

Heaven: The Throne Room of the Universe

THE FATHER WE ALL NEED IS THE ONE SEATED ON THE THRONE OF HEAVEN

Revelation 4:2-3/Isaiah 6

Jesus left us an outline of a prayer to frame each day of our lives: the Lord's Prayer.

That prayer starts with the first, and most vital choice we can make each day: to focus upon God. What did God intend for that focus to do for us? Why would Christ instruct His disciples, and us who follow, to start every prayer with a conscious focusing upon God in heaven?

Before we come boldly to the Throne of God, we must also see it through the lens of all the other times God chooses to show The Throne to us. Grace has opened to us this most amazing place!

In one of the most well known scenes in the Old Testament, The Throne of Godⁱ surrounds Isaiah's call.

Please turn with me to the scene of Isaiah 6, and notice it is representative of what we need to remember about God's Throne: it is High, it is Holy, and because of the smoke and quaking, it is almost Distant.

Like Moses describing the quaking, smoke-shrouded, thundering at Mt. Sinai: God on His Throne projects Holiness, and that the unholy are put on notice to be cautious.

Like Ezekiel and the fiery whirlwinds, and strange creatures surrounded by dual haloes, and completely covered with eyes: God and His Throne are the place of absolute holiness, purity, reverence, and awe.

As we open to Isaiah's visit to God's Throne, remember that:

God Showed to us the Holy Atmosphere Around His Throne

To sense what the presence of the One seated on the Throne is like, please **stand** with me and listen as I read Isaiah 6:1-7 (NKJV):

*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.**"

Pray

As we reflect upon Isaiah's visit to God's Throne, we find lesson number one:

God is Absolutely Holy Surrounded by: Flaming Holy Angels, Quakes, and Smoke

Our Holy God is surrounded by those who worship and minister in holiness.

So, Isaiah points us to the Holy Atmosphere of Heaven, surrounding our Holy God on the Throne. Note the three elements that reinforce this distance needed for reverence: smoke, quaking, and angelic creatures.

First, notice the smoke. Our God is a consuming fire, so, each time the Holy Throne of God comes down to be revealed to us as humans, there is this sight of the smoke from that consuming fire. This is like the smoke from a furnace, that Abraham saw when God made a covenant with him in Genesis 15:7-18. This is what the three million Israelites saw in Exodus 19, as Mt. Sinai was "completely in smoke" and the smoke rose like from a "burning furnace", shooting skyward.

Second, notice the quaking. The whole temple shook as Isaiah saw the Lord in His glory in Isaiah 6:4 and heard the holiness of the Lord declared. At Mt. Sinai when the

Lord came down to the top of the mountain to meet with Moses, the mountain quaked exceedingly (Ex. 19:18), as the Lord descended in fire.

Third, notice the amazing, angelic creatures. In Isaiah 6:2 we meet some of God's creations we only see here. They are called Seraphim, which means the "burning ones". They seem to be part of the Throne Team that are always associated with carry out God's plans.

When Isaiah sees how Holy God truly is, the very first response is an awareness of how unholy he is. Like Abraham in Genesis 15, and the Israelites in Exodus 19, Isaiah is smitten at his personal un-holiness, and falls before the Lord asking for cleansing. In similar manner in the New Testament: when Peter saw the Deity of Christ displayed, he fell on his face and confessed his need of cleansing (Luke 5:8). So first we see:

The Big Picture: God is Absolutely Holy. From that flows for us:

The Personal Application: regular confession and cleansing is needed. Look at Isaiah 6:6-7, just as Isaiah needed to be purged so we must be. God has explained to us what He desires from us. We need to bow daily in reverence to God; and seek to be kept cleansed by Christ's work for us on the Cross.

Part of each of our constant responsibility is to be confessing our sins (I John 1:9), so that Christ can cleanse us from all unrighteousness. We are already forgiven once for all (Hebrews 10:12), but we are each in need of constant cleansing.

Next, as we look at Isaiah 6 and God's Throne, we see can see lesson number two:

God is Absolutely, All-Powerful Over Everything That is Anywhere

God shows us His absolute power reflected by the creatures He made to surround His Throne. Note the seraphim in v. 2.

Each of the angels we read about in God's Word have power that exceeds anything we understand.

There is so much we don't know about what else is in the Universe besides us humans; but what we do know is overwhelming, if you pause to think about it.

We are surrounded at all times by these and other supernatural creatures that dwarf us in every way. They are powerful, mobile, and intelligent: **beyond anything we can comprehend.**

As far as we know the angelic creatures are indestructible, they can't be killed or destroyed.

They travel the universe effortless, with no spaceships.

They seemingly never rest or sleep, or even need to eat.

God on The Throne is the originator, the Creator of angels. God spoke and billions of angels appeared from nothing. So God is greater than anything He created.

Yet those angels He made from nothing have powers that exceed our comprehension.

There are the two types of angels revealed by God: the good angels and the rebel angels. So, it is very clear from the divisions of the angels that God doesn't tolerate any rebellion at all.

There are many orders of both good and bad angelic creatures. On the good side there are at least five orders of good, or holy, angels:

1. **The Archangels:** (Gabriel and Michael are named);
2. **The Flames:** there are seven angels that seem to always stand like flames of fire around God's Throne (Rev. 1:);
3. **The Guardian:** there was an anointed/covering cherub (Lucifer's, lit. "light", role before he fell to become Satan) in Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14;
4. **The Cherubim:** found around God's Throne and other places (Genesis 4, Ezekiel 1, Revelation);
5. **The Angels:** (by the billions it seems), all through the Scriptures).

Now remember again that these:

Angels Created by God Have Power that Exceeds our Comprehension

The power of the good angels is clear, but very little is told us about them. But when we look at the other side of the angel spectrum, several orders of bad, or unholy angels begin to test the limits of our minds as we see the scope of their powers.

There are possibly seven orders of evil angels:

1. **The Shining One:** or Lucifer, as Satan is called in Isaiah 14:12, is also called the ruler of this world (John 12:31), is the fallen formerly highest and most powerful of all the angels (Genesis 3, Isaiah 14, Ezekiel 28).
2. **The Destroyer:** this is a specific, named angel that is also referred to as the one sent from the Lord that brings death. "The **destroyer** was the same angel who had slain the firstborn of the Egyptians before Israel left Egypt (Ex. 12:23), who would kill 70,000 men because of David's census (2 Sam. 24:15-16), and who, in response to the prayer of Isaiah and Hezekiah, would destroy the entire Assyrian army that was besieging Jerusalem (2 Chron. 32:21).¹"

¹ Quoted directly from: MacArthur, J. (1996). *1 Corinthians 10:10*. Chicago: Moody Press.

3. **The Horrible Monsters under The Destroyer—Abaddon:** these are the horrific creatures in the Abyss, awaiting their deployment into warfare during the Tribulation. Rev. 9:1-11 contains a chilling description of them.
4. **The Demons:** or also called “fallen” angels who seem to be the bulk of the 1/3 of the heavenly hosts who rebelled with Satan (Rev. 12:4). We find demons everywhere: from the lying spirit that got Ahab to go into battle and be killed, to the constant demon pests Christ deals with in the Gospels.
5. **The Doomed Angels:** these are described as evil angels chained by God, and imprisoned in the place called Tartarus (“prison” I Peter 3:19 is also called Tartarus in II Peter 2:4), awaiting final judgment (also Jude 1:6-7).
6. **The Nation Princes:** these are like the Prince of Persia, and the Prince of Greece that Daniel learned about in Daniel 10:13-20.
7. **The Others:** Paul describes what may be various other demonic orders of fallen angels, in Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV), where they are called: “principalities, powers, the rulers of the darkness of this age, spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

Note Just The Destroyer

Just one angel, under God’s direct control, was able to kill every first born of Egyptians and their animals, in Egypt, on a single night in Exodus 12:23 (the angel is differentiated from God, and named the destroyer).

This angel is so powerful, God keeps him locked up in the “bottomless pit”, and looses him only for tasks like the death of the first born, and the slaying of 70,000 Israelites at David’s census (II Samuel 24).

Paul refers to this angel as the “destroyer” in I Corinthians 10:10; and the writer of Hebrews does so also in Hebrews 11:28.

Finally, John explains in Revelation 9:11 that this angel’s name is actually Destroyer (in Hebrew: Abaddon, and in Greek: Apollyon).

To know which was first born among humans and animals, to locate each of them in the darkness, and then to kill only them on the spot would have taken an army plus a database no one presently possesses even today.

The Big Picture: God is Absolutely Powerful.

The Personal Application: fear not and resist the powers of darkness. The battle is already won. Christ as triumphed. We are more than conquerors through Christ.

The sword of God’s Spirit is the Word. We need to believe it, memorize it, have it ready, and use it by quoting the truth we know when we are tempted, fearful, discouraged, and weary. Paul said: Be strong in the Lord and the power of His might! Put on the armor

(Ephesians 6:10-13). Peter says: Resist the devil steadfastly (I Peter 5:9), and James adds: Satan will flee when resisted (James 4:7).

So, Isaiah shows us that the ***One seated on the Throne is Absolutely Holy***, and the creatures that surround Him remind us that our ***God on the Throne is absolutely powerful***.

As we turn to Matthew 5 now, in the New Testament, we find the third and final lesson about this One Seated upon the Throne of Heaven. Jesus explains that:

Our Father is The One Seated On The Throne

Jesus described His Father as the One seated on the Throne. Here in Matthew 5-6 Jesus introduces us to ten amazing characteristics or attributes of His Father, The One on The Throne:

1. In Matthew 5:16, ***The One on the Throne of Heaven is God the Father*** (as Jesus makes clear in v.34 "Heaven is God's Throne").

v.16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify ***your Father in heaven***. v.34 But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by ***heaven, for it is God's throne***;

2. In Matthew 5:45, ***Our Father on The Throne of Heaven: is Kind***.

v.45 that you may be sons of your ***Father in heaven***; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

3. In Matthew 5:48, ***Our Father on The Throne of Heaven: is Perfect***.

v.48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

4. In Matthew 6:1,3-4a, ***Our Father on The Throne of Heaven: gives Rewards*** to those who give to the needy secretly, not for selfish gain².

"Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have ***no reward*** from your Father in heaven. ³ But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ ***that your charitable deed may be in secret***;

5. In Matthew 6:4b,6, ***Our Father on The Throne of Heaven: sees everything, hears prayers, and is everywhere present***.

and your ***Father who sees in secret*** will Himself reward you openly. ⁶ But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to

² NKJV "charitable deeds" from the same word used 4 x is rendered in the ESV/NIV "give to the needy" and NAS "give alms". This same characteristic is in Matthew 5:18.

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your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your **Father who sees in secret** will reward you openly.

6. In Matthew 6:8, ***Our Father on The Throne of Heaven: Knows our Needs.***

“Therefore do not be like them. For your **Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.**

7. In Matthew 6:9, ***Our Father on The Throne of Heaven: is the One to Whom we Direct our Prayers.***

In this manner, therefore, pray: **Our Father in heaven**, Hallowed be Your name.

8. In Matthew 6:14, ***Our Father on The Throne of Heaven: Forgives Sins.***

“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your **heavenly Father will also forgive** you.

9. In Matthew 6:26-32, ***Our Father on The Throne of Heaven: Cares Deeply for Us.***

Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your **heavenly Father feeds them**. Are you not of more value than they? 27 Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? 28 “So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; 29 and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 Now if **God so clothes the grass of the field**, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your **heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.**

He even knows each time a sparrow “falls” the Greek word actually is bigger than “falls” (as in “dies”) it can actually also be translated for “hops” along the ground” (see also Matthew 10:29-32).

Next time you see one of those clouds of birds swirling, settling on a patch of grass, and all hopping around: remember that God is aware of each hop of each bird. Then look up and say wow. If the birds that exist for a couple of seasons, have each “hop” tracked by God: how much MORE does He care for YOU Jesus said (of little faith)?

He even counts the hairs of our heads (Matthew 10:32). Again that word doesn’t mean total count but more like inventory count, He knows the “serial number” for each one of our hairs individually.

Our Father on The Throne of Heaven: Cares Deeply for us.

10. In Matthew 6:33, ***Our Father on The Throne of Heaven: is the One we Seek to Serve as Master and King.***

But seek first the ***kingdom of God*** and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

How Should We Approach The One on The Throne?

Jesus explains how we approach the One on the Throne of Heaven, and it revolutionizes our prayers. First we come knowing in our hearts that He is Our Father.

He is Kind: we don't have to fear.

He is Perfect: He needs no improvement at His job as Father.

He Gives Rewards: He wants to pour out His blessings upon us.

He Sees everything, Hears Prayers, and is everywhere present.

He Knows our Needs: even before we ask but has chosen that prayer is the way He works in us and through us.

He is the One we pray to.

He forgives sins: and knows how much we have failed Him, and will fail Him, and still forgives us endlessly.

He deeply cares for us: He is neither distant, nor detached. He bears long with us (Luke 18:1-8) as we persistently seek Him.

He is the Same One Seated on The Throne in Revelation 4

That is the Father we have sitting on that Throne.

So every day, we come before that God, described by Jesus as filled with a perfect love; and with a caring, fatherly concern; and with complete interest and awareness.

To that One on the Throne: Jesus said come to Him asking for His guidance, will, and provision. He promises that "no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly" (Psalm 84:11).

The most amazing thing about God is that He gives us immense latitude.

He is absolutely powerful and holy. He clearly tells us what He wants; then He completely gives us all the resources to accomplish what He wants;

and then He waits.

God doesn't force what He wants, to take place in our lives as believers. He allows us to choose to obey or disobey.

ⁱ God's Throne is seen in these passages: I Kings 22:9; Psalm 9:7, 11:4,45:6,47:8,93:2,97:2,103:19; Isaiah 6:1,66:1; Jer. 3:17; Ezekiel 1:26,10:1; Daniel 7:9; Matthew 5:34,19:28,23:22,25:31; Heb. 8:1,12:2; Rev. 1:4,3:21,6:16,7:9,20:11,21:5,22:1,3.