



Key Notes

THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty.... (Isaiah 6:3)

Which attribute of God is central? Which attribute defines God in his essential being? Is it power? Love? Justice? Wisdom? What about niceness? The way we answer this question has enormous implications for how we understand both who God is and what his purposes are for us and the world. For Isaiah, enlightenment came when he grasped the reality that God was holy. Not just holy but *holy, holy, holy!* The three-fold repetition expressed the Hebrew superlative. This vision of God changed everything for Isaiah. He was never the same after this worship service!

Holiness denotes both God's other-ness as well as his moral purity. He is transcendent, other than, apart from the common. He cannot be explained by categories of this world. But more than this, he is morally pure. He is perfect in goodness. *His eyes are too pure to look on evil; he cannot tolerate wrong* (Hab. 1:13).

This morning, as you worship the Holy One, I pray that what happened to Isaiah will happen to you:

That the awesomeness of God's holiness will humble your pride.

I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted... the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke (vv. 1-4). As you worship, let the vision of his majesty drown out all petty notions of your own self-importance. Let the awareness of his moral perfection work like a spiritual disinfectant to cleanse out all that foolishness regarding your own righteousness. In the light of his holiness...humble yourself.

That the penetrating power of God's holiness will expose your sin.

Worship for Isaiah was not "fun" or "neat." Rather, it was a terrifying experience. *Woe to me! I am ruined* (v. 6). The light of God's holiness exposed his sin. There was no where to hide. As you worship this morning, allow God's holiness to work like a mirror. Have the courage to confront the ugly truth about yourself. In worship, *everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account* (Heb. 4:13).

That the contagion of God's holiness will transform your character.

Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand.... "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for" (vv. 6-7). Isaiah's sin did not pollute the throne room. Rather God's holiness purified Isaiah's heart. In worship, God longs to share his holiness with you. He exposes your sin only so he can heal it! Today, God is saying to you, *Be holy, because I am holy* (1 Pet. 1:16).

Dear friend, Jesus died and poured out his Holy Spirit so that you could be like God: holy in all you do! This morning, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Pastor Stan
Hebrews 12:14