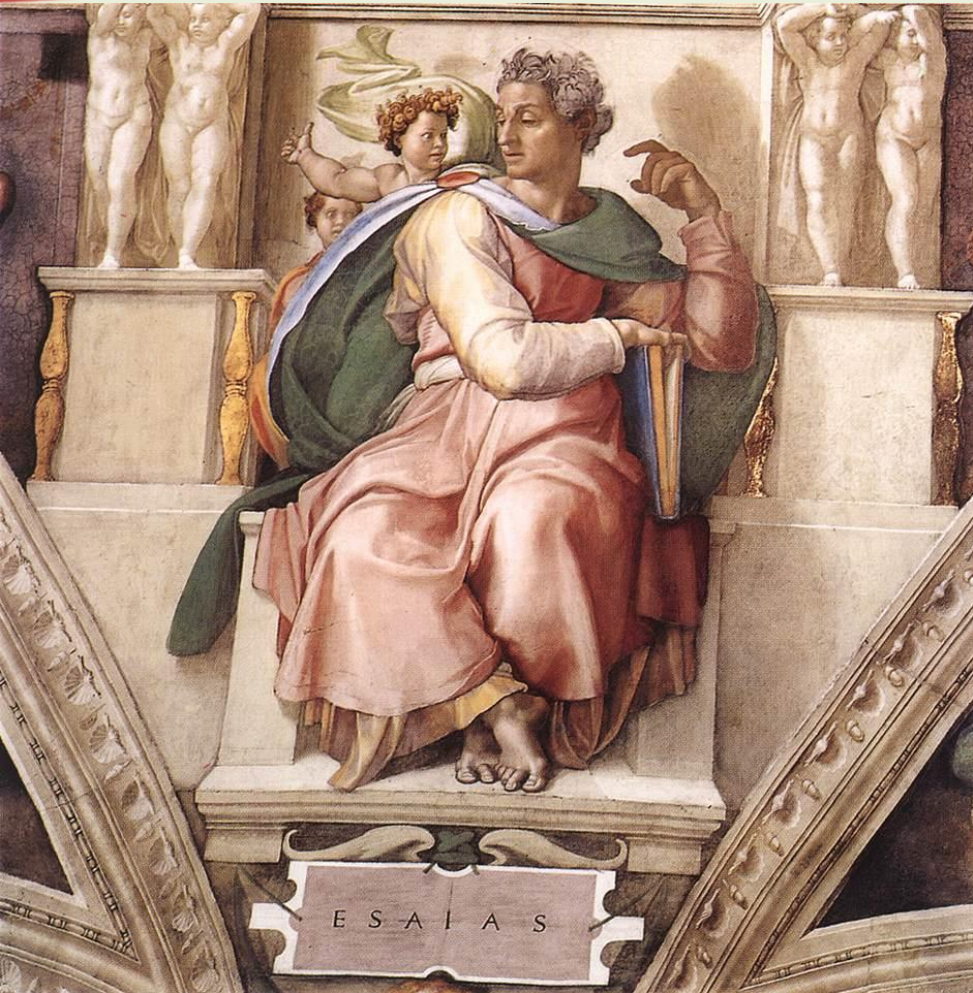


MESSAGE: "TOUCHED BY GOD'S GRACE."

EPHESIANS 3:8-15 & ISAIAH 6:5-8



The Hebrew word for glory is “kavowd” or “kaboad” it comes from a root word that means “to give weight to”. We often talk of the “weight of glory”. Glory reflects the honor and splendor of who God is.

When we encounter the glory of God it will encourage us, challenge us, equip us and inspire us. As we explore the glory of God over these next 4 Sundays leading to Resurrection Sunday, I encourage you to get to know God's glory.

Isaiah by Michelangelo 1508-12

Series: The Glory of the LORD – Isaiah 6

Garrison COG - Mar. 14, 2021

MESSAGE: "TOUCHED BY GOD'S GRACE."

EPHESIANS 3:8-15 & ISAIAH 6:5-8



Isaiah by Michelangelo 1508-12

Series: The Glory of the LORD – Isaiah 6

For the young man Isaiah facing an uncertain world God's message was 4 fold:

1. You need to know who I am, that I have the ability to take care of this situation.
2. You need to allow Me to make the changes in your heart and life that are necessary for you to serve Me.
3. You need to know that there will be difficulties that you will have face as you serve Me.
4. You need to focus on My will and purpose and not these circumstances.

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The Altar of Incense

The wooden altar, overlaid with pure gold (Ex. 30:1–10; 37:25–28), was 3 feet high, and 1.5 feet long and wide (1 m x 0.5 m x 0.5 m). It stood in the Holy Place before the veil which separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. It was transported by means of wooden poles which were overlaid with gold and inserted through rings attached to the sides of the altar.



The altar of incense

Series: The Glory of the LORD – Isaiah 6

MESSAGE: "TOUCHED BY GOD'S GRACE."

EPHESIANS 3:8-15 & ISAIAH 6:5-8

The central image to this vision of the throne of God is the altar presented in the vision. It is likely a reference to the incense altar in front of the Most Holy Place in the temple. This altar was carefully prescribed in scripture. The incense for the temple was to be unique to the Temple and any attempt to copy the recipe was a capital offense. Only the priests could enter the Holy Place and offer incense on the altar 2 times a day before the Most Holy Place. The 3 furnishings in the Holy Place were the altar, the menorah lamp and the shew bread table.

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ISAIAH 6:5-8

- 5 So I said: “Woe *is* me, for I am undone! Because 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.”
- 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal *which* he had taken with the tongs from the altar.
- 7 And he touched my mouth *with it*, and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged.”
- 8 Also 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.”



King Uzziah is withstood
by the priests in the
temple.

MESSAGE: "TOUCHED BY GOD'S GRACE."

EPHESIANS 3:8-15 & ISAIAH 6:5-8

The imagery that God uses with Isaiah is, I believe, intended to evoke the question of Uzziah's violation of the temple. This incident probably explains Isaiah's observations during the vision. The smoke filling the house was a visual of what happened when the incense was placed on the incense altar. Isaiah struggled trying to understand what King Uzziah had done that was wrong and could bring about the severe punishment that he received. This had likely happened when Isaiah was a child. His father, Amoz, likely was among the 80 priests that tried to restrain Uzziah.



King Uzziah is withstood
by the priests in the
temple.

MESSAGE: "TOUCHED BY GOD'S GRACE."

EPHESIANS 3:8-15 & ISAIAH 6:5-8

If Uzziah was his grandfather, this must have caused conflict between Isaiah's parents.

What did "Grace" mean in this circumstance? God did not seem to be gracious to Uzziah, or even Judah. After all hadn't he just made a mistake. An error in judgement?

After all what was the big deal. It was just a room, just a wooden box covered with bronze sheeting...just some incense and coals. The priests did it 2 times a day, and wasn't the king as good as a priest?

How was there mercy or grace in this?

EPHESIANS 3:8-15

8 To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; 10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*, 11 according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him. 13 Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory. 14 For this reason **I bow my knees** to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,...

MESSAGE: "TOUCHED BY GOD'S GRACE."

EPHESIANS 3:8-15 & ISAIAH 6:5-8



Yohanan Aharoni in 1962 with is archeology students discovered a sacred precinct at Tel Arad near Hebron. It had been a hill top fortress and military depot since the time of Solomon from around 950 BC. The sacred enclosure within the fortress dated to around 950 BC but what they found inside indicated that in the century following a Most Holy Place and a sacrificial altar was added around 850 BC. The site remained an active temple complex until around 715 BC.

Yohanan Aharoni [center] professor and archeologist who in 1962 discovered a temple structure mimicking the Jerusalem Temple at Tel Arad in southern Israel [35 miles south of Jerusalem]. It was a stunning discovery that challenged Israeli archeology.

Series: The Glory of the LORD – Isaiah 6

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2 CHRONICLES 26:16-21

16 But when **he was strong his heart was lifted up, to his destruction**, for he **transgressed against the LORD his God** by entering the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense. 17 So Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him were eighty priests of the LORD — valiant men. 18 And they withstood King Uzziah, and said to him, “**It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD**, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron, who are consecrated to burn incense. Get out of the sanctuary, for you have trespassed! You *shall* have no honor from the LORD God.”

19 **Then Uzziah became furious**; and he *had* a censer in his hand to burn incense. And while he was angry with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead, before the priests in the house of the LORD, beside the incense altar. 20 And Azariah the chief priest and all the priests looked at him, and there, on his forehead, he was leprous; so they thrust him out of that place. Indeed he also hurried to get out, because the LORD had struck him.

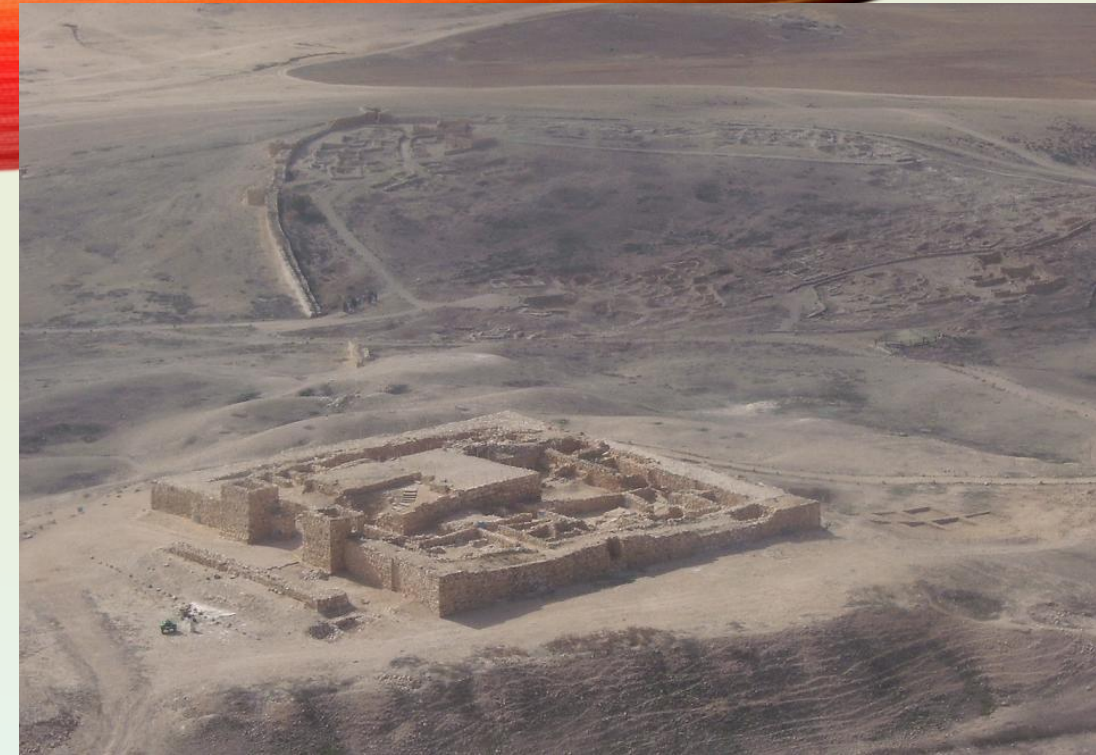
21 King Uzziah was a leper until the day of his death. He dwelt in an isolated house, because he was a leper; for **he was cut off from the house of the LORD**. Then Jotham his son was over the king's house, judging the people of the land.

MESSAGE: "TOUCHED BY GOD'S GRACE."

EPHESIANS 3:8-15 & ISAIAH 6:5-8

Solomon seems to have built the sacred enclosure and instituted worship there. The worship seems to have been primarily the offering of incense. A century later a Most Holy Place and a sacrificial altar was added where animal sacrifice was preformed in violation of God's command not to sacrifice or offer incense outside of Jerusalem. This likely happened during the reign of King Jehoram and his wife Athaliah. This temple seems to have become a substitute place of worship for southern Judah.

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The hilltop fortress at Tel Arad, much of it has been reconstructed. Many ostraca [letters on pottery shards] have been recovered spanning the entire history of the site from 950 to 586 BC. Most are orders and receipts for supplies, a few are military communiques and a few letters.

Series: The Glory of the LORD – Isaiah 6

PSALM 26:1-6

1 « *A Psalm of David.* »

Vindicate me, O LORD, For I have walked in my integrity.
I have also trusted in the LORD;
I shall not slip.

2 Examine me, O LORD, and prove me;
Try my mind and my heart.

3 For Your lovingkindness *is* before my eyes,
And I have walked in Your truth.

4 I have not sat with idolatrous mortals,
Nor will I go in with hypocrites.

5 I have hated the assembly of evildoers,
And will not sit with the wicked.

6 I will wash my hands in innocence;
So I will go about Your altar, O LORD,...

MESSAGE: "TOUCHED BY GOD'S GRACE."

EPHESIANS 3:8-15 & ISAIAH 6:5-8



This is the "Most Holy Place" behind the sacrificial altar. To the surprise of the archeologists there were two "standing stones" in the Most Holy Place.

At Tel Arad the most holy place had 2 standing stones inside, they were laid down and intentionally buried. It is believed that one represented Yahweh and the other Asheroth the Phoenician consort of Baal. This would have intentionally conflated the worship of Baal with the worship of Yahweh. It seems only the priests were able to access this area of the temple. It likely had a curtain dividing it from the Holy Place like the Temple in Jerusalem. Priestly family names have been found at this level within the site.

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ZECHARIAH 3:1-7

1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. 2 And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! *Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?*" 3 Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel. 4 Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, "Take away the filthy garments from him." And to him He said, "See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes." 5 And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him. And the Angel of the LORD stood by. 6 Then the Angel of the LORD admonished Joshua, saying, 7 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'If you will walk in My ways, And if you will keep My command, Then you shall also judge My house, And likewise have charge of My courts; I will give you places to walk Among these who stand here.'

MESSAGE: "TOUCHED BY GOD'S GRACE."

EPHESIANS 3:8-15 & ISAIAH 6:5-8



At Tel Arad the Most Holy Place had 2 incense altars standing just in front of the , Most Holy Place in the Holy Place. They too were laid down and buried when the holy place was buried with the sacrificial altar. There was likely only one incense altar during the time of Uzziah. It is very likely he came to this temple and probably offered incense, himself on the incense altar. His ability to enter freely the holy place of this temple may have emboldened him to believe he could violate the Temple in Jerusalem.

In front of the Most Holy place are 2 incense altars. This was again a surprise to archeologists. Notice that one of the standing stones has been removed and the larger shifted to the other side, this was done to avoid religious controversy.

HABAKKUK 3:15-19

15 You walked through the sea with Your horses, Through the heap of great waters.

16 When I heard, my body trembled; My lips quivered at *the* voice; Rottenness entered my bones; And I trembled in myself, That I might rest in the day of trouble. When he comes up to the people, He will invade them with his troops.

17 Though the fig tree may not blossom, Nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, And there be no herd in the stalls —

18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

19 The LORD God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer's *feet*, And He will make me walk on my high hills. To the Chief Musician. With my stringed instruments.



MESSAGE: "TOUCHED BY GOD'S GRACE."

EPHESIANS 3:8-15 & ISAIAH 6:5-8

Principle 1: We can get so familiar with the ritual, practice of faith that we take God for granted.

Principle 2: We can allow false ideas and conceptions of God to cloud our judgement.

Principle 3: We can become so convinced that we are right no one can change our mind but God.

Principle 4: We sometimes blame God for doing what is right, when we don't understand or like His commands.

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In front of the Most Holy place are 2 incense altars. This was again a surprise to archeologists. Notice that one of the standing stones has been removed and the larger shifted to the other side, this was done to avoid religious controversy.

Series: The Glory of the LORD – Isaiah 6



MESSAGE: "TOUCHED BY GOD'S GRACE."

EPHESIANS 3:8-15 & ISAIAH 6:5-8

Isaiah came to understand this reality when he realized that Uzziah had not just violated the Temple and ceremony, but he had violated the very honor of God. Perhaps for years Isaiah had heard from friends and in the public square about the unfairness of God's judgement on Uzziah. Hence, he had failed to understand the grace in the situation.

Principle 5: When we understand the glory of God we comprehend his grace to us.

Paul on the road to Damascus encountered the glory of Jesus Christ and it changed him.

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Series: The Glory of the LORD – Isaiah 6



MESSAGE: "TOUCHED BY GOD'S GRACE."

EPHESIANS 3:8-15 & ISAIAH 6:5-8

It is surprising that the Seraphim removed a coal from the incense altar that was in the presence of God and touched Isaiah's mouth. Isaiah understood that he and the people of Judah had accused God of bad intent when he had been merciful to Uzziah.

Principle 6: The glory of God makes us evaluate ourselves honestly.

Paul and Isaiah understood that this grace demanded commitment and service to God.

Principle 7: Grace transforms us.

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In front of the Most Holy place are 2 incense altars. This was again a surprise to archeologists. Notice that one of the standing stones has been removed and the larger shifted to the other side, this was done to avoid religious controversy.

Series: The Glory of the LORD – Isaiah 6

DANIEL 10:16-19

16 And suddenly, *one* having the likeness of the sons of men touched my lips; then I opened my mouth and spoke, saying to him who stood before me, “My lord, because of the vision my sorrows have overwhelmed me, and I have retained no strength.

17 “For how can this servant of my lord talk with you, my lord? As for me, no strength remains in me now, nor is any breath left in me.”

18 Then again, *the one* having the likeness of a man touched me and strengthened me.

19 And he said, “O man greatly beloved, fear not! Peace *be* to you; be strong, yes, be strong!” So when he spoke to me I was strengthened, and said, “Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.”

MESSAGE: "TOUCHED BY GOD'S GRACE."

EPHESIANS 3:8-15 & ISAIAH 6:5-8



King Ahaz dealt with the death of his grandfather quite differently. He established incense altars throughout Judah and had the incense altar removed from the Holy Place of the Temple in Jerusalem so that he could offer incense on it for himself. Likely he instituted the burning of Cannabis [imported from Assyria] with incense. The Cannabis is mixed with animal dung to retard the burning to allow the release of the hallucinogen THC in the smoke.

King Hezekiah around 715 BC closed down all these sites and buried them.

Cannabis

Series: The Glory of the LORD – Isaiah 6

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REVELATION 8:1-5

1 When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.

3 Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer *it* with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.

5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw *it* to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.

MESSAGE: "TOUCHED BY GOD'S GRACE."
EPHESIANS 3:8-15 & ISAIAH 6:5-8



Thought:

The grace of God
is transformative
to who we are.

Isaiah by Michelangelo 1508-12

Series: *The Glory of the LORD – Isaiah 6*

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