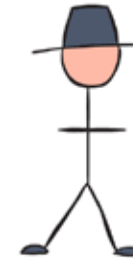




GOD'S HOLINESS, RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND JUSTICE

↑ ↑ GOD ↑ ↑

God is different from all other beings. Only He is uncreated and infinite; everything else is created and finite. The biblical term for this difference, for the “otherness” of God, is holy.



Physical Things

Holiness represents God's divinity. God's holiness is the essential difference between God and man. God alone is God; there is none like Him. He is sacred. He is the Creator, man is the creature. He is superior to man in every way. He is divine.

Holiness is also seen as a moral attribute of God. Morally, God is perfect, which also sets Him completely apart from sinful man.

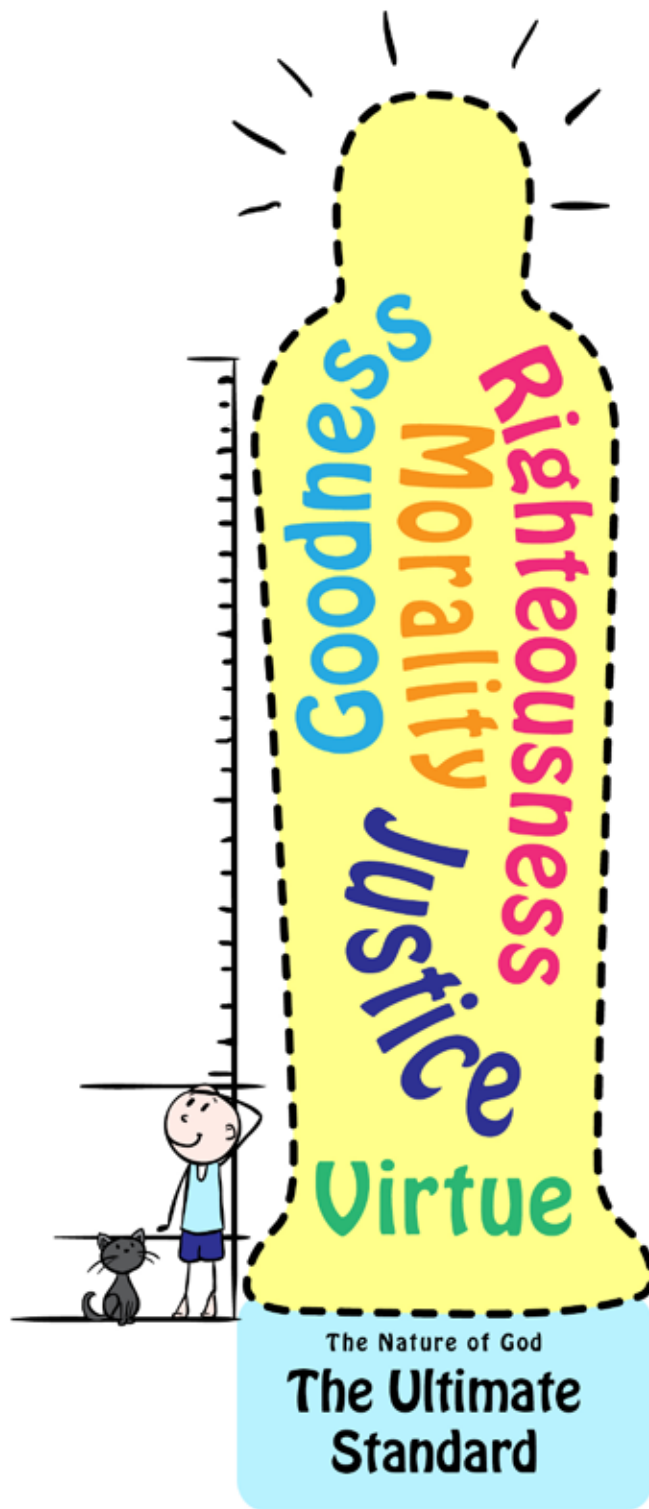
*There is none holy like
the Lord; there is none
besides You; there is no
rock like our God
(1 Samuel 2:2 ESV).*



**Our Love and
Holiness**



God's holiness is infinitely holy. It is holiness of the highest degree. There is no other holiness like it. This is not only true of God's holiness, but of all the attributes of God. God's love, wisdom, knowledge, power—every quality of God is of the highest degree. There is nothing that compares with it. While we, as humans, can have some of these qualities, since we are made in God's image, ours can never compare to the magnitude or the infinity of God's qualities. He is pure love, pure power. He alone is holy, holy, holy.



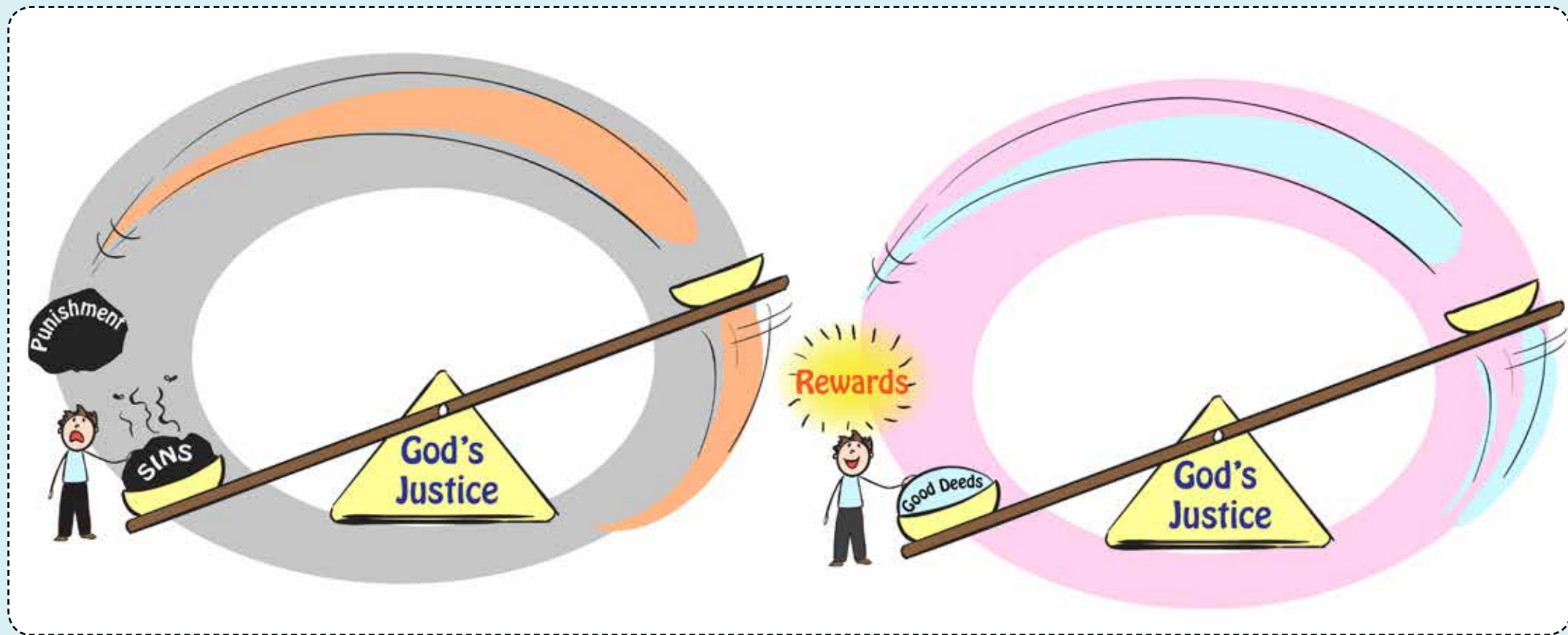
An attribute of God which is closely connected to His holiness is His righteousness—which means uprightness, goodness, virtue, and moral rightness. God’s righteousness includes His justice.

The righteousness of God means that His being, His nature and character, is always righteous—good, right, and just; He Himself is the ultimate standard as to what is right. In Him there is no wrongdoing. Because He is the standard of righteousness, without fail He does what is right. He is total integrity, goodness, and uprightness.

*I the Lord speak the truth; I declare what is right
(Isaiah 45:19 ESV).*

*He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are
just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he
(Deuteronomy 32:4 NIV).*

*Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne;
steadfast love and faithfulness go before You (Psalm 89:14.ESV).*

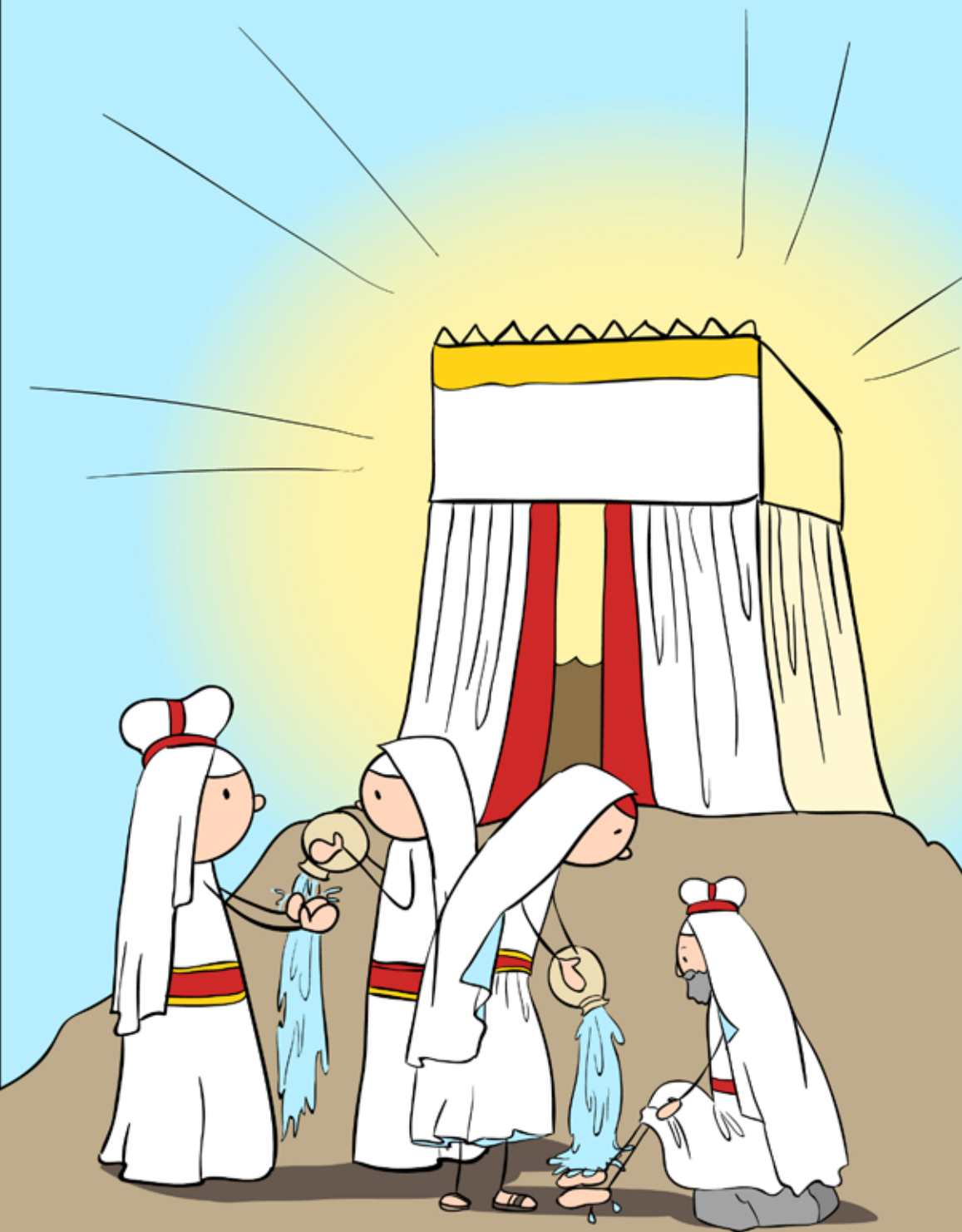


Because God is righteous in His nature, He is fair and equitable in all His ways, including in His interactions with us. Because God is holy, He can't abide sin, and because He is righteous, it is necessary for Him to treat people according to what they deserve. God rewards the upright, those who live in alignment with God's will, Word, and ways. By the same token, when one sins, there is punishment. If there were no rewards and punishment, then God would be unfair, and thus unrighteous—which He can't be, as that would go against His nature and essence.

The Nature of God

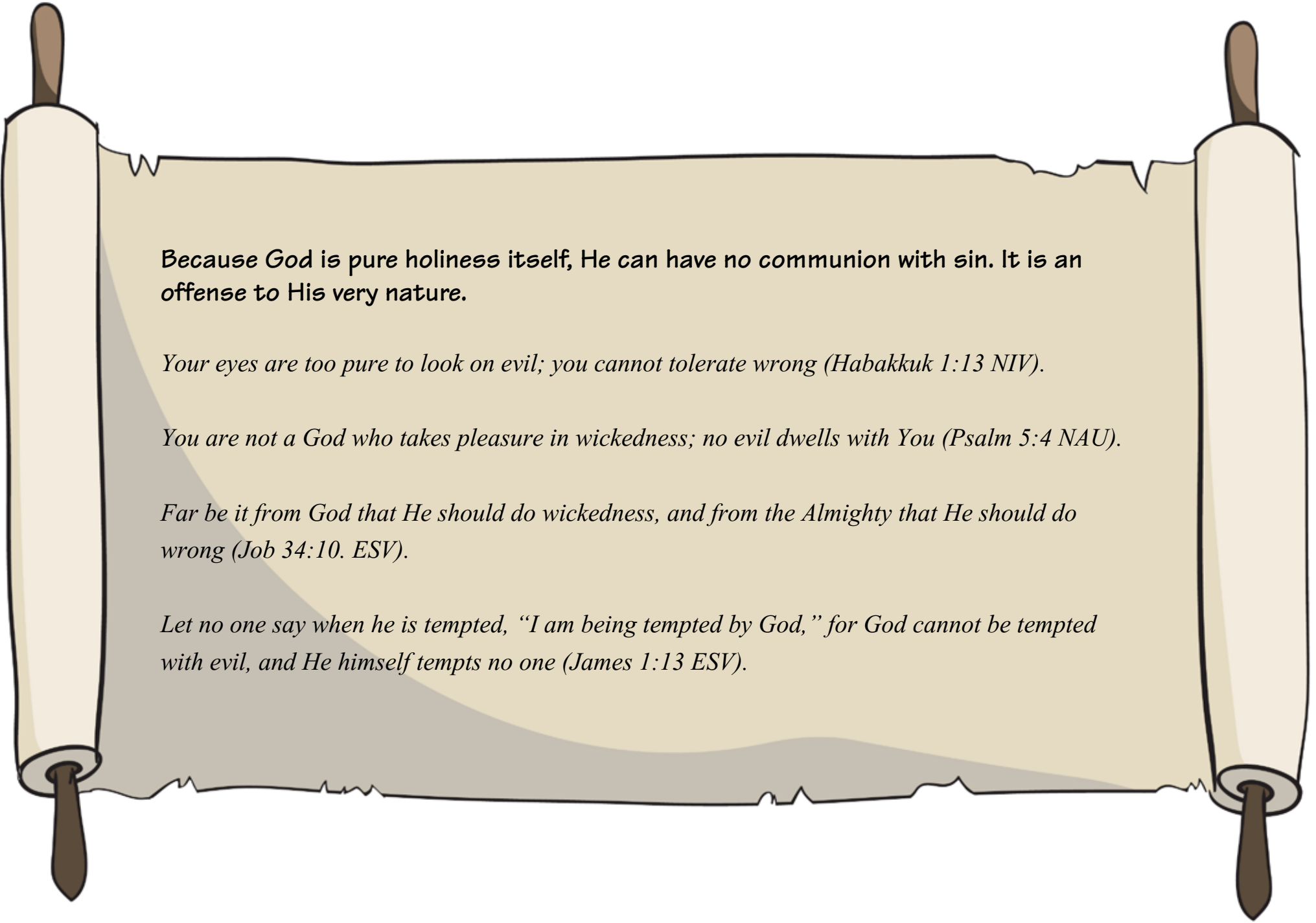


God is morally perfect in character and action. He is pure and righteous; He has no evil desires, motives, thoughts, words, or acts. He is eternally and unchangeably holy. He has divine purity with no taint of anything impure. As such, God is set apart from humankind's sinfulness.



In the Old Testament the Israelites, both the priests and the people, were instructed to follow many rites and ceremonies of purification.¹ Anything that defiled a person—making them impure or unclean either outwardly or inwardly—kept them from approaching God and His dwelling place, the tabernacle or temple. Thus God told them to perform these ceremonies to cleanse themselves. This was a demonstration that the Holy One was separated from all that is not holy.

1. Book of Leviticus.



Because God is pure holiness itself, He can have no communion with sin. It is an offense to His very nature.

Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong (Habakkuk 1:13 NIV).

You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; no evil dwells with You (Psalm 5:4 NAU).

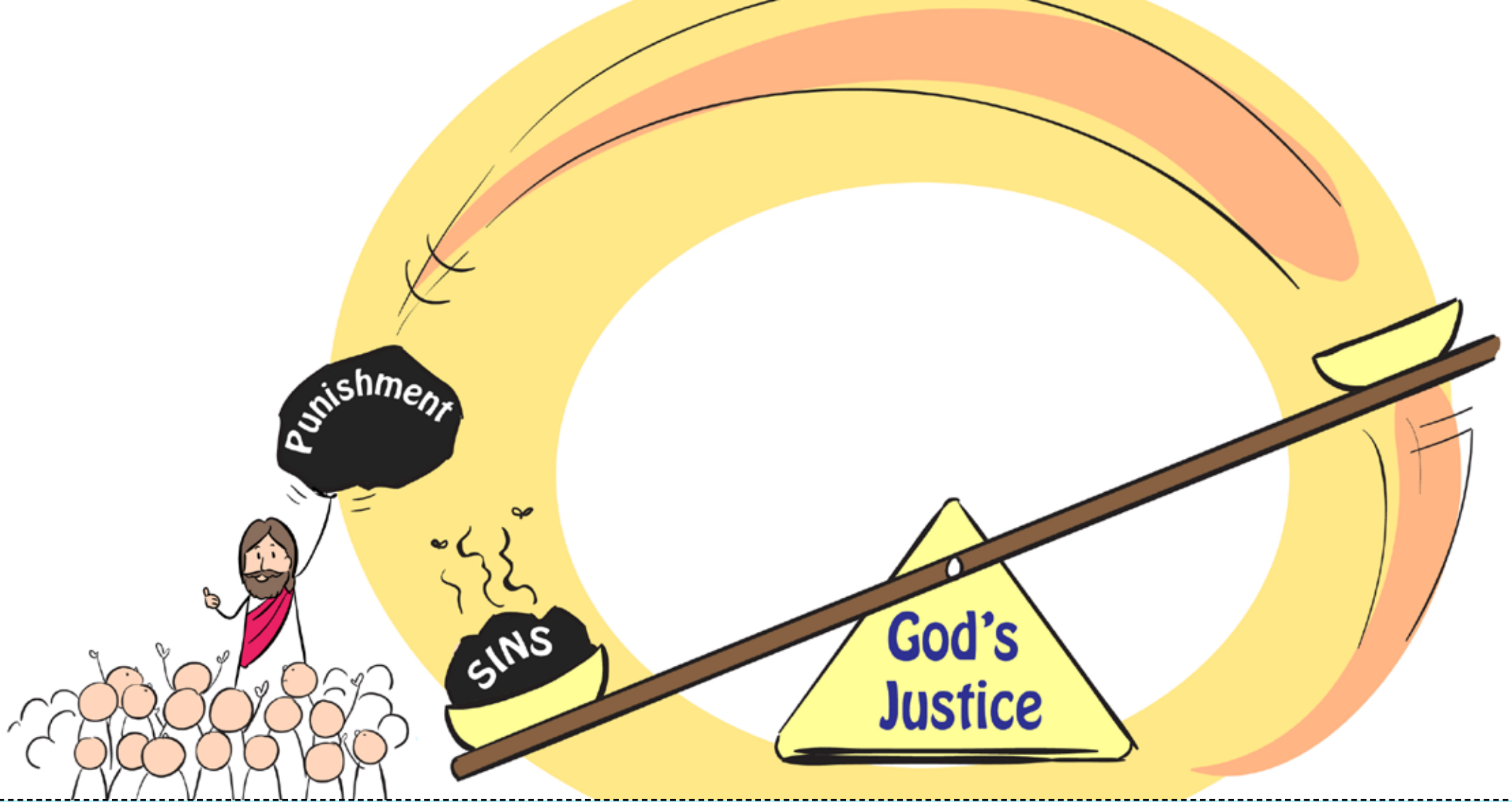
Far be it from God that He should do wickedness, and from the Almighty that He should do wrong (Job 34:10. ESV).

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and He himself tempts no one (James 1:13 ESV).



God's Plan of Redemption

Because of God's inherent holiness, He cannot abide sin; yet all humans sin. As a result of God's perfect righteousness and justice, there is, and must be, retribution and punishment for sin. However, because God is also supremely loving and merciful, He designed the plan of redemption which required Jesus' incarnation, His sinless life, and the sacrifice of His life on the cross for the sins of humankind—all of which satisfies the righteousness and justice of God, and which brings reconciliation between God and those who receive Jesus. God did this out of love for us, His creation.



This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins (1 John 4:10 NIV).

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16 ESV).

Understanding that God is just and righteous should also help us to trust Him, to know that we can count on Him to always do what is right concerning us, even if we don't understand it at the time. God has complete understanding of all things, and He loves us; therefore we can safely rely on Him in all situations.

