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TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God is holy.

TRUTH FOR MY LIFE

I will humble myself
in worship before a
holy God.

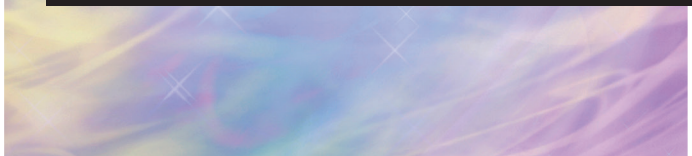
OUR HOLY GOD



FOCUS VERSE: Isaiah 6:5

Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

LESSON TEXT: Isaiah 6:1-8



BIBLICAL OVERVIEW

Lesson Text: Isaiah 6:1-8

This narrative, one of the best-known passages in Isaiah, is often interpreted as Isaiah's initial call to ministry. However, this interpretation is conjecture. It is possible Isaiah's first commissioning to the ministry of prophecy was much earlier, and Isaiah 6 was simply a clarification of his specific calling.

Isaiah's vision serves as an important template for how humans are to view and serve God. Isaiah realized God's holiness, power, and right to rule were all interconnected. In other words, God's holiness—His perfect nature and essence—grants Him the right to rule and the power to rule, forming the essential structure of God's deity and His kingdom. Therefore, as Jared Runck phrased it, "It becomes not simply a matter of choosing to serve God or not, but rather a matter of submitting to the basic structural reality of the universe or not" (Johnson & Runck, *Handbook on the Prophets*).

The mention of Uzziah provides a time stamp as well as important contextual information. In II Chronicles 26 and II Kings 14-15, we find the story of Uzziah, who was also called Azariah and Ozias. Uzziah's fifty-two-year reign was the most prosperous time for the kingdom of Judah during the era of the divided kingdoms. However, despite being a successful king and mostly faithful and righteous, his reign was marred by its conclusion. At the end of his life, Uzziah attempted to burn incense in the Temple—an activity reserved for the priests—and Uzziah was struck with leprosy. He lived in a separate house until the day he died.

Isaiah 6 is set "in the year" Uzziah died, which may have been before or after his death. Regardless, that time was filled with great uncertainty and confusion. Why did all this transpire? What would happen to the inhabitants of Judah? Would the nations' prosperity be preserved? Would Uzziah's son reign as well as his father? With all these swirling questions, Isaiah entered the Temple and received a revelation that God is holy, sovereign, and completely in control, no matter what was happening in the world around him. Similarly, when we enter into God's presence, God is ready and waiting to remind us that He is completely in control, regardless of our situation.

ISAIAH'S VISION SERVES AS AN IMPORTANT
TEMPLATE FOR HOW HUMANS ARE TO
VIEW AND SERVE GOD.

DAY 1

Isaiah 6:1

In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

Biblical Insight

Uzziah's reign is often glossed over by his ultimate sin, but the Bible records Uzziah as a mostly righteous king (II Kings 15:3; II Chronicles 26:4-5). Uzziah rebuilt Elath (II Kings 14:22; II Chronicles 26:2), strengthened Jerusalem's wall (II Chronicles 26:9), and developed such a thriving economy that Judah had to reclaim desert areas through irrigation systems to have enough room for all the crops they grew and livestock they raised. Uzziah grew the Judean army, defeated their enemies with God's help, and took tributes from them. Uzziah's name became known around the world (II Chronicles 26:1-15).

Daily Devotion

A beautiful part of living the Christian life is knowing God sees us for who we are overall. Once we have reached a place of repentance and have truly surrendered to the Lord, the label of sinner falls away. God sees us as cleansed, free from sin.

The world may only see the numerous mistakes we have made. They may even identify us according to our missteps or struggles, but God does not call us an alcoholic, an addict, an orphan, a failure, or any other negative description we may think describes us. He calls us chosen, blessed, His child, beloved, and best of all: forgiven.

Yes, Uzziah failed, but so have the greatest of men and women. Let's be glad God—not our sin or painful past—gets the final say.

Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this principle to your life today?*

DAY 2

Isaiah 6:2-3

² Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

³ And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Biblical Insight

The Hebrew word that forms the root of “seraphim” is *śārap*, which means “to burn up.” Seraphim by their very essence may be associated with fire, purification, and holiness.

These celestial beings are also found in Revelation 4:8, where they also proclaim, “Holy, holy, holy.” The repetition is deliberate. Words are often repeated in Hebrew literature for emphasis; the key focus in both places is God’s holiness. Even though Isaiah’s seraphim proclaim God’s power and rule (“the LORD of hosts”) and the Revelator’s seraphim proclaim God’s eternity (“which was, and is, and is to come”), both are ultimately proclaiming God’s holiness.

Daily Devotion

Holiness is more than just the way we dress and what we do or do not do with our hair. Holiness is a way of life, and we are given the purest model in Jesus Christ Himself. We are to be holy, for that is His very nature.

Living a holy life means we will need to allow things to be refined in us. Refining is not a pretty or delicate process. Refining requires fire to cleanse away all the impurities and imperfections.

The more we live a holy life pleasing to our Savior, the more we will want to. As we become more like Him, as the old song says, “The things of this world will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace.”

Let the holy One refine and redefine you.

Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this principle to your life today?*

DAY 3

Isaiah 6:4-5

⁴ And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

⁵ Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

Biblical Insight

During Uzziah's reign, a notable earthquake occurred (Isaiah 5:25). Some have assumed this earthquake occurred at the same time as Isaiah's vision because the posts of the Temple door shook. No wonder Isaiah was overwhelmed and responded with a recognition of his own lack of worth in Isaiah 6:5.

A sincere revelation of how truly holy, powerful, and righteous God is should always result in a recognition of how unholy, powerless, and sinful we are. Isaiah recognized himself and the world around him were ultimately unclean and in desperate need of purification only God could provide.

Daily Devotion

Often in the wake of disaster, people turn to God. When people recognize their humanity and frailty, something within them clings to hope that something or someone can save them. In those moments they recognize how infinitely small humans are and how much they need a Savior.

The days of Isaiah were no different. When the earth shook, Isaiah acknowledged that hope had to be placed in a steadfast foundation rather than an earthly one. Isaiah knew he was not enough on his own; neither are we. Whether a physical or an emotional quaking occurs, only God is holy and strong enough to restore and comfort us.

Where do you turn when everything around you seems to be shaken?

Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this principle to your life today?*

DAY 4

Isaiah 6:6-7

⁶ Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar:

⁷ And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.

Biblical Insight

Touching the mouth of the prophet was a common symbol of purification and purpose in ministry. God touched Jeremiah's mouth during his commissioning (Jeremiah 1:9). Ezekiel received a scroll to eat (Ezekiel 2:8-3:3). A supernatural being touched Daniel's mouth (Daniel 10:16). In all these circumstances, this touching symbolized how the prophet was set apart for a unique purpose. The purification and purpose were inseparable. The prophets were not made holy for their sakes alone; they were made holy so they might minister to God's people.

Daily Devotion

Proverbs 18:21 states, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof." We have the distinct benefit over the rest of creation to speak, and with that privilege comes power.

God has given each of us a voice to minister to those around us. You may not have a platform as a preacher or be given a microphone to sing, but your influence can be just as significant. You can speak life to your neighbor. You can share words of kindness with your coworkers. You can even speak with compassion to the men and women who are less than nice to you. Your voice can make or break a situation, and it can bring life or death to someone's emotions and spirit.

How will you use the voice God has given you? What are some ways you can make a positive impact on those around you?

Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this principle to your life today?*

DAY 5

Isaiah 6:8

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

Biblical Insight

A key aspect of a prophet's role was modeling God's purpose for His people. By responding voluntarily to participate in God's purpose, Isaiah was demonstrating how any child of God should respond to God's voice and touch: leaping to action in service of God's kingdom. Isaiah saying "here am I" would have reminded Hebrew readers of Moses' response before a burning bush (Exodus 3:4) or Samuel's response as a child being awakened by God's voice (1 Samuel 3:4). Isaiah likely knew both stories well and was ready to respond when he experienced the call of God for himself.

Daily Devotion

A fantastic method of leading is by example. Good leaders know they must exhibit the qualities they are verbalizing and longing to see fulfilled. We will know righteous frontrunners by their fruits, not the cars they drive or the number of social media followers they have.

Isaiah answered the call of God immediately. He heard God's voice and leapt into action. Isaiah knew the weight and necessity of the command. His example, along with other illustrations throughout Scripture, show us what hearing and reacting to God's call should look like. We will not always get it right, but God is in the business of knocking on the doors of our hearts with second, third, and hundredth chances.

God has spoken. How will you respond?

Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this principle to your life today?*
