

February 18, 2018

“Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord”

Focal Passage: Isaiah 6 (NIV)

Cross References: Exodus 33:17-23; Isaiah 53:4-6; Matthew 13:14; Mark 4:12; Luke 5:8-11; 8:10; 12:37-43; John 12:40; Acts 28:26; Romans 4:25; 11:8; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Peter 1:18-21; 1 John 1:7-10; Revelation 4; 8:1-5; 15:5-8;

Background passages:

- To read about Uzziah’s life, see 2 Kings 15 and 2 Chronicles 26.
- To see how Isaiah was quoted in the New Testament, see John 12:21-50.
- To see another picture of heavenly worship, see Revelation 4.

Lesson Idea:

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

Feb 11 Numbers 1-2	Feb 12 Numbers 3-4
Feb 13 Numbers 5-6	Feb 14 Numbers 7
Feb 15 Numbers 8-10	Feb 16 Numbers 11-13
Feb 17 Numbers 14-15	Feb 18 Numbers 16-17

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS OF THE PASSAGE:

- **God is the lofty and exalted King of Glory. He deserves our honor and praise.**
- **God’s glory fills the entire earth.**
- **When we understand the holiness of God, we also recognize our sinfulness.**
- **Only the Lord can take away our iniquity and forgive our sins. He does so through the saving work of Jesus Christ.**
- **The Lord invites us to respond to His call to serve Him.**
- **We should willingly volunteer to be used by Him.**

Isaiah 6:1-7 – The Lord’s Glory

1 In the year of King Uzziah’s death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. 2 Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called out to another and said, “Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts,

The whole earth is full of His glory.”

4 And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke.

5 Then I said,

“Woe is me, for I am ruined!

Because I am a man of unclean lips,

And I live among a people of unclean lips;

For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.”

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. 7 He touched my mouth with it and said, “Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven.”

DISCUSSION:

- v 1. What is the significance for this event happening in “the year of King Uzziah’s death?” What did Isaiah see? What does the throne and the enormity of the train of His robe signify? Define “lofty and exalted?”
- v 2. What are seraphim? Why would they cover their faces and feet in the presence of the Lord?
- V 3. Why did they angels proclaim: “Holy, Holy, Holy?” What does the term “Lord of Hosts” mean? Why is the earth full of God’s glory, and what is the significance that His glory is in the “whole” earth? (see Revelation 4)
- V 4. Why did the thresholds tremble and the temple fill with smoke? (see Revelation 15:5-8)
- V 5. What was Isaiah’s response to this epiphany of the Lord? Why did he respond that way? Why did he emphasize his and the people’s “unclean lips?” (see Exodus 33:17-23; Luke 5:8-11; Revelation 8:1-5)
- V 6-7. How did God respond to Isaiah’s confession? How does iniquity get taken away from us and our sins forgiven? (see Isaiah 53:4-6; Romans 4:25; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Peter 1:18-21; 1 John 1:7-10)

Isaiah 6:8-13 - Isaiah’s Commission

8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I. Send me!” 9 He said, “Go, and tell this people:

‘Keep on listening, but do not perceive;

Keep on looking, but do not understand.’

10 “Render the hearts of this people insensitive,

*Their ears dull,
And their eyes dim,
Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
Hear with their ears,
Understand with their hearts,
And return and be healed."*

11 Then I said, "Lord, how long?" And He answered,
"Until cities are devastated and without inhabitant,
Houses are without people, And the land is utterly
desolate,

12 "The Lord has removed men far away, And the
forsaken places are many in the midst of the land.

13 "Yet there will be a tenth portion in it,
And it will again be subject to burning, Like a terebinth or
an oak Whose stump remains when it is felled.
The holy seed is its stump."

DISCUSSION:

- v 8. What did the Lord ask? Why does the Lord's call change from singular (whom shall I send) to plural (who will go for us)? How did Isaiah respond? What did that reveal about Isaiah?
- V 9-10. What was the Lord's command to Israel? Why do people listen but not perceive? How do people look but not understand? (see Matthew 13:14; Mark 4:12; Luke 8:10; 12:37-43; John 12:40; Acts 28:26; Romans 11:8)
- V 10. What would be the results if people would have sensitive hearts? What would God do for those who "see with their eyes and hear with their ears?"
- V 11. Why did Isaiah ask: "Lord, how long?"
- V 11-12. What was God's answer to Isaiah's question?
- V 13. What did God promise would remain, and why? What is a remnant, and why does God always have a remnant of faithful people?

APPLICATION:

- ✓ How do you see God? Do you see Him as lofty and exalted and Holy, Holy, Holy?
- ✓ How would you respond to the Lord's call: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" What is He calling you to do this week? How will you respond?

NOTES from David Guzik, *Enduring Word Commentary*

V 1 **In the year that King Uzziah died:** King Uzziah of Judah had a long and distinguished reign, described in 2 Chronicles 26 and in 2 Kings 15:1-7 (Uzziah is called Azariah in 2 Kings 15). Uzziah began his reign when he was only 16 years old, and he reigned 52 years. Overall, he was a good king, and 2 Kings 15:3 says, *he did what was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father Amaziah had done.* 2 Chronicles 28:5 says, *He sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God; and as long as he sought the Lord, God made him prosper.* Uzziah also led Israel in military victories over the Philistines and other neighboring nations, and he was a strong king. Uzziah was an energetic builder, planner, and general. 2 Chronicles 26:8 says, His fame spread as far as the entrance of Egypt, for he strengthened himself exceedingly.

But Uzziah's life ended tragically. 2 Chronicles 26:16 says, *But when he was strong his heart was lifted up, to his destruction, for he transgressed against the Lord his God by entering the temple of the Lord to burn incense on the altar of incense.* In response, God struck Uzziah with leprosy, and he was an isolated leper until his death.

So, to say in the year King Uzziah died is to say a lot. It is to say, "In the year a great and wise king died." But it is also to say, "In the year a great and wise king who had a tragic end died." Isaiah had great reason to be discouraged and disillusioned at the death of King Uzziah, because a great king had passed away, and because his life ended tragically. Where was the Lord in all this?

I saw the Lord sitting on a throne: Where was the Lord in all this? The Lord was sitting on a throne! God was still enthroned in heaven, and was still in charge of all creation.

V 2. Surrounding the throne of God are angels known here as **seraphim**. In many other passages, these angels are known as *cherubim* (Psalm 80:1; Isaiah 37:16; Ezekiel 10:3) or as the *living creatures* of Revelation 4:6-11. This is the only chapter in the Bible where these creatures are named *seraphim*. ...the name *seraphim* means, "burning ones." Ezekiel 1:13 describes cherubim (see also Ezekiel 10:15) this way: their appearance was like burning coals of fire, like the appearance of torches going back and forth among the living creatures. The fire was bright, and out of the fire went lightning.

V 4. ***The house was filled with smoke:*** This smoke reminds us of the pillar of cloud that represented the

presence of God (Exodus 13:21-22), the smoke on Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:18), and the cloud of God's Shekinah glory that filled the temple (1 Kings 8:10-12).