

Isaiah 6:1-13

“Changed By Worship”

- 1 In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.
- 2 Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.
- 3 And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."
- 4 And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke.
- 5 Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."
- 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs.
- 7 He touched my mouth *with it* and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven ."
- 8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"
- 9 He said, "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on listening, but do not perceive; Keep on looking, but do not understand.'
- 10 "Render the hearts of this people insensitive , Their ears dull , And their eyes dim , Otherwise they might see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, Understand with their hearts, And return and be healed."
- 11 Then I said, "Lord, how long?" And He answered, "Until cities are devastated *and* without inhabitant, Houses are without people And the land is utterly desolate,
- 12 "The LORD has removed men far away, And the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land.
- 13 "Yet there will be a tenth portion in it, And it will again be *subject* to burning, Like a terebinth or an oak Whose stump remains when it is felled. The holy seed is its stump."

Introduction

In this famous passage of Scripture, Isaiah gets a vision of God Himself and the activity of the worship of the angelic beings around His throne. He sees the glory of God and he is forever changed! That is what always happens in worship. In worship, we are changed. Worship never leaves someone the same. When you come into the presence of God with singing, hearing the Word of God preached, you never leave the same. You are either hardened or you are softened. You either catch a glimpse of God's glory or you miss God's glory. Either way, He is glorious. The difference is whether His glory impacts you or not. As the poet, Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote:

Earth's crammed with heaven,
And every common bush afire with God;
And only he who sees, takes off his shoes;
The rest sit round it and pluck blackberries,
And daub their natural faces unaware.

Only he who seems takes off his shoes. I believe that every time we are open to it, God wants to reveal more and more of His glory to us. Every moment of prayer, of worship, of Scripture reading, of singing about God, of meditation on divine truths brings us to moments where God wants to reveal Himself to us.

Let's explore this passage of Scripture and see how God is exalted and holy, Isaiah is sinful and humbled, and how the whole earth is full of the glory of God.

Prepared for Worship (v. 1 "In the year of King Uzziah's death")

Isaiah and Uzziah were best friends. When we read of Uzziah's death, we are reading of Isaiah's pain and loss. He loved Uzziah. Sometimes God uses tragedy to get our attention away from the things of this world and to help us focus on Him and His glory. Notice the important truth that God was glorious, holy, and enthroned before Uzziah's death, but Isaiah did not realize it at that point. God is always wanting to reveal more of Himself to you as His child. He desires to do so during this worship service, but are you ready to be changed by it. God reveals things to us as we can handle them.

The writer of Hebrews told them several times that he would like to tell them more about a certain topic, but that they were not ready for it yet. Their dullness of hearing and hardness of heart made it so that they were not ready to be broken by the truth and changed by the truth and humbled by the truth. So, the truth was withheld from them. Jesus did not perform many miracles in the towns with little faith in Him. It takes an openness, a readiness to see the glory of God, to worship Him. Are you ready?

God's Character (v. 1-4)

How does Isaiah see God? What attributes can we find in His account of this wonderful vision?

1. God is a King – He sees God on a throne (v.1) God is an Exalted King with Great Glory – He sees God lofty and exalted because the train of His robe fills the temple (v. 1). In this time, kings would show off the majesty of their kingdom by the length of their robes. Isaiah says that God's robes filled the entire temple. This is a word picture for just how majestic and glorious God is!
2. God is Holy – He is attended by Seraphim, literally “burning ones” (v. 2). They are not cute little chubby cherubs like a precious moment rendition of an angel. These beings are literally all fire. They have faces, hands, arms, and legs like people, but they also have six wings each. They are a glow with the glory of God and that glory consumes them. As they fly around God's throne with two of

the wings, they also use two to cover their faces from the brilliance of His glory and they cover their feet. R.C. Sproul says that the feet are the symbol of creatureliness and that they cover these because they are creatures. Now, I believe that R.C. Might not be quite right on this matter. Why would beings who have never sinned hide themselves from the glory of God? When we are in Heaven, we will not hide ourselves from His glory, but will seek out His glory. And, why would an angelic being be ashamed of his feet, as a symbol of being a creature. Why is being a creature bad? Why would they be hiding these? Maybe I am missing what R.C. Is saying, but if I think there is another reason that they are covering their faces and feet. In the verses following, Isaiah's sin will be forgiven after his confession of sin and then he will volunteer to go and tell others about the glorious God that he has seen. I think the seraphim, the burning ones, are saying that they cannot tell the message of the Gospel and they cannot be the ones to go. So, they cover their faces saying that they cannot be the ones to share the Gospel message and they cover their feet because they cannot be the ones to go and tell the story. They cry to one another in joyful fellowship, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord! The entire earth is filled with His glory!" His glory consumes their speech and their actions. They find ultimate joy in doing and being what they were created to do and be. Notice that the entire earth is full of the glory of God. The glory is here, but it is not exposed. It is hidden.

Man's Character (v. 5-7)

In light of the holiness and majesty of God, Isaiah saw his own sinfulness and the sinfulness of his people. Only with a right vision of God can we get a right vision of ourselves and mankind. Isaiah's confession leads to his conversion where his sin is cleansed by God.

Isaiah's Call (v. 8-13)

Once we see God's glory and man's sin, we will want to volunteer to help tell men about this wonderful, glorious God that we have seen. All men need cleansed like we were cleansed. This is the natural response to becoming a Christian and a natural response to seeing the glory of God.

Notice the response of his preaching of this message is given. He was to preach to people, but they will not understand. God will not be granting them repentance. We sometimes like to think that anyone who wants to repent can, but this is not the case.

1. Repentance is a gift from God – **Acts 11:18; 2 Tim. 2:25; Eph. 2:8-10**
2. Some seek to repent by cannot – **Hebrews 12:17**
3. Repentance can be true or false – **2 Cor. 7:9-10**
4. Repentance is our message – **Is. 30:15; Luke 5:32; Luke 24:47; Acts 20:21**