

# “The Holiness Of God”

## Isaiah 6:1-13

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**Teaching Aim:** To explore Isaiah’s vision of the magnificent holiness of God. To understand God is holy and we are not; having our sin atoned for is a prerequisite if we are ever to stand favorably in the presence of a holy God. To see the holiness of Christ in a new light as we come to understand through the Gospel of John that Isaiah’s vision is actually that of the preincarnate Christ in all of His glory!

### DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

#### **Part I: Isaiah’s vision of the heavenly throne room (Isa. 6:1-7)**

1. The year was 740 B.C. and King Uzziah had just died; Israel was in a national crisis (**vs. 1**). Uzziah had been a righteous king throughout most of his reign, but a flagrant sin changed all of that toward the end of his life. What sin did King Uzziah commit? (See **2 Chron. 26:16-21**) What other name is Uzziah known by in the Bible? (See **2 Kin. 14:21; 2 Chron. 26:1**) What amazing event took place as Isaiah humbly poured out his heart to God in prayer (**vs. 1**)?
  
2. What is the significance of God’s throne being described as “*high and lifted up*” (**vs. 1**)? What, if any, significance is in the description of God’s robe? How does this description relate to earthly monarchs today? What message is being revealed here?
  
3. Seraphim are one of several kinds of angelic beings mentioned in the Bible; they are mentioned only here (**vs. 2**). What was their unique role before the throne of God and why did they have six wings? What other angelic creatures in the Bible look similar to Seraphim? (See **Gen. 3:24; Ezek. 1:5,11, 10:1; Rev. 4:6-9**)
  
4. What can we learn about God from “*The Song of the Seraphim*” (**vs. 3**)? Is there any significance to the word “*holy*” being repeated three times? If so, what is the significance?

5. One of the most common reasons people don't go to church today is because they find it boring. Why do you think many people find church boring? Worshiping the living God should not be boring in any way. How do the inanimate objects of the heavenly temple react to the presence of God (**vs. 4**)? Are you moved when worshiping God? If not, do you take time to prepare your heart for worship before coming to church on Sundays? What was the smoke symbolic of in Isaiah's vision? (See **Exod. 19:16-20**)
  
6. Isaiah was a prophet and counselor to four of Judah's kings: Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. Isaiah was a statesman and perhaps the most righteous man alive at the time. What was Isaiah's evaluation of himself after getting a glimpse of the holiness of God (**vs. 5**)? How should we respond to the holiness of God today? Why? (See **Rom. 3:10-12,23**)
  
7. According to **verse 5**, what did Isaiah realize was a problem area in his life? Do you have a similar problem? What are some of the areas in your own life that you struggle with? Why was Isaiah so frightened as he realized his lips were unclean and his eyes had seen the King, the LORD of hosts? (See **Exod. 33:20; Jam. 2:10**)
  
8. The Old Testament uses the English word "LORD" in capital letters to translate "the Name of God" (**vs. 5**). What special covenantal name does "LORD" represent? (See **Exod. 3:1-14**) Likewise, the Old Testament uses the English word "Lord" in lower case letters to translate "the title of God" (**vs. 1**). What name and title does the English word "Lord" stand for? (See Commentaries) What can we learn about the deity of Christ from the translation of these two words?
  
9. How hot was the coal that the angel picked up (**vs. 6**)? What was the significance of the Seraphim searing the lips of Isaiah with the hot coal (**vs. 7**)? What is the meaning of the word "atonement?" (See Dictionary) Why is it necessary for our sin to be atoned for? (See **Jam. 2:10**) In what way is this purging by the Seraphim a foreshadow of the atoning work of Jesus Christ? (See **Mark 10:45; Eph. 5:2; Heb. 9:12-15**)

## Part II: Isaiah's call to ministry (Isa. 6:8-13)

1. Only after Isaiah's sins were atoned for did God speak (vs. 8). What question did God ask to those in His presence? Who was God referring to when He said "Us" in **verse 8**? (See **Gen. 1:26; 3:22; 11:7**) How did Isaiah respond to God's request? What call has God placed on your life? Are you willing to follow this call? Why or why not?
2. What unusual mission did God call the prophet Isaiah to in **verses 9 and 10**? How does God bring "*judicial hardening*" to Israel? Is it possible for people to still receive "*judicial hardening*" today? According to **verses 9 and 10**, what would be the result of Isaiah's future preaching ministry?
3. What is the Lord's response to Isaiah's concern about the "*judicial hardening*" of Israel in **verse 11**? The prophecy in **verses 11-13** found its fulfillment in the 70-year Babylonian Captivity in which only a small remnant survived and returned to the land. Who is the "*holy seed*" referred to in **verse 13**? (See **Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:21**) In whom was this prophecy ultimately fulfilled?

## Part III: The explanation of Isaiah's vision (John 12:37-41)

1. According to **John 12:37**, how did the nation of Israel respond to their Messiah? Why did this response lead to God's "*judicial hardening*?" (**vv. 38-40**)? (See **Isa. 53:1; Isa. 6:10**)
2. What stunning interpretation of Isaiah's vision does the Apostle John give us in **John 12:41**? What do we learn about the identity of Jesus Christ from this passage? Does this revelation change your view of Jesus in any way? If so, how?
3. What specific request did Jesus make to God the Father when He prayed His High Priestly prayer the night before His crucifixion? (See **John 17:5**) How does this request tie together with the glory of God as seen in **Isaiah 6**?

4. How can the continual rejection of the gospel message lead to a *“judicial hardening”* in people’s hearts today? What is the only way people can be saved from God’s wrath against sin today? (See **Eph. 2:8-9; John 3:16; Acts 4:12; Rom. 3:23; 5:8-9; 6:23; Acts 16:31**) Have you received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? If not, why not do so in prayer right now?

**MINER’S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!***

- Sometimes God reveals himself most clearly to us in times of crisis.
- The primary meaning of holiness is *“separateness”*, meaning *“there is no other God like our God”*; He is One of a kind and set apart from everything He created. In a secondary sense, holiness means purity.
- Isaiah realized his own unworthiness once he saw the holiness of God in his vision.
- We too should be driven to Jesus Christ when we understand that God is holy and we are not; Jesus is the only way to salvation.
- Our sin must be atoned for before we can come into God’s presence and be used by Him; Jesus made atonement for the sin of His people when He died on the cross for our sins.
- Continued rejection of God can lead to the *“judicial hardening”* of a person’s heart.
- The Apostle John revealed that Isaiah’s vision in Isaiah chapter 6 was actually of the pre-incarnate Christ in all of His glory.