

Revival

The Holiness Of God

Isaiah 6:1-8

During this time of transition Isaiah went to the temple to worship and pray for the nation and himself. There God met him and Isaiah saw a heavenly vision. There are several things that happened in this vision that I want to bring out this morning.

The First Thing We Notice Is God's Greatness In Verses 1-4

"In the year of King Uzziah's death, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two were flying. And they were calling to each other: Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is filled with his glory. At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke."

Notice the details of Isaiah's vision: King Uzziah may have died, but when Isaiah raised his head during worship, he saw another King, the Ultimate King. He saw the Lord high and lifted up.

At his side were angels. Their job was to give glory to the Lord. We know that these angels were without sin, yet, with their six wings they covered their feet and face. They shielded themselves from the direct gaze of God because of their reverence and awe before the presence of the holy majestic Lord.

See, we make a huge mistake when we imagine that God's goodness is somehow simply higher than that of the best of humans. God's

goodness is in a class all by itself. God's purity makes the sinless angel's blush and seek cover. As Isaiah stared in silence, dumbfounded by the vision he saw, the cry would sound out again and again and again. The substance of their songs of praise was the declaration of the holiness of God!! The main focus of the song is the repetition of a single word-
HOLY!

So we see the awesome presence and power of God. In addition to the shaking, the temple itself was filled with smoke. These images should provoke reverence and awe.

So first we see greatness. He is holy! God is distinct from us; He is in a class all by Himself. Holiness means that God is transcendent in His greatness.

Secondly, We See God's Goodness And Man's Unworthiness.

The doors of the temple were not the only thing shaking. The body of Isaiah quaked also. His fear was so real as he was confronted with the realization of God's holiness and he became profoundly aware of his own sinfulness. He finally cried out in agony in verse 5 "Woe to me, I am undone! For I am a man of unclean lips and I live among people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty."

Notice he doesn't say, "Cool" or "WOW!" Isaiah wasn't impressed or wowed.... he was "undone."

To be undone is to be broken or to come apart at the seams. The reason he is undone is because he is unclean. When seen next to the purity of God's holiness, the impurity of human sin is overwhelmingly evident.

It is like we live our lives with most of our lights so we are able to hide most of our wickedness in the dark. But when we come into the presence of God, the darkness is gone. All the hidden is exposed.

Think about it; all of our lives we think, I'm doing pretty well because we have been comparing ourselves to each other, but when we compare ourselves to the standard of absolute holiness.....look out. At that moment the walls of delusion come crumbling down.

We must be undone before we can be remade! Isaiah called himself a man of unclean lips.

I have heard people say, Look, God can never save me. I've done too many bad things in my life." But what they don't realize is, they are closer to salvation than they think because they are aware of their sin.

Let me give you an example: There was a King who visited one of the prisons in his kingdom when the inmates crowded around him proclaiming their innocence. All except one. He kept quiet with his head down in the corner. The King walked up to the guy and said why are you in here? The man said, "Armed robbery, your majesty." The King asked if he was guilty. The inmate said, "Yes I am. I deserve my punishment. The King turned to the guard and ordered the guilty man be set free. The King said, "I do not want this man corrupting all these other innocent people."

The 3rd Thing We See Is God's Provision

Once Isaiah realizes his sin, notice what happens in **verses 6&7** "***Then one of the seraphim's flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips, your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."***

The angel touches his mouth and basically cauterizes the sin. I'm no medical doctor but this is what I found out about cauterization. It's the process of sealing a wound or destroying abnormal or infected tissue with a heated instrument. God cauterized Isaiah's sin. He cut it off!!!

God tells Isaiah that his sin is paid for. Finding God's pardon in our lives begins by admitting our guilt. To insist we are innocent when we are not leaves us in a prison of our own making.

The way to God isn't by trying harder, it's by faith!! Faith in the finished work of Jesus on the cross.

After Isaiah finds forgiveness, he then is commissioned by God. look at ***verse 8. "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go with us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"***

Isaiah submitted himself to god's service. No matter how hard the task, he said, "here am I. Send me." Letting God purify us may be painful, but we must be purified so that we can truly represent our pure and holy God!!!