JONATHAN EDWARDS & SACRED LANDSCAPES

BEAUTY OF HOLINESS
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• Scriptural foundation: Ps. 29, 96, and other passages
• Holiness Edwards translates into "moral excellency" and explains its meaning through the distinction between natural and moral goods (WJE 2:29)
• In other passages he speaks of the beauty of holiness as its "loveliness," a characteristic which is said to call forth both the delight and love of the beholder (WJE 2:29)
• In describing the beauty of holiness he says, "this kind of beauty is the quality that is the immediate object of this spiritual sense" (WJE 2:30)
  • a taste of the beauty of the divine gloria
  • "Holiness is a most beautiful and lovely thing (WJE 10:478)
  • God is God and distinguished from [that is, set apart from] all other beings, and exalted above 'em, chiefly by his divine beauty" (WJE 2:298)
• Use of “beauty of holiness”
  • Religious Affections, WJE 2:257, 260, 274, 275, 301
  • Life of David Brainerd, WJE 7:445
  • Sermons and Miscellanies

• Holiness for God, said Edwards, “is as it were the beauty and sweetness of the divine nature,” and so “Christians that shine by reflecting the light of the Sun of Righteousness, do shine with the same sort of brightness, the same mild, sweet and pleasant beams (WJE 2:201; Cf. John Piper)