

Isaiah 6:1–7

- 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.
- 5 So I said: “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 my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts.”
- 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar.
- 7 And he touched my mouth with it, and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged.”

“Holy, Holy, Holy” **Isaiah 6:1-7**

INTRO:

I know it is hard to believe, but we are continuing in our study in **James 1**. However, to understand the example of worship and serving God which James gave in **1:26**, we need to grasp the truth taught in **Isaiah 6:1-7**. Today, we have the privilege through the word of God to peer over Isaiah’s shoulder and see the vision God gave him.

I. The Event (v. 1-4)

II. Isaiah’s Response (v.5-7)

I. The Event (v. 1-4)

Isaiah 6:1–4 *“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. 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. And one cried to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!' And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke."

A. Isaiah saw this vision of the Lord not in the beginning of his ministry but here in **Chapter six** after Isaiah had served God for a while. Sometimes when God calls us, He uses us and then later makes us come face to face with who He is. This is precisely what happened to Isaiah. He busily ministered, but the time had come to have his life and ministry interrupted with a word from his Creator. So Isaiah sees God as he had never seen Him before.

B. Several details of his vision are detailed here in Isaiah's account. He beckons to us to see this vision over his shoulder.

1. The first detail is a historical reference to when this happened. It happened in the year King Uzziah died. That is in the 730's B.C. Isaiah had a vision into eternity and it happened in time.

2. The second detail was where the vision was set. Isaiah saw the Lord in the temple. This does not imply Isaiah was in the Temple. He could have been physically anywhere when he saw this vision.

3. Third, he saw the Lord sitting on His throne. The LORD is the sovereign king of the Universe. God rules over all peoples and things on planet Earth.

4. He saw the seraphim. This is the only passage in the Old Testament which mentions this order of angels. They have wings. And they spend their time antiphonally crying to one another about the Essential nature of Our God.

v.3 *"And one cried to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!'"*

We meet this phenomena again in **Revelation 4:8**.

"The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"

C. This vision has a life changing impact on Isaiah, but before we look at that impact let's pause to consider what it means that God is holy. We need to limit our thinking to three facets of God's Holiness.

1. God's holiness means all that makes God, God, and all the ways that God is different from all His creatures. Here is a partial list. God is Infinite and we are finite. God is Omnipotent, Omniscient, and Omnipresent. We are without

strength, we are limited in our knowledge, and we are limited to being in one place at one time. Finally, God is entirely without sin. We are sinners and need a sin bearer.

2. God being Holy means every attribute God exercises, He exercises with holiness. God's wisdom is holy wisdom His power is holy power. His creation demonstrates His holiness. His love is holy love. We must not elevate another attribute to the exclusion of His holiness.

3. God commands us to grow in holiness. **1 Peter 1:14-16** tells us:

“As obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy.’”

II. Isaiah's Response (v.5-7)

Isaiah 6:5-7 ***“So I said: ‘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 my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts.’ Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it, and said: ‘Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged.’”***

A. Looking into the holiness of Yahweh totally destroyed Isaiah. The phrase he used appears in many places. But to understand what he meant when he said ***“woe,”*** we must read the pronouncement of judgment in **Isaiah 5**. There are seven woes pronounced against Judah. I will give a sample of two of these woes.

Isaiah 5:18-20 ***“Woe to those who draw iniquity with cords of vanity, And sin as if with a cart rope; That say, ‘Let Him make speed and hasten His work, That we may see it; And let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw near and come, That we may know it.’” Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!”***

Isaiah cried out before the holy God by condemning himself.

B. Why was he convicted? His mouth was unclean. He knew his heart was hopelessly corrupt and he could not stand before a holy God. He had to be forgiven and cleansed.

We could go on, but we need to apply.

Have we ever seen the Holiness of God in Scripture? If we see the Lord as He is displayed in His Word, it will forever change us.

Note before we can really serve God we must be changed. God used Isaiah after He changed him. Who we are dictates what we do. God does not necessarily want to break us. He wants to make us like His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Hymn #262 **Holy, Holy, Holy***