

**A Personal Response to the Holiness of God**  
**1 Peter 1:14-16 / Isaiah 6:1-9**

**I. Introduction**

**A. Intro... V.14-16 HOW's 3 & 4!**

14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance,  
 15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior;  
 16 because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

1. INTRODUCTION - main verb is v.15 – BE HOLY yourselves
2. Hope produces Holiness (1Jn 3:2-3)
  - a) You live in hope, you live in holiness – PRODUCES / motivates holiness
3. 3<sup>rd</sup> HOW: Not conforming to the WORLD v.14 (SLIDE)
  - a) So, with Obedience as your nature – with this as your foundation, I call you to...
 

14 ... do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance,

    - (1) – DON'T ACT LIKE YOU USED TO!
    - (2) Make a complete break with your former life!
  - b) "do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in ignorance" = **DON'T BE CONFORMED TO THE WORLD**

4. 4<sup>th</sup> HOW – BE HOLY! V.15

15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior;

a) "But like the Holy One who called you"

(1) "the Holy One" = αγιου = **"HOLY"** as **TITLE** for **God**

(a) **I.e. You can EQUATE GOD= HOLY**

(b) **IT IS HIS NATURE**

(c) God didn't set standard–GOD IS STD!

(d) 1Sam 2:2 There is no one holy like the Lord

(e) Holy = SEPARATION FROM ALL THAT IS MORALLY IMPURE AND EVIL BEING IMMUTABLY (UNCHANGEABLY) HOLY FROM ALL ETERNITY

(f) We cannot be as holy as God is (extent) But we can be holy because God is (kind)

(2) Why does v.15 say we should be Holy?

(a) V.15 we should be like God because God said so

(b) 11:45 I'm your God, you're My people. I am Holy, you be Holy

(c) We're not to be holy for our sake – but for His sake! BECAUSE we are identified as His children

(d) Leviticus LAWS -

(i) I'M THE LORD YOUR GOD AND I DON'T WANT TO BE IDENTIFIED WITH THIS STUFF!

(ii) Leviticus 19:2

2 “Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.’

b) be holy yourselves also in all your behavior;

(1) “be holy” MEANS BECOME HOLY

- (a) Michaels: “Make holiness your trademark”
- (b) You are already holy in your POSITION before God
- (c) You need to WORK THIS OUT in your PRACTICE
- (d) Show forth in your lives the character of holiness which you possess

(2) As read in 1 John 3:3 Hope must produce Holiness

- (a) BEING Holy is part of HOW we are to live out the Hope of v.13
- (b) Scripture tells us in many ways that we are to become holy – that it is a process NOT fully attained in this life!

(i) Phil. 3:12–14

12 Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

13 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,

14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

(3) “in all your behavior”

- (a) = WHOLE MANNER OF LIFE
- (b) = WHOLE daily walk

5. v.16 AGAIN - BECAUSE GOD IS HOLY

16 because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

### ***B. A man who meets the Holiness of God...***

1. Isaiah was a prophet.
  - a) perhaps greatest prophet of Israel.
  - b) God’s spokesman to the people AND to the kings
  - c) Prophesied 60 years to 4 Kings
  - d) During a time of great crisis,
    - (1) Chaos, moral decadence,
    - (2) Divided kingdom rejecting God – turning from Him
    - (3) Northern kingdom (Israel ) taken captive. – God divorced her.
    - (4) Southern kingdom, (Judah) was attacked by Assyria.
2. One king: Uzziah
  - a) Pretty good –even some brilliance
    - (1) Good to people.

- (2) Did some good improvements for the kingdom
  - (a) Militarily brought peace and security
  - (b) Built up agriculture and commerce making Judah a prosperous place. (2 Chron 26)

(3) Reigned 52 years.

b) BUT – Pride set in and God punished him with leprosy.

c) However during reign...

(1) People

- (a) ever-increasing moral decadence, disobedience, idolatry.
- (b) And in chapters 2 through 5 of Isaiah, Isaiah chronicles some of the terrible sins of the people of God.

(2) Assyria – started expanding kingdom (5yrs before death)

- (a) Grand design: conquer all the kingdoms between the Euphrates and the Nile –add to Assyrian empire.

(b) Isaiah told people to turn to God for help but

[Isaiah 22:12-14](#)

12 Therefore in that day the Lord God of hosts [called you to weeping, to wailing, To shaving the head and to wearing sackcloth.](#)

13 Instead, there is gaiety and gladness, Killing of cattle and slaughtering of sheep, Eating of meat and drinking of wine: “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we may die.”

14 But the Lord of hosts revealed Himself to me, “Surely this iniquity shall not be forgiven you Until you die,” says the Lord God of hosts.

- (i) Instead of turning around to crying and mourning, they said let's really live it up, it may all end tomorrow.

(c) That's how it was when Uzziah died.

3. When he died, panic set in

- a) And it was almost as if as long as Uzziah was around, he sort of preserved the whole thing from coming apart at the seams.
- b) But then he died. And they panicked.

### **C. TURN TO Passage to read [Is 6:1-9a](#)**

1 In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.

2 Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

3 And one called out to another and said,  
“Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts,  
The whole earth is full of His glory.”

4 And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke.

5 Then I said,

“Woe is me, for I am ruined!

Because I am a man of unclean lips,

And I live among a people of unclean lips;

For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.”

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs.

7 He touched my mouth with it and said, “Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven.”

8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

9 He said, “Go, and tell this people:

## II. Passage

### A. *Is 6:1*

1 In the year of King Uzziah’s death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.

### B. *“I saw the Lord,”*

1. Incredible statement.
2. You'll notice the word "Lord" there,
  - a) whenever you see in the Old Testament "Lord" with an upper case L and lower case letters,
    - (1) = Hebrew word Adonai,
    - (2) Adonai = His sovereignty.
  - b) V.3 all the letters are upper case, or capital,
    - (1) = Yahweh. =God's essential nature.
  - c) Now with that in mind you'll understand verse 1. "In the year that we lost our human king, I saw the real Sovereign – the REAL KING."
  - d) No problem when you know God is still on throne.
  - e) It may have looked to Isaiah as if the whole thing was falling apart, but Adonai is a title meaning the sovereign one.
  - f) Uzziah may be dead BUT God is on His throne!
  - g) His kingship is infinitely superior to that of Uzziah or anyone else.
3. A picture of His majesty and His exaltation, His glory and His power.
4. John 12:41 - this was Christ, really a preincarnate Christophany, an appearance of Christ.
  - a) Note: John 12:40 quotes Is 6:10!

### C. *V.2*

2 Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

### D. *what are seraphims?*

1. ONLY mentioned in Isaiah 6
2. Angels whose personal calling and design by God was to attend to God's holiness.
  - a) Word “seraphim” means “fiery one”
  - b) Take a position of guardianship around the throne

- c) Sing Holy, Holy, Holy
- d) One purifies Isaiah by the burning coal
- 3. Guardians of the holiness of God.
- 4. Now why do they have three sets of wings?
  - a) two wings to cover their face.
    - (1) If they hover around the throne of God, they're exposed there to His full glory.
    - (2) God says to Moses, "No man can see My glory and...live."
  - b) 2 Covered their feet Why?
    - (1) Moses on mountain & burning bush
    - (2) voice says – take off your shoes – you're standing on holy ground!
  - c) 2 wings to fly

**E. most important: not what they look like, BUT what they said. - Verse 3,**

And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."

1. "And said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory."
2. Why "Holy, Holy, Holy"?
  - a) Jews had a figure of speech, = device they used when they wanted to emphasize something.
  - b) commonly used repetition.
  - c) When the Bible says "holy, holy, holy" what it's trying to do is emphasize the holiness of God.
    - (1) We don't even know that God is holy, let alone holy, holy, holy.
    - (2) Only attribute of God in all of the Scripture that is spoken of in repetition three times
    - (3) This is an absolute priority, people. It is impossible to understand the fullness of it and yet you must understand as much as the Scripture gives us.
    - (4) Sproul made an interesting statement, he said, "Any attempt to understand God apart from His holiness is idolatry." =10 commandments
    - (5) Jesus taught disciples to pray: "Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be Thy name."
      - (a) Hallowed = HOLY
      - (b) Start praying with a recognition of holiness of God.

**F. verse 4: Back to Isaiah 6**

4 And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke.

1. This is not a manifestation particularly of God's mercy, but of His tremendous majestic holiness.
  - a) Shaking and smoke symbolize God's holiness as it relates to His wrath and judgment
  - b) Exodus 19:16-20
  - c) Revelation 15:8
2. It is awful, fearful, like Sinai, a statement to Isaiah and His people that God is a consuming fire - you can't mess around with God.
3. What was Isaiah's reaction?

**G. Verse 5 = Isaiah's reaction to the HOLINESS OF GOD!**

5 Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts."

**H. Prophets gave pronouncements, they gave announcements, sometimes called oracles.**

**I. Very often preceded by the statement, "Thus saith the Lord."**

1. And their statements could be positive or negative. When they were positive they'd often say, "Blessed."
2. When they were negative they would often say...what?... "woe, woe."
3. Isaiah uses the word "woe" at least 10x in his prophecy to refer to God's judgment on others.
  - a) Almost EVERY prophet used "woe"
  - b) Jesus used it
  - c) It is a word of cursing.
  - d) Here - a prophet of God pronounces a curse on himself. Amazing!
  - e) This is the best man in the land.
    - (1) This is a servant of God.
    - (2) When he sees holiness of God, he can but pronounce a curse on his own head
    - (3) Sees only his defilement, not his goodness.
    - (4) And then he says this, "For I am ruined," = from a root word = to be lost or to perish or to be annihilated, or to be destroyed.
      - (a) I am destroyed.
      - (b) I am devastated by the holiness of God.
    - (5) Why? Saw God and for first time in his life he saw Isaiah.
      - (a) And he knew how wretched he was.
      - (b) One glimpse of God's holiness and the man was a wretch in his own eyes.
    - (6) What was the most important tool of a prophet? His mouth, right?
      - (a) Yet "I am a man of unclean lips."
      - (b) = I have a dirty mouth.

- (c) Me, the prophet of God who should open my mouth to speak of God, I have got a dirty mouth
- (d) and I dwell in the midst of a people who have dirty mouths.
- (e) How do you know this? "Mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts and for the first time I see myself. I'm a dirty man, have a dirty mouth. I've seen Yahweh of hosts."

(7) No one can be IN PRESENCE of God w/o SEEING OWN wretchedness, sinfulness.

(8) To see even the smallest glimpse of God's holiness is to be devastated...devastated.

4. What happened now?

**J. verse 6-7, this man is devastated.**

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs.

7 He touched my mouth with it and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven."

1. Isaiah was sooooo devastated, so broken, God moves His seraphim to give Isaiah a special cleansing.
2. In the face of God's holiness, there is nothing Isaiah can do to lift himself up – he is utterly broken.
3. God has to lift him up, to re-affirm his calling, his prophet status, his ministry.
4. So, the seraphim touches his lips and cleanses him.
  - a) Use the lips to express affection because of their tenderness and sensitivity.
  - b) And it is to that very part of the body that the angel places a live coal and sears the flesh.
  - c) A sense of God ordaining / restoring Isaiah as a prophet – as his mouth is touched.
  - d) The Lord touched Jeremiah's mouth as part of his calling (Jeremiah 1)
  - e) The Lord sent Michael the archangel to touch Daniel on lips (a prophet's lips) to strengthen him.
  - f) Moses

**Exodus 4:10-12**

10 Then Moses said to the Lord, "Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither recently nor in time past, nor since You have spoken to Your servant; for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

11 The Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes him mute or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the Lord?"

12 "Now then go, and I, even I, will be with your mouth, and teach you what you are to say."

5. Look at the result for Isaiah...

**K. V.8**

8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

1. You? ruined. woeful. wretched. You've got a dirty mouth. You are around with people with a dirty mouth. Yeah, but I've been cleansed, see."
2. The last statement he made was a declaration of his lack of worthiness and now he says, "Lord, You need anybody? I'll go...I'll go."
3. The only way a man is fit to serve is when he's cleansed by the grace of God. I'll go.

**L. Verse 9,**

9 He said, "Go, and tell this people:

1. And He said...what?...Go." He said go...a purged / cleansed man.

**III. CONCLUSION****A. This is how an encounter with the Holiness of God works**

1. It SHOULD be like this for you and I too.
2. Complete devastation
3. Restoration only by God's grace and strength.
4. Then left with a strange balance of
  - a) devastated confidence!
  - b) Weakling with superman strength
  - c) Capable yet completely lacking

**B. The absence of a clear understanding of God's holiness is the reason for our**

1. shallowness,
2. impotence,
3. selfishness,
4. weakness,
5. disobedience.

**C. We don't really understand how holy God is that's why**

1. we compromise,
2. we are the worst kind of pragmatists who do only what fulfills our desires.

**D. We need to face God's holiness and then in devastation BE ABLE to see it is all of Him and none of us!**