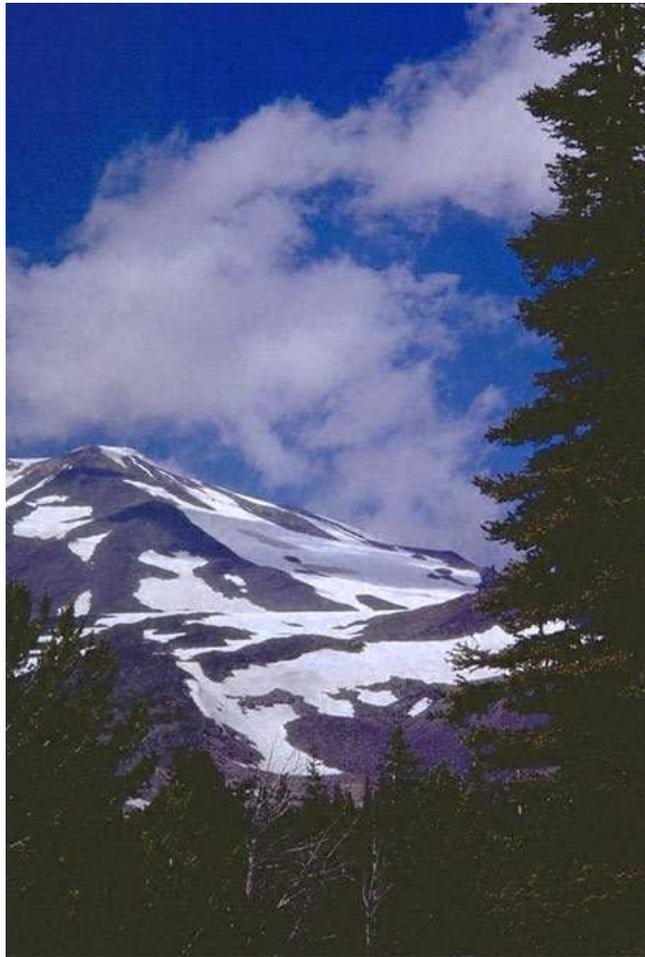


A HIGH VIEW OF GOD



by
Evangelist Norman R. Stevens

A HIGH VIEW OF GOD

Please open your Bibles to Isaiah chapter six and verse one. I would like to preach a message entitled "A High View of God."

In Isaiah 6:1-8, the Bible says, "In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. 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. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me."

Do you have a high view of God? You ought to have a high view of God; and you ought to manifest that high view of God in your speech, in your music, in your service for God, and even in a casual conversation among family and friends. You must always remember, though God is your Father, though God is your Friend, He is nonetheless your God. God made that very plain to Joshua. Do you remember the story in which Joshua crossed over into the land of promise? He saw a Person there with a sword drawn in His hand. Being the general and captain that he was, he wanted to know whether or not this man was for Israel or against her. Joshua said, very brashly, "Art thou for us, or against us?" The Person spake and said, "Nay but as the captain of the Lord's host am I now come; take thy shoes from off thy feet for the ground whereon thou standest is holy ground."

You see, the very first thing in the life and ministry of Joshua was that God made it very plain to him that He was not their co-pilot; He was not their comrade; He was not there just to help; He was there to take over, because He is God. And that's what Isaiah came to realize as a result of this vision we find here in Isaiah chapter six.

We are going to notice two things about Isaiah: Number one, what Isaiah saw; and then number two, what happened to Isaiah.

Please notice number one, what Isaiah saw, in verse one. In Isaiah 6:1, the Bible says, "In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple."

Isaiah said, "I saw also the Lord." The word "Lord" here is the word "Adonai," meaning owner or master. In John 12:41, the Bible makes it very clear to us that

this was none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, Isaiah saw Christ. He saw Christ in His pre-incarnate glory. He saw Christ sovereign, exalted, and full of great majesty and splendor. He saw Christ sitting upon a throne high and lifted up and his train filled the temple, the Bible says. God's throne sits in a place of grandeur. God's throne sits in a place of majesty. God's throne sits above all thrones because He is the King of kings.

Do you have a high view of God? You ought to have a high view of God; and you ought to manifest that high view of God in your speech, in your music, in your service for God, and even in a casual conversation among family and friends.

Please notice verse two with me. "Above it..." the Bible says. You say, "Above what, preacher?" Above this throne 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.

Isaiah saw the Lord as the object of worship. The seraphims with their wings hovered over this majestic throne; with their wings they covered themselves-- their faces, their feet--and with their wings they did fly. These angelic creatures worshipped God. There in the presence of God, they wanted to cover themselves. They realized that the Person seated upon this throne was so wonderful that they wanted to hide.

Brethren, when you get a high view of God; when you suddenly come face to face with the reality of the glory and splendor of God, you too will seek a place to hide. These seraphims were certainly creatures grander than man, more exalted than man because the Bible says all angels are higher than man is.

These angelic creatures did not refer to God lightly, but they covered themselves-- their faces, their feet--and they did fly. These angelic creatures hovered over this majestic throne and cried out day and night, "Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts."

Question! Do you speak hastily and recklessly of God? You hear, "O Jeas, O God, and O my God" among God's people. That's not right. In Exodus 20:7, the Bible says, "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain." I know that makes reference to profanity and cursing; but I suggest to you, as a child of God, that anytime you use God's name in any other way than with reverence and with carefulness and with worship, you too are taking the name of the Lord thy God in vain, and you ought not be doing that.

Notice verse three with me. Isaiah saw God full of holiness. The Bible says, "One cried unto another." What that means literally is this, "cried to this." In other words, these angelic creatures cried out one to another. One would cry out; and then the other would cry out; and then the other would cry out; and then they would all cry out in unity, "Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts."

That's interesting. These angelic creatures could have said of God "love, love, love." They could have said of God "truth, truth, truth." They could have said of God "grace, grace, grace." They could have said of God "longsuffering, longsuffering, longsuffering." They could have said of God "omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent." They could have said any number of things about God, but they zeroed in on that one chief attribute of God and that is His holiness. They magnified God Almighty in His holiness. God created these angelic creatures to cry out day and night "Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory."

So magnificent is the Person seated upon this throne, so majestic, so glorious, that His glory cannot be contained in the temple; but the whole earth is full of His glory.

Please notice verse four, the Bible says, "And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke." The posts of the door refer to two giant pillars Solomon made outside Solomon's temple.

Isaiah said "when I saw the Lord." When I saw the Lord sovereign, exalted, full of great majesty and splendor; when I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne high and lifted up and his train filled the temple; when I heard those angelic creatures cry out "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory," those massive pillars began to shake under the weight of the glory and the majesty of God.

What a high view of God Isaiah had. Do you have a high view of God? You ought to have a high view of God. You ought to see God sovereign, exalted, full of great majesty and splendor. You ought to see God sitting upon a throne high and lifted up making intercession for you. You ought to see God full of holiness. You ought to see God worthy of worship and praise; and if you see God that way, the same thing will happen to you that happened to Isaiah.

We have noticed number one, what Isaiah saw; but notice number two, what happened to Isaiah. In verse five at the end of the verse, Isaiah said, "For mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts." When Isaiah saw the Lord, there was at once in Isaiah a heart for worship. Not enough is said about worship today. Worship is the very act of recognizing that high place which God deserves. Worship is the very act of giving unto God the glory, the honor, the worship, and the praise that is due unto His holy name.

It is not enough merely to think about God. It is not enough merely to talk about God. You must worship God; and you must render to God the glory, the honor, the worship, and the praise that is due unto His holy name. You say, preacher! Why must I render to God glory, honor, worship, and praise? I will give you two reasons why. First, God deserves it. God deserves the worship and the praise of His children. And second, God desires it. God desires the worship and the praise of His children. In Psalm 95:6, the Bible says, "O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker."

Isaiah had not only a heart for worship, but also a desire for cleansing. Notice verse five with me again, but at the beginning of the verse this time. "Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips." When Isaiah saw God high and lifted up, he said, "I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips."

My dear friend, if you do not know Jesus Christ, God's Son, as your own personal Saviour, you cannot truly worship God. You can come to a service such as this. You can sing songs of worship and praise. You can even talk nobly about God. But if you have never been cleansed by the shed blood of Christ, if you have never been redeemed by the precious blood of the Lamb, your worship and your praise are not acceptable to God.

Now there is hope for you. If you want your worship and your praise to be acceptable to God, you must first come by way of the cross. There is no other way. In John 14:6, Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." And that is why the religions of the world are not going to save mankind—they miss the person of Jesus Christ. Only in the Christian faith is there a salvation that is secure. Salvation only exists in Jesus Christ. In Acts 4:12, the Bible says, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Jesus did a wonderful thing for you some 2,000 years ago on the cross of Calvary. He died for you; He was buried for you; and He rose again the third day for you. And nothing would thrill Him any more than to save you today so that your worship and your praise are acceptable to God; and, with that, you will receive forgiveness of all your sins, eternal life, and a home in heaven when you die.

Brethren, are you right with God? Are you in fellowship with the Lord? Are you in fellowship with the King of kings? If there is anything, anything at all, between you and God, your worship and your praise are not acceptable to God. You too can come to a service such as this. You too can sing songs of worship and praise. You too can talk nobly about God. You can even put your tithes and offerings in the offering plate; but if there is anything, anything at all, between you and God, the fault is not God's. The fault is yours. You are undone. You are unclean. Your worship and your praise are not acceptable to God. Now there is hope for you. If you want your worship and your praise to be acceptable to God, you need to have your sins washed away. In I John 1:9, the Bible says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

O what a wonderful truth! Isaiah cried out, "I am undone. I am unclean," in verse five. Instantly God came through with a remedy and said, "Now, Isaiah, you are clean." That's why there was the coal from the altar in verse six. The altar spoke of a place of sacrifice.

Listen! If you would like to be pleasing in God's sight, you must first come by way of the cross. You must first come by way of cleansing.

Notice the third thing about Isaiah. There was not only this heart for worship, not only this desire for cleansing, but there was a willingness to serve the Lord.

Look at verse eight. The Bible says, "Also I heard the voice of the Lord." Did you notice in verse one that He saw the Lord, but it was not until verse eight, that he heard the Lord.

Brethren, you might see God before you are right with Him; but you will never hear God before you are right with Him. After Isaiah was clean; after he was right with God; after he was in fellowship with the Lord, then the Bible says, "Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"

Did you notice that God did not say, "Isaiah I want you to serve me"? God did not say that. God said in a very general way, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Isaiah said, "Here am I; send me."

You show me a Christian today who has a high view of God, who believes God is high and lifted up and full of great majesty and splendor, who believes God is sitting on a throne making intercession for him, who believes God is full of holiness, who believes God is worthy of worship and praise, who lives for God and honors God with his life, you will not have to beg and plead for that child of God to serve the Lord. God did not beg Isaiah. God did not plead with Isaiah. God simply said, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"

Isaiah was caught up in true worship. He was clean. He was right with God. He was in fellowship with the Lord; and he stepped forward and said, "Here am I; send me."

If you get a high view of God today, you will serve Him. In Luke 4:8, Jesus said, "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." What was Jesus saying? Jesus was simply saying this: Worship precedes service. You can serve without true worship, but you cannot truly worship God Almighty without serving Him.

So let me ask you something. Are you serving the Lord? As a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, you ought to be. You ought to be serving God. If you will get a high view of God today and get your heart cleansed by His sacrifice, you will serve Him because the Bible teaches us that a high view of God leads to a heart of worship, a desire for cleansing, and a willingness to serve the Lord.

What a vision Isaiah had! Isaiah saw Christ. He saw Christ in His pre-incarnate glory. He saw Christ sovereign, exalted, and full of great majesty and splendor. He saw Christ sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. He heard those angelic creatures cry out "Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD

of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory." He saw the Lord full of holiness. He saw the Lord worthy of worship and praise.

What a high view of God Isaiah had! Do you have a high view of God? You ought to have a high view of God. You ought to see God sovereign, exalted, and full of great majesty and splendor. You ought to see God sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, making intercession for you. You ought to see God full of holiness. You ought to see God worthy of worship and praise. And you ought to manifest that high view of God in your speech, in your music, in your service for God, and even in a casual conversation among family and friends.

You must always remember, though God is your Father, though God is your Friend, He is nonetheless your God.

How is a Person Saved?

Salvation is all of God. God does the saving. Just take God at His Word and claim His salvation by faith. You will never be able to work your way into heaven. God does not have a scale in heaven whereby He weighs your good and bad works. That is a lie of the Devil – Romans 3:24; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; I Peter 1:18; Romans 5:8.

Salvation is as simple as believing on Christ as the one who bore your sin, who died in your place, who was buried, and whom God resurrected from the dead – John 1:12, 3:16, 6:47; Acts 16:31; II Corinthians 5:21; Romans 10:9-10; Romans 10:13.

Simply admit that you are a sinner and believe on Christ as your crucified, buried, and risen Saviour. You will receive forgiveness for all of your sins. You will receive His free gift of eternal life by faith – Romans 3:10, 23; I Corinthians 15:3-4.

Jesus did a wonderful thing for you some 2,000 years ago on Calvary's cross. He died for you. He was buried for you. He rose again the third day for you, and nothing would thrill Him more than to save you today.

Won't you go to Him right now in prayer and tell Him in your own words that you will trust Him as your Saviour? Or pray this simple prayer: Dear Lord, I know I am a sinner. I believe Jesus died for me and that He arose from the grave. Here and now I ask You to forgive me of my sin and save me. In Jesus's name. Amen.

If you prayed that simple prayer, I would like to hear from you. Please contact me by e-mail or phone (813) 760-4028.

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