

A fresh revelation

From reading 9/10/20

For Sunday, 9/13

Introduction

- This week our reading included Isaiah 6
- I know we've preached on this passage repeatedly, but I want to share it again!
- I want to call us to pray for three specific things from this passage for our day!

Exegesis

1 It was in the year King Uzziah died that I saw the Lord.

From difficulty comes revelation

- A time of personal grief and political upheaval
- He'd been a great king, and a personal friend to Isaiah

- In this awful time - the Lord revealed himself in a fresh new way to Isaiah.
- **Thought** Sometimes its in the middle of difficulty that we receive a fresh revelation
- Church - this is what we need now! We must have a fresh revelation of the God we serve.
- **Symptoms:**
 - No longer feel conviction for my sins
 - Worship is stale or rote
 - Service to the Lord is non-existent or out of obligation - lacking in joy
- **Point:** Pray for revelation now! The believer needs a fresh glimpse of God!

He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. 2 Attending him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. 3 They were calling out to each other,

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Heaven's Armies!

The whole earth is filled with his glory!"

4 Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke.

His glory

- He's on the throne. Praise God for that - nothing in heaven or earth is beyond his control

- I love the old song *Our God reigns*. What a great reminder in these troubled times!
- But also in this revelation, God is exalted. He is *high and lifted up*. We make God too small! We are familiar with him. We've lost our awe of him!
- He is the Lord of Heaven's armies! He's not outnumbered or defeated!
- God's army is powerful, and strong and will bring victory!
- The whole earth is filled with his glory!!
- **Point:** Let us see God and his glory aright. All the fear and uncertainty and doubt would be driven away with one glimpse of Him in glory!

Their worship

- See the powerful ones attending him
- All they do is cry out in worship
- **Point:** When we are near him, we will worship him. It is what overflows.
- Their worship declares his might (Lord of heaven's armies) and glory (your glory fills the earth)
- Mostly, their worship declares his **holiness!** This is what they cry
- Oh how we have forgotten that God is a holy God. We think about his love - but w/o the context of holiness, love has lesser impact (as does his grace, etc.)
- It's only as we know his holiness - that we can worship him for his love and his grace

5 Then I said, "It's all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the LORD of Heaven's Armies."

Recognition of his sin

- When we see the Lord in his glory, we are immediately aware of our own wickedness!
- And the converse is true too! If we don't grieve over our sin and the sin of our nation - we haven't been in his presence.
- Recognition of our sin always comes with revelation of His glory
 - Peter in the boat... *Away from me Lord, I am a sinful man*
 - Job - we just finished reading. When the Lord appears to him in **Job 40:3-5** *3 Then Job replied to the LORD, "I am nothing—how could I ever find the answers? I will cover my mouth with my hand. I have said too much already. I have nothing more to say."*
- We have taken his grace for granted.
- We no longer approach him
- We have become content in our sin. There is no conviction!
- **Note:** We must have this to move forward. We don't stay here (see next two verses), but we must come here to be of any use in these last days!
- **Point:** Lord show us your glory that we might repent of our sins before it's too late!

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. 7 He touched my lips with it and said, "See, this coal has touched your lips. Now your guilt is removed, and your sins are forgiven."

The cleansing

- We are unable to cleanse ourselves
- We need divine cleansing
- We are only aware of this need when we've seen his holiness
- We are only aware of our inability to cleanse ourselves - when we're overwhelmed with our sinfulness and how pitiful our attempts to cleanse ourselves
- **Point:** God has provided cleansing - but we must recognize our need for it and receive it! Blessed is the man whose sins are forgiven!

8 Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people?"

Who will go for us?"

I said, "Here I am. Send me."

The call

- There is work to be done
- The Lord seeks someone to go with his message to the people
- **Point:** This day we live in has much work to be done. The Lord constrains himself to work through his people. Can you hear his voice even now?

The response

- Here I am, send me
- When we've had that encounter, and receive his forgiveness, our hearts are overflowing with love and worship
- We are willing to do as he asks
- It's an honor and we are humbled he would use us
- **Illustrate:** Old song we used to sing when I was growing up:
 - *Jesus use me, and O Lord don't refuse me*
 - *For surely there's a work that I can do*
 - *And even though it's humble, help my will to crumble*
 - *Though the cost be great I'll work for you!*
- **Point:** If that's not our heart today, we need fresh revelation!

9 And he said, "Yes, go, and say to this people,

'Listen carefully, but do not understand.

Watch closely, but learn nothing.'

10 Harden the hearts of these people.

Plug their ears and shut their eyes.

That way, they will not see with their eyes,

nor hear with their ears,

nor understand with their hearts

and turn to me for healing."

A scary message

- The Lord's message to the people was *not* to bring them to him - that time was over
- In sending the messenger, God was allowing the presentation of truth to harden them!
- **Point:** Hearing the truth, but rejecting it (not responding to it) produces this hardening of the heart!

11 *Then I said, "Lord, how long will this go on?"*

And he replied,

"Until their towns are empty,

their houses are deserted,

and the whole country is a wasteland;

12 *until the LORD has sent everyone away,*

and the entire land of Israel lies deserted.

13 *If even a tenth—a remnant—survive,*

it will be invaded again and burned.

But as a terebinth or oak tree leaves a stump when it is cut down,

so Israel's stump will be a holy seed."

Purpose

- God was allowing them to become hard
- Then he would pour out his judgment
- Earlier in the week, we read Isaiah 3 - where God pronounces judgment

- I could see the connection between their state and our own
- **Point:** God is about to judge America!

The remnant

- Here the stump would be a holy seed
- God will leave a remnant (until he returns and takes the believers
- See also in Isaiah 3 - the righteous will be rewarded

Application (3 prayer requests)

Pray for revelation

- I need / we need a fresh revelation
- It drives out fear and doubt
- Brings us to a place of worship
- Makes us aware of our sins, and his Grace
- Softens our heart so we'll say "Here am I, send me!"

Pray for our nation

- Poised for judgment
- Pray for repentance that God will relent

Pray for the remnant

- Strengthen and preserve your people as we walk through this time!