

Seeing Jesus Too!
Isaiah 6:1-13

Intro:

a) The King:

Uzziah began his reign when he was only 16 years old, and he reigned 52 years. Overall, he was a good king.

2 Kings 15:3 - he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had do

2 Chronicles 26:5- He sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God; and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him prosper.

He was a military strategist who led Israel to victory over the Philistines and other neighboring nations. He was also an energetic planner and builder.

2 Chronicles 26:8 - His fame spread as far as the entrance of Egypt, for he strengthened himself exceedingly.

But Uzziah's life ended tragically.

2 Chronicles 26:16 - But when he was strong, he grew proud, to his destruction. For he was unfaithful to the LORD his God and entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense.

In response, God struck him with leprosy –

2 Chronicles 26:21 - And King Uzziah was a leper to the day of his death, and being a leper lived in a separate house, for he was excluded from the house of the LORD.

So, to say, "In the year that king Uzziah died," is to say a lot.

It's like saying your presidential candidate won and you have the feeling all the world is going to be righted only to have your hopes collapse.

b) The Prophet

Isaiah

- was a contemporary of Amos, Hosea and Micah.

- He ministered under four kings of Judah: Uzziah (Azariah), Jotham, Ahaz (bad king), and Hezekiah.

Forty-seven years after Uzziah's death, Isaiah is going to help his great grandson, Hezekiah avoid Assyrian captivity and exile (2 Kgs 17-20; 2 Chron 26-36; Is 36-39). But his ministry began 47 years earlier under

Isaiah might also be called the prophet of the NT since he is quoted more than twice as much as any other OT prophet.

- There are 23 direct quotes and 38 allusions.
- Of 27, only 7 NT books don't quote him.
- Jesus quoted him 8 times (Jesus quotes Psalms, Deut, Is & Ex the most)

First: The Lord – “I saw Adonai”

John 4:24 – *“God (the Father) is a spirit”* and cannot be seen

Psalm 110:1 - *The LORD (Jehovah) says to my Lord (Adonai): “Sit at my right hand, (The Father is seated too) until I make your enemies your footstool.”*

John 5:22 - *For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son,*

John 17:2 - *...you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him*

In love to his Son, the Father has made Jesus the centerpiece of all reality (and for our concerns today) judgement and salvation.

This is important for the end of the sermon.....

Second: The Throne – “sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up”

1 Kings 10:18-20 - *The king (Solomon) also made a great ivory throne and overlaid it with the finest gold. ¹⁹The throne had six steps, and the throne had a round top, and on each side of the seat were armrests and two lions standing beside the armrests, ²⁰while twelve lions stood there, one on each end of a step on the six steps. The like of it was never made in any kingdom.*

Isaiah, who has seen Solomon's throne, says that Jesus's throne is “high and lifted up.”

The Royalty – and the train of his robe filled the temple

Third: The Seraphim = “Above him stood the seraphim” = “burning ones”

Moses initially spent 40 days in God's presence

Exodus 34:29 & 33-35 - *When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God... And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face. Whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would remove the veil, until he came out. And when he came out and told the people of Israel what he was commanded, ³⁵ the people of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face was shining. And Moses would put the veil over his face again, until he went in to speak with him.*

- Six wings
- Two covered face
- Two covered feet
- Two flew

Moses – **Exodus 3:5-6** - *Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” ⁶ And he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.*

Fourth: The Cry – “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory”

- God – (Jehovah) is thrice holy (Father, Son & Holy Spirit)

The whole point of Jesus's ministry was to glorify the Father -

Revelation 4:8 – *“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”*

“was, is and is to come” = transcendence. This helps us define ‘holy’ and ‘holiness’

Psalm 2 – **TURN** – No one can give anyone what they need most: time. God *was, is and is to come*. He laughs at time and its effect.

- Hebrew = *quodesh* – unique

The truth that God is holy, holy, holy reflects His eternal nature, divine perfection in the Trinity, and supreme holiness. God is perfect in all His ways in eternity past, present, and future. His perfection is revealed in three Persons: Father, Son (Jesus Christ), and Holy Spirit. No one is like God and alone is worthy of worship.

Worship = attention and affection. Give that only to God. (Politics, sports, hobbies, loves, etc). To worship anything else, to make anything else in life your priority, is to waste your life and be less than human.

The most loving thing you can do for anyone you love
is to love God first and most

- Greek = *hagios* - separate

A. W. Tozer: *“Holy” is the way God is. To be holy He does not conform to a standard. He is that standard.*

R. C. Sproul: *“God alone is holy in Himself. The word holy is used as a synonym for His deity and calls attention to all that God is. It reminds us that His love is holy love, His justice is holy justice, His mercy is holy mercy, His knowledge is holy knowledge, and His spirit is holy Spirit.”*

Fifth: The Glory – “the whole earth is full of his glory”

*“Earth's crammed with heaven,
And every common bush afire with God,
But only he who sees takes off his shoes;
The rest sit round and pluck blackberries.”*

Elizabeth Barrett Browning

It is a ‘sacred’ world, and everything should be sacramental.

- When Israel sinned against God at Kadesh-Barnea –

Numbers 14:20-23 - *Then the LORD said, “I have pardoned, according to your word. ²¹ But truly, as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD, ²² none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice, ²³ shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers. And none of those who despised me shall see it.*

- When Israel followed heathen nations into same

Habakkuk 2:14 - *Woe to him who builds a town with blood and finds a city on iniquity! ¹³ Behold, is it not from the LORD of hosts that peoples labor merely for fire, and nations weary themselves for nothing? ¹⁴ For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.*

The history of Adam & Eve, Israel and the church has been one of failure. Yet the whole earth will be filled with the glory of God. God doesn't need Israel. He doesn't need the church. He has Jesus! Jesus is God's glory

John 1:14 - *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father*

Sixth: The Foundations – “And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called...”

Revelation 6:12-17 – **TURN** - *When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, ¹³ and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. ¹⁴ The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. ¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, ¹⁷ for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”*

And yet...while all the world is shaking –

Revelation 4:5-6 - *From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, ⁶ and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal.*

Seventh: The Application. 5 – “Woe is me!”

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!”

If God is holy/unique/separate then everyone else is ‘unclean.’ (Ro 3:10, 23 & 6:23)

If this has not been our response to seeing God, we have not seen God.

Eighth: The Hope. 6 – “the altar”

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.”

- Not even an angel could take away his sin.
- Only a burning coal from the fire of God’s altar.

There is simply not enough time to explore this thought. But at Calvary, Jesus singly and wholly absorbed God’s wrath, being made sin for us that we might be given God’s righteousness.

Give me Jesus!

Conclusion: We can't keep from seeing the world around us. But it's important that we keep our eyes on heaven too. And that God's throne has greater weight than the rest of the world.

Community Groups:

- 1 – What do you know about Uzziah?
- 2 – What do you know about Isaiah?
- 3 – How is the timing of Isaiah's vision important?
- 4 – What does it mean for judgement and salvation that Jesus is enthroned?
- 5 – What does 'holy' mean?
- 6 – How is God holy?
- 7 – What is the importance of God's holiness?
- 8 – How does worshipping God make us more human and worshipping something else make us less human?
- 9 – How is it most loving to others to love God first and most?
- 10 – Explore the meaning behind the Browning poem.
- 11 – How is the earth presently filled with God's glory?
- 12 – How does Isaiah respond to the vision of God?
- 12 – Why is this the only appropriate response?
- 13 – How might people respond to such a vision? (Excuse their sin, etc)
- 14 – What is our only hope for salvation?
- 15 – Why is this passage important and how would you explain it to a friend?
- 16 – How is this passage appropriate to your own life now?

