

## Worship, Part One

Where shall we turn for instruction on how we ought to worship? There is only one place we can turn, and that is to the Bible. What constitutes worship, and what governs worship must be taken from the Word of God if it is to honor Him. As we turn to God's Word, we do see a pattern of worship emerging, a pattern that is replicated throughout the fabric of Scripture from beginning to the end.

There is nothing external to Scripture that can improve, nor correct the scriptural pattern for worship! Scripture sets the terms, and in Isaiah 6:1-8 we see a picture of authentic worship.

Isaiah said, "In the year that king Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain [two] he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried and the house was filled with smoke.

Then said I, 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 mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from the altar: And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me" (Isaiah 6:1-8).

In this well-known commission passage in Isaiah, the prophet experienced a theophany: a vision of the true and living God. Out of this encounter, Isaiah received his call as a prophet. A prophet who was forever changed by what he had experienced.

A well gifted Southern Baptist scholar said, "My haunting thought concerning much evangelical worship is that the God of the Bible would never be known by watching us worship."

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