

Isaiah 6

Nazarene Bible College (September 2010)

At the time of Uzziah's death, (758 B.C. *common date*), when the sun seem to be setting on the prosperity of a nation, the prophet Isaiah had a transforming vision of the Lord, high and lifted up on His throne (Isa 1:1; 6; 7:1). As in Isaiah's day, today we live in challenging times; but God is still on the throne. **Proverbs 29:18** declares; **"Where there is no vision people perish..."** Isaiah said, (6:8b) **"Here am I send me."** But before Isaiah could go he needed a **true** vision of his God; the one calling him.

It is estimated that; **1,500 pastors leave the ministry permanently each month in America.** I believe one of the contributors to this mass exodus each month is for many pastors' we have somewhere along the line lost sight of our vision of who God is. A true vision of God produces two things; a sense of **"holiness"** and **"lowliness."**

Holiness: (v.1-4) Isaiah saw the Lord high and lifted up in the Temple. **(1 Corinthians 3:16)** says, **"you are the temple of God."** The vision Isaiah saw must exist within our **personal temple**, (lives). He must be **"high and lifted up"** above all else in our lives; filling His temple, every crevasse of our hearts with His presence. Such a vision yields three results: **(1) Recognition of His Holiness.** Only then can we cry out with the "seraphim," the heavenly creatures, **"Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts..."** The "compromised" soul cannot "cry out" effectively. The **leaven** of sin **"muffles"** our cry.

(James 5:16) **Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.** Confession is

the only remedy, **(1 John 1:9)**; bringing our conscience back under a sense of God's holiness. **(Hebrews 9:14)** "...how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

(2) An awareness of His glory. (v.3b) *"The whole earth..."* Regardless of where we are His presence is there. Jacob **(Genesis 28:16, 17)** Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!" **(3) Evidence of His power.** (v.4) *The post of the door were shaken..."* God cannot shake up His house, or this nation until His people regard Him as "holy!" **(2 Chronicles 7:14)** "...if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

Lowliness: (v.5-8) Pride cannot "thrive" where a true vision of God "abides." James says; **(James 4:6)** "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." When we truly see God as He is, we *also* see ourselves as we really are; **(v.5a)**. But God has chosen the *"...foolish, weak, lowly, despised, and the, are not's...that no flesh may glory in His presence."* **(1 Corinthians 1:27)**. But this is the "proper" view; the world says we should "exalt" ourselves, but in God's economy only the "humble" shall be "exalted." **(Luke 14:11)** "For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." Isaiah's mouth, "unclean lips," his spiritual "infirmities" were touched by the "fire," from the altar of God, **(v.6, 7)**. This was not "strange fire," a fabrication of man, which Aaron's sons unwisely offered to God; but a divine sanctioning; which qualified him. **Dr. G.B. Williamson**, his book: **"Overseers of the Flock"** - *"Without the assurance of a divine sanction, men are*

disposed to speak apologetically of the gospel.” Only then could the prophet enthusiastically answer the call, knowing he was sanctioned by the Lord.

(ttt) 2 Timothy 1:7-10.

CONCLUSION: God desires to reveal Himself to us; to reveal His great *love, mercy, and power*; that we might answer; **“Here am I send me.”** (2

Chronicles 16:9a) **“For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.”**