

God's Glory! Man's Ruin! (Slide 1)

Isaiah 6

Reading: Psalm 29

Isaiah 6:1-6 (Slide 2)

1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. 2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. (Slide 3) 3 And one cried to another and said:

***"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
The whole earth is full of His glory!"***

4 And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.

(Slide 4) 5 So I said:

***"Woe is me, for I am undone!
Because I am a man of unclean lips,
And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips;
For my eyes have seen the King,
The LORD of hosts."***

(Slide 5) 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. 7 And he touched my mouth with it, and said:

***"Behold, this has touched your lips;
Your iniquity is taken away,
And your sin purged."***

Here in the 6th Chapter of **Isaiah** we are reading about the commission of *Isaiah* as a *Prophet* for God. He is describing his vision and the purification process in which he undergoes.

Have you ever had a dream that just seemed absolutely real, as if you were perhaps having an “*out of body*” experience and were observing what transpires from above? Although a dream, it is so, so surreal (fantastical).

That dream sometimes has a dramatic effect on you mentally and sometimes physically, yet it is but a dream. I personally believe dreams have great significance.

Though we are asleep, what we experience has been triggered by some past, present or future event or observation. It could also be triggered by something we hear or have heard about. I personally believe that Satan has the ability to infiltrate our dreams.

Dreams are often in the form of a storyline. Though, during the dream the details are vast, they are sometimes difficult to recall. When I can recall a dream or I wake up in the middle of a dream, I’ve noticed that I can’t formulate a number or a person’s name.

For example, I’ll have a dream where I am to lead the singing or where I am going to do the reading in our worship service, but I can’t find the song number or scripture reference and the rest of the dream is spent searching for those numbers or references.

I have heard folks say that they are dreaming about being back in school and can’t find their locker or remember their combination or remember their schedule. This searching makes up the entirety of the dream.

I also believe there is a significant difference between a bad dream and a nightmare. A bad dream is something that occurs after someone has watched a scary movie whereas a nightmare occurs over and over after a traumatic event.

A nightmare is when a person knows they are asleep but they desperately want to wake up or want someone to wake them up but they can’t or don’t.

But a dream, which is from the subconscious, and a vision are also significantly different. Most often a Biblical vision occurs when a person is conscious and aware. Not asleep. It is playing out before their very eyes.

(Slide 6) What Isaiah witnesses is incredible! He gives us a description of the *Holiness of God*!

As human beings we really struggle to describe or to understand *The Glory, The Holiness of God!* We are in a mortal, inferior state and struck with many flaws, so to describe someone who is absolutely *pure* is difficult.

How can we have a better understanding of God's Holiness, His Glory?

We can tread on any ground on top of the earth and feel it to be of no significance or difference. However, I have often been concerned about walking in the cemetery and stepping on top of someone's grave. I certainly don't want to be disrespectful. Nevertheless, it's still dirt!

Yet, on the earth God's presence can create Holy Ground!!

Exodus 3:3-5 (Slide 7)

3 Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn."

4 So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!"

(Slide 8) ***And he said, "Here I am."***

5 Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground."

God's presence made the ground *Holy!!*

Only God can make a piece of the earth Holy and His Glory demands respect. Perhaps that gives greater weight to:

1 Corinthians 10:31 (Slide 9)

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

(Slide 10) Isaiah described his vision in this way:

I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple.

I really have no idea what that looked like but I do know that *filling the temple with His robe indicates the greatness of God's Glory!*

God's Glory is difficult for mankind to comprehend.

We read the word *Glory* or about the presence of the Lord in several places in the Bible.

Isaiah 2:10-11 (Slide 11)

10 Enter into the rock, and hide in the dust,

From the terror of the LORD

And the glory of His majesty.

11 The lofty looks of man shall be humbled,

The haughtiness of men shall be bowed down,

And the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.

1 Kings 8:10-11 (Slide 12)

10 And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, 11 so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.

(Slide 13) The Hebrew word for *Glory* has several meanings: *weight*, *worth*, *honor*, and *majesty*. Another Hebrew word for *Glory* adds the idea of *splendor*. The earth is a picture capturing God's *Splendor*!

The detail of which Isaiah describes God's *Robe* and its *filling the temple* indicates *weight* and *splendor* in which God's Glory demands Honor.

For us to understand more fully what our reaction, our reverence for God should be like, I won't try to explain what Isaiah saw when he beheld God's Glory but how he describes what the *seraphim* were doing during this vision.

(Slide 14) ***Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew***

If we were to visually see **seraphim** we would see a *celestial being with wings*. Not necessarily what we consider the appearance of an angel, yet, could be in the rank or class of Angels as we see from the definition.

(Slide 15) According to E. M. Zerr's Biblical commentary (*Isaiah 6:2 pg 247*), Sepaphim comes from a Hebrew word SARAPH and Strong defines it in this way: *burning* that is; figuratively, *poisonous* (serpent): specifically a *seraph* or symbolic creature (*from their copper color*).

Smith's Bible Dictionary calls them "*an order of celestial beings*." There is much here that I do not understand about the Seraphim. Many believe as I stated that these celestial beings were a part of the angelic beings with a certain rank. They had characteristics of angels with human attributes.

I believe their actions give us a glimpse into how *heavy*, that is; *how great of honor God deserves from humanity because of His eternal Glory!*

These celestial beings had 6 wings. Smith's Bible Dictionary gives us a reasonable explanation as to what the Seraphim were doing with their wings.

(Slide 16) *In the presence of God Almighty, His Glory on full display-with two he covered his face*-a token of humility. *Humble before God!!*

In the presence of God Almighty, His Glory on full display-with two he covered his feet-a token of respect. *Proper reverence for the presence of God!!*

In the presence of God Almighty, His Glory on full display-with two he flew. I personally believe the two wings used to fly are a ready response to do The Lord God's will!!

And so, Isaiah is witness to this Glorious event through his vision and it is utterly overwhelming. He feels miniscule in comparison, not worthy to be in God's presence because of his human form and its flaws.

(Slide 17) ***"Woe is me, for I am undone (ruined, unclean)!
Because I am a man of unclean lips,
And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips;
For my eyes have seen the King,
The LORD of hosts."***

Can you imagine! Isaiah is one of the major prophets! He feels insignificant! A broken man!

I believe he recognized the superiority of God and his place. He says a man with **unclean lips**, yet Isaiah was a righteous man and his righteousness was not questioned.

He felt inferior because here he was in the midst of people who were of **unclean lips**. He was in and amongst the unrighteous of his day and he felt personally tarnished, unworthy because of those around him.

(Slide 18) Dear Lord, I am a broken man! I can't look up because I am not worthy. Cast aside because of my own undoing, and full of fear because of my own insignificance.

I fear the past because of youthful foolishness. I fear the present because it has turmoil because my beliefs are challenged. I fear the future because I am often weak in faith.

I am fearful in decision making because I have often made the wrong choice. I am fearful of relationships because they are sometimes harsh.

I want to be more like Christ but I am weak because of the flesh and am drawn away.

Lord, I fear your strong voice and beg you to only whisper and tell me you hear. 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!'

Perhaps we feel just as the tax collector and as did Isaiah before the presence of God and cannot fathom how he can save us or purify our hearts. But he can and He will if we let Him.

Matthew 19:25-26 (Slide 19)

25 When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?"

26 But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Psalm 51:10 (Slide 20)

Create in me a clean heart, O God,

And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

God used the *seraphim* as a messenger of purification for Isaiah.

Isaiah 6:6-8

(Slide 21) ***6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. 7 And he touched my mouth with it, and said:***

***“Behold, this has touched your lips;
Your iniquity is taken away,
And your sin purged.”***

(Slide 22) ***8 Also 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.”

Isaiah was commissioned as a Prophet by “**Us**,” God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. He was made worthy to serve.

Invitation

Today we are purified by the Blood of Christ through baptism. Have you been washed in the blood of the Lamb? If not, why not. Do it today.

If we have been washed in the blood of the lamb then we have been sanctified for good works. Yet, perhaps we have not lived up to that purification and the Grace afforded us by the mercy of God. If you need the prayers of your brethren to restore your walk with God, please let us know.

Let your wish be known today.....

Reading:

Psalm 29

**1 Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones,
Give unto the LORD glory and strength.**

**2 Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name;
Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

**3 The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
The God of glory thunders;
The LORD is over many waters.**

**4 The voice of the LORD is powerful;
The voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**

**5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars,
Yes, the LORD splinters the cedars of Lebanon.**

**6 He makes them also skip like a calf,
Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

7 The voice of the LORD divides the flames of fire.

**8 The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
The LORD shakes the Wilderness of Kadesh.**

**9 The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth,
And strips the forests bare;
And in His temple everyone says, "Glory!"**

**10 The LORD sat enthroned at the Flood,
And the LORD sits as King forever.**

**11 The LORD will give strength to His people;
The LORD will bless His people with peace.**

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