"The Holiness of God"

Isaiah 6:1-8

12-20-2023

Introduction:

I. We need to see <u>GOD</u> for Who He is (v.1-4)

(Isaiah sees God for Who He is)

1) He is a God of <u>Majestic Holiness</u> (v.1)

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

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

2) He is a 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>

II. We need to see <u>OURSELVES</u> as we really are (v.5-7)

(Isaiah sees Himself for who he is)

1) God's holiness reveals an <u>accurate perspective of self</u> (v.5)

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

III. We need to be <u>CLEAN</u> before we can serve God acceptably (v.8) *(Isaiah is now ready and willing to serve God)*

"The Holiness of God"

Isaiah 6:1-8

12-20-2023

Introduction:

I. We need to see _____ for Who He is (v.1-4)

(Isaiah sees God for Who He is)

1) He is a God of _____ Holiness (v.1)

a) He is an _____ King

b) He is an _____ King

2) He is a God of _____ Holiness (v.2-4)

a) The seraphim's eyes are not worthy to

b) The seraphim's feet are not worthy to

II. We need to see _____ as we really are (v.5-7)

(Isaiah sees Himself for who he is)

1) God's holiness reveals an accurate _____ of _____ (v.5)

2) God's holiness requires an atoning _____ for _____ (v.6-7)

III. We need to be _____ before we can _____ God acceptably (v.8) *(Isaiah is now ready and willing to serve God)*

"The Holiness of God"

Isaiah 6:1-8

12-20-2023

Introduction:
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 can't be loving . . . apart from His holiness.

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 belonging to God is HOLY

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

Everywhere God is HOLY

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

I. We need to see GOD for Who He is (v.1-4)

(Isaiah sees God for Who He is)

1) He is a God of Majestic Holiness (v.1)

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

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

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

2) He is a God of Moral Holiness (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 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 see

b) The seraphim's feet are not worthy to serve

Three-fold repetition of ***"holy, holy, holy"*** is:
1) for emphasis (primary attribute)
2) possibly a hint at the Trinity

The Law of God reflects His holiness (Romans 7:12)

> *"The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether"* (Ps.19:8,9)

All aspects of the Mosaic Law manifest God's Holy Standards.
(The word "Holy" occurs over 85 times in the book of Leviticus alone!)

God's civil, ceremonial, & moral Laws demonstrate His Holiness.

> His hatred for sin; His demands for moral purity; and His perfect standards for worship, service & life reflect His holiness.

Anything that pollutes, defiles, or profanes is forbidden.

II. We need to see <u>OURSELVES</u> as we really are (v.5-7)
(Isaiah sees Himself for who he is)

1) God's holiness reveals an <u>accurate perspective of self</u> (v.5)

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

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 <u>contrast</u> 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 <u>Judgement</u> 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:
- <u>Achan</u> who stole that which was to be set apart for God (Josh. 7:12-14)
- <u>Nadab & Abihu</u> who offered strange fire to God (not what He prescribed) (Lev.9:23 -10:3);
- <u>Uzzah</u> who touched the Ark of the Covenant (II Sam. 6:6-7);
- <u>Moses</u> who struck the rock (Num.20:11,12);
- <u>Belshazzar</u> who mocked God by praising idols and drinking alcohol out of the holy temple vessels (Dan.5)
- <u>Ananias & Saphira</u> who lied to the Holy Spirit (Acts

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

2) God'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. We need to be <u>CLEAN</u> before we can serve God acceptably

(v.8)
(Isaiah is now ready and willing to serve God)

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

Conclusion:

Holiness and Separation

God's holiness is the foundation (basis) for the doctrine of biblical separation. (Deuteronomy 32:4; Is.6:3; I Pet.1:16)

1)Moral Separation =Separating from practices which violate God's Holy Word (Rom.12:2; I Thess.5:22).
2)Personal Separation =Separating from people who violate God's Holy Word (Titus 3:10; II Th.3:6; I Cor.5:11)
3)Ecclesiastical Separation =Separating from churches which violate God's Holy Word (I Cor.3:17; II Cor.6:14-18).

It is important to note that separation is not merely a negative setting apart from sin, but it is positively a setting apart for God.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF GOD'S HOLINESS

"Be ye holy, for I am holy" (I Pet.1:16)

Don't think for a minute that sin is ever justified before the eyes of a holy God!
Don't come to God on your terms but on HIS! Don't make the mistake of thinking that God's ways & standards are like that of the world (Psalm 50:21)

Because God is HOLY:

1)You can't be saved on your own terms (God accepts nothing but the sacrifice of His dear Son (Heb.9:22; Acts 4:12)

2)You can't pray on your own terms

3)You can't worship on your own terms (Lev.10:3; Ps.99:5)

4)You can't serve on your own terms (Psalm 2:11)

5)You can't please God on your own terms (Heb.11:6; I Sam.15:17,22,23)

6)You can't give yourself to God on your own terms (Rom.12:1,2)

As a general guide as to whether or not a practice would match God's Standard, ask yourself the question: "Is it HOLY?"

It should be our daily prayer:
"Lord, set me apart from anything that is unclean in your sight (I Thess.5:23)
so that I may please you and serve you acceptably"(II Tim.2:21)