

TBC - 4/17/83 pm

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY
Isaiah

4/17/83

ISAIAH 6

(6:1) "Uzziah" - a good King. The reason for his death: 2 Chron. 26:15 b-23. It was his sin in the manner in which he approached a holy God! But Isaiah "saw also the Lord," enthroned as a sovereign, majestic, glorious. "Train" = skirts. These were the flowing skirts of His robe (Isa., p. 1044) - a part of His glory.

He ity see
says that
Israel
never
recovered her
glory after her
fall from
the down
present.

(6:3) The seraphim are angelic beings described here as much as they are anywhere in scripture. See again in v. 6. They were so-called because they were of high rank among the angels, eminent, noble, glorious. See Isa., p. 1019.

(6:3) "Holy, holy, holy" - God is pure, undefiled, sinless. The repetition is probably for the sake of emphasis. It is the holiness of God, His absolute moral purity, which forever sets Him apart from even the most saintly of His creatures - even angels. God shows us His holiness that we may be holy.

(Over)

(6:5) Isaiah's response:

1) "Woe is me!" - v. 8. He cried out in great distress. He certainly did not expect this. Cf. Ex 33:20. Cf. John 1:18. See also Jn. 12:37-41.

Isaiah saw the Lord much like Peter, James, and John did on the mount. Cf. Mt. 17:1-6.

Isaiah was fearful for ~~to~~ his life.

2) "For I am undone." This means that he was cut off. He felt that this was the end of his life, that he would now perish.

3) The reasons for his feelings

a) "Because I am a man of unclean lips,

Some see
this as an
evidence of
the Trinity.
b. "us" in
v. 8.

and I dwell in the midst of a people
of unclean lips."

Why "unclean lips"?

Cf. 1:15; 29:13; 58:1, 2.

Their lips were the lips of hypocrites.

Cf. Mt. 7:21-23.

Lips are "unclean" when they fail to
reflect a holy heart, and they cannot do
that if the heart is not clean before God.

Isaiah's condition was aggravated by the
people. A view of the Holiness of God
exposes our hearts to ^{our} view.

b) "For mine eyes have seen the King, The
Lord of hosts."

We have never seen ourselves until
we ^{see} see the Lord.

THIS WAS ISAIAH'S CONFESSION!

What happened?

(6:6, 7) He was cleansed, purged. To be purged
means to be forgiven. And this came
from the altar, picturing the cross. Cf. 1 Jn. 1:9.
The sin is not removed by the confession,
but by the sacrifice.

(6:8) What was the reason for this?

There were actually three reasons:

- 1) The call of God upon Isaiah. (6:8).
- 2) The difficulty of the work (6:9-12).
- 3) The prospect of blessing (6:13).

The terebinth, or terebinth, is a tree from
which we get turpentine. But the significant
thing about these trees is that they will
come back from the roots, or stumps, when
the tree is cut down.

Two others who had similar experiences:

1) Moses - Ex. 3:5.

2) Peter - Luke 5:1-11.

All of these were related to ministry. But it is significant that in each case their understanding of God's holiness came from seeing the Lord. Then they became conscious of how different they were.

How do we see the holiness of God? We do not have visions like Isaiah had, or even experiences like Moses, or Peter.

It comes solely from the Word.

It comes through seeing Christ revealed there.

It comes as God is pleased to reveal Himself. We can get pastoral, but we cannot make God give it to us, nor can we even set the time.

What will
we ~~do~~ an understanding of the Holiness
of God do for us? (Observations from Isaiah
6.)

- 1) It will keep us from thinking too much of men of God we see inclined to exalt. Cf. Uppiah.
- 2) It will keep us from thinking too highly of ourselves. Note how Isaiah felt about himself.
- 3) It will keep us from setting ourselves above the Lord's people.
- 4) It will make us realize not only that we need cleansing, but also where we must go to be cleansed.
- 5) It will prepare us for future ministry.
- 6) It will ~~encourage~~ us to be faithful when things look really bad all around us.
- 7) It will cause us to marvel at God, His holy character, and to worship Him!