

Text: Isaiah 6:1-9

Meaning: Isaiah got a vision of God that forever transformed his life

Big Idea: When I truly see the Lord I am forever transformed

Objective: I want the hearers to see the Lord

Theme: What does He look like?

A VISION OF GOD

Today we continue our series *UNDER OATH*, and in this series we are talking about defending our faith.

1 Peter 3:15 – theme verse

but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect

Today we are looking at the very nature of God Himself. The simplest definition of theology is the study of God.

Charles Spurgeon

The highest science, the loftiest speculation, the mightiest philosophy, which can ever engage the attention of a child of God, is the name, the nature, the person, the work, the doings, and the existence of the great God whom he calls his Father....It is a subject so vast, that all our thoughts are lost in its immensity; so deep, that our pride is drowned in its infinity....No subject of contemplation will tend to humble the mind more than thoughts of God. (Sermon, January 7th, 1855)

Matt Chandler

Trying to figure out God is like trying to catch a fish in the Pacific Ocean with an inch of dental floss.

(The Explicit Gospel: Crossway Publishing, 2012)

We learn who God is by the Holy Scriptures and from the experiences of the men and women of God that we have

encapsulated in the pages of the Bible. One of the most transformative encounters anyone had with the Lord in the Bible is in Isaiah 6 where Isaiah has a heavenly vision of the Lord. Through this vision of the Lord in all His holiness Isaiah is changed forever and He spends the rest of his life declaring the glory and greatness of this God.

What about you? Have you had a vision of the Lord that was so transformative, so life changing, that it brought you to your knees. Isaiah found himself on his face before the Lord crying out for mercy as a result of this vision. What about you?

READ ISAIAH 6:1-9

In this passage Isaiah is ushered into the throne room of God. The Lord pulls back the curtain of heaven and allows Isaiah to see Him in fullness of glory and as a result Isaiah's life is forever changed. My desire for us today is to get a vision of the Lord that transforms us.

WHEN WE SEE THE LORD FOR WHO HE REALLY IS WE DECLARE HIS AWESOMENESS AND OUR NOTHINGNESS.

When we see Jesus for who He really is and fall in love with Him it changes everything.

THE MAIN REASON MANY PROFESSED CHRISTIANS DON'T GIVE, SERVE, OR SHARE THEIR FAITH IS BECAUSE THEY JUST DON'T LOVE JESUS AS MUCH AS THEY SAY THEY DO.

Isaiah had to come to this stark realization in this passage, that he didn't love the Lord quite as much as He thought He did. In this vision we see some defining characteristics of the Lord.

1. The LORD is SOVEREIGN

Isaiah's vision is of a KING ON THRONE, and not just any king – THE KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Isaiah saw Him high and lifted up which speaks of his majestic wisdom and deified status.

HE SAW THE TRAIN OF HIS ROBE FILLING THE TEMPLE.

Historians tell us that in that day, if a king had a robe with a long train, it symbolized strength and security. When the king of one country conquered the king of another country, the conquering king would have some part of that King's robe sewn onto his own robe. The more enemies he conquered, the longer the train of his robe became. Therefore, Isaiah sees the Lord here as unmatched in power, unrivaled in strength, and undefeated in battle.

IN THIS VISION ISAIAH SEES ANGELIC BEINGS CALLED

SERAPHIM standing above the throne of the Lord. He is so powerful and so awesome that the angels stand awaiting his every command – and while they wait they incessantly lift up declarations of praise.

KEEP IN MIND THAT THIS IS IN THE YEAR THE KING UZZIAH

DIED. Uzziah disobeyed God and defied the rebuke of the priests by going into the Temple and burning his own incense. As a result the Lord struck with leprosy and he would eventually lose his life. So, the Lord is reminding the prophet Isaiah here that He is God and we are not.

For young Isaiah, the outlook was bleak. His beloved king had died, his nation was in peril, and he could do very little about it. The outlook may have been bleak, but the uplook was glorious! God was still on the throne and reigning as the Sovereign of the universe! From heaven's point of view, "the whole earth" was "full of His glory"

(Isa. 6:3; see Num. 14:21–22; Ps. 72:18–19). When your world tumbles in, it is good to look at things from heaven's point of view. 1

Beloved – the Lord Jesus is KING OF KINGS AND LORD OR LORDS. He is the all time, undisputed, undefeated, champion of the world! There is none who compares to Him in glory. He governs the affairs of mankind and there is none who exists outside the bounds of His authority, and one of these days our heavenly King will come to earth and be our earthly King forever!

TODAY – NO MATTER WHAT YOU ARE WALKING THROUGH – OUR VICTORIOUS AND AWESOME GOD IS RIGHT WHERE HE'S ALWAYS BEEN – ON HIS THRONE! OUR CRISES DON'T CONSTITUTE EMERGENCIES IN HEAVEN!

2. The LORD is HOLY

When Isaiah sees Jesus and hears the hymn of praise from the Seraphim he doesn't hear them crying, "Gracious, gracious, gracious" or "merciful, merciful, merciful" or "loving, loving, loving" – though He is all those things. The best word these angelic beings can use to describe what they see and experience eternally is HOLY!

God's holiness is His complete and utter greatness. The Word in the original language carries the idea of separation. So, holiness is His utter separateness from us, His righteousness and wholeness and perfection and totally self-sufficient nature. It speaks of his purity and majesty. In contrast we are completely dependent, continually and forever reliant upon His sustaining grace and mercy.

¹ Warren W. Wiersbe, [*Be Comforted*](#), "Be" Commentary Series (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 29.

Also, His holiness is not just one characteristic among many, it is the utter perfection of all his characteristics. His love is holy. His wisdom is holy. His power is holy.

A.W. Tozer

God's holiness is not simply the best we know infinitely bettered. We know nothing like the divine holiness. It stands apart, unique, unapproachable, incomprehensible and unattainable. The natural man is blind to it. He may fear God's power and admire God's wisdom, but His holiness he cannot even imagine.

Exodus 15:11

"Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?"

IT IS ONLY WHEN WE SEE CHRIST IN ALL HIS HOLINESS THAT WE SEE OURSELVES WITH ACCURACY. UNTIL I TRULY KNOW GOD I CANNOT TRULY KNOW MYSELF.

Romans 11:33,36

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!...For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

3. The LORD is GLORIOUS

God's glory speaks of his exquisite brilliance.

Omnipotent

Isaiah says the very foundations of the Temple in Heaven shook when Jesus spoke.

Psalm 147:5

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power

Omniscient

Isaiah 46:9-10

I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done

Omnipresent

Psalm 139:7-10

Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

4. The LORD is REDEPTIVE

Saving God

The burning coal on the altar of God is a symbol of the wrath of God consuming the sacrifice. When Christ was on the cross God poured out His wrath forever toward sin for those who will call on the name of Jesus for salvation. It is Christ's sacrifice on the cross that takes away our guilt, and it is Christ's precious blood shed that atones for our disobedience. The only way we are forgiven is to respond just as Isaiah did,

"WOE IS ME, FOR I AM LOST; FOR I AM A MAN OF UNCLEAR LIPS AND LIVE AMONG A PEOPLE OF UNCLEAR LIPS.

Sending God

The Lord SAVES US TO SEND US!

We are unfit for service to the King until He redeems us from sin, but once He redeems us from sin WE THEN ENTER HIS KINGDOM SERVICE.

OUR RESPONSES:

1. Seek His FACE

Deuteronomy 34:10

And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face

Before we seek the HAND of God we should seek the FACE of God.

2. Submission to the MISSION

Isaiah said, "Here I am. Send ME" He took personal ownership of the mission of God. When we come face to face with God, and we get a glimpse of who He really is, we can't help but be inspired to go and tell others.