Jesus Christ in the Book of Isaiah *(Part 1)*

(21 – "Isaiah Saw His Glory!")

(Isaiah 6:1-10 & John 12:41)

3/2/2014

Introduction: **See: John 12:32-43**

- **John 12:38 -** "Esaias" = Isaiah 6:10 & 53:1 - **"The arm of the Lord" – is a reference to Jesus Christ**!
- **John 12:41 - These things said Esaias, when <u>he saw his glory</u> (Isaiah 6), and spake of him.*****

Christ is the "arm of the Lord." He is the Lord, high and lifted up to whom the angels cry out, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. . ."

See Isaiah 6:

I. Isaiah sees Jesus Christ for Who He is (v.1-4)

1) Jesus is the God of <u>Majestic Holiness</u> (v.1)

a) He is an <u>eternal</u> King

(Uzziah died; The KING of KINGS never changes)

"I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne…" – the must be a reference to Jesus Christ since no one has ever seen God, the Father.

John 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

b) He is an <u>exalted</u> King

("Lord" = Adonay - Master or Ruler; It was <u>Jesus</u> Isaiah saw (Jn.12:41)

Note: The One who is called Adonay in verse 1 is the same One who is called YAHWEH in verses 3 & 5.

2) Jesus is the God of <u>Moral Holiness</u> (v.2-4)

a) The seraphim's eyes are not worthy to <u>see</u>

b) The seraphim's feet are not worthy to <u>serve</u>

Three-fold repetition of ***"holy, holy, holy"*** is:
1) for <u>emphasis</u> (primary attribute)
2) a implied reference to the <u>Trinity</u> (Note: v.8 "who will go for **<u>us</u>**?")

Jesus is the "Holy One" (Mk.1:24; Acts 2:27, 3:14; Lk.1:35, 4:34)

II. After seeing Christ, Isaiah sees himself for who he is (v.5-7)

III. Isaiah is now ready and willing to serve Jesus Christ (v.8)

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(21 – "Isaiah Saw His Glory!")

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3/2/2014

Introduction: Jesus Christ appears many times in the book of Isaiah:

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.
And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.
Isaiah 2:1-4 Messiah will rule from Jerusalem

In that day shall the branch of the Lord be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel.
Isaiah 4:2 The Branch is Jesus Christ. He will be glorified after the Tribulation Days and prior ot the Millennial Kingdom (Is.4:2-f)

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.
Isaiah 7:14 (cp. Mt. 1:23)

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:
Isaiah 11:1 (cp. Rev. 5:5: Rom.15:12)

And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.
Isaiah 11:10

The Branch of Jesse (David's father) is Jesus Christ (Isaiah 11:1, 10)
Note: "Nazareth" is a derivative of the word "branch"
Jesus will rule in righteousness and the curse upon creation will be removed!

Send ye the lamb to the ruler of the land from Sela to the wilderness, unto the mount of the daughter of Zion. Isaiah 16:1

And in mercy shall the throne be established: and he shall sit upon it in truth in the tabernacle of David, judging, and seeking judgment, and hasting righteousness.
Isaiah 16:5

Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.
Isaiah 28:16 (cp. I Pet. 2:8)

Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment.
Isaiah 32:1

Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off.
Isaiah 33:17

Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.
He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street.
A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth.
Isaiah 42:1-3

Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.
Isaiah 44:6

Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now the Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me.
Isaiah 48:16

Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The Lord hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name.
Isaiah 49:1

And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.
Thus saith the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to him whom man despiseth, to him whom the nation abhorreth, to a servant of rulers, Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of the Lord that is faithful, and the Holy One of Israel, and he shall choose thee.
Isaiah 49:6-7

Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me.
Isaiah 49:16

And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers: they shall bow down to thee with their face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet; and thou shalt know that I am the Lord: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me.
Isaiah 49:23

I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.
Isaiah 50:6

Behold, my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high.
As many were astonied at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men:
So shall he sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider.
Isaiah 52:13-15

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.
Isaiah 53:6

And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.
Isaiah 59:16

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;
To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;
Isaiah 61:1-2

Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save.
Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat?
I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment.
For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.
And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me.
And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth.
Isaiah 63:1-6

And now, we will see Jesus Christ in Isaiah 6. But first let's see what Jesus had to say as recorded by John. See John 12:32-43

John 12:34
Having heard that Christ would be "lifted up" on a cross in death (vv. 32-33), the people questioned how this could be. "It is impossible," they thought. "Messiah be killed? No way!"

What they didn't understand is that Christ, although He would die, would not remain dead but would rise again and thereby truly "abide forever."

"Christ abideth forever" – The Messiah remains forever.

In the Law (which encompassed the Torah and the Prophets to the Jews) the eternal rule and reign of the Messiah was promised.

Psalm 110:4
The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest **for ever** after the order of Melchizedek.

Isaiah 9:7
Of the increase of his government and peace **there shall be no end**, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Daniel 7:13-14
I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. [14] And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: **his dominion is an everlasting dominion**, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

While expecting a political deliverer, unfortunately the people did not expect their Messiah to suffer and die (they stubbornly refused to believe all that the Bible foretold about the Messiah – Lk. 24:25-26; cp. Ps. 16, 22; Is. 53).

"Who is this Son of Man?" – It is to this question that Jesus speaks in verses 35-50.

He is the "Light" of the World *Who shined in a world of darkness* (v.35-36)

v. 35
Because Christ, as far as His earthly ministry is concerned, would soon die and would physically be seen no longer by the masses, He admonished the people to take advantage of His light while it was present.

"Walk while ye have the light" – Take advantage of the opportunity, redeem the time, make the most of the moment. Most work (whether in construction or agriculture) is done during the daylight hours. The night brings with it many hindrances, obstacles, and restrictions.

That generation had the privilege of physically seeing "the Light of the world."

"Knoweth not whither he goeth" – "The ancients did not have our electric street lights. The dark streets were a terror to travelers." (Robertson, p. 230).

v. 36
"Believe in the Light" – Christ is calling for people not merely to know about the Light but to <u>trust in it</u>. To depend upon the light, i.e. to believe on Him.

"That ye may <u>become</u>. . ." - "They were not 'sons of light,' a Hebrew idiom (cf. 17:12; Lk. 16:8 with the contrast); an idiom used by Paul in 1 Thes. 5:5; Eph. 5:8." (Robertson, p. 231).

'Children of light" – Those who believe on Christ are immediately transported out of the domain of darkness and become "translated into the kingdom of His dear Son." They are illuminated or enlightened (Heb. 6:4, 10:32).

"Did hide Himself from them" – To further emphasize the point of Christ's urgent warning to "believe in the light" while the opportunity still exists to do so, Christ vanishes from their sight. The Light hid Himself.

v. 37
Signs and wonders do <u>not</u> (by themselves) produce faith. Man's hardness and blindness of heart requires a supernatural working.

God's Spirit, taking God's Word and enlightening the spiritual eyes of the blind is required for saving faith to result.

v. 38
"Esaias" = Isaiah 6:10 & 53:1

***"The arm of the Lord" – is a reference to Jesus Christ**!
He is the "<u>Arm of the Lord</u>" *Who was hidden from many people's eyes* (v.37-43)

Why is He referred to as the "<u>arm</u> of the Lord?" Just as arms do things, make things, accomplish things, so everything God the Father ever did, He did through the instrumentality of His Son.

---He created through His Son
---He led Israel in the Old Testament by His Son
---He provided redemption by His Son
---He sustains creation by His Son
---He will rule and reign by His Son
---He will judge the world by His Son

"They could not believe" - They were not able to believe; did not have the independent ability to believe.

Because they "would not" believe, God made their hearts so that they "could not" believe (EX: Pharaoh – Because he hardened his heart the Lord then solidified that hardness and kept it that way to fulfill His purposes through Pharaoh.

Once light has been rejected, God is under no obligation to grant sinners more light.

"When a person starts to resist the light, something begins to change within him; and he comes to the place where he cannot believe. There is 'judicial blindness' that God permits to come over the eyes of people who do not take the truth seriously." (Wiersbe, p. 343).

v. 40
Truth must be known (**"eyes"**)
Truth must be understood (**"heart"**)
Truth must be applied (**'converted"**)

*** v. 41**
John 12:41 - These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him.

Isaiah saw Christ's glory (Is. 6:1ff). The reference to **"His"** is the same reference as **"Him"** (v. 42), which is Christ.

Christ is the "arm of the Lord." He is the Lord, high and lifted up to whom the angels cry out, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. . ."

See Isaiah 6:

God is called the "Holy One" (Hos.11:9) and the "Holy One of Israel" (Is.41:14,16,20)

Holiness is an attribute that God has to an infinite degree above and beyond anything or anyone in creation.
"*There is none holy as the LORD"* (I Sam.2:2)
"Who shall not fear Thee, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? for Thou only art holy" (Rev.15:4)

"Holy" = (Hebrew = qadosh; Greek = hagios) The basic idea of the word is separate-ness or apart-ness. (Example: The Bible is often called the "Holy Bible" because it is a "book" that is "set apart" from all others.

Note: The words "sanctify" and "saint" come from the same Hebrew & Greek root words and mean "set apart" or "set apart one"

God being HOLY is "set apart" from everything that is common or unclean; To profane God is to strike against His Holiness.

God's holiness is manifest in two ways:

1) **Majestic <u>Transcendence</u>** - God is set apart from all that is created (Is. 57:15)

2) **Moral <u>Purity</u>** - God is set apart from all that is unclean (Hab.1:13; I Peter 1:13-16)

"Holiness," as defined as "set apart," is noted by many theologians as the **"fundamental attribute"** of God (the foundational attribute of God) It is the attribute of attributes.

All of God's attributes are equal, but all are qualified (or conditioned) by His holiness.

EX: God is <u>set apart from and above</u> all beings in creation in His love, mercy, truth, righteousness, faithfulness, knowledge, wisdom, sovereignty, etc.

God's holiness qualifies every other attribute He possesses.
"His love is *holy* love...His justice is *holy* justice...His wisdom is *holy* wisdom...His arm of power is a "*holy* arm" (Ps.98:1)...His promise is a "*holy* promise" (Ps.105:42)...His name is a *holy* name (Psalm 103:1).

Everything <u>about God</u> is HOLY

His <u>Attributes</u>
His <u>Name</u> (reputation) (Ps.99:3; 111:9; Ezek.36:20-22)
His <u>Works</u> (Ps.145:17)
His <u>Glory</u> (Light) (Exod. 15:11; Is.6:3; I John 1:5-7)
His <u>Spirit</u> (Ps.51:11; Is.63:10)

Everything <u>belonging to God</u> is HOLY

His Holy <u>Nation</u> (Exod.19:6)
His Holy <u>Place</u> (the Temple) (Ps.11:4; 65:4)
His Holy <u>People</u> (Dt.7:6; 14:2)
His Holy <u>City</u> (Jerusalem) (Ps.2:6; Is.52:1; 66:20)
His Holy <u>Camp</u> (Dt.23:14)
His Holy <u>Levites</u> (II Chron.35:3)
His Holy <u>Ark</u> (II Chron.35:3)
His Holy <u>Days</u> (Lev.23; Is.58:13)
His Holy <u>Promise</u> (Ps.105:42; Lk.1:72)
His Holy <u>Scriptures</u> (Rom.1:2)
His Holy <u>Prophets</u> (Luke 1:70)

Everywhere <u>God is</u> HOLY

"Holy Ground" (Ex.3:5; Josh.5:15)
"Holy Habitation" (Deut.26:15)
"The Throne of His Holiness" (Ps.47:8)

I. Isaiah sees Jesus Christ for Who He is (v.1-4)

1) Jesus is the God of <u>Majestic Holiness</u> (v.1)

a) He is an <u>eternal</u> King
(Uzziah died; The KING of KINGS never changes)

"I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne…" – the must be a reference to Jesus Christ since no one has ever seen God, the Father.

John 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

b) He is an <u>exalted</u> King
("Lord" = Adonay - Master or Ruler; It was <u>Jesus</u> Isaiah saw (Jn.12:41)

Note: The One who is called Adonay in verse 1 is the same One who is called YAHWEH in verses 3 & 5.

2) Jesus is the God of <u>Moral Holiness</u> (v.2-4)

Every sinful act is a sin against God's holiness.

God's holiness would keep every sinner out of His presence forever if it were not for the grace of Christ.

Someone said to D. L. Moody, "I don't understand how a God of love could send anyone to hell." Moody replied: "I don't understand how a God of justice could allow anyone into heaven."

Job 15:15 - "The heavens are not clean in his sight."
Ps.92:15 - there is "no unrighteousness in Him"
Hab.1:13 - "Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil..."

a) The seraphim's eyes are not worthy to <u>see</u>

b) The seraphim's feet are not worthy to <u>serve</u>

Three-fold repetition of ***"holy, holy, holy"*** is:
1) for <u>emphasis</u> (primary attribute)
2) a implied reference to the <u>Trinity</u> (Note: v.8 “who will go for **<u>us</u>**?”)

Jesus is the "Holy One"
(Mk.1:24; Acts 2:27, 3:14; Lk.1:35, 4:34)

Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that **<u>holy</u>** thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Acts 2:27 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou
suffer thine **<u>Holy One</u>** to see corruption.

Acts 3:14 But ye denied **<u>the Holy One</u>** and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;

Even Demons recognize the holiness of Jesus Christ!

Mark 1:24 Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, **<u>the Holy One of God</u>**.

II. After seeing Christ, Isaiah sees himself for who he is (v.5-7)

1) Christ's holiness reveals an accurate perspective of self (v.5)

The Result of seeing God's Holiness is humility. (No one every stands in God's presence and goes away proud!)

Note: The Humiliation of the Prophet Isaiah:

"Woe is me" - "I am to be pitied" "I am doomed"

"Unclean lips" - point to an unclean heart. "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."

Isaiah responded the way he did because of the great contrast he saw between himself and God.

EX: Imagine ourselves caked in mud and grease, dressed in filthy rags, and then stepping into the scrubbed, gleaming, stainless steel sterility of a hospital operating room. Those high-wattage surgical lamps would spotlight our grimy faces the way God's glory shone on Isaiah's dirty soul. (Swindol, p. 20)

The closer one draws or comes to God the more sensitive to his own sinfulness, he becomes (EX: Romans 7 - Paul's wretchedness)

SEE confessions of: Job (Job 42:6)
Peter (Luke 5:8)
John (Rev. 1:17)

The Judgement of God reflects His holiness

a) God's swift judgement of many who profaned His holy standards is a sobering reminder that HE IS HOLY
Examples:
- Achan who stole that which was to be set apart for God (Josh. 7:12-14)
- Nadab & Abihu who offered strange fire to God (not what He prescribed) (Lev.9:23 -10:3);
- Uzzah who touched the Ark of the Covenant (II Sam. 6:6-7);
- Moses who struck the rock (Num.20:11,12);
- Belshazzar who mocked God by praising idols and drinking alcohol out of the holy temple vessels (Dan.5)
- Ananias & Saphira who lied to the Holy Spirit (Acts

b) The great **white** throne judgement reflects a holy judgment (Rev.20:11)

2) Christ's holiness requires an <u>atoning provision for sin</u> (v.6-7)

a) Cleansing provided (God takes the initiative) (v.6)

(1)The means - Coal (fire - typifying purification; purging; cleansing)

(2)The place - Altar (the place of sacrifice)

b) Cleansing applied (v. 7)

The <u>Salvation plan</u> of God reflects His holiness

There is no greater demonstration of God's holiness than in His marvelous plan of salvation.

God demands spotless perfection from anyone who would inhabit His heaven (Hab.1:13; Matt.5:48).

God demands that sin be punished, and that sinners be separated from Him (Rom.6:23; Rev.21:8).

At Calvary, the spotless lamb of God met the requirements for perfection. Christ's substitutionary death met God's holy requirement for payment to be made (Isaiah 53).

Upon belief Christ's righteous is imputed to the guilty sinner (II Cor.5:21)

Nothing satisfies the Holy Demands of the Holy God except the sacrifice of His Son (Isaiah 53:11)

III. Isaiah is now ready and willing to serve Jesus Christ (v.8)

Only after cleansing can we serve!

Example: Ceremonial cleansings of the High Priest.
Cleanliness is next to Godliness

"Here am I" = I am willing
Samuel responded the same way.
Are you willing to be drafted for service?

1. The <u>request</u> of a concerned God (v.8a)

a. "Who will I send? "God's Part - the sending

b. "Who will go? "Man's Part - the going (Mt.28:19)

2. The <u>response</u> of a cleansed man (v.8b)

a. "here am I "Man's Part - volunteering

God has cleansed & prepared many a man, but some remain <u>unavailable</u>.

Isaiah didn't say "here am I <u>but</u>..."

b. "Send me" God's Part - commissioning

After Saul of Tarsus was cleansed by Christ, he went to serve Him

Acts 9:3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:
4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?
5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:
16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

Conclusion:

Isaiah saw his glory and spoke of him! God's glory is not shared with anyone else!
Isa 42:8 I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

Christ's brilliant glory is seen by several people in the Bible and the response is always the same:

Isaiah (Is. 6) "woe is me"

Peter, James & John:

Mt 17:2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

Mt. 17:5-6 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid.

Saul of Tarsus (Paul) (Acts 9)
And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:
And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?
And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: *it is* hard for thee to kick against the pricks.
Acts 9:3-5

John the Apostle

Rev. 1:16-18 - And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.
17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:
18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Isaiah saw his glory and spoke of him! Do you see His glory?
When we see His glory, we will be transformed by it, into His image!
2Cor. 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.