

Who is this Lord of Glory?

Isa 6:1-4 ¹ In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. ² Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one cried to 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 were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.

I fear that too often we have an incredibly low view of God. Too often we are like Job who was ready to contend with the Most High. But after God revealed to him His sovereign power in creation and providence Job placed his hand over his mouth and ". . . answered the Lord and said: "Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer You? I lay my hand over my mouth. Once I have spoken, but I will not answer; Yes, twice, but I will proceed no further." Job 40:3-5

Oh how Job was humbled just hearing the greatness of God in creation and providence. How he responded after God had revealed to him his greatness when he cried out, "I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. You asked, 'Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. Listen, please, and let me speak; You said, 'I will question you, and you shall answer Me.' "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. **Therefore I abhor myself.** Job 42:1-6 Now Job was just verbally confronted by God but in the passage this morning Isaiah will have a tremendous vision of the Most High God. I pray that this morning as we come to the close of the worship hour you will be filled with awe and greatly humbled at the hearing of God's word this morning.

Throughout Scripture we are given glimpses of the greatness and glory of God. But I think that this vision of Isaiah is like a crowning revelation of God's majesty and greatness. I think of how the mighty power of God is seen when He destroyed all but eight souls in the flood. Or the view we are given of His glorious triumph at the Red Sea when he parted the waters and brought His people through on dry land and brought down the Pharaoh of Egypt and his mighty army. Or that scene on Mount Sinai when God came down and spoke with Moses and the earth itself shook at His presence and the mountain burned and was covered with a thick darkness and lightings flashed and the people were filled with a great fear.

Or how Job responded after God had revealed to him his greatness as revealed in creation and providence when he cried out, "I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. You asked, 'Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. Listen, please, and let me speak; You said, 'I will question you, and you shall answer Me.' "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. Therefore I abhor myself. Job 42:1-6 Yet again, I am filled with amazement when Nebuchadnezzar saw in the fiery furnace not just the three men he had ordered cast into the furnace and was forced to cry out in astonishment "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God." Dan 3:25 Or when the three disciples saw the face of our Lord shining brighter than the noon day sun. Or the vision of John of the Isle of Patmos where the eyes of our Lord were as a flame of fire. Or when the hosts of heaven cried out "You are worthy to take the scroll."

Yes I could go on and on, but again when we come to this vision of Isaiah we are brought to a most outstanding awareness of the majesty of God. When did it take place? What does Isaiah see? Who is this one that Isaiah sees? What is the message of this vision for us today?

A. When did it take place?

1. In the year King Uzziah died.
2. Jerome writes that this the very year Romulus - the founder of Rome was born.
 - a. The nation that would be the world power which the Messiah would come.
 - b. The nation that would decree that all the world would be taxed placing the birth of our Lord in the City of David.
 - c. The very nation that would crucify our Lord, providing for God's Elect so great a salvation.
3. Uzziah was probably the most powerful and mighty king since Solomon.
 - a. But in prideful rebellion had purposed to enter the temple and burn incense to God.
 - b. Confronted by the High Priest Azariah with 80 valiant priest, he lashed out in anger and was stricken with leprosy
4. Something else to be noted, earthly kings come and go.
5. It was at the death of Uzziah that Isaiah saw the King Eternal upon the eternal throne.

B. What does Isaiah see?

1. Not a dream he sees a vision of the Most High God
2. One of the most glorious visions of God recorded for us in Holy Scripture.
3. Saw the **Lord** high and lifted up.
 - a. (Hebrew - Adonai) - A title given to kings.
 - b. Sitting upon a throne

Ps 11:4 The Lord is in His holy temple, the Lord's throne is in heaven;

- c. In a robe that again to the oriental spoke of majesty, honor and power.
- d. The garment he is wearing fills the temple, the palace, the throne room.

Isa 66:1 Thus says the Lord: "Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest?"

4. He sees Seraphim around the one upon the throne.
 - a. Hebrew word that speaks of a burning brightness - expressing the glory of God
 - b. Having six wings
 - (1) With two they flew - Always willing and ready to serve their Lord.
 - (2) With two they covered their face - denoting the "reverence and awe" that is inspired by the immediate presence of the Most High God.
 - (3) And with two they covered their feet - again an expression of reverence acknowledging their nothingness and unworthiness in the presence of God.
5. And what does this say to the church today about the importance of God centered worship in the church today?
 - a. This should teach us come into His presence with lowly veneration and deep humility.
 - b. The humility shown by the Seraphim should reprove our presumption maybe even our arrogance when we rush thoughtlessly and irreverently into his presence.
 - c. Indeed I am grieved when I observe some of the worship so common in this day.
6. And they cry out, *"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!"*
 - a. The significance of the repetition must be noted.
 - b. Hebrew manner to express that which is to the extreme.
 - c. Such repetition is "emphatic," denoting that which is to the superlative degree.
 - d. Not just a holy God, nor just a most holy, but a God who is absolutely and most perfectly holy.
 - e. Causes Isaiah to cry out "woe is me" for I am undone - unworthy to behold such glory.
7. See why we could not dare to come before God unless we too are clothed in His righteousness.

C. Who is this one that Isaiah sees?

1. It is none other than our Lord Jesus Christ
2. This we know based upon the testimony of the Apostle John

John 12:37-41 But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: "Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again: "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, lest they should see with their eyes, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them." These things Isaiah said **when he saw His glory and spoke of Him.**

3. Giving a most excellent witness to the deity of our Lord silencing forever those who would deny that Jesus is truly God.

CONCLUSION: And how should this affect us in our life before God?

A humbling awareness of His majesty.

An awareness of the holiness of our God should press all men to seek a covering for their sin and to cast off their trust in their own goodness, trusting alone in the imputed righteousness of Christ.

A thankfulness for His imputed righteousness to us.