

Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ² Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”

⁴ And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵ And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for 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 burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

⁸ And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”

What is Happening?

- Isaiah has a vision of God... he sees God! (This is a big deal – Ex 33:20)
 - o Is it for the first time? Is it a subsequent experience? It can't be both, but I think the principles we are going to pull this morning can relate to either experience.
- It is true we all need an initial experience with God, a moment when he restores sight to blind eyes and we see him as the God he is... we turn away from the life that separates us from Him (repentance)
- incurvatus in se – Latin, curved inward on ones self

Why does it Matter?

- Isaiah comes face to face with God. Theology begins with God. Worldview begins with God.

5 Truths About God (that Isaiah testifies to):

1. **God is Eternal** – *“In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord”*
 - o Alive,
2. **God is Sovereign** – *“I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up”*
 - o Ruling, reigning, authoritative, absolute
3. **God is Beautiful** – *“the train of his robe filled the temple”*
 - o Majestic, resplendent – revered.
 - o *“Above him stood the seraphim; each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.”*
 - o not even they can look upon the Lord or feel worthy to leave their feet exposed in his presence! There are numerous biblical accounts where the sight of an angel terrifies men with their brilliance... yet angels themselves are affected to their inmost being
4. **God is Holy** – *“Above him stood the seraphim... one called to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts’”*
 - o Holy means to be separate, or set apart... it means ‘not like the rest’ – unique.
 - o the fact that God is God and we are not... he is creator, we are creatures... he is one of a kind... the rarer a diamond the more valuable it is.

- The main problem in the world is the failure to feel that God is holy. God has infinite worth; all other value has value only in proportion to its reflection of His value: this truth changes everything.
5. God is Glorious – *“the whole earth is full of his glory!”*

How is it Relevant?

An authentic encounter with God reveals 3 truths:

1. Truth about yourself.

6:5 - *And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips*

- Encountering God (for real) gives you a clear sense of yourself by comparison. God is Holy, righteous, powerful and beautiful... so much so you see yourself as common, sinful, helpless and desperate.
- And yet this God chooses to reveal himself to you... so it's not all bad news... there must be something valuable about you... right? Well, what's valuable in you is your reflection of him... so it gives you purpose and sense of what you are supposed to be (as opposed to what you are).

2. Truth about your culture.

6:5 - *and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”*

- Similarly it reveals the truth about culture. It reveals the lies imbedded in the society we buy into day in and day out.

3. Truth about your 'calling'.

6:8 - *And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”⁹ And he said, “Go...*

- Finally there is a more tangible purpose in an encounter with God... giving you a mission, giving a mandate.
- Calling us to action, whether it is particular or general, new or old.