

Majestic God – Isaiah 6

Years ago, I took off on my motorcycle for an epic trip up to the mountains of Colorado, Wyoming and Montana with Yellowstone National Park as my main destination. I couldn't wait to see all the wildlife, the wilderness, the mountains and all the beauty of God's creation. But as a lot of you know, the trip from here to parts of west Texas is pretty bland. There is not much to see. And I knew that so I wasn't expecting much. But even on into New Mexico and into southern Colorado it was just mind-numbing boring.

The motorcycle didn't have a radio and I didn't have any kind of ear buds to listen to music or anything so I'm just taking this time to talk to God. And we talked about everything. We talked about me and about Him and about the world and about friends. It was just a running conversation and it was great. But somewhere up around Dumas or Dalhart or some other barren expanse of dirt, I had a mild complaint to God.

I was having a great time and the feeling of freedom was intoxicating and I felt like I could nicely address this issue with God so I mentioned to Him that there just wasn't much to see. The scenery around here was boring. I said, *"God, I have to admit. I'm not impressed."* Now, I didn't hear Him audibly but I felt like He told me, *"Just wait, Todd. Just wait."* So, I kept riding.

I got into Colorado and thought surely I would see the mountains any time now. But nothing. Flat, barren and dirty with just a Pronghorn antelope to honk at every now and then. Even up to Denver – the mile high city – BORING! *"Lord, I thought I would see some sights but this..."* *"Just wait,"* He said.

But then I turned left at Denver and started getting up into the Rocky Mountains. Now, this is what I was looking for. Absolutely beautiful. Up and down, all around, everywhere you turn the mountains were just amazing. And yet, I still felt like God was telling me to just wait.

If you have been to this area, you know that a lot of the highways are cut through the tops of the mountains and so even as you go over the top you still have mountain on both sides of you. And somewhere in the middle of the Rockies of northern Colorado or maybe southern Wyoming, I topped this huge mountain and when I got to the top...it literally took my breath away.

Let me describe it to you. On the other side was a huge grassy plane down in this valley. The grass was neon green. The sky was perfectly blue with cotton candy clouds. And there was a beautiful blue stream flowing that was wide and shallow and the road was built to flow next to it. But the first thing I really noticed was three buffalo (bison) running as fast as they could; huge powerful animals and I didn't know they ever ran like that.

There were also some smaller animals, some deer and some antelope. The sides of the road were just covered with wildflowers from the top of the mountain all the way down and the smell of those flowers was just amazing. There was even a bald eagle in a nest not far from me on the side of the mountain. And the whole thing – the sights, the smell, the breeze – it was hard to take it all in. I had pulled over at the top to soak it all up but as I drove off, the one word that kept coming to my mind as I saw God's creativity, His power and His sovereignty was "majestic." I never used that word in a sentence before but it just fit. It was the most amazing thing I have ever seen and I'll never forget the majesty of it all.

But as amazing as that scene was for me and with it being so hard to take it all in, I can't imagine how hard it was for Isaiah to take in all the majesty of God that he writes about in **Isaiah chapter 6**. Let's turn there and look at what may be the most majestic thing a man has ever seen. God gives Isaiah a vision of Himself on His throne, a vision of what Heaven itself must be like and the one word that keeps coming to my mind again is "majestic."

Isaiah is found in the Old Testament between the books of Song of Songs and Jeremiah. It was at this occasion that Isaiah knew God was calling him to be His prophet and he prophesied in Israel to his countrymen which did not make him very popular. But after this encounter with God, Isaiah never wavered from his call. Let's see it in **Isaiah 6:1-8**.

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ²Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. ³And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." ⁴At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. ⁵"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty." ⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for." ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

In **Exodus 34** it tells us that when Moses met with God his face glowed and he had to put a veil over his face so the people wouldn't freak out just seeing him. In **Ezekiel 1 and 2**, Ezekiel had a similar experience to what Isaiah had and he fell down on his face and had to be helped up. In **Daniel 7**, Daniel has a dream that is similar and he said he was frightened and terrified and troubled in spirit. And in **Revelation 1**, John is given a dream where he too sees God similarly and he said, "*When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead.*"

It is passages like these that make it hard for me to believe when people write books or make movies about going to Heaven and then coming back and they talk about seeing Uncle Joe and Grandpa Ed and oh, yea, I saw God too and it was fun and interesting and blah, blah, blah. Isaiah said he saw God sitting on a throne. It wasn't a lawn chair or a La-Z-Boy. He's the King of kings, the One who spoke creation into being, the Alpha and Omega, the Great I AM.

We will look closer at **Isaiah 55** next week. There when God says that His ways are higher than our ways and His thoughts are not our thoughts, He isn't saying that He is a little smarter than we are. He is not implying that He has thoughts that we haven't yet thought of. He is saying you can't comprehend – you can't fathom – who I am or how I work or even what I look like.

When people say the fear of the Lord only means respect, I think about Isaiah here who had a vision of God and said, "*Woe is me! I'm ruined.*" I think about Moses and Ezekiel and Daniel and John who all saw some aspect of God and had a fear of God. God doesn't want us to be scared to come to Him. He tells us in Hebrews to come boldly into His throne room. But when you have a relationship with God through His Son Jesus, you see that we are coming into the presence of – not "the man upstairs" – but the all-knowing, all-seeing, all-powerful, all-majestic King of Glory. Now, do what Isaiah did and see this God as He is and then look at yourself as you are. If fear is not involved in that vision then I dare say you don't know Him and you have not seen Him as He is. When Isaiah saw God, he didn't say, "*S'up God? Fist bump dude*" and then take a selfie. He thought God would surely kill him because he could see that God is holy and he wasn't.

Verse 5 says, *“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.”* A real vision of holy God will always lead to a vision of who you are and how unholy you are. The good news is that a true vision of God will also reveal His forgiveness for all your unholiness. Look at the next verse. **Verse 6** says, *“Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”*

It's interesting to me that the seraphim or seraphs are found only here in the Bible and their name means “burners” or “to burn.” So, it’s appropriate that one of them – we don’t know how many there were – took a hot coal and touched it to Isaiah’s lips. Isaiah had said his lips were unclean and we know what he meant by that. He had unclean talk or gossip or slander or blasphemy or any number of other unclean things come out of his mouth and so God is showing Isaiah that his sins have been forgiven. In fact, God is wanting Isaiah to be His mouthpiece and be His prophet so God knows Isaiah’s sins need to be forgiven and just like it is with us, God provides a way for that forgiveness. It was nothing that Isaiah did. It was all God.

A couple of centuries ago, there was a small country in Europe that had one of those rare, sovereign kings who was good and generous. But one day the captain of the guard knocked on the door of the private chambers of the queen and announced that the king needed to see her in his throne room right away. So, she got up and followed the guard to the throne room. The guard closed the door and walked away.

The queen was surprised to see that the king was sitting on his throne and dressed in all his royal best. His crown was on his head. His medals were on his chest and his sword was at his side. He wasted no time with small talk but quietly said to the queen, *“I know what you have done. I know you have been unfaithful to me. I know when it was and who it was with.”*

The queen started to tremble and then she couldn’t help herself but just started sobbing. She couldn’t deny it. She knew the king was right and she knew she deserved whatever punishment he decreed.

The king stood up and said, *“You know that I have the power and the right to do as I please. I could have you stripped, branded like an animal and paraded through the streets. Or I could just chop off your head right here and now. Or...I could choose to forgive you. And I choose to forgive you.”*

The queen was overcome with gratitude and love for her husband and king and she said, *“Oh, thank you, thank you! And what can I ever do to repay you?”* And the king replied, *“I want you...to be mine. And only mine. And I want the world to know – from the loftiest king to the lowliest pauper that you are mine. Can you do that?”*

The queen just bowed her head and said, *“I would be honored to do that!”*

Now, I want you to imagine that the King of kings calls you into His throne room. Just you. Just Him. You get there and you see the Messiah, the Christ, the Anointed One seated on His throne, high and lifted up. I’ll let John the revelator describe the scene from **Revelation 1**. He was *“dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. ¹⁵His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. ¹⁶In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.”*

But then you notice the crown on His head is not gold but a crown of thorns and instead of jewelry on His hands, you see scars. Instead of jewel-encrusted shoes, you see bare feet with nail prints. And on the palm of His right hand there is a tattoo...with your name. And the Holy One of Israel, the King of Glory, the Almighty, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Great I AM looks at you and says, *“I know what you did. I heard what you said. I heard the bad words come out of your mouth. I saw where you went. I saw what you did. I saw the TV show you watched and the website you clicked on. I even know your thoughts. And I have the right and the power to humiliate you or even take your life right now. But instead, I died on the cross so that you could have forgiveness for all those things. And the one thing I want from you from now on is for everybody everywhere to know that you are mine and only mine.”*

What would your response be? Would it be like Isaiah’s? Here am I. Send me. How could it be anything except here am I send me? If you can see God in all His majesty and all His power and creativity and all His sovereignty, and you see yourself as you truly are, how can you not say, *“Here am I, Lord. Send me.”?*

But Todd, what if He sends me to the darkest part of Africa? Here am I. Send me. Or worse, what if He sends me across the street to my weird neighbor’s house to tell him the Gospel? Here am I. Send me. What if He calls me to be a preacher? Here am I. Send me. What if He calls me to be a mother? Here am I. Send me.

Music

Lord, we see you through your word and we see your power, your creativity, sovereignty and majesty and we, like Job, despise ourselves and repent. Lord, we pray that you would make yourself and your will known to us and then give us the strength and ability to do what you have called us to do. And may everything we do as a church and as individuals make you look good because you are good, God, and we love you. Amen.

Today, if you don’t have a relationship with God through His Son Jesus then today is the day of salvation. All you have to do is believe that Jesus is God and He died for your sins and that belief will change your life. Ask Him to forgive you of all your many sins and he will and will start to change you to be more like Him every day. Do it right now as the music plays.