

The God Who Is

Holy, Holy, Holy

Isaiah 6:1-8

Background

The book of Isaiah is named after its author, Isaiah, a prophet to the Jewish people, in the time before and after 700 BC. During this period, Israel was in a time of great political struggle and spiritual decline. Isaiah's book has more prophetic references to the coming Savior, Jesus, than any other Old Testament book, and he is the prophet most quoted by Jesus in the New Testament. Fittingly, his name means, "Yahweh is salvation". We are not sure how Isaiah died, but tradition has it that he was sawed in two inside a hollow log for his faith. Chapter six tells of an experience

Read Isaiah 6:1-8

Now go back and see what we learn about God in each of the following verses:

v.1

v.2

v.3-4

WORD STUDY: Holy (or "qados" in the original Hebrew language):

The word "holy" means "separated", and is used here (and in *many* other places in Scripture) to signify the complete "separateness" or "otherness" of God—there is no one like Him. He is absolute in His purity, majesty, and glory. Webster's Dictionary defines holy as, "exalted or worthy of complete devotion as one perfect in goodness and righteousness".

Being in the presence of God made Isaiah very aware of his own sinfulness, as well as the sins of his country. How does God make us aware of our sin today?

What kinds of things dull our spiritual senses and harden our hearts so that we become comfortable with or complacent about sin?

Notice that Isaiah doesn't make any excuses for his sin—he just confesses it. What Does God do in response (v.5-7)?

How does God "take our guilt away" and "atone" for our sin today?

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What is the next thing God does after He cleanses Isaiah's sin?

What was Isaiah's response (v.8)?

Notice again that there are no excuses or delays in Isaiah's response. What aspect of God do you think Isaiah had seen that caused him to respond so quickly and absolutely to God call?

Questions for personal reflection

1. How does God's holiness affect your life?
2. What can you do this week to become more aware of God's holiness?
3. Where, or to whom, is God asking you to go to now? Is there a friend or family member you need to tell about Jesus? What ministry is He calling you to this semester? This summer? After you graduate? Are you willing to say, "Here am I, send me!"?

Passages For Further Study:

Ezekiel 1-2
Psalm 40
Psalm 99
Revelation 4-5

"There is a God we want, and there is a God who is—and they are not the same God.

The turning point of our lives is when we stop seeking the God we want and start seeking the God who is."