

Rev. Richard Schwartz
Why Did Jesus Come To Live A Righteous Life? The Holiness of God
Isaiah 6:1-7, Philippians 3:3-9

1. Isaiah was given a vision of God sitting on His throne in Heaven, high and lifted up. This means that God is exalted over all the Earth, reigning as Almighty King of the universe. His Majesty and Glory are so great that the train of his robe fills His temple.
2. The seraphim are holy, sinless angels, like all angels loyal to God are, and they fly around the throne of God, worshiping Him day and night. However, they have wings that cover their faces and feet because even though they are holy, their Holiness pales in comparison with the Holiness of God Himself.
3. The seraphim before the throne of God repeatedly cry out about His Holiness. They cry out Holy, Holy, Holy because three is the Biblical number of perfection, and He is perfectly Holy! To be Holy means to be set apart, without sin or imperfection. God's Holiness is so great that His glory extends from Heaven like the train of His robe and fills the whole Earth!
4. The foundations of the temple shake when God speaks. The tremendous heat produced by His presence fills His temple with smoke. He is the one who calls men to serve Him, and He has come to call Isaiah and send Him as a prophet to His rebellious people.
5. Isaiah, filled with anxiety and fear, exclaims his great woe! He sees that he is completely lost before the Holiness of God. His unclean lips reflect the state of his unclean heart. He is wholly undone as he realizes that he cannot stand in the presence of the King of the universe. As if that were not enough, he dwells in the midst of rebellious people.
6. One of the seraphim offers Isaiah the forgiveness he needs, the righteousness he needs, to stand in the presence of God. In the vision, it comes as a burning coal taken from the altar, but what is this burning coal that we all so desperately need?
7. This is the New Jerusalem, in Heaven, where every person will want to be. But nothing unclean will ever enter the city. No one who does what is detestable or false will enter the city. There will be no sin in Heaven because the Holiness of God will not allow it.
8. Without true holiness, the alternative is eternal Hell. All those whose names are not written in the book of life will be cast into eternal torment. There is a judgment coming that none will escape.
9. Paul says that Christians are those who are truly circumcised, with a circumcision of the heart through the work of the Holy Spirit. Christians are those who glory in the righteousness of Christ Jesus because they have no confidence in their own righteousness. They have seen the Holiness of God and known their own spiritual bankruptcy.
10. Paul was like Isaiah. He was a circumcised Jew of an honorable tribe, educated in the Scriptures, and known for his zeal. No one could raise any charge against Paul under the Old Testament Law. But none of these things would allow him to stand before God when he encountered Him in the person of Christ.
11. When Paul first saw the glory of Christ, he fell to the ground. He found himself blind for three days and could neither eat nor drink. His life was changed forever in an instant.
12. All the righteousness that Paul had counted as his own, he now counted it as worthless compared to the righteousness he was offered through faith in Jesus Christ.

13. Why did Jesus come to live a righteous life? Because God is Holy.

The righteousness that we have is worthless before His Holiness. We need Christ's righteousness to enter His Kingdom. Therefore, Jesus lived a sinless, holy life so that He might offer us His Holiness through trust in Him.

Application

1. Turn from our unholy ways and cling to the imputed righteousness of Christ as our own through trust in His perfect, sinless life.

Revelation 21:22-27

²² And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the Earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁵ and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶ They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷ But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Hebrews 12:14

¹⁴ Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

Revelation 20:11-15

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Acts 9:3-9

³ Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from Heaven shone around him. ⁴ And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" ⁵ And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. ⁸ Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

2 Corinthians 5:21

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²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Isaiah 64:6

⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.