



## SIGHT COMES BEFORE SERVICE

■ *A Study of Isaiah 6 by Dr. John DeBrine* ■

### INTRODUCTION

...John Wesley said: "Bring me a worm that can comprehend a man, and then I will show you a man that can comprehend the triune God!" Andrew Murray added: "Never try to arouse faith from within. You cannot stir up faith from the depths of your heart. Leave your heart, and look into the face of Christ." Now Isaiah 6 describes that when that happens, our response is as follows: "Then said, I, "Here am I; send me." (verse 8)

Songtime USA will soon broadcast from SpaceCom (our new satellite provider). For the first time since we have been on the air, this will enable any radio station in America to receive the program. In the past, this has not been possible, but will now lead to the opportunity of reaching a maximum number of people. From Isaiah. 6:1-3 we see the kind of people who will respond to this opportunity. It has always been true that fewer than 2% of the audience responds in financial support. This is due in part to the fact that many hear us in their car and forget the mailing address or the need. Isaiah shares the steps that lead to the response that we must receive because of this new opportunity. A Holy God calls us to serve Him as Isaiah 6 teaches ... "sight" before "service". Dr. Walter Judd traveled with a debate team heard a Mohammedan say, "You know...it's an awful thing to wake up some morning and find out that you are a better man than your God." That is what Isaiah 6 is all about! Isaiah reminds us that we need a holy God and if we do not realize a God like that, we fall for the Satanic trap of Isaiah 14:12-14 and actu-

ally adopt the Satanic message of accomplishment apart from the Divine method. Not so if you have the God of Isaiah 6.

I. Isaiah saw the glory of God's Person (Isaiah 6:1)

As he recounts the vision, he speaks of the reaction of angelic beings and notes they covered their faces to indicate an *attitude of allegiance*, they covered their feet to indicate an *attitude of Holy dependence*, and then they flew to indicate *Holy obedience* - three results of comprehending God's holiness: allegiance, dependence, and obedience. "Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: "With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet and with two they were flying And they were calling to one another: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty: the whole earth is full of his glory." (v. 2-3)

This of course is just the opposite of "the other religion". Keep in mind that there are only two religions in the world. One says, "Nothing in my hand I bring" and the other says, "Something in my hand I bring". The latter is sponsored by Satan himself and that is the reason that we must daily use our offensive weapons of the Word of God and Prayer (Ephesians 6:17-19). To amplify this, do two things:

- a. Ask for the cassette "What Every Church Must Do" by Rev. Ralph Norwood of Atlanta (*free*)
- b. Get the book by Pastor Jim Cymbala entitled "Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire" (\$17 (includes P & H)).

Many ask, "John, what kind of church should I look for?" The answer is in Ralph Norwood's cassette. Let me summarize:

Satan's religion is like a car with certain parts missing...

1. The LIGHTS are gone, for Satan loves darkness since his deeds are evil.

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2. The SPARK PLUGS are gone, for it's the Spirit of God that provides the spark of life.

3. The BATTERY is gone for the car has form but no power.

4. The ENGINE is gone for "no one can come to Jesus unless the father draws him..."

5. The STEERING WHEEL is gone for the Spirit leads us into all truth.

6. The DOORS are gone for Jesus is the door and besides Him there is none other.

7. The TRANSMISSION is gone for it is the Lord who provides the "Go Ye".

8. And the BRAKES are gone for it is the Lord who gives the fruit of self-control!

II. Isaiah saw the glory of God's power - Isaiah 6:1

*Continued on Next Page*

The chapter begins with “*In the year that King Uzziah died*” Why? Note very quickly that his death was not from natural causes but rather because of the Judgment of God. Read II Chronicles 26:23 “*Uzziah rested with his fathers and was buried near them in a field for burial that belonged to the kings, for people said, ‘He had leprosy.’ And Jothan his son succeeded him as king.*” Here is the issue: Uzziah reigned prosperously and then became arrogant and self-sufficient. He died a leper! Romans 11:36 reminds us that our next breath depends upon God. Understand this and the result is always Romans 12:1-2!

At the funeral of Louis XIV the great

### Staff News ...

A big note of thanks is extended to **Dave and Jenn Donnelly** for their time and effort as they worked here at Songtime. David was with us for 3 ½ years as our technical advisor, co-host on the Audio Magazine and Prophecy Today program as well as the editor of our monthly newsletter. Jennifer was assisting as our bookkeeper for 2 years. We wish them well as they have moved to Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. We miss them both – but especially their little daughter, Kara. A baby sister will be joining the family this summer.

#### We welcome....

**John Peden** to the staff of Songtime as the Communications Director. John lives on Cape Cod with his wife, Paula and daughter Sarah. John has been a member of the Corporation for some time and brings 18 years experience with technology.

Two new part-timers are coordinating the task of the bi-monthly distribution of our Audio Magazine tapes. **Dotty Dark** summers on Cape Cod with her husband but her main residence is in Rhode Island. You’ll be hearing her voice when you call into the office as she’ll also assist in some of the office duties. **David Lowe** handles duplication and distribution of our tape resource ministry, which includes Decision Determines Destiny and the Audio Magazines. David lives on the Cape with his wife Laura and son Joshua. We thank God for these new people and for the various gifts that God has given them to assist us as we do the Lord’s work.

cathedral was packed with mourners paying final tribute to the king whom they all considered great. The room was dark, save for one lone candle that illumined the solid casket that held the mortal remains of the monarch. At the appointed time, the court preacher stood to address the assembled clergy of France. As he rose, he reached from the pulpit and snuffed out the one candle that had been put there to symbolize the greatness of the King. Then from the darkness came just four words: “God only is great!” -Quoted in *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations* by Tan p. 506.

Jonathan Edwards was converted through reading a single verse of the New Testament. Some hindrance had kept him from going to church one Sunday with his family. A couple of hours with nothing to do sent him listlessly into his father’s library. The sight of a dull volume with no title on it evoked his curiosity. Upon opening it at random he found it to be the Bible. His eye caught this verse: “*Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*” I Tim. 1:17. In his journal he writes that the immediate effect of that verse was awakening and alarming to his soul, for it brought him a most novel and extensive thought of the vastness and majesty of the true Sovereign of the universe. Out of this grew the pain of guilt for having resisted such a Monarch so long and for having served Him so poorly. Where before he had slight notions of his own wickedness, and very little poignancy of acute remorse, now he felt the deepest contrition. -C.H. Robinson, *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations*, p. 501. We can never, never grasp the holiness of God and remain the same. A proof this statement is seen in I Peter 1:15, “*But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written, ‘Be holy, because I am holy.’*”

#### APPLICATION

When We begin to grasp the glory of God’s Person and then the glory of God’s Power, the result is Isaiah 6:5-8: “*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*”. Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with

*tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, ‘See this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.’ 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!’*”

We are wasting our time trying to motivate people with human viewpoint techniques. Preach the holiness of God and you’ll see the response of Isaiah 6:8 “Here am I. Send me.” Let me illustrate. Today your dentist and your physician can’t take a chance on that six-month appointment card, so the secretary reminds us with a call. We forget and join the “No shows”. However, when pain comes, we don’t need a reminder. That is one message with in Isaiah 6. My greatest fear for the United States is that we are on the verge of repeating Adolph Hitler’s mistake. Hitler didn’t believe Genesis 12:3 and God destroyed the Third Reich. America is very close to overlooking this! If that happens, America will become either nonexistent or a nonentity. Don’t worry about Y2K – be more concerned about Genesis 12:3. “*I will bless those who bless you and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.*”.

One of the greatest messages I’ve heard on the holiness of God was aired recently on Songtime USA by Dr. Louis Paul Lehman. Ask for the cassette when you write us. We need the support of every listener as we move to Space Com. The costs are significant. However – before we can expect the needed response, we must call you to understand the holiness of God. Isaiah 6:1-8 gives the steps to “Here am I – send me”.

#### SONGTIME TOURS

The trip to Branson, Missouri will be a great time together October 21-27. It is not too late to join with us as we still have 6 seats available. Cost is \$1199 pp/dbl occ. Flights originate in Philadelphia & Boston

Oberammergau, Germany for the Passion Play performed every 10 years. June 4-12, 2000. For information and itinerary call Songtime and speak with Marge today!

# Do You Know What You Believe?

*Pastor Steve Butts - MILLERSVILLE BIBLE CHURCH*

The eighteenth century evangelist, George Whitefield, once asked a man what he believed, and the man replied, “I believe what my church believes.” “What does your church believe?” Whitefield questioned, “My church believes what I believe,” he responded. “Well,” the evangelist inquired, “what do *you* believe?” “We both believe the same thing!”

Like this man, many people do not really know what they believe.. Worse, even if they could identify their beliefs, they are not completely sure why they hold to them. Part of the reason for this is that in recent times, the language of religion, like that of politics, has become increasingly ambiguous. In fact, ambiguity on religious subjects is viewed as a basic social courtesy. Our willingness to allow “God talk” to be unclear, however, reveals that we do not consider the matters of religion to be

urgent. If, in a different context, we faced a life threatening disease, we would not want our doctor to communicate in vague terms. We would want him to be as clear and direct as possible because it is a matter of life and death. Are religious beliefs only worthy of personal opinion? Or should we have clear convictions about them?

Someone once said treat an opinion is something that you hold, but a conviction is something that holds you. Do you have religious opinions or convictions? Obviously, some matters belong to the category of personal opinion. Yet there are others that are far too urgent to be reduced to opinion, When Jesus stated that he was the only way for humans to come to God, and that apart from faith in Him people would die in their sins, was he expressing an urgent truth or a personal opinion? If, as scripture teaches, there exists an eternal

judgment in hell, should we hold opinions or convictions about such teaching? If we have strongly held convictions about hell, we need to know why we hold them. When explaining their convictions, some people simply say, “that’s the way I feel about it,” or “I just can’t believe that God would send people to hell,” These expressions, however, do not provide solid reasons for holding beliefs on such urgent matters. If you feel that the direct teaching of scripture is false, explain why. Don’t just tell us how you feel. Some matters are too important to be reduced to feelings.

Concerning Jesus’ claim to be the only way, to God, if you believe he was a liar or false teacher, offer a logical defense for your conviction. If you think the early church put words in his mouth, prove it. If you think that his words have been misinterpreted, you must be willing to demonstrate it. These matters are too urgent for personal opinion. We do a great disservice to our fellow humans if we promote ambiguous language on subjects of eternal consequence.

Please do not misunderstand, there is room for uncertainty in some areas of religious discussion. The greatness and majesty of God has aspects that are beyond the grasp of finite minds. An old testament verse offers balanced perspective when it reminds, us that, “the secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever” (Deuteronomy 29:29). In some areas we must be honest enough to accept mystery. However, God has revealed many things that are too urgent for personal opinion. If you are not sure what you believe about God, turn to the scriptures and examine them carefully. Compare the Christian scriptures with other religious books and teachings. Ask why you would choose one over another. Visit the apologetics section of a Christian book store or library and you will find many excellent resources to help clarify your convictions.

Ambiguous language might be considered polite and acceptable on some subjects but we cannot afford to embrace it on matters of eternal consequence. It is not enough to say that we believe what our church believes. We must know *what* we believe and *why* we hold our convictions.

## A “HYMNSTORY”

■ *Bill Dagle* ■

Each year at this time, our thoughts turn to parades, American flags, fireworks and the singing of patriotic songs. We take the time to remember the shot that was heard around the world...from the Lexington Green to revisiting Old Iron Sides in Boston...remembering the ocean side tea party that started it all. As the fife and drum set the beat for these annual pilgrimages and as we reminisce in song, might I once again remind you where it all began – Cape Cod. From the Pilgrims first landing to the Pacific Coast of California, Cape Cod has played an important role in America’s history.

For example, there is Katherine Lee Bates –born in Falmouth, MA on August 18, 1859. From her pen would come a song that has touched the hearts of Americans for these last 90 plus years. The year was 1893 – the place was Wellesley College. The assignment was to teach summer school in Colorado and the person was English teacher, Miss Bates. The trek to Colorado would provide many sights to stimulate Katherine’s creative mind. The stop in Chicago to visit the Columbia Exposition of the World’s Fair provided “alabaster cities gleam”. While further down the rail, she passed great fields of grain and fruited plains until in the distance — mountain majesties of Colorado would appear. By horse and wagon, she would ascend 14,000’ above sea level until finally from atop Pike’s Peak she got her opening line of “O beautiful, for spacious skies”. She writes, “It was there as I was looking out over the sea-like expanse of fertile country spreading away so far under the ample skies that the opening lines of the text formed themselves in my mind.” Later that evening in the Antlers Hotel in Colorado Springs, she completed her poem that vividly described the America she loved.

It is interesting to note that this patriotic song maintains a hymn-like quality as each stanza is rounded off with the earnest prayer that God will always help our land to attain its real destiny. While the second stanza reminds us of our noble heritage of the Pilgrims and their descendents journey across the wilderness to America’s western borders. Proving once again that, truly, Cape Cod is the home of America and is proud to have given our country the author of “America the Beautiful”.

# ■ Questions & Answers ■

Dr. Bob Burrelli - GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

**Q:** Can a suicide be saved?

**A:** As a shepherd of a local church, I have the delicate task of counseling Christians with the hope of persuading them to make changes in their lives that are biblical and God-honoring. It is not uncommon, that such change may be never to attempt suicide again, or perhaps never to think of it as a biblical option. It is clearly a sinful and disobedient action. Can a person who commits it be saved?

The answer to that question is a firm "Yes," provided that the person who has committed suicide had first committed himself or herself to Christ." In the first place, we are not condemned because we commit sinful acts, but because we have rejected God from the beginning and have a sin nature. In other words, we are born sinners. One can grow up and be the most moral person in the world, but he is still on his way to hell if he has not repented of his sin and trusted in Christ. In the second place, if we have done that, then we must understand that there is no sin too great that a Christian can commit that Christ has not already forgiven. If that were not true, then the following would also be false: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins

and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). Notice that John gives no exceptions to forgiveness. He does not say that this is going to apply to only certain sins and not to others. No. John is all-inclusive. Christians have been known to do some pretty horrible things when they give into the temptation (see 1 Corinthians 5:1), but nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord (Romans 8:39).

Related to this idea, of course, is the comforting doctrine of eternal security: those whom Christ saves He keeps saved. The apostle Paul assures those us who have trusted in the gospel that we have been sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, who is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory (1:13-15). What a wonderful thought; not only do individuals have nothing to do with their own salvation, but they have nothing to do with keeping or maintaining it either. It is totally a work of God.

Having said all that, Christians also need to understand that suicide is never a biblical option to anything, an ex-

tremely self-centered act, and as someone once said a permanent solution to a temporary problem. If you are contemplating suicide, or know someone who is, you must understand that what makes life worth living for a Christian is that he or she has been given identity in Christ as well as responsibility in Christ. That means that Christians can never say "What's the use". God has given them ministry and responsibility (see 2 Corinthians 4:1) and the power and ability to work it (1 Corinthians 12:4-11). More than this, He even places them in contexts in which they are to work out their responsibilities and sometimes those contexts are unpleasant. The comforting truth here is that He promises to be faithful to them by placing them in situations that He knows they can handle, and with a way of escape (1 Corinthians 10:13). Escape comes in various forms, but suicide is clearly not one of them.

## Songtime on the Road

Sunday, July 18 Calvary Church, 1855 Albany Ave., W. Hartford for 10:45 AM & 6 PM services.

July 24-26: Pinebrook Conference in Stroudsburg, PA

September 10:12 A Fall event to make a difference. The Songtime USA Corporation invites you to the Annual Meeting of the Corporation and a weekend Bible Conference. Sheraton Four Points Hotel on Rt. 132, Hyannis. Bible teaching by Steve Brown and music by Susan Cymbala an ensemble from the Tabernacle Choir. 7 PM Friday, Saturday 9 AM and Sunday 10:00 AM services are open to the public. Saturday 6:30 PM banquet reservations (costs \$35 pp) –choice of fish or beef must be made by August 1<sup>st</sup>

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## In the Songtime Bookstore...

The music of **Brian Arner** heard often on Songtime USA. We have two of his cassettes: *My Song* featuring His Eye is On the Sparrow, I Bowed My Knees, Haydn's Song and his other work which is on cassette & cd entitled *Bridge the Distance* featuring When I Survey, Nothing Like the Blood, I Am Thine

**Cassettes \$11 and cd is \$15 plus \$1.50 postage/handling.**

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