

ISAIAH SEES THE GREATNESS OF GOD

Later in the book of Isaiah, God is described as *“the High and Lofty One”* (Isa. 57.15). His home is in the *“high and holy place”* (Isa. 57.15). But where is God? *“With him who has a contrite and humble spirit”* (Isa. 57.15). Isaiah saw the greatness of God as Master but Who is also with the humble.

Consider also those associated with God. **ISAIAH 6.2:** *“Above it stood seraphim...”* These were angels. Sereph comes from the Hebrew word that means “burning.” They were the burning ones. It is believed that Serphim were the highest ranking angels in existence. We can read about all the innumerable angels. Above the angels were the archangels. Above the archangels were the Cherubim. The highest ranking angels were the Seraphim. In Isaiah 6, we are presented with what is believed to be the highest ranking angels, and they are set before the throne of God.

Notice the declaration of these Seraphim. One of the burning ones says, *“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory”* (Isa. 6.3). God is declared as holy. The word “holy” means literally, “separated.” The Seraphim also declare God to be *“LORD of hosts.”* It would be easy to read right over this statement without much consideration. However, in this occasion, the word “LORD” is spelled with all caps. It is the Hebrew word, “Yahweh.” This is the covenant name for God describing God as the Self-Existing One. The burning ones declare One who be the Separated One. Who is He? He is the Great I AM. The declaration continues: *“...The whole earth is full of His glory”* No wonder Isaiah was eager to serve God! He was impressed with the greatness of God. Are you?

I need to constantly be reminded in my life about the greatness of God. I need to consider *“the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out”* (Rom. 11.33)! I need to remember that God *“is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think”* (Eph. 3.20). Like Isaiah, the greatness of God ought to compel me to serve God with an attitude, *“Here am I! Send me.”* The next time you have an opportunity to share the good news of salvation, do not ignore the opportunity to do to something for God. Consider the greatness of the One who has tasked you with the responsibility, and serve Him *“with reverence and godly fear”* (Heb. 12.28).
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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

September 5, 2021

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE

Have you ever wondered about the origin of a well-known expression? Have you ever googled such phrases as “a penny saved is a penny earned?” What about “the drop of a hat?” You may be surprised to know that many of the phrases you commonly hear today find their origin in the Bible. Let’s give some attention to one of those phrases.

One of the phrases I hear most frequently is this: *“The truth shall set you free.”* The meaning of this phrase as it is used in today’s vernacular is in reference to telling the truth. Suppose I have done something terrible or have some great secret that is weighing on my heart. By telling the truth, I am unburdening myself setting myself free from the burden that I have been carrying. However, this grossly misses the original meaning.

In the Bible, Jesus is having a conversation with the Jews who are enslaved to sin and its consequences (John 8.34,35). How can one be made free from the guilt and the eternal consequences of sin? Freedom from sin comes from hearing and obeying the word of God (John 8.32). It isn’t the truth we say, but the truth we hear that sets us free (John 17.17). Who sets us free? **JOHN 8.36:** *“Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”* We are set free by Jesus through His message (Rom. 1.16).
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DEVELOPING A STRONG CHARACTER

MARK 6:20

INTRODUCTION:

1. You cannot think about Jesus without also thinking about John the Baptist. (cf. Matt. 3.1,2)
2. In Mark 6.14,15, people make three comparisons.
 - a) Jesus is compared to John the Baptist. (John 10.41)
 - b) Jesus is compared to Elijah. (1 Kings 17)
 - c) Jesus is compared to the prophets.
3. In our text, the emphasis is placed on John the Baptist. Seeing Jesus reminds us of the character of John.

I. THE PERSONALITY OF JOHN

- A. Consider the personality of John. (Mark 16.20)
 1. **MARK 16.20:** *“for Herod feared John.”* John was a man who commanded respect – even from Herod.
 2. **MARK 16.20:** *“he was a just...man.”* He was right and did what was right. (Rom. 1.17; Ps. 119.139; Mark 6.18)
 3. **MARK 16.20:** *“holy man”* (Rev. 4.8; Matt. 3.4)
- B. Compare the character of John with Jesus.
 1. Jesus was One who commanded respect. (Acts 9.31)
 2. Jesus was One who was just. (Acts 3.14; 1 John 2.1)
 3. John was One who was holy. (Mark 1.24; Heb. 7.26)
- C. Do you have the kind of character that is respected, just, and holy? (Rom. 5.17; 1 John 3.7; 1 Pet. 4.4)

II. THE PREACHING JOHN

- A. The preaching of John was courageous.
 1. John did not preach to be popular. (Mark 6.17)
 2. **MARK 6.18,19:** *“It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.”*
 3. Jesus also preached with courage. (Matt. 23.13)
- B. The preaching of John was with conviction.
 1. **MARK 6.18:** *“It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.”*
 2. The marriage between Herod and Herodias was not a God-sanctioned marriage. (cf. Lev. 18.6)
 3. Jesus also preached with conviction. (Matt. 19.1-6)

CONCLUSION: When people see your character, are they reminded of the character of Jesus? (1 Cor. 11.1)

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In Isaiah 6.8, we find the familiar words of the prophet Isaiah: *“Here am I! Send me.”* These words were a response to the question posed by God: *“Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us”* (Isa. 6.8). Isaiah would be given the difficult task of delivering God’s message to people who would not listen. They would *“not understand”* and *“not perceive”* (Isa. 6.9). They would have hearts that were dull and would stop their ears and close their eyes (Isa. 6.10). Notwithstanding the challenge before Him, Isaiah was quick to accept the task declaring, *“Here am I! Send me.”* What compelled Isaiah to make such a declaration?

When I back up to the beginning of the chapter, I find that the chapter begins with an announcement of King Uzziah’s death (Isa. 6.1). King Uzziah was the tenth king of Judah. He reigned for 52 years. During His reign, God’s people enjoyed great prosperity as a result of decisions he made. In 2 Chronicles 26, we learn why King Uzziah died. In all his prosperity, his heart was lifted up in pride. He went into the temple and burned incense which he had no right to do. God struck him with leprosy, and he had to live the last years of his life in isolation dying from the dreaded disease. Isaiah 6 begins with a great king who brought prosperity to the nation and died as a result of God’s wrath.

The text continues to describe the greatness of God. **ISAIAH 6.1:** *“I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple.”* Notice that there is a comparison that can be made. The king of Judah died. The King of kings is still sitting on His throne. The king of Judah is dead, but the King of all the universe is very much alive. In Isaiah 6.5, Isaiah refers to God and says, *“For my eyes have seen the King.”* This comparison of King Uzziah with the great King of all helps us to see the greatness of God.

Consider the description of God. **ISAIAH 6.1:** *“I saw the Lord sitting on His throne high and lifted up.”* The word translated “Lord” is not the word “Yahweh” which is the covenant name of God (Ex. 3.14). It is the word “Adonay” which means “Master.” It is equivalent to the Greek word “Kurios” often used in reference to Jesus. God is the Master. He is the One who is alive and involved in the affairs of man, and He is shown to Isaiah as being high and lifted up.

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