

The best kept secret in the church

Isaiah - prophet of God's beauty

One day, Isaiah, a person who loved God & worshipped Him encountered God - and his life was never the same again.

Isa 6:1-5 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called 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 shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

Describe & expand. Traumatized!

That was a life changing encounter with God! Last year, God spoke to me through a certain passage in Isaiah and I then read thru the whole book in a short space of time and saw how Isaiah had been impacted by the glory & majestic holiness of the Lord. He was an undone man.

A recurring theme in Isaiah:

1:4 - Holy One of Israel

25 times in the book (and rarely anywhere else in the OT).

2:10ff Splendour of His majesty

Enter into the rock and hide in the dust from before the terror of the Lord, and from the splendor of his majesty. See rest of this passage as well. 3 times in total in v10-22

3:8 Glorious presence

10:34 - Majestic One

26:10 Seeing the majesty of the Lord

29:22-23 Sanctify & stand in awe

Isa 40:25 Incomparable

To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the **Holy One**.

Isa 57:15 High & Lofty

For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:

“I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.

Isa 28:5 Crown of beauty

In that day the Lord of hosts will be a crown of glory, and a diadem of beauty, to the remnant of his people,

In that day - the times of the Messiah and rolling on into the ages to come. Jesus will be seen, treasured, delighted in and held to be an object of glory and beauty in the lives of His people.

Crowns and diadems speak of royalty and authority, treasure and wealth - and all this is to be found in Jesus. No matter what our standing in this world, no matter our assets, we have One who is THE crown of glory and diadem of beauty. He is the one who crowns our lives and beautifies them.

Paul

Paul, like Isaiah, was a religious man - until one day he met Jesus.

Damascus Road, Light.

His life goal - Phi 3:7-9 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of **the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, **in order that I may gain Christ** ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith....

v8 Yes, furthermore, I count everything as loss compared to the possession of **the priceless privilege (the overwhelming preciousness, the surpassing worth, and supreme advantage) of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord and of progressively becoming more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him [of perceiving and recognizing and understanding Him more fully and clearly]**. For His sake I have lost everything and consider it all to be mere rubbish (refuse, dregs), in order that I may win (gain) Christ ^(AMP)

He wanted Jesus!

What was his main theme? **Eph 3:8** To me... this grace (favor, privilege) was granted and graciously entrusted: to proclaim to the Gentiles **the unending (boundless, fathomless, incalculable, and exhaustless) riches of Christ [wealth which no human being could have searched out]**,

2Co 4:4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing **the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ**, who is the image of God.

People are blinded! **What to? Satan's #1 strategy - to blind us. So we don't see, we don't hunger, we don't thirst.**

The best kept secret?

So, what is the best kept secret in the church? = Jesus!

We talk about forgiveness and we introduce people to someone called Jesus who works at the Heavenly passport control and He stamps our passport & let's us into Heaven.

Some people talk about a Jesus who heals or who meets some needs.

But He is so much more than that! We talk about doctrines & theory & get excited about all kind of things but Jesus Himself rarely gets sought after.

Another Jesus - 2Co 11:4 For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.

God created man in His own image but nowadays we've created a god in our image. One who isn't too dissimilar to us - a helper, a shoulder to cry on, a life therapist but a different Jesus.

Psa 50:21 These things you have done, and I have been silent; **you thought that the I Am was one like yourself.**

Seeing what they saw.

Isaiah endured. What kept him going? I believe it was that he got just a glimpse of Jesus - **Jn 12:41**

Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him.

Who did Isaiah see high and exalted?

Who did he see pierced for our transgressions?

Who did he see anointed by the Holy Spirit & rescue the oppressed?

Whose beauty, majesty, glory & holiness did he see?

= Jesus.

What gave Paul the motivation day in day out to just keep going? What caused him to give up even legitimate things? What caused him to press on & strain with every fibre of his being? "**that I may gain Christ.**"

His eternity was secure - but he wanted Jesus.

The answer to spiritual boredom

Do you ever get bored? Not just bored but bored with church, Bible, prayer etc?

Step back and see who we're linked up with!

God has made us to be fascinated by Jesus! Fathomless riches!

So often we dabble with sin, we go many years in our Christian life not knowing any real breakthrough - we're on our way to Heaven, we read our Bibles but sin so easily allures us, temptation seems so pleasurable compared to being a Christian.

My testimony - Beautiful One I love - got fed up with just singing it so I cried out for the reality of it in my life.

True beauty shows sin up for what it really is. Fascination with Jesus brings transformation in our lives - **2Co 3:18** And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

How do we behold His glory?

Get to know Jesus. - practical - "how to".

Keep plugging away. Not in vain. "Nothing happened" Yes it did!

Mystery of suffering.

Job - describe what happened.

Job and his friends spoke out of what they could figure out from the situation but not based on godly wisdom.

Then God turns up to the debate! God gives Job a nature lesson! Read chaps 38-41 sometime!

38:4-7

39:1-2, 5

Job 42:5-6

5 I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,

but now my eye sees you;

6 therefore I despise myself,

and repent in dust and ashes."

He is far greater than we will ever know!

Hope

Isa 33:17 Your eyes will behold the king in his beauty; they will see a land that stretches afar.

That's what we're headed for!

Job's longing - Job 19:25-27 For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. 26 And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, ²⁷ whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints, longs and pines within me!

Havng tasted something of Hs beauty, is there a longing and yearning within us for more? One day I shall see Him as He is - the unfolding of that will roll on thru endless ages.

There will come a moment in my life when faith will become sight and the One I have loved tho never seen will be before me. Who can pre-empt their reaction, their emotion on such an occasion? But with every sense heightened and cleansed from the pollution of sin I will see Him! With renewed mind and understanding and maybe being able to see and hear on a wavelength or spectrum I've never been able to use before I will see Him!

Where are the lovesick hearts today? Where is the pining and longing? Where are the ones who are ready to faint because of such fervent love? Lord, let me be one of them!

Beholding! "A land that stretches afar." No end, no limits, a vastness to explore. Wow! Maybe I could have something like this on my gravestone? "Now my eyes are seeing my King in His beauty, a land that stretches afar."

Conclusion

Isaiah saw the angels beings in Heaven worshipping Jesus. Day and night, night and day they never stop worshipping Him. In the book of Revelation we see into the throne room of Heaven - **Rev 5:9-14**

And they sang a new song, saying,

“Worthy are you to take the scroll

and to open its seals,

for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God

from every tribe and language and people and nation,

10 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,

and they shall reign on the earth.”

11 Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,

to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might

and honor and glory and blessing!”

13 And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb

be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

14 And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

They saw Jesus and what was their response? They sang, they shouted, they worshipped and it was all summed up in **He is worthy!** Don't wait till Heaven, decide that you will be a worshipper today. Someone once preached a sermon called "Will you be bored in Heaven?". Jesus is the main. Attraction there - let Him become the main attraction in your life.

God wants each one of us to encounter the majestic beauty & ravishing loveliness of His Son - for that is what we were made for and only that will truly satisfy us for all eternity. Only a grasp of what is truly beautiful & worthy will wean our hearts from the temptations of this world. Only a sight of His worthiness will enable us to endure and press to know Him.

God's plan and purpose for the ages? **Col 1:18 He alone in everything and in every respect might occupy the chief place [stand first and be preeminent]. Amen!**