

(1) What do you make of John 12:41 where the apostle says that it was the glory of Jesus that Isaiah saw in Isaiah 6? Do you have trouble understanding how this could be true? If so, why? If the Son of God, the Second Person of the Trinity, did not become “flesh” until the incarnation (as described in John 1:14), what or whom precisely did Isaiah “see”? On a related note, how does John 12:41 affect your understanding and worship of Jesus?

(2) What is “holiness”? How were you raised to think of this term? In what ways has your understanding of “holiness” changed over the years? What are some of the misconceptions or caricatures that people have of “holiness” when the term is applied both to God and to human beings?

(3) Why did Isaiah respond the way he did upon seeing the glory and holiness of God? What did he mean when he said he was coming unraveled or was undone? Is this how you think you would have responded if you had seen the glory of the Lord? Compare this with what people today say about their encounters with God.

(4) Why did Isaiah refer to himself as a man with a “dirty mouth”? Why did he focus in on this one particular sin? If you were Isaiah, what sin in your life would have first come into your conscious thought if you had seen God the way he did? Why?

(5) What lessons do we learn when we read that, immediately following his conviction of sin and confession, the angel touched his lips with a burning coal? Talk about your own experience of forgiveness and how it affected your life in the past and also how it affects you in the present.