

SM 051720

How Big Is Your God?

Sunday Morning Message

Text – Isaiah 6

Congregational Reading – Isaiah 6

Introduction

Isaiah saw this vision of God *“in the year that King Uzziah died,”* which historians tell us was around 740 B.C. This was before the northern kingdom of Israel was conquered by the Assyrians in 722 B.C., and also before the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians, which would come in 586 B.C. Isaiah was a prophet of God sent primarily to Jerusalem and the southern kingdom of Judah to warn them to repent and avoid those judgments. He was not successful in achieving a permanent national repentance, but he did influence some of the kings, like Hezekiah for example who would listen to him, and would lead the people in righteousness; and this would postpone God’s judgment for a while. Eventually, however, the nation as a whole completely forsook the Lord, and destruction finally came. A small remnant, however, was saved, and were spared.

This story of the call of Isaiah is very relevant for us today. Like Isaiah, we are called to give the message of repentance and salvation to a very sinful nation. It may be that our nation as a whole will heed the warning and repent, sparing us all from judgment; but likely, it will be as it was with Isaiah: only a small remnant of the people will hear the warning of God, and they will repent, and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior. But, praise the Lord, because of their salvation, they will be spared the judgment coming to those who are lost, and ultimately they will have a place forever in Heaven with the Lord.

I. A Factual Perception of God (vs. 1 – 4)

Isaiah did not see what the average person perceives God to be. He saw God high and lifted up. He saw a big and glorious God; a God who is holy and all powerful.

John got a glimpse of this God:

“I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven

golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." (Revelation 1:10-18)

John also got a glimpse into the Temple of God (Revelation 4 – entire chapter).

The point is that the average person out in the world does not see God as He really is. Isaiah did, and we need to:

God is Omniscient.

God is Omnipotent.

God is Omnipresent.

God is Eternal.

God is Self-Existent.

God is Infinite.

God is Holy, Just, and Righteous.

God is Loving, Merciful, and Gracious.

God is Patient, Faithful, and Good.

God is Truth, and Wisdom.

God is Awesome. He is a Big God.

The Psalmist said that we need to magnify Him, which means that we see Him bigger.

This world attempts to bring God down and make Him smaller. We need to see God high and lifted up, and we need to show people a Big God.

How Big is your God.

Practical Point – You cannot see God as He really is without faith.

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (Hebrews 11:6)

Faith can only be increased through time spent in the Word of God.

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17)

Your Bible is the magnifying glass that will help you to see God bigger.

Your life can then be a magnifying glass to show the world a really big God.

II. An Actual Picture of Himself (vs. 5 – 7)

When Isaiah sees God as He really is, he also gets a good look at himself for the first time.

This is what happens when you take a good hard look at the Word of God. James states that the Word of God is like a glass or a mirror:

"Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." (James 1:21-25)

Too many of us are looking for our reflection in other people, and we unwisely compare ourselves among ourselves. I may be able to look at another person and see myself as being pretty good, but when I see a factual vision of God, I will see myself as I really am.

When Isaiah saw himself for who he really was, he owned it. He cried out to God, and confessed it. God took a live coal from off of the brazen altar, and touched his unclean lips.

That is a picture of salvation. The brazen altar was a place of sacrifice. It was the place where the sacrifices were killed and burnt. The brazen altar was a foreshadow, a picture, of the ultimate sacrifice, the only one that could actually cleanse anyone from sin – the Lord Jesus Christ. That live coal from off of the altar was a picture of the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:7-9)

III. An Effectual Purpose for His Life (vs. 8 – 13)

God calls Isaiah to go to the nation of Judah and preach to them. He will preach so much to them that many of them will shut their ears to what he says and close their eyes to the truth. Jesus quoted from this passage in the New Testament, but clarified some of the wording:

*"For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, **and their eyes they have closed**; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them."*

(Matthew 13:15)

As a result of their rejection, they will experience a great future judgment. We know historically that this would take place in 586 BC when the Babylonians would come down and destroy the City of Jerusalem, and carry many of the people into captivity.

God also gives Isaiah some good news that there will be a small remnant that will hear what he has to say, and they will heed his warning, and as a result "a seed," of the people, which was actually about a tenth of those who were taken would be able to return to the land and rebuild.

Though the nation as a whole rejected Isaiah's message, there would be some that would listen, and God preserved His people through them.

Review

God cleanses those who desire salvation.

Most of you have already experienced that live coal from off of the altar. You have already received the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior; you have already been cleansed of your sin.

God calls those who he cleanses.

If you are saved, God has a job for you to do. Paul calls it and ordained foreordained good work (Ephesians 2:10). You and I are called to communicate the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to our nation, and to all of the nations of the world.

God commissions those who accept His call.

If you accept God's call, He will commission you to some place of service. Isaiah's place was Judah and Jerusalem. Your place may be serving a Sunday School class, or on a bus route. You may be called to show God to your children and your community. God will give you a place that you can show people just how glorious He is.

Conclusion

Today, I believe that it is safe to say that we are living in a nation that is deserving of judgment, and I think that I am accurate in stating that that judgment has already started; but unless our nation repents and turns to God, the judgment coming will be far worse than what we are experiencing so far. The good news is that God also has given us a way of escape, a way of salvation:

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)

We are praying that there will be a national repentance and revival in America so that our way of life, and our liberty will be preserved, but perhaps it will be that only a small remnant, "a seed" will listen and be saved. We simply do not know what will happen.

But we do know that God is calling you and I to show the world that way of escape, that one way that leads to salvation. Jesus said:

"... I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6)

America does not need political reform; it doesn't need for us to go out and fight against everything that she is doing wrong. America needs God. America needs to get a glimpse of that same vision that Isaiah saw – a thrice holy God high and lifted up. We need to show America that God. We may need to take another look at that big, omnipotent, and glorious God ourselves, so that we will more accurately reflect Him to this world.

We serve an awesome God. We need to show the world just how awesome; just how big; and just how glorious that God is.

We are living in very strange and scary days; but fear not, Christian; because you have a very big and powerful God who has got your back. He will never leave you nor forsake you; He will provide all of your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19); and He will use you to shine His light and show His love to this lost and dying world.

You and I need to see and believe the God that Isaiah saw.

Then, we can better understand who we really are without Him.

But then we can also realize all that we can do with Him, in His power.

Show this world that Big God, and tell them that He loves them and is willing to save them like He saved you, if they will simply turn to Him in faith.