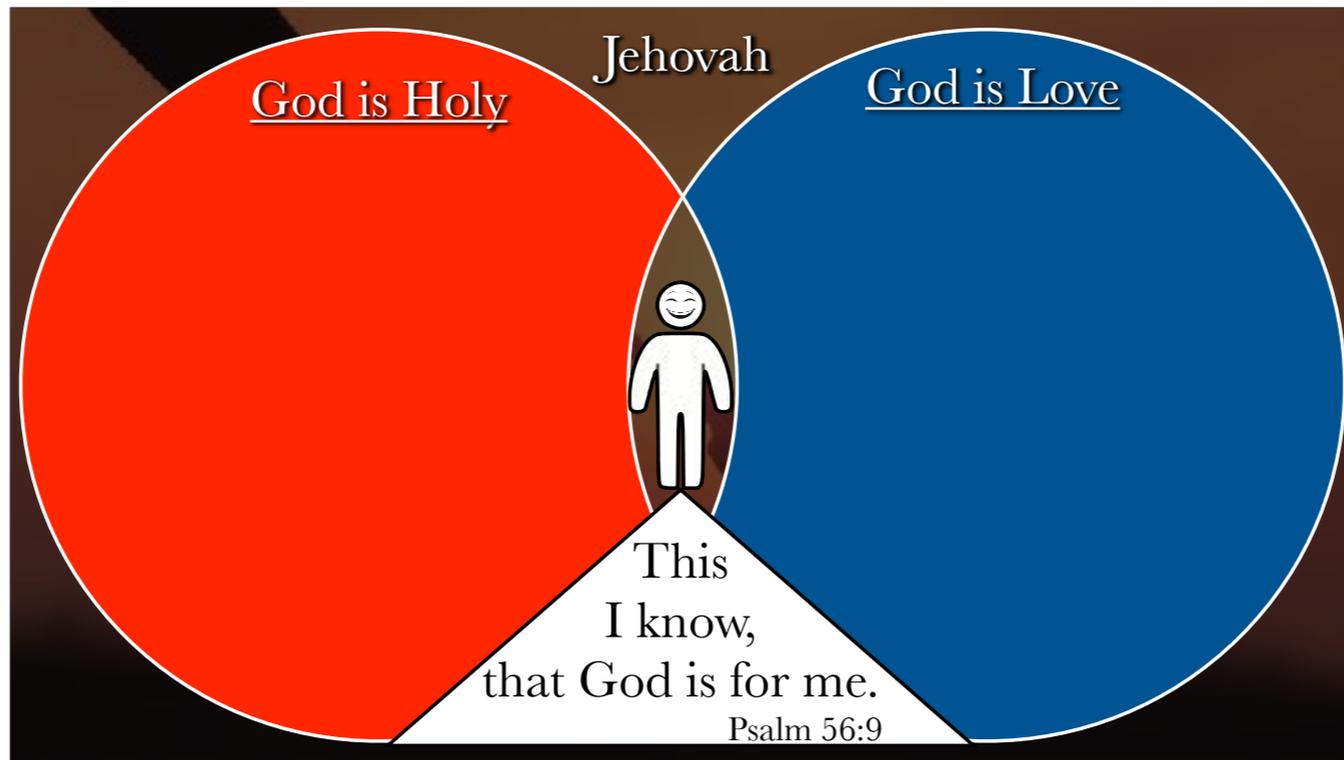
- Leads to confusion, a sense of contradiction.
- And how are we to think of our God?
- Argue over which is correct, which is more important
 - Sometimes with disdain for the other view.



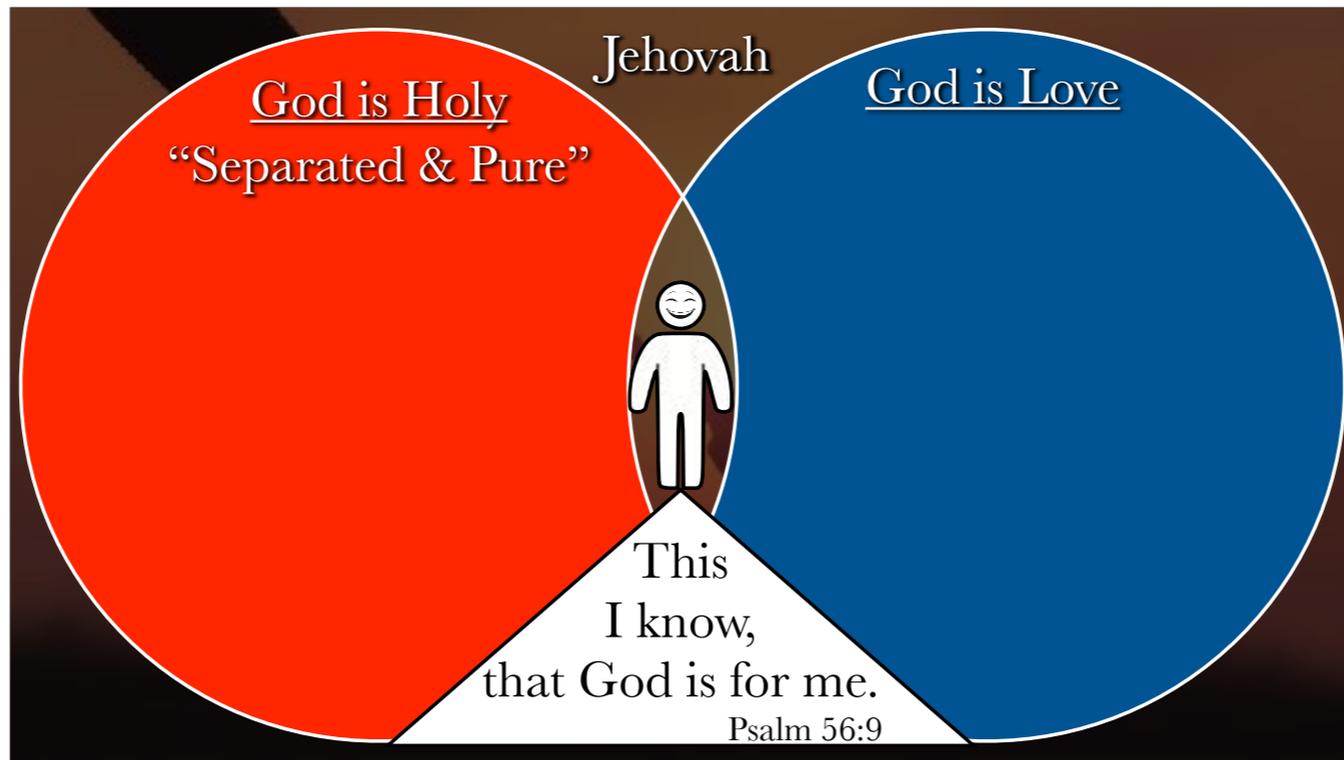
- How can we reconcile such divergent views?
- How can we make sense of God's holiness and God's love?
- Psalms 56:9-11 — Then my enemies will turn back in the day when I call. This I know, that God is for me. In God, whose word I praise, in the LORD, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?



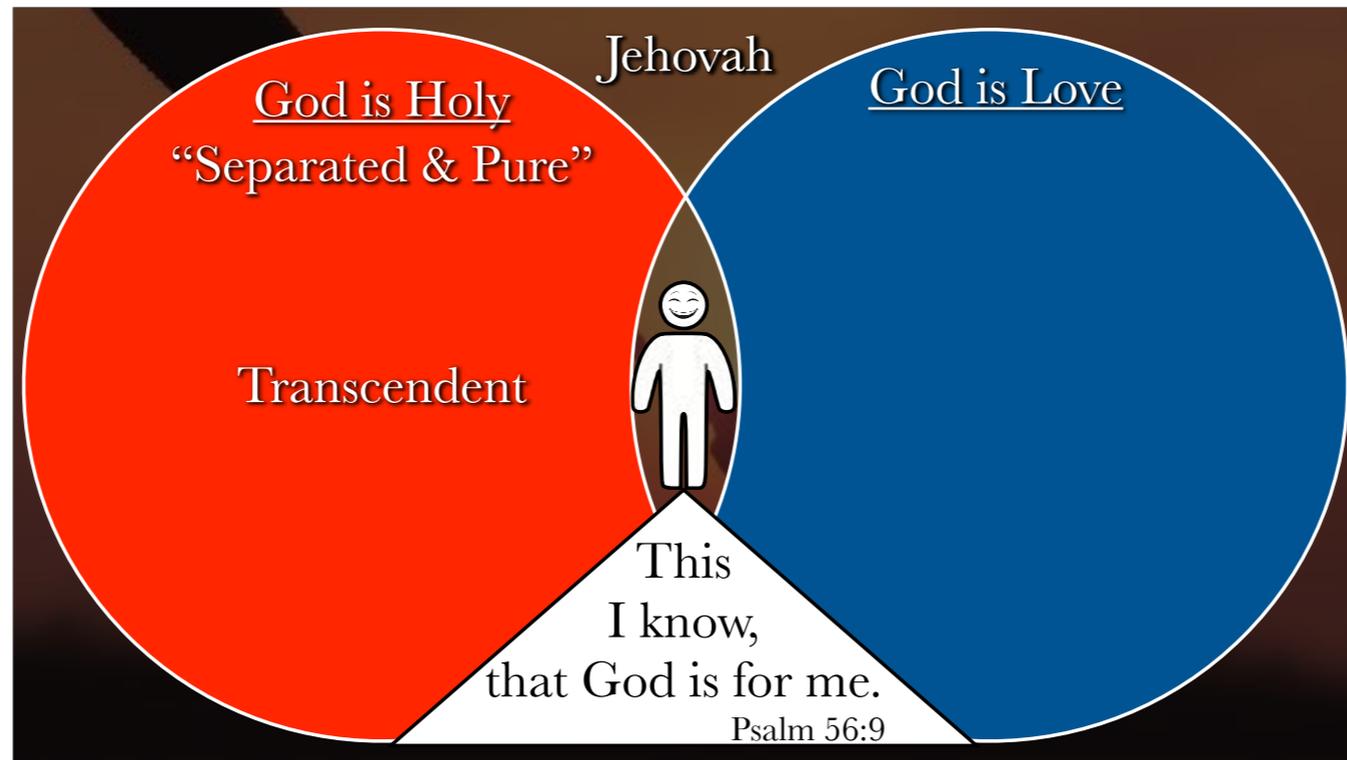
- Danger:
 - Both of these lead to my destruction:
 - God is Holy: Guilt condemns and I always feel bad about myself.
 - God is Love: I do what I want and lack of restraint destroys me.
 - Either way, God is not for me! based on these views.
- Something is missing in how we are understanding either God's Love or God's Holiness. Or both!



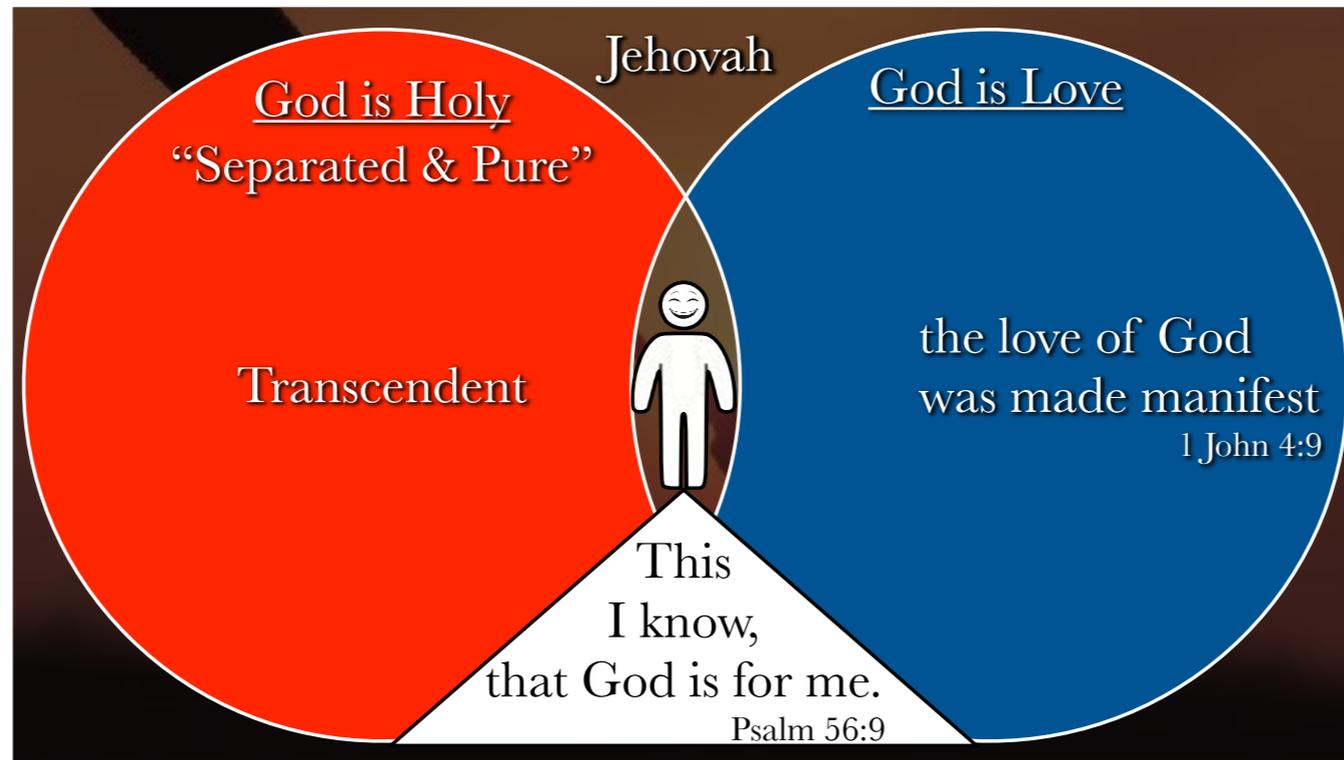
- So let's start over... Holy and Love; bridging the gap.



- Holy:
 - still has idea of pure/separate (esp. when dealing with sin)
- In past lessons, remember that wrath is not just God being angry for the sake of being angry; it's not selfish at all.
- God's wrath is certainly against sin, but it's also intended to make us aware of our sin and remind us how bad sin is.
 - That is, how badly we need to be saved.

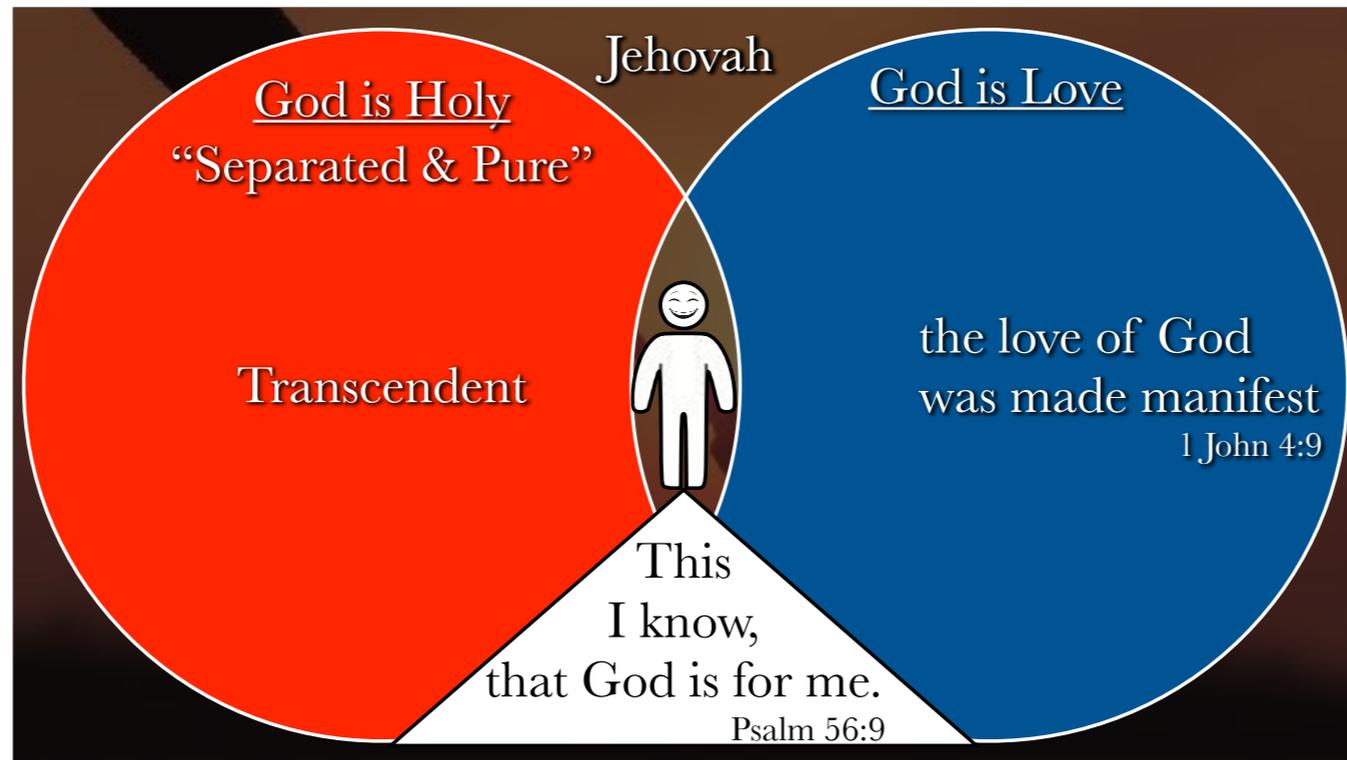


- More... holy reminds us of God's transcendence; that He is utterly different than us.
 - In contrast with our sin; God's holiness reflects just how different He is from us.
 - Different
 - Greatest expression of His complete transcendence, differentness, over us is His LOVE

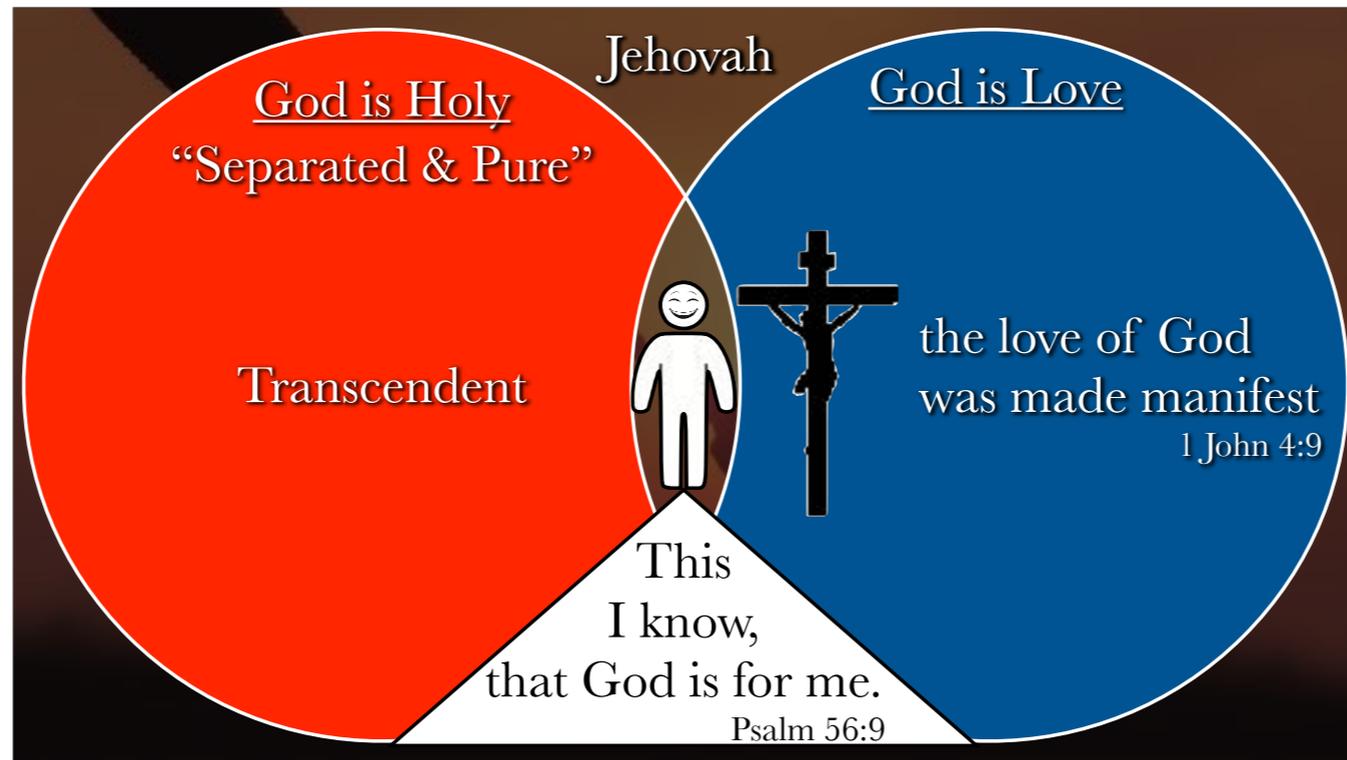


- Love

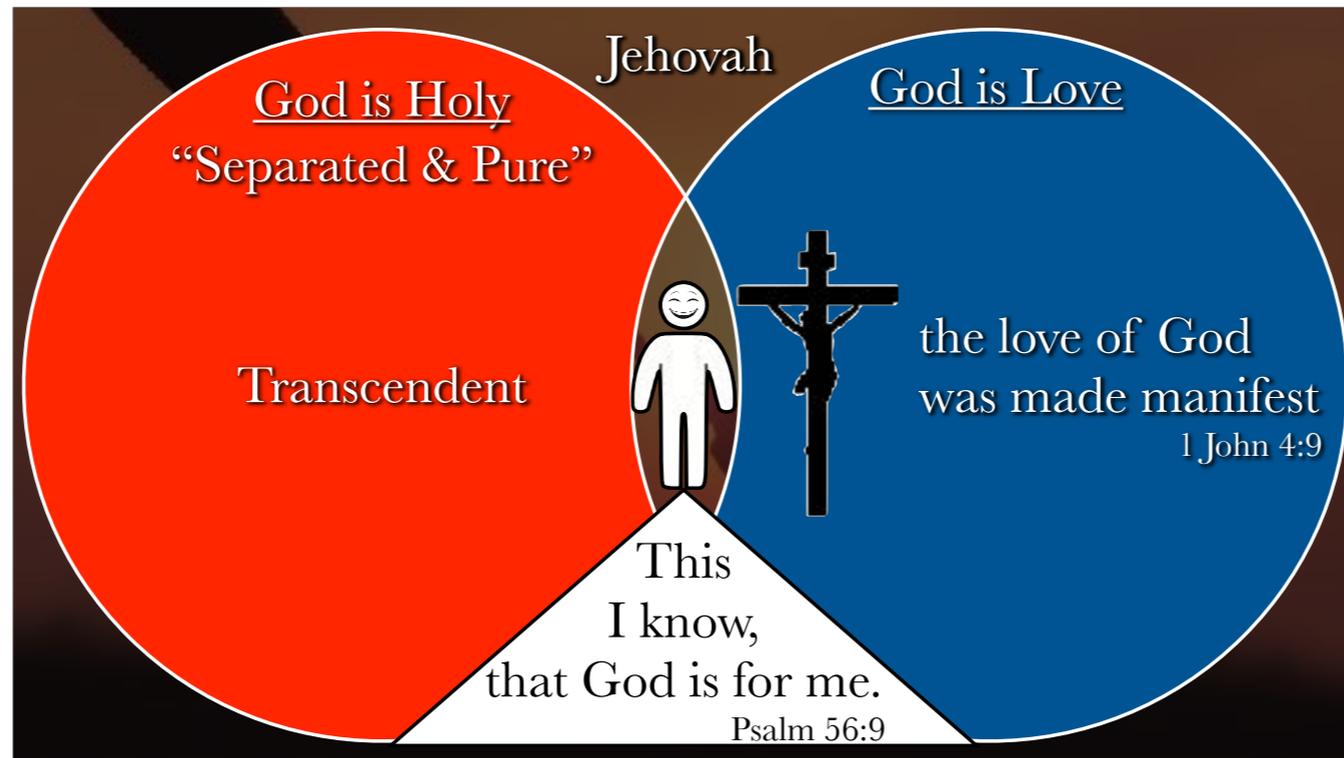
- Not defined by man, but by God.
- 1 John 4:8-10 — Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.



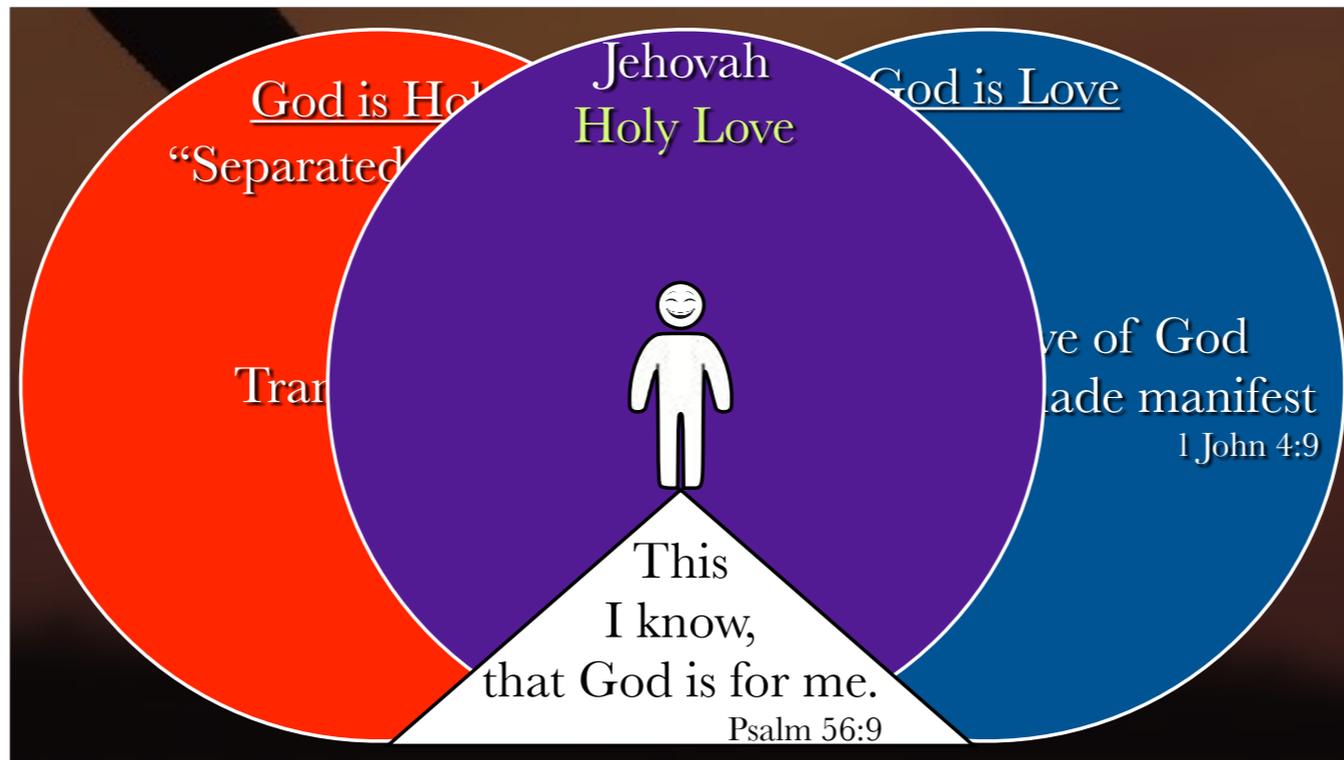
- It's important to understand what this is teach us about God's love.
 - 10) We didn't love God — yet he chose to love us
 - We struggle with with loving those who don't love us



- 9) Sent his only son
 - This love is giving to others to meet their needs
 - Sacrificial and intentional.



- 9) This love is demonstrated by what we do
 - Beautiful idea: unselflessly doing that which is best for another.
 - Loving sinners
 - Romans 5:8: but **God shows his love for us** in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
 - Romans 5: weak, ungodly, sinners, enemies
- God's love sees us for who we are, chooses to love us and save us by giving a means of salvation through his son.



- Bringing these definitions together, we have Holy Love.



- We are sinners
 - Shouldn't we want God to take sin seriously: esp. my own sin
 - Holy Love moves God to act against sin, to deal with it
 - because it is contrary to His nature and His plans for us
 - It destroys our hope of true life.



- How did our Father move against sin?
 - By sending His son.
 - John 3:16: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
 - Atonement
 - 1 John 4:10: In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.



- Salvation
 - This is what holy love is really about: our salvation
- 1 John 3:16: By this we **know** love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.
- 1 John 4:8-10: because God is love. In this the love of God was **made manifest** among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might **live** through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the **propitiation** for our sins.



- Romans 5:6-8
 - Death of Jesus was not just a man dying: **redeeming** death: **atoning** death
 - 9) Justified
 - 9) Saved
 - 10) Reconciled



- Our Holy Father is more concerned about our holiness than our happiness.
 - So in his love, he didn't leave us in sin and awaiting death
 - In his love he chooses to make us holy.
 - Ultimately, we find our joy in him.



- Relying On and Trusting in God's Holy Love

- 1 John 4:10: In this is love, **not that we have loved God but that he loved us** and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
- 1 John 4:14-16: 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.



- Relying On and Trusting in God's Holy Love

- 16 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.
- 16: NIV And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.



- Before Salvation
 - Romans 5:6-8: we didn't care about God's love for us
- Saved!
 - Our Father celebrates sinners who return: Luke 15!



- After salvation: sanctified
 - 1 Corinthians 1:2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:



- Corinth was a church, a group of Christians, with so many problems
 - we almost always remember their “issues” before anything else about them. Divided, fighting, questioning, doubting, arrogant, intolerant.
- But they are sanctified, saints!
 - Inspired Paul does not say they are no longer worthy
 - he doesn't say that God doesn't love them.
 - He does tell them that the greatest thing is love!



- Holy love

- Psalms 56:9: This I know, that God is for me.
- God is for you... doesn't approve of your sin: salvation in Jesus.
- God is for you... does want eternal life for you, with Him.

We implore you
on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Call to Action

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Holy Love

Psalm 56:9

Synopsis: The false dichotomy of God's holiness and God's love that is often propagated in our society comes from a failure to fully understand what holiness means and what love means. When we understand these properly, we come to see that it is our Father's Holy Love that moves against our sin to provide life through His Son so that we can be holy as He is holy. Based on thoughts from **The Dragon Slayer** by Jim McGuigan, Chapter 9: So This Is Love?

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”