

THE GLORY OF GOD

Week 9 – I Saw the LORD

March 25, 2025

The glory of God summarizes the seriousness, the perfection, and the infinite significance of all of the attributes of God.

GOD REVEALS Himself in creation...in His Word/the Bible...and through Jesus, God the Son! God has REVEALED HIMSELF to the world...He has REVEALED HIMSELF to individuals. How are we responding? Are we responding?

God created the earth to display His glory. God created the world as a place where He would be known, served, worshipped, and where He would be present...where He would dwell with man – where His glory would be revealed, seen, and ENJOYED! Are we...serving, worshipping, and enjoying God? Can you imagine what He's preparing for us who will be with Him – for all ETERNITY in the Millennial Kingdom and in the new heaven and new earth!?!?! AND SO, we RESPOND to God's REVELATION of Himself. We respond in either obedience, worship, and praise of Him. OR we respond in REJECTION of God! There's no middle road when it comes to our response to God! There's no neutral ground.

Isaiah most likely prophesied from 739—681 BC (time: the divided kingdom). While his primary ministry was to the Kingdom of Judah, he also spoke to the Kingdom of Israel, delivering messages of both judgment and hope to both nations.

Isaiah 6:1-8 - *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.' ⁸ Also 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." Hineni, shlahani!*

Isaiah was a Jewish prophet of God. He began his ministry in approximately 740 BC. While there is some speculation, it appears that Isaiah received the prophecy of the first five chapters after his calling. In Isaiah chapter six, Isaiah described how God called him. In Isa. 6:1, the prophet authenticated what he had already written in the first five chapters by describing how he was called.

In the year that King Uzziah died – Why did King Uzziah die? Uzziah began his reign when he was 16 years old, and he reigned 52 years. II Kings 15:3 - ...*he did what was right in the sight of the LORD....* Uzziah's life, however, ended tragically.

II Chron. 26:16 - *But when he/Uzziah was strong* (when he thought himself to be strong/in control; not dependent upon God; prideful) *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*

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altar of incense. Kings, from the tribe of Judah, were not to burn incense to the LORD in the Temple. Priests, from the tribe of Levi, were consecrated/set apart to burn incense. Uzziah overstepped his role.

Num. 16:40 - *no outsider, who is not a descendant of Aaron* (from the tribe of Levi), *should come near to offer incense before the LORD*, Uzziah the King rebelled against God's commandment and...God struck Uzziah with leprosy. Uzziah was an isolated leper until his death. When Uzziah died, the land was without leadership. Consequence: spiritual and moral decay. Israel and Judah did not repent.

Where was the LORD in all this?

I saw the Lord

God revealed Himself to Isaiah in what appears to be a vision. Isaiah may have been in the earthly temple to grieve Uzziah's death. And, Isaiah appears to be given a vision which transcends the earth. Isaiah sees the throne of God in the heavenly temple!

sitting on a throne

Isaiah is essentially telling the people, "We lost our human king. Uzziah is no longer sitting on his throne. But I saw the true KING. God remains on His throne! He continues as sovereign! No matter the circumstances in our lives, God is on His throne and He is in control!"

How do we know that God is in control? Fulfilled prophecy. The book of Daniel (written between 540 and 530 BC) prophetically records the order and history of the Gentile Empires: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome...and the future kingdom of the antichrist! The book of Daniel prophesies when Jesus would enter Jerusalem on Lamb Selection Day (His triumphal entry) in the spring of 32 AD as Messiah the Prince in Daniel's 70 Week Prophecy (Dan. 9:24-27).

Micah 5:2 prophesies Bethlehem as Jesus' birthplace. King David wrote Psa. 22 re: Jesus' crucifixion 1,000 years before Jesus was crucified. Crucifixion was the capital punishment under Rome. King David wrote of the crucifixion during the time that capital punishment under the Jewish people was stoning! Isa. 53 speaks of Jesus' crucifixion 700-800 years prior to His crucifixion!

AND, against all odds, Israel exists as a nation because God made an everlasting unconditional covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and their descendants!

Fulfilled prophecy attests to the truth that God is on His throne.

And, what of faith? God has given us the gift of faith to believe Him!

Eph. 2:8-9 - *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

Isa. 6:1 - *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.*

Isaiah may have thought that his world was falling apart when King Uzziah died. And so he went to the temple and Isaiah was given a vision from God – God revealed Himself to Isaiah!

The human king had died; however, our world doesn't depend upon human kings. Dan. 2:21 – GOD ...*removes kings and raises up kings*. Those who saw God's throne: Job (Job 26:9); David (Psa. 11:4); the sons of Korah (Psa.45:6; 47:8).

Korah rebelled against God's plan through Moses. In Num. 16:3 we read that the earth split and swallowed Korah along with others who rebelled with him. But we discover that

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Korah's sons were spared (Numbers 26:9–11). God still had a purpose and plan for even the line of Korah. During the time of King David, the sons of Korah became the great leaders in choral and orchestral music in the tabernacle...PRAISING GOD!

The sons of Korah grasped the goodness of God which also encompasses the severity of God when it must be exercised. And, in their psalms, they bowed and worshiped Him! Those who worshiped the golden calf repented...and we read of them bowing and worshiping Almighty God!

Jeremiah saw God's throne (Lam. 5:19); Ezekiel saw God's throne (Eze. 1:26, 10:1), Daniel saw God's throne (Daniel 7:9).

The Apostle John saw God's throne (Rev. 4:1-11). In fact, the book of Revelation has been referred to by some as "the book of God's throne," because God's throne is specifically mentioned more than 35 times in that book! AND, it is from the throne room of God that His plan for the universe unfolds. It is from the throne room of God as seen in the book of Revelation that the scroll is opened by the Lamb...breaking the seals and God's wrath begins to pour out beginning with the conqueror on the white horse – the deceiver (Rev. 12:9) – the anti-christ/Satan.

Isaiah saw the Lord high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Isaiah's vision of the Lord does NOT seem to be a vision of the Lord seated on a throne in the Holy of Holies of the earthly temple in Jerusalem, but rather a vision of the heavenly temple of which the temple on earth was a copy.

To what does “high and lifted up” refer? The mighty kings of the earth would sit on thrones that were lifted up high. Solomon’s throne was said to be higher than that of any of the other kings in the world (I Kings 10:19-20). In the vision set before Isaiah, God’s throne is more greatly elevated, exposing more clearly the train/hem of His robe.

I Sam. 24:4-6 - the hem/train of a king’s robe depicts authority.

In the ancient world only the rich and powerful could afford to add extra *length* to their robes. AND SO, the thinking was the longer the *train*, the more glorious and splendid the *king* – *the greater his authority*.

and the train of His robe filled the temple... What a picture of God’s majesty and His exaltation, His glory and His power! Consider: in Isaiah’s vision, there was no room anywhere in the temple to stand! Nowhere to stand as the train of God’s robe filled the temple!

Isa. 6:2-4 - *Above it (the throne of the Lord) 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!’* Seraphim is plural for Seraph – a “fiery angel.” Seraphim means “burning ones.” Each seraph had six wings. They are mentioned once in Scripture in Isa. 6:2-7 where they are praising and worshipping God. In Isa. 6, the seraphim each had two wings covering his face and his feet. And with two wings each flew in serving God. The seraphim worshiped God...calling special attention to God’s glory, majesty, and holiness. The seraphim worshiped God continually.

Isa. 6:3 - *And one cried to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!’* LORD - all in upper case letters. This is the Hebrew word *Yahweh/YHWH* - “I AM that I AM” (Ex. 3:14) which speaks of God as ETERNAL and that He

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is sufficient unto Himself. Holiness is the only attribute of God in all of Scripture that is repeated three times!

The LORD of hosts

Hosts – Hebrew *sabaoth* – armies – the armies of heaven.

Hosts also refers to Israel’s armies. (Josh. 5:14 – the Commander of the Lord – was sent to give Israel’s armies victory)

The whole earth is full of His glory – in that the heavens declare the glory of God (Psa. 19:1ff). The creation attests to God’s power and sovereignty! Rom. 1:20 – *since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that man is without excuse,*

Isa. 6:4 - *And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.* The shaking and smoke speak to God's holiness as it relates to His wrath and judgment. Deut. 4:24 - *For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.* The context of Deut. 4 addresses God's command not to worship other gods. Only the LORD is to be worshipped. We see a God Who is serious about Who He is!

The vision of God's majestic holiness was so overwhelming that Isaiah was devastated...he was BROKEN, realizing his own sinfulness.

God revealed Himself to Isaiah and Isaiah responded with, *So I said: 'Woe is me, for I am undone!* In the book of Isaiah, Isaiah uses the word "woe" at least ten times to refer to God's judgment on others. "Woe" is a word of cursing/judgment. And, here, Isaiah is using this word of himself. Isaiah was a servant of God – a prophet. God is going to use Isaiah to speak to the masses – to warn them. When he sees the holiness of God, Isaiah can only pronounce a curse upon himself. Isaiah sees his own defilement. Isaiah's confession of his own unworthiness and his willingness to be used of God as God's ambassador were Isaiah's response to the revelation God gave to him of His glory.

I am undone - the New American Standard Version states, *Woe is me, for I am ruined!* *Damam* – Hebrew word for "ruin, undone" which means to destroy, to perish, to be cut off.

Isaiah is crying out, I am destroyed. I am devastated by the holiness of God. I'm wiped out. I'm falling apart. I'm coming loose at the seams. I'm disintegrating. Why?

Because he saw God and when he saw God...for the first time in his life Isaiah saw himself! And he knew how wretched he was.

What was the most important instrument of a prophet? His mouth. As a prophet, Isaiah spoke the word of God.

Isaiah said...

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. As Isaiah saw the King, the LORD of hosts, the glory of God, ALL Who God is - for the first time Isaiah was seeing himself.

Standing in the presence of God, we are either profoundly and devastatingly aware of our own wretchedness...our own sinfulness...or we are not!

If we don't understand the holiness of God, we don't understand our sinfulness. And when we don't understand our sinfulness, we don't grasp the consequences! (Rom. 6:23 – the

wages of sin is death!!!!) And, not understanding the consequences could very well cause us to balk at God...not even caring about the consequences...blurting out – "How dare He!" Do I want to hear myself voice those words?

Isa. 6:6-7 - *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; (his lips were cleansed) your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged.*

Then the question re: Isaiah serving God - ⁸ *Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?’*

Isaiah is broken. Is he a puddle on the ground? NO! Is he removing himself from serving God? NO! In Isaiah’s heartfelt willingness to serve GOD, Isaiah DECLARES...

‘Here am I!’ Hineni! *“Send me.”* Here I am, God. I’m willing...I’m SO WILLING to serve You!

John the Apostle in the Gospel of John spoke of Isaiah’s vision and described it as a vision of the glory of God.

In the Gospel of John, John was speaking of Jesus and His miracles and many not believing in Him/Jesus.

John 12:37-38 - *But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, ³⁸ 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?’* John then states in John 12:41 - *These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him. Isaiah saw the glory of Jesus.*

How do we RESPOND to such great love?

Are we waiting for God to say to us – to you...to me, “Whom shall I send? Who will go for US?” How will we each respond.

Hineni – Here am I...send me!

Questions

Pause! Catch your breath! How are you responding?

How is God speaking to you?

What is God’s desire for you?

What have you learned through this lesson?

How will your life be transformed?

Suggested Homework

Reread Week 9 with Bible references.

Continue writing in your Journal.

Pray about sharing this lesson with someone...and then share!

Read Week 10's handout when you receive it?