

July 20/21, 2024

"God Is Holy"

Pastor Aaron Buer



SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.

2024 Challenge: Finding Jesus in the Old Testament

July: Read Isaiah to see how people, situations and events point to Jesus

Day 1 [Isaiah 6:1-8](#) | God is Holy

And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." Isaiah 6:3

God calls the prophet Isaiah to speak his words to Israel during a tumultuous period. Early in his calling, God gives Isaiah a vision of himself. Isaiah stands before God's throne; the scene is awesome and fearsome. Smoke fills the temple. The angels declare God is "holy, holy, holy," and their voices shake the whole place. Isaiah recognizes God is wholly other, not like people but beyond them. Isaiah declares God is high and lifted up. God is set apart from sin and perfectly pure.

Throughout the "God Is" sermon series, we have seen God is limitless, slow to anger, not needy, peace, jealous, generous and trustworthy. Holy is the only attribute of God that is repeated three times in a row in the Bible. Repetition elevates importance. God wants us to understand that he is holy. His holiness is a significant trait that helps us understand his other attributes. God's love is holy. His generosity is holy. And while we will never be perfectly holy in this life, this week, we will see God does call us to holiness.

TODAY: Reflect on God's holiness. Read [Psalm 96:7-9](#) and [1 Peter 1:14-16](#). Sit in awe of how pure and wholly other God is. Consider these verses throughout the day, returning your heart to worship God for his holiness.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Isaiah 40-42](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Consider how Jesus is God's glory revealed ([Hebrews 1:3](#)).

Day 2 [Isaiah 5:20-24](#) | We Are Not Holy

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. Isaiah 5:20

Isaiah serves God as a prophet to the nation of Israel. He delivers God's warning messages to the people because they are rebelling against God. These "woes" call them to turn away from their sin and return to God. Compared to the Israelites, Isaiah is a good guy. He's following and obeying God even when it's unpopular and painful. Yet in God's presence, Isaiah declares his own "woe" ([Isaiah 6:5](#)). Isaiah knows he is sinful. Compared to God, Isaiah is not holy.

We live in a culture that is quick to call out "woes" on other people but unwilling to call them out on ourselves. It can be easy to see the sin in other people's lives and miss the sin in our lives. We might think that compared to others, we're doing pretty good. But like Isaiah, we are not holy compared to God's holiness. Isaiah shows us we can declare that God is holy, and we are not. God will meet us in that confession. Confession of our sin is central

to a relationship with God. When we declare God is holy and we are sinful, our relationship with God can be restored through Jesus.

TODAY: Ask God to help you recognize your sin and confess it to him. No matter how big or small the sin, God is ready and willing to forgive and restore you. "God, I confess that _____ is sin against you. You are holy. I am not. Please forgive me and, through your Spirit, help me grow in holiness. Amen."

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Isaiah 43-44](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Consider how the servant refers to Jesus.

Day 3 [Isaiah 6:6-7](#) | God Makes Us Holy

With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for." Isaiah 6:7

Isaiah stands before God and recognizes he is sinful and not holy. He confesses his unclean state. Isaiah realizes he can do nothing to make himself holy before God. Then something incredible happens: God purifies him. An angel touches his lips with a coal, signifying his guilt is removed and then says Isaiah's sin is atoned for. Amends were made. Only God could do that.

We can easily get caught in a trap of believing we can make ourselves holy. We may think God will accept us if we serve enough, give enough, or go to church often enough. We may think that if we can be good enough or read our Bibles enough, we will be okay with God. The reality is, like Isaiah, we cannot make ourselves holy. Only God can make us holy. The way to be made holy is through faith in Jesus's death on the cross and resurrection. We can never earn or achieve our holiness. God makes us holy through faith in Jesus.

TODAY: Thank God for the holiness offered to us through Jesus. Join the Ada Bible Church Worship Team as they sing "[We Fall Down](#)." Declare that "we lay our crowns at the feet of Jesus" out of gratitude for what he has done.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Isaiah 45-47](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Consider the Father exalted Jesus and "that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow...and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord" ([Philippians 2:9-11](#)).

Day 4 [2 Corinthians 5:17-21](#) | God Sends Us

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 2 Corinthians 5:20

Throughout Scripture, God sends individuals to share his words with people. After declaring Isaiah clean, God asks who will go for him, and Isaiah volunteers ([Isaiah 6:8](#)). Later in the New Testament, Jesus calls Peter and declares he will "fish for people" ([Luke 5:10-11](#)). The Apostle Paul tells the early church they are called to be God's ambassadors. God sends his people to deliver his message of forgiveness and restoration to others.

The same is true for us today. God gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation to tell others so they can accept Jesus through faith and be reconciled to God and made holy. We are made new in Christ, and he has given us a new purpose. Whoever we are and whatever we do, we are sent with this message. We represent Jesus through our godly character and words of truth. God is sending us to be ambassadors wherever we are. The people around us should notice something good and different about us. We are called to be set apart, live differently and share the message of Jesus with others.

TODAY: Where has God placed you to be an ambassador? Think through your spheres of influence: immediate family, extended family, friends, co-workers, acquaintances, neighbors and people you encounter in the community. Write down the names of those who may not know Jesus yet on a sticky note or your mobile device. Pray for them each day and ask God to use you to share Jesus's message with them.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Isaiah 48-50](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Consider how his people despised and rejected Jesus, yet ultimately, he will be honored by kings.

Day 5 [Isaiah 53](#) | God Heals Us

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:5

Isaiah foreshadows Jesus as a suffering servant who will rescue his people from sin. Through Isaiah, God reveals the one who would be "despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain" ([Isaiah 53:3](#)). Jesus fulfills this word through his life, death and resurrection. He bears people's pain and heals what sin has undone. He takes people's place by suffering for sin. A two-way exchange happens: Jesus *takes* the penalty for sin and *gives* people his holiness. His purity pushes out impurity.

Jesus took the punishment that we deserved. He is our substitute sufferer. The New Testament authors repeatedly point to Isaiah 53 to declare what Jesus does for us. Jesus died for our sins ([1 Corinthians 15:3](#), [Isaiah 53:8-9](#)). Jesus makes us righteous ([Romans 5:19](#), [Isaiah 53:11](#)). Jesus bore our sins so we can be healed and live for righteousness ([1 Peter 2:24](#), [Isaiah 53:4-5](#)). This truth can be hard to acknowledge—our sin is so damaging that someone must suffer on our behalf to pay the price for it. Thanks be to God for Jesus, who willingly died in our place.

TODAY: If you have not turned to Jesus to accept the price he paid for your sin and ask for his forgiveness, you can do so today. If you have accepted Jesus as Savior, ask him to help you grow—through the power of the Holy Spirit—in being holy as he is holy. If you would like to talk about what it means to be forgiven and follow Jesus, please email us at btw@adabible.org

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Isaiah 51-53](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Consider how chapter 53 points to all Jesus will accomplish on the cross.