

Epilogue

Have you seen the King?

- 1 In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord (Adonai) sitting upon a throne, **high** and **lifted up**, and his train filled the temple.
- 2 Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.
- 3 And one cried unto another, and said, **Holy, holy, holy**, is the LORD of hosts (YHWH Tzva'ot): the whole earth is **full** of his **glory**.
- 4 And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.
(Isaiah 6:1-4 KJV *emphasis and parenthetical text added*)

Can you imagine what that was like for Isaiah? Thousands and thousands of **fiery** angels all crying out in one voice, "**Holy!**" As their shout reverberates across the Universe, they shout again, "**Holy!**" and shake the Heavens. When they shout a third "**Holy!**" the earth shakes, demons tremble in fear, and all the Heavenly Host fall down and worship!

Or, consider what the Apostle John saw while exiled on the Island of Patmos.

- 12 I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands,
- 13 and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest.
- 14 The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his **eyes** were like **blazing fire**.
- 15 His **feet** were like **bronze** glowing in a furnace, and his **voice** was like the sound of **rushing waters**.
- 16 In 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.
- 17 And when I saw Him, I **fell** at His feet **as dead**.
(Revelation 1:12-17a *emphasis added*)

Many artists have attempted to reproduce John's vision. But, how can they? Mere human intellect cannot begin to comprehend an image so glorious, so frightening, so mind-bending as to cause John to immediately faint.

Both Isaiah and John did the very best they could in trying to describe what they saw. But, how could they? Where human intellect fails, then surely human language is all the more inadequate. The best they could do in their attempts to share their experiences was to tell us how they reacted. Isaiah's response was, "I am a man of **unclean lips**", as he saw himself as utterly profane! And John's reaction? "I **fell** at his feet **as** though **dead**."

Many claim to have experienced great emotional moments when they have knelt and "**received Christ as Savior**". And certainly, I have no doubts that they all are indeed heirs and joint heirs with Christ Jesus, for Scripture assures...



If you **declare** with your mouth, "**Jesus is Lord**," and **believe** in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you **will be saved**.
(Romans 10:9 *emphasis added*)

Through him you **believe** in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your **faith** and **hope** are **in God**.
(1 Peter 1:21 *emphasis added*)

Still, I ask again . . . **have you seen the King**? Isaiah and John were both believers, both saved, when they were suddenly confronted with that which cannot be discerned intellectually and can barely be tolerated emotionally, and their only response was to **die**! No defense . . . no personal recommendatory assertions . . . nothing but a profound awareness of their sinfulness, of their unworthiness to look upon all that their eyes beheld . . .

There are many among us who think they know everything there is to know about GOD, who believe they can explain His thoughts, His intents, and His judgments. In their attempts to explain the inexplicable, they place limitations on GOD's limitless love, draw boundaries around His boundless grace, and take the mystery out of worship of "the blessed and only Ruler, the **King of kings** and **Lord of lords**, who alone is **immortal** and who lives in **unapproachable light**, whom no one has seen or can see." (1 Timothy 6:15-16)

Almighty GOD, in the space of a short second of time, can reveal Himself to anyone with a humble and willing spirit. It isn't about doctrine or religious rites . . . it isn't about tithing, church attendance, community service, or any other external activity that would make us "worthy" to be in the presence of our holy GOD. If we would truly desire to see the King, we must first see our own filthy sinfulness. As A. W. Tozer explained:

"There should be a birth from above and within. There should be the terror of seeing ourselves in violent contrast to the holy, holy, holy God. Unless we come into this place of conviction and pain, I am not sure how deep and real our repentance will ever be.

"Today, it is not a question of whether we have Isaiah's cleanness, but a question of whether we have his awareness. He was unclean and, thank God, he became aware of it. But the world today is unclean and seems to be almost totally unaware of it."

Tozer went on to say that many of us are not comfortable with the holy attributes of GOD. If that's true, would that not impact the quality of the worship we try to offer to this knowable and yet incomprehensible holy GOD?

The word "holy" is more than an adjective . . . more than an ecstatic ascription of glory . . . more than complete moral purity . . . more than being guiltless, sound, or upright . . . more than being just and true . . . Could it be that it isn't **GOD** who can't be explained or understood, really, but His **holiness** that is "*just*" outside our mental capacity to grasp all that it is?

Both Isaiah and John were pious, righteous men of GOD who'd sacrificed all they had for Him. And yet, when confronted with the **moral purity of the Divine**, Isaiah's reaction was a feeling of **absolute profaneness**, and John **fell down as dead**.

YHWH knows our hearts and intentions, and He is able to restore the quality of our worship when we find that place of humble repentance . . . when we see ourselves as Isaiah and John did and repent, not for what we **do**, but for what we **are** . . .



Have you spent a moment in the presence of the inexplicable, transcendent **UNcreated**? His name is **YHWH Jireh**, the GOD who Foresees and Provides . . . **YHWH Nissi**, Our Banner . . . **YHWH M'kaddesh**, our Sanctifier . . . **YHWH Rapha**, our Healer . . . **YHWH Rohi**, our Shepherd . . . **YHWH Shalom**, our Perfect Peace . . . **YHWH Shammah**, the GOD who is always with us . . . **YHWH Tsidkenu**, our Righteousness . . . **YHWH Tzva'ot**, the LORD of Hosts.

I pray that, as you've studied and meditated on these attributes of YHWH, you might have been drawn into a more intimate fellowship with Him. May you be prompted to pray as Moses did, "**LORD, show me your glory!**" And then . . . prepare to **die** . . .

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

³⁴ "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" (ref. Isaiah 40:13-14)

³⁵ "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?" (ref. Job 41:11)

³⁶ For from him and through him and for him are all things. **To him be the glory forever!** Amen.

(Romans 11:33-36 *emphasis and parenthetical text added*)



