

God: The Grandeur of His Holiness

Text: Isaiah 6:1-4

Date: 7-19-20 Outdoor Service at Brink's home 10:30 pm

"During that period in spite of the solemn warnings of Isaiah, and his predictions of approaching disaster, the people continued to sink deeper in their disobedience and defiance of God, with resulting moral decay. Meanwhile Israel's enemies were forging an ever tighter noose around Israel and Judah, menacing the very existence of the two divided and feuding kingdoms. No doubt Isaiah must have been asking himself why his nation was rushing so blindly toward its doom. The prophet found the answer to his painful query in recalling the commission which the LORD of Hosts gave to him early in his ministry" (Buksbazen 136).

Meanwhile, Israel and Judah were on the brink of destruction themselves. This wasn't just from foreign powers but from their moral and social decadence as Isaiah chapters 1-5 attests. The people as a whole had no desire to return to God; rather, they continued to wallow in their pride, self-preservation, and sinful actions. See Isa. 22:12-13. **This was the time period of Isaiah's day when King Uzziah died. Can you imagine how Isaiah felt at this point? What unfolds is a vision and a message and they are inseparably tied together. The vision is the basis for the message and the message cannot receive proper authority without the vision.**

I. The glorious vision of the Lord of hosts (Isa. 6:1-4).

It is beside the point where Isaiah was (although there is no record that he was a priest and could have been allowed into the temple) and which temple he saw in the vision. What matters is that God revealed Himself to Isaiah for this time and for this reason: to commission Isaiah to the work ahead.

The position of God as *high and lifted up* speaks to His position over the nation. He was and is supremely in control. While that wasn't perhaps readily apparent to Isaiah, this vision reinforced the place of God over the nation, over his life, and over the earth.

While we have not seen a vision of God like this, we have come into intimate contact as the Trinity indwells us as believers. We truly can know the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the Word of God in its totality. God's full revelation leaves no room for us to do anything but stand in praise and blessing to God Almighty. He is the One who alone is sovereign, distinct, above and over all, in all, can create and destroy, and in whose hands we find the time of all peoples and nations. We must bow the knee in obeisance and obedience as Isaiah.

Seraphim (plural of seraph: The seraphim were humbly hovering before the God of the universe. They were serving the Lord as seen in v. 6. They clearly worshipped God with their lips and their lives. They pronounced the clear separation of God who is above all of His creation and above all sin. They spoke of the holiness of God showing that He is infinite, perfect, and sinless. The 3-fold call here indicates the perfect holiness with which God rules.

Isaiah attests to the picture of God's ultimate and supreme attribute: holiness. Holiness expresses all that God is including His perfections, purity, and separation from all finite creatures. He is both perfect and above all His creation. This is the "entirety of the divine perfection which separates God from His creation" (Young 242).

Not only is He separate from man in that He is totally above him, He is separate from sin. Holiness is opposed to sin and demands judgment for sin. It coincides therefore, that God would demand punishment for sin. Isa. 5:16.

The clear picture is that God is holy and is divinely separate from that which is unholy. Hos. 11:9.

The contrast to the people and the king of Isaiah's day is obvious: the people were unholy (see Isa 5; 6:5) when they should have been a holy nation (Ex. 22:31; Deut. 7:6).

Creation rings true with a show of God's glory. Creation points man to God through the revelation of His attributes in Creation. When we view the mountains (Ps. 90:1-2), the rivers, the Grand Canyon, intricate flowers, spider webs, animals, birds, fish, and all parts of Creation the loud ring is that of God's glory. But, the heavens also declare the glory of God (Psalm 19:1ff). The majestic Creation is clear testimony of a majestic Creator-God.

The trajectory of Isaiah's life was no doubt forever changed by the vision of God that day. We also have hopefully come to a place where we have truly encountered God. How has the life-changing gospel decision affected your life?

How does Isaiah 6:1-4 apply to me?

1. The essence of God's Person, character, and ways centers on His holiness. God's separateness is a clear pattern for my life as I seek to live in a way that pleases Him.
2. My attention should consistently be directed to the Sovereign Lord of the universe.
3. My heart should burst forth with praise for the holiness of God. Our greatest act of service should be found in lifting praise to His name.
4. I must slow down and see God.

What does this passage reveal about the character and nature of God?

1. His holiness stands above all His character traits for this is who God is and all other attributes flow out of this one.
2. The essence and supreme attribute of God, therefore, expresses the sum of His perfections, purity, and power above all of His creation.
3. The presence of God impacts every facet of a human being.
4. The length of eternity can be better understood when we recognize the view that Isaiah had will be the view that we will one day have of God. In other words eternity will be about this view of God and when we see Him we will not want to go back to any other view.

Action Points for us from Isaiah 6:1-4

1. Seeing God in a manner like Isaiah not only should change us, it should bring us to the place of complete humble dependence on Him.
2. We must allow God's holiness to daily change us to conforming to His Son.
3. We must continue to cultivate a deep meditation upon God and His character and living the humble life in accordance to God's Word. This is living the life of faith in Jesus Christ for the glory of God.