

“The Holiness Of Christ”

Isaiah 6:1-13/John 12:37-41

Message by Michael J. Barnard

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Teaching Aim: To explore Isaiah’s vision of the holiness of God. To understand God is holy and we are not; having our sin atoned for is a must if we are ever to stand favorably in the presence of our 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 near the end of his life brought about some horrible consequences for him. 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. Is there any significance in God’s throne being described as *“high and lifted up”* (**vs. 1**)? What, if any, significance is there in the description of the length of God’s robe? How does this description relate to earthly monarchs? What message is being revealed here?

3. Seraphim are one of several kinds of angelic beings mentioned in the Bible; it is noteworthy that Seraphim are mentioned only here in Scripture. (**vs. 2**). What unique role do these angelic beings have before the throne of God and why do 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 so many people find church boring? Worshiping the living God should not be boring in any way. How do even the inanimate objects of the heavenly temple react to the presence of a holy God (**vs. 4**)? Do you find yourself moved when you worship God? If not, do you take time to prepare your heart for worship before coming to church on Sundays? Why or why not? 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 once he saw the vision of God's holiness (**vs. 5**)? How should we respond to the holiness of God today? Do you? (See **Rom. 3:10-12,23**)

7. According to **verse 5**, what area of Isaiah's life did he have a problem with? Do you ever struggle with keeping your mouth godly? What are some areas in your life that you need help with? Why was Isaiah so frightened when 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 place of "*the Hebrew covenantal Name of God*" (**vs. 5**). What special name does the English word "LORD" (all capital letters) replace? (See **Exod. 3:1-14**) Likewise, the Old Testament uses the English word "Lord" in lower case letters to replace "*the Hebrew title of God*" (**vs. 1**). What name and title does the English word "Lord" replace? (See Commentaries) What can we learn about the deity of Jesus Christ from the translation of these two words?

9. How hot was the coal that the angel picked up (**vs. 6**)? What, if any, significance was there in the Seraphim searing the lips of Isaiah with this hot coal (**vs. 7**)? What does the word "*atonement*" mean? (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 that Jesus Christ would do for His people? (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 did God ask at this point? 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 sacred call has God placed on your life? Are you willing to obey God and follow His leading in your life? Why or why not?
2. What unusual mission did God call the prophet Isaiah to in **verses 9 and 10**? In what way would God bring "*judicial hardening*" to Israel? Is it still possible for people to receive "*judicial hardening*" as a punishment today? According to **verses 9 and 10**, what would be the frustrating result of Isaiah's future preaching ministry?
3. What was 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 in **John 12:41**? What do we learn about the identity of Jesus Christ from this passage? Does this revelation change your view about Jesus in any way? If so, how?
3. What specific request did Jesus make to God the Father on the night before His crucifixion when He prayed His High Priestly prayer? (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 by an unbeliever lead to a “*judicial hardening*” in their heart by God? What is the only way a person can be saved from the wrath of God against their sin? (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. Only in a secondary sense does holiness mean 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; there is only one way to salvation and that is by grace through faith in Jesus.
- 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.