

RELISHING THE ESSENCE AND ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

Part III: The Nature Of God

F. Treasuring The Holiness Of God

(Isaiah 6:1-13)

I. Introduction

- A. When God relates to creation, He reveals His nature, the combination of His essence and attributes, and a key aspect of His nature is His **holiness**, God's *separateness* from all that is **SIN** in us as mortals!
- B. This aspect causes us **either** great blessing **or** its lack depending on how we relate to God (as follows):

II. Treasuring The Holiness Of God, Isaiah 6:1-13.

- A. When Isaiah beheld God sitting enthroned in great glory in the temple in Isaiah 6:1, a scene in which the angelic seraphs called out, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts . . ." (Isaiah 6:3), it was the year in which a huge loss of God's blessing occurred for the nation because of the **SIN** of Judah's great king, Uzziah!
 - 1. Isaiah's vision of God in the temple occurred the year that king Uzziah died, Isaiah 6:1.
 - 2. This king's death represented a loss of God's blessing upon him and his land due to his **unholiness**:
 - a. Uzziah began to reign at age sixteen with a heart dedicated to heeding the Lord, 2 Chron. 26:1-5.
 - b. Thus, God blessed him with military power: (a) Uzziah gained victory over the Philistines (26:6-7a), the Arabians (26:7b) and Meunites (26:7c ESV); (b) he subjected the Ammonites (26:8a) and his fame spread as far as Egypt (26:8b); (c) Uzziah fortified Jerusalem with towers for the nation's defense (26:9) (d) and added towers in the wilderness as an early warning system (26:10a). (e) God blessed him with a great army equipped with the latest weapons and armor, 2 Chron. 26:11-15.
 - c. Beyond military might, God blessed Uzziah with agricultural advancements, 2 Chron. 26:10b,c.
 - d. In all, his fame spread far and wide, for God greatly helped this God-fearing king, 2 Chron. 26:15b!
 - e. However, at the peak of his great, 52-year reign (2 Chron. 26:3b), Uzziah became proud, and that led to his open rebellion against the Lord and his fall: (a) full of pride, Uzziah entered God's temple to burn incense on the altar of incense, an act reserved for the priests, 26:16; Num. 16:39-40; (b) the high priest, Azariah with 80 other priests confronted Uzziah with the charge that it was not his role to burn incense, but the priests; he was to leave the temple as there would be no honor in continuing to do what he then did, 26:17-18. (c) Uzziah vented great anger at Azariah, so God quickly struck Uzziah with leprosy (26:19-20a). (d) That required Uzziah be quarantined (Lev. 13:45-46), so the priests with his consent rushed him out of the temple, 2 Chron. 26:20b. (e) Uzziah then lived in disgrace alone until his death, 2 Chron. 26:21. (f) In death, the once great Uzziah was **not** buried **with** his fathers, but **near** them in dishonor in accord with Azariah's claim, 26:23 with 18b NIV.
 - f. Uzziah's death marked the start of the decline of Judah's glory; after Uzziah's passing, Judah never again has attained the level of power and glory she then enjoyed, E. J. Young, *Isaiah*, vol. I, p. 235.
- B. Thus, in **CONTRAST** to the distressing *fall* of *Uzziah* due to **unholiness**, God revealed Himself to Isaiah in Isaiah 6:1,3a in all *His greatness*, exalted in **holiness** the temple where Uzziah had so badly **sinned**!
- C. In **CONTRAST** to *Uzziah* whose glory had *filled the land of Judah* with military might and agricultural blessings, Isaiah saw the *whole temple and even earth was full of God's glory*, Isaiah 6:3b.
- D. When **Isaiah** realized *himself* to be **dreadfully sinful** in **CONTRAST** to such a great and **holy God**; he **confessed** this fact, and in **CONTRAST** to *Uzziah* was **graciously cleansed** of **sin** for his ministry, 6:4-8.
- E. Isaiah's assignment was to go to a hardened nation and announce God's judgment upon them, Isa. 6:9-12.
- F. Yet, great blessing was yet to come on Judah when God preserved a **holy remnant** in the Messianic Kingdom, Isa. 6:13. To that end and hope of Judah's **final restoration** to **glory**, Isaiah was to minister!

Lesson: *Uzziah and Judah LOST God's gifts of great glory and honor due to the contamination of sin; yet, ISAIAH enjoyed God's CLEANSING and MINISTRY BLESSING for CONFESSING his sin, and Judah will REGAIN God's gifts of glory and honor via her final CLEANSING from sin!*

Application: *May we NOT be like UZZIAH who relied in pride upon his own "greatness" lest we rebel against the Lord and lose His blessing; rather, like Isaiah, may we repent and confess our SIN(S) as need be, SEPARATING from them as GOD is HOLY that He may forgive and bless us!*