

## Undone

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*Then said I, Woe is me! For I am undone...  
– Isaiah 6:5 –*

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While in high school, I belonged to a loosely defined ecology club and had the unique opportunity of taking a handful of trips to some interesting places in the United States. One of these was a multiple day excursion to Arizona's Grand Canyon where we viewed the canyon from different vantage points within the National Park and actually hiked to the bottom of the canyon, soaked our feet in the Colorado River, and stayed overnight at Phantom Ranch at the canyon's base before hiking back up to the top. Another activity with the club was whale watching off of Cape Cod. The wild humpback whales got extremely close to the boat, performing their feeding lunges not more than forty yards out, and at times even swimming right next to our vessel and smacking the water with their fins as if they were purposely entertaining their observers.

These were memory-laden experiences, for certain. I had seen pictures and videos of both the Grand Canyon and the mammoth humpbacks on multiple occasions prior to these trips. But all of the photographic images paled helplessly in comparison to experiencing first-hand these august marvels of God's creation. I specifically recall walking out on the first rock shelf at the Grand Canyon National Park and literally losing my breath as I peered over the ledge for my initial "live" glimpse of this majestic wonder. Similarly, I recall my heart racing as I witnessed those whales powerfully lunging and then crashing playfully into the Atlantic's monstrous waves. God designed the wonders of the natural universe to overwhelm us with a sense of our smallness and fragility, creating a "wow" reaction when we find ourselves in the midst of something so much bigger than us, and to remind us that He is bigger still.

Yet nature, while a witness to God's omnipotence, falls purposefully short of revealing Him in His fulness. As humbling as it is to lose oneself in the immensity of His works, these moments are but an incomplete foreshadowing of what it will be like to be in the presence of His Holy character. When Isaiah saw the Lord, high and lifted up, he was "undone" – experiencing in a moment of time the full comprehension of his utter frailty as well as the overwhelming realization of his wretched sinfulness in light of the unique perfection of the Lord of Hosts. This left him not only awestruck but also paralyzed by the simultaneous phenomena of wonder and sheer dread.

Isaiah's vision of the throne of God provides us with a glimpse of something we all will one day experience. It will be the smallest we have ever felt. Our reaction will surpass all of our "wow" moments that we have accumulated this side of eternity – Grand Canyon, whales, stargazing, *et. al.* Once there, before Him who was, and is, and is to come, we, with Isaiah, will proclaim "Woe!" At that moment, we will be "undone". We will gaze upon His perfections and immediately sense the impending doom and fury of the fires of God's righteous judgment against our iniquitous, unclean souls. Praise be unto God that in that hour, the remedy to our tiny, guilty condition will be more than merely a flaming coal delivered upon jealous Seraph wing. Yes, the very Son of God and Son of Man, our Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous, who was numbered with the transgressors, and made intercession for us, will take our side and secure our state. Because of Him, once undone, we will be re-made, fashioned into His very likeness. In that day, not only the whole earth will be full of His glory, but we ourselves will own that glory as our rightful possession, purchased for us with His blood and imputed to us by His grace, through all eternity.

Brethren, may we forever praise and adore our immense, august, majestically thrice Holy God!