



The Book of ISAIAH

Chapter 6

“Holy, Holy, Holy is the LORD of Hosts!”

(v1a) King Uzziah died In 739 B.C. - King Uzziah - The son of Amaziah and Jecholiah; ninth king of Judah and father of Jotham (2 Kings 15:1-7; 2 Chron 26:1). Uzziah is also called Azariah (2 Kings 14:21; 15:1-7). Uzziah ascended the throne at age 16 and reigned longer than any previous king of Judah or Israel-52 years. He probably co-reigned with his father and definitely had his son Jotham as his co-regent during his final years as a leper. A wise, pious, and powerful king, he extended Judah's territory and brought the nation to a time of great prosperity. In the south he maintained control over Edom and rebuilt port facilities at Elath on the Gulf of Aqaba. To the west he warred against the Philistines, seizing several cities. He also apparently defeated and subdued the Ammonites. The foolishness of Uzziah's father Amaziah in fighting Joash, the king of Israel, had left the city of Jerusalem in a vulnerable position (2 Chron 25:23). So Uzziah focused his attention on securing the defenses of both his capital and his country. He reinforced the towers of the city gates. On these towers and walls he placed huge catapults which were capable of shooting arrows and hurling stones at the enemy (2 Chron 26:15). He also maintained a well-equipped army and fortified strategic places in the desert. His successes were directly related to his spiritual sensitivity, because he sought the Lord through a prophet who encouraged him to honor and obey God (2 Chron 26:5). However, Uzziah's heart was lifted up in pride. No longer satisfied to be a mortal king, he desired to be like some of his contemporaries-a divine king. He entered the Temple to burn incense. When Azariah the high priest and 80 associates confronted him, he responded in anger instead of repentance. God judged him by striking him with leprosy. Uzziah was forced to live the rest of his life in a separate place, with his son Jotham probably acting as king. At Uzziah's death the prophet Isaiah had a transforming vision of the Lord, high and lifted up on a throne (Isa 1:1; 6; 7:1). (Nelson's Bible Dictionary)

(v1b) The temple of the LORD! - The throne of God is in the heavenly temple (Revelation 4:1-6; 5:1-7; 11:19; 15:5-8).

(v2) Understanding SERAPHIM (fiery, burning ones) – Seraphim are angelic or heavenly beings; this is the only place in the Bible that mentions these mysterious creatures. Each seraph had six wings. They used two to fly, two to cover their feet, and two to cover their faces. The seraphim flew about the throne on which God was seated, singing His praises as they called special attention to His glory and majesty. These beings apparently also served as agents of purification for Isaiah as he began his prophetic ministry. We will see that one places a hot coal on Isaiah's lips with the words, "Your iniquity is taken away and your sin is purged" (Isaiah 6:7).

(v3a) Understanding GOD'S HOLINESS! - Trihagion- "holy, holy, holy" - **HOLINESS is a moral and ethical wholeness or perfection; freedom from moral evil. Originating in God's nature, holiness is a unique quality of His character. The Bible emphasizes this divine attribute. "Who is like you, O Lord?" (Ex 15:11). "There is none holy like the Lord" (1 Sam 2:2). "Who shall not fear You, O Lord...For You alone are holy" (Rev 15:4). God's high expectations of His people flow out of His own holy nature: "You shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Ex 19:6); "sanctify yourselves therefore and be holy, for I am the Lord your God" (Lev 20:7). Jesus was the very personification of holiness; He reinforced God's demands for holiness by insisting that His disciples must have a higher quality of righteousness than that of the scribes and Pharisees (Matt 5:20). Like the prophets Amos and Hosea, Jesus appealed for more than ceremonial holiness: "I desire mercy and not sacrifice" (Hos 6:6; Matt 12:7). The theme of sanctification, or growing into God's likeness and being consecrated for His use, is prominent throughout the Bible. Like Jesus, the apostles taught that sanctification, or true holiness, expressed itself in patient and loving service while awaiting the Lord's return. Peter urged the suffering Christians of the Roman Empire to follow God's example of holiness in their trials: "As He who has called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct" (1 Peter 1:15). Paul's prayer for the saints at Thessalonica is timeless in its application to the church and individual believers: "And may the Lord make you increase in love and abound in love...so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints" (1 Thess 3:12-13). (Nelson's Bible Dictionary)**

(v3b) **Understanding GOD'S GLORY!** - In what is known as the LORD's Prayer, Jesus said in **Matthew 6:9-13 - In this manner, therefore, pray:**

*Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

- **Professor Charles Erdman of Princeton Theological Seminary lived from 1866-1960 and shares the following about the "glory of the LORD"** - ". . . on the great day of atonement the high priest put off his usual robes "for glory and for beauty" and appeared in spotless white, when he offered the sacrifices for sin and went into the holy place to intercede for the waiting people, so our Great High Priest laid aside the robes of his imperial majesty when stooping from heaven he assumed his garb of sinless flesh. He then offered himself as the perfect sacrifice and entered the holy places not made with hands to appear in the presence of God for us. But as the high priest again assumed his garments of scarlet and blue and purple and gold when he came forth to complete his work in the presence of the people, so Christ, when he returns to bless and to receive the homage of the world, will be manifest in his divine glory (**Hebrews 9:24-28** - *For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another — He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.*). As he appeared to Isaiah in his vision, to the disciples on the holy mount, to Saul on his way to Damascus, to John on Patmos, so will the Son a Man appear when, as he promised, he is seen "**sitting at the right hand of power, and coming on the clouds of heaven**" (**Matthew 26:64**)

> **The Christian's GLORIOUS Experience:**

- **Raised Glorious** - **1 Corinthians 15:41-43** - *There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.*

- **Conformed Glorious** - **Philippians 3:20-21**- *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.*

- **Creation's Glorious freedom** - **Romans 8:18-21** - *I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.*

- **His Glorious Return** - **Matthew 25:31-32** - *When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.*

(v5-8) **The temple of Man** - **Romans 3:23**- "**For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.**"

> **Observe Isaiah's response to God's Holiness and his sinfulness:**

- (v5) **Isaiah admits his sinfulness and repents – 1 John chapter 1**

- (v6-7) **God graciously responds to Isaiah's repentance by sending the seraphim to Isaiah (Romans 5:20-21 - But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.)**

- (v8) **Send me! - God's grace, mercy and love always brings us to action! - Romans 10:9-21**

> **Observe Men who met God's holiness:**

- **Job 42:5,6** - "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye sees thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes"

- **Daniel 10:8** - "Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and their remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength"

- **Peter - Luke 5:8** - When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"

- **Paul or Saul of Tarsus- Acts 9:1-22** (1 Timothy 1:15- "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came in to the world to save sinners of whom I am chief." **Philippians 3:7** - "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ")

> **Isaiah's New Commission:**

(9-10) "Go, and tell this people" - Matthew 13:1-23

(11-13) "Lord, how long?" - For insight on verse 13, Barnes writes, "[A tenth] That is, a tenth of the inhabitants, or a very small part. Amidst the general desolation, a small part should be preserved. This was accomplished in the time of the captivity of the Jews by Nebuchadnezzar. We are not to suppose that "literally" a tenth part of the nation would remain; but a part that should bear somewhat the same proportion to the entire nation, in strength and resources, that a tenth does to the whole. Accordingly, in the captivity by the Babylonians we are told (**2 Kings 25:12**), that 'the captain of the guard left the poor of the land to be vinedressers and farmers;' compare **2 Kings 24:14**, where it is said, that 'Nebuchadnezzar carried away all Jerusalem, and all the princes, and all the mighty men of valor, even ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths, none remained save the poorer sort of the people of the land.' Over this remnant, Nebuchadnezzar made Gedaliah king; **2 Kings 25:22.**")

- **Christian how long? - Matthew 24:1-14**

> **Our Great Commission:**

- **Luke 24:44-49** - Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the **Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.**" **And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.** Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, **and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations,** beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

- **Matthew 28:18-20** - And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you:** and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.