

"THE KING OF GLORY"

Isaiah 6:1-13

When you think about God, what comes into your mind? Some view Him...

- as being **remote and detached** from the everyday reality of life.
- as if He is **shrouded in obscurity** and that basically He is unknowable.
- as a **perpetually kind Mr. Rogers** whose only concern is our happiness.
- as a **demanding drill sergeant** who always barks out orders and gets on our case.

Too many people go through life without ever being spiritually staggered by a true knowledge of the living God. That is totally unacceptable. Over and over, the Bible affirms the value of knowing God...

Jeremiah 9:24...but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the LORD.

Daniel 11:32...“the people who know their God will display strength and take action.”

Philippians 3:8...More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord....

A personal knowledge of the Lord will create a tidal wave of passion, energy, courage, joy, purpose, devotion, compassion, and love. We will see ourselves as we really are. We will begin to see every trial and every joy in the larger context of God's glory. Have you been stunned by a fresh encounter with the Lord?

The prophet Isaiah served the Lord during a time (around 700 BC) when the covenant people had embraced a diminished view of God (Isaiah 5). They were known for their...

- Greedy materialism (5:8-10)
- Drunken pleasure (5:11-12)
- Brazen rebellion (5:18-19)
- Moral perversion (5:20)
- Boastful pride (5:21)
- Corrupt leadership (5:22-23)

On top of all of this their beloved king had died. His name was Uzziah and he reigned for 52 years. (That's 13 of our 4-year presidential election cycles)

2 Chronicles 26:4... He did right in the sight of the LORD according to all that his father Amaziah had done.

He restored and strengthened the city of Jerusalem. He led the army to successfully defeat their enemies. Under his leadership agriculture flourished. He was an excellent leader.

However, like his grandfather Joash, he didn't finish well...

2 Chronicles 26:16... But when he became strong, his heart was so proud that he acted corruptly, and he was unfaithful to the LORD his God, for he entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense.

God judged him and he was a leper to the day of his death. With the spiritual demise and the death of such a great leader, Isaiah was shaken to the core. That's when it happened. This great prophet of God was given a vision of the King of Glory—*the Lord Jesus Christ*.

John 12:37–41... "But though He had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him. **38** *This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet which he spoke: "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM HAS THE ARM OF THE LORD BEEN REVEALED?"* **39** For this reason they could not believe, for Isaiah said again, **40** "HE HAS BLINDED THEIR EYES AND HE HARDENED THEIR HEART, SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT SEE WITH THEIR EYES AND PERCEIVE WITH THEIR HEART, AND BE CONVERTED AND I HEAL THEM." **41** *These things Isaiah said because he saw His glory, and he spoke of Him.*

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Turn in your Bible to Isaiah 6. I want to speak to you on this subject—*"THE KING OF GLORY."* Here's the truth I want to sow in your heart this morning...

GIVE THE KING YOUR BEST.

We glorify Him when we do this. Giving Him your best calls for three action steps...

1. WORSHIP THE KING.

Isaiah 6:1–4... In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. **2** Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. **3** And one called out 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 trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke.

In the midst of the moral and spiritual disorder of his day, Isaiah was stunned by a vision of the King of Glory. From that day forward he had a proper view of the Lord, and it shaped his entire worldview. That day he learned that...

■ **THE KING OF GLORY IS ETERNAL.**

Isaiah recorded this fact—"***I saw the Lord.***" Listen, the Bible teaches that the Lord is *eternal* in nature. The first verse of the Bible states, "***In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.***" At the beginning of recorded time, the King of Glory was already in existence. Paul wrote this about Him...

1 Timothy 1:17...Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

When things in our lives get a little crazy, it's important that you and I realize that our King is alive. That leads to a second glimpse of God...

■ THE KING OF GLORY IS SOVEREIGN.

Isaiah saw ***"the Lord sitting on a throne."*** The Hebrew word used here for "Lord" is Adonai. It means "sovereign Master." It reveals that the King of Glory has the authority to rule the entire world. He wasn't wringing His hands. He hadn't called for an emergency meeting of the trinity to hammer out a response. The picture is one of perfect peace and stability.

■ THE KING OF GLORY IS POWERFUL (1).

Isaiah saw ***"the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted with the train of His robe filling the temple."*** His regal garments filled the temple leaving no room for another. No president, no dictator, no prime minister, no king, no queen, no prince, no senator, no representative, no governor, and no Supreme Court Judge has the power to rival ***THE KING OF GLORY***. Nothing you will ever encounter in this life is too big for Him!

■ THE KING OF GLORY IS HOLY (2-3).

"Seraphim" means *burning ones*. These mighty angelic beings were in constant motion ready to do the Lord's will at any moment. Their reverence for the Lord can be seen in that with two sets of wings they covered their feet and their faces. They sang of the holiness of God.

"Holy, holy, holy" is not just repetition; it is emphasis. In Hebrew thought, to mention something three times in succession is to elevate it to a place of supreme importance. This is the only characteristic of God that is mentioned three consecutive times in all of Scripture.

■ THE KING OF GLORY IS GLORIOUS (3).

The Seraphim declared—***"The whole earth is full of His glory."*** The Lord's glory spills out of heaven into every nook and cranny of creation.

Isaiah discovered that the King of Glory is eternal, sovereign, powerful, holy, and glorious. I don't want you to ever forget that you were

created to glorify Him and enjoy Him forever. God forbid that we get absorbed in our own petty ambitions and miss out on encountering His glorious presence in our daily lives.

GIVE THE KING YOUR BEST.

Therefore, we must worship the King. This calls for a second action...

2. RESPECT THE KING.

Isaiah 6:5–7... Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among 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 with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. **7** He touched my mouth *with it* and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven."

Isaiah was immediately convicted concerning his own sin and the sin of God's people. In

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sheer brokenness, he confessed the sin to God and genuinely repented.

One of the Seraphim took a coal from the altar and touched Isaiah's lips symbolizing the sheer grace of God, the atoning sacrifice of Jesus, and the forgiveness of Isaiah's sins. The Bible says...

Ephesians 1:7...In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.

Wouldn't you love to know that this gracious King of Glory has forgiven your sins? He will if you repent of your sin and place your faith in Him alone. Then, He expects you to respect Him by seeking to live a holy life. This glorifies Him!

GIVE THE KING YOUR BEST.

Therefore, we must worship the King and respect the King. Finally, we must...

3. SERVE THE KING.

Isaiah 6:8–10...Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!" **9** He said, "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on listening, but do not perceive; Keep on looking, but do not understand.' **10** "Render the hearts of this people insensitive, Their ears dull, And their eyes dim, Otherwise they might see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, Understand with their hearts, And return and be healed."

The grace of God unleashed Isaiah from sin's paralyzing effect and gave him a passion to see the Jewish people respond to the Lord in repentance and faith.

Sin is a crime against God. It is offensive to Him. If one hears God's Word and turns a deaf ear to Him, his heart will be hardened. This is a spiritual law. That's why the Bible says, "***Today if you hear His voice, harden not your heart.***"

Isaiah 6:11–13...Then I said, "Lord, how long?" And He answered, "Until cities are devastated *and* without inhabitant, Houses are without people And the land is utterly desolate, **12** "The LORD has removed men far away, And the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land. **13** "Yet there will be a tenth portion in it, And it will again be *subject* to burning, Like a terebinth or an oak Whose stump remains when it is felled. The holy seed is its stump."

Isaiah asked, "Lord, how long?" God described the eventual collapse of Judah because *they refused to listen to Him*.

God's promise in verse 13 is awesome, don't miss it. He would preserve a remnant of Jews who would be responsive to the King of Glory.

The "holy seed" is Jesus, the Messiah. God, in His infinite mercy, would send His Son to save Jews and Gentiles from their sin. That's mercy!

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We must "GO AND TELL" (9). Interview Zach and Bekah...

- **Share about your call to Missions.**
- **How will you be funded?**
- **Where are you going?**
- **What is your assignment?**
- **When will you start with the IMB**
- **Pray for Zach, Bekah, Owen, and Eleanor!**

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CONCLUSION

There is a splendid moment in the movie *Jurassic Park*, when world-class paleontologist Allen Grant, who devoted his life to the study of dinosaurs, suddenly comes face-to-face with these real, live prehistoric creatures. He falls to the ground, dumbstruck.

You see, it's one thing to piece together an image of dinosaurs by picking through fossils and bones. But to encounter an actual dinosaur—well, there could be no comparison.

Too many of us have picked through the relics of religion and assembled a God that makes us

feel good, comfortable, and safe. Like Isaiah we need a fresh encounter with the King of Glory!

GIVE THE KING YOUR BEST.

1. WORSHIP THE KING.

- He is eternal.
- He is sovereign.
- He is powerful.
- He is holy.
- He is glorious.

2. RESPECT THE KING.

- Receive Him as your Savior and Lord.
- Live a holy life.

3. SERVE THE KING.

- Be open to His call on your life.
- Share the gospel with the lost.

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I CAN ONLY IMAGINE (Mercy Me)

I can only imagine what it will be like
When I walk by your side
I can only imagine what my eyes will see
When your face is before me
I can only imagine
I can only imagine

Surrounded by your glory
What will my heart feel?
Will I dance for you Jesus,
Or in awe of you be still?
Will I stand in your presence,
Or to my knees will I fall?
Will I sing Halleluja,
Will I be able to speak at all?
I can only imagine
I can only imagine