

Holy, Holy, Holy
Lesson Text: **Isaiah 6:1–8**
Bible Background: **Isaiah 6:1–12**
Devotional Reading: **Joshua 24:14-24**

Keep in Mind: *“And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.” (Isaiah 6:8 KJV)*

Aim for Change

“By the end of the lesson, we will: **RECOGNIZE** that God is worthy of praise and worship; **TRUST** God, who is worthy of praise and worship; and **COMMIT** to worship God in spirit and in truth.”

In Focus

“In today’s lesson, we will study the prophet Isaiah’s encounter with the holiness of God and his uncommon call.”

Lesson Text

Isaiah 6:1–8~NKJV

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

I. The Lesson

The People, Places and Times

Isaiah. In the eighth century, B.C., Isaiah was a prophet in the southern kingdom of Judah. Isaiah lived and ministered in Jerusalem for 58 years. He prophesied during the reigns of kings Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. Isaiah is believed to have been the author of the biographies of King Uzziah (2 Chronicles 26:22) and King Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 32:32). At God's direction, Isaiah humbled himself and for approximately three years traveled "naked and barefoot" (Isaiah 20). No other prophet predicted the birth of the Messiah, Christ Jesus, to the extent Isaiah did. He also prophesied extensively about the ministry and the sufferings of the Messiah for the sins of humanity.

Background: Eighth century B.C. was a tumultuous time for the northern and southern kingdoms of Israel and Judah. This period saw the rise of four major prophets: Amos and Hosea in Israel and Isaiah and Micah in Judah. Assyria became the dominant power in the area. Tiglath-Pileser III ascended to the throne and became king in 745 B.C. In his second year in power, he marched his army westward and occupied Israel. Israel was expected to make regular payments to the Assyrians. In 733 B.C., King Tiglath-Pileser, sent his army into Palestine; also, Syria and Israel invaded Judah. This was called the Syro-Ephramite War. These armies were unable to invade the capital city of Jerusalem. King Ahaz foolishly sent a tribute of gold and silver to Tiglath-Pileser III and asked for his assistance, rather than relying on God. The Assyrians defeated the Syrian and northern kingdom's armies, but Judah became a vassal state of Assyria. The combination of exile and resettlement of foreign peoples in Israel and Judah led to the creation of the people known as the Samaritans of the New Testament."

II. In Depth

1. True Worship Recognizes God's Holiness (Isaiah 6:1-4) As Isaiah began the narrative of his ministerial calling, he set the date as "in the year that king Uzziah died" (6:1). The death of King Uzziah serves as a time reference for Isaiah's vision by giving the historical context. According to Isaiah, although his body is inside the Temple, his soul is taken up to heaven, and there he saw a magnificent vision of God and the heavenly host. Isaiah recounts seeing the Lord Himself, seated upon a throne. Here we see God's throne as the representation of God's supreme authority and power. Isaiah describes God's position as "high and lifted up." We should understand this to mean that God has no equal. He alone is the Supreme Being. Notice the God Isaiah is viewing is neither remote nor obscure.

Isaiah continued his description of God's majesty by reporting the robes of the Lord are so massive the "train," or the hem of His robe, filled the entire Temple. This majesty of God is shown in the behavior of the heavenly hosts, called seraphs or seraphim. These six-winged creatures used two of their six wings, to cover their faces in reverence for God, recognizing they are unworthy to look upon Him directly. Hiding one's face from God in reverence and in fear was also shown in the actions of Abraham, who fell on his face before the Lord (Genesis 17:3); in Moses, who hid his face from God (Exodus 3:6); and with the prophet Elijah, who wrapped his face with his mantle (1 Kings 19:13). When Peter realized Jesus was the Messiah, he fell to the ground and asked Jesus to go away and not look on his unworthiness (Luke 5:8)."

2. True Worship Acknowledges Sinfulness (Isaiah 6:5) God's majesty and splendor serve to point out humankind's helplessness and unworthiness. It is this realization that prompted Isaiah's response when he witnessed the tremendous heavenly scene: "*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*" (v.5). We must admire Isaiah's honesty. Isaiah received a glimpse of the power and presence of God and in doing so recognized (Isaiah's) sinfulness by openly confessing it to God. The symbolic use of the "lips" or mouth to reveal what is in our hearts is used frequently in Scripture. Jesus tells the Pharisees, "Out of the fullness ... of the heart the mouth speaks. (Matthew 12:34, AMP)"

3. True Worship Receives God's Grace (Isaiah 6: 6-7) In response to God's awesome presence, Isaiah humbled himself in worship and confessed his sinfulness before God. God's response to Isaiah's confession was immediate. He dispatched one of the seraphim to take a burning hot coal and touch Isaiah's lips. Note that the hot coal was removed from the brazen altar where the sacrifices were offered. This symbolizes redemption, or the price paid to obtain forgiveness. The seraph told Isaiah, "*Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged*" (Isaiah 6:7). This action is symbolic of God's cleansing and His forgiveness. We should note that God did not chastise Isaiah. Rather, God, in response to Isaiah's humility, immediately reacted to Isaiah's need. God cleansed, forgave, and equipped Isaiah. We should be reminded how deeply God loves us and wants to be reconciled to us, His most beloved creation."

4. True Worship Responds to God's Call (Isaiah 6:8) Isaiah was being commissioned to be an instrument of God's mercy, grace, and God's prophetic words. Isaiah's response was swift and certain: "*Here am I. Send me!*" He told the Lord that he was ready to go wherever God wanted him to go, and he was prepared to do whatever God wanted him to do. As an act of worship, Isaiah made this commitment without even knowing what God would ask him to do. Isaiah's commitment to serve God was so sincere that he was willing to go before he knew where he would have to go! This should make us examine our response to God's call. Our lifestyle should be an act of worship unto the Lord in response to His goodness.

How often are we quick to respond, "Use me"? Or are we fearful and reluctant? Saying "Send me" to God means giving up control of our lives. Our wishes and desires will no longer be our priority. His will and His word will be all that matters. This loss of control is frightening only if we forget that the benefits are God's blessings."

III. Take Aways

IV. Closing Prayer



Our Read-Ahead for: 04 June 2023

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Monday: Setting Yourself to Seek God (2nd Chronicles 26:1-5)

Tuesday: From Success to Pride to Destruction (2nd Chronicles 26:16-21)

Wednesday: Following a Father's Example (2nd Kings 15:32-38)

Thursday: People Dulled to God's Presence (Isaiah 6:9-13)

Friday: Choosing to Serve a Holy God (Joshua 24:14-24)

Saturday: Seeking the Face of God (Psalm 24)

Sunday: Encountering the Holy God (Isaiah 6:1-8)