Title: The Trisagion in Isaiah 6:3: an exegetical and theological analysis

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Abstract:

Many studies have explored the theme of holiness, particularly in relation to God. While there are many passages in the Bible that contribute to the theology of God’s holiness, the trisagion in Isa 6:3 is a unique text. This thrice-repeated holy has resulted in diverse interpretations. A clearer understanding of this trisagion is the motivation for this study. This thesis investigates the historical context of Isa 6 and explores the literary features that appear in the passage to develop a better understanding of this trisagion.

Chapter 1 includes an introduction to the study and the methodology implemented. Chapter 2 reviews literature that is related to the trisagion, God’s holiness, and Isa 6. Chapter 3 investigates the authorship of the book of Isaiah, its historical setting, and its themes. Chapter 4 analyzes the literary structure of Isa 6, explores intertextuality and key words in the passage, examines triadic use within the passage, and explores the significance of the trisagion. Chapter 5 considers the theological implications of the study. Chapter 6 presents the overall results and provides recommendations for further study.

God’s holiness is unique. It transcends time, space, and man. The holiness of God is revealed through His salvific acts and is emphasized in contrast to man’s sinfulness. This superlative holiness is demonstrated in the thrice-repeated holy of the seraphim in Isa 6:3. God is
not only holy, but has the ability to make others holy. This is a key concept of God’s holiness because He requires His people to be holy. This will be fulfilled through the acceptance of His holy seed and will be witnessed as His glory fills the earth.