



Isaiah 6 - A Biblical Model of Worship "Toward a deeper understanding"

By Chris R. Hansen

Worship is a mandate of God.

"Worship the Lord in the majesty of holiness" (Psalm 29:2)

"Come let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker." (Psalm 95:6-7a)

"...and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." (Deut. 6:4-5; Mark 12:29-30)

Scripture shows over and over again that God is worthy of worship. We are continually reminded that God alone is to have first place in our lives.

"I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship." (Romans 12:1-2)

"The hour comes, and now is when true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeks such to worship Him." (John 4:23)

Worship involves the whole being. Not only do we recognize God for who He is but we also live in a

way that pleases God. Those who worship God will continually seek Him out, searching to know what pleases Him. In the words of William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury (1942-44):

"Worship is the response of all that man is to all that God is and does."

Our example and model of worship: Isaiah 6 provides an ideal model for the believer to worship God. Here is a 4 point process that we should experience when we intentionally seek after God

"...I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above Him were seraphs... and they were calling to one another, "Holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of His glory."

Verses 1-4 show the prophet recognizing God for Who He is. He sees God as he really is: Holy, Omnipotent, and Omnipresent. If we are to worship God we must recognize God for Who He is.

"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty."

Verse 5 shows the prophet recognizing his own sinfulness. The prophet sees himself as God sees him. If we are to worship God we must recognize our sinfulness realizing that we are utterly, totally dependent upon God.

"...See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

Verses 6-7 show the prophet being cleansed of his sin. The prophet recognizes that God can cleanse us from our sin and that we are to receive that forgiveness. If we are to worship God we must be cleansed from our sin and accept God's gift of salvation.

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

Verse 8-9 shows the need for others to know God. The prophet makes himself available for whatever God might have for him. If we are to worship God we must be willing to listen to his call and do what he asks of us.

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