

ISAIAH 6 vs 1

Under king Uzziah, the kingdom of Judah reached its zenith of power and prestige since the days of Solomon. Next, Jotham reigned well 16 years. This chapter is called: The commission of Isaiah - during 3 more kings of Judah: Ahaz with his creepy wife Jezebel; Hezekiah - whose life ended under a cloud, having started out well, but offended God by thinking he could be king and offer sacred sacrifice to God, he ended a leper-king. It's interesting, his life was extended 15 years when his son was born; and Manasseh yet another evil king, is who had prophet Isaiah placed in a hollowed-out log and sawn in two.



1 In the year king Uzziah died I saw the LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up and His train filled the temple / 740 BC, whatever He was clothed in was glorious. Why Isaiah was invited into the presence of the Eternal King, we are not told. What Isaiah saw was awesome! Beyond what any words could describe.

2 Above it stood the seraphim each had six wings; two covered his face, and two covered his feet, and with two he flew / around the throne were brilliant, burning agents of eternity:

3 and one called out to another, saying, Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts the whole earth is full of His glory / 3 times Holy. His glorious imprint is left in all He created animate or inanimate, marvelous in design and complexity, available for anyone to discover should they look. His glory was not confined to some little parcel of land in the middle east; rather from the rising to the setting of the sun... **His Name will be great in all the earth.**

4 And the foundation of the threshold trembled at the voice of Him who called out, while the temple filled with smoke / no one, not Isaiah... not the seraphim were permitted to view, or even out of twisted curiosity... sneak a peek of this moment of God's anger.

5 Then I said, Woe is me! for I am undone / and what does that mean? Isaiah knew he was not holy. Isaiah knew the secret things belong to God alone. Notice, Isaiah's response. Notice that he did not start to sing: I am a friend of God. I'm so blessed, I'm so happy, I'm so lucky; cuz I know God loves me!

On the contrary, Isaiah responded to the moment the very way Daniel and Ezekiel responded: falling down; speechless... incapable of even standing on their own two feet. Matthew Henry said: **I am a gone man!** What the prophet reflected on terrified him.

Once I remember Dr. Dallas Willard succinctly say, if God, who is so powerful, is anything like electricity, then He is dangerous. And we had better learn how to approach Him correctly. After all, we easily speak the language of an unclean heart; evil behavior which corrupts good manners, leading to our destruction.

Woe is me! / how terrifying it is for me... **I am undone, because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell among people with unclean lips: for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts** / isn't it interesting how we all would like to say that **we have seen the King, high and lifted up...** but are we ready for what that would imply? Those are fittest to be employed by God who are lowly in their own eyes... and are made deeply sensible of their own weakness and unworthiness – Matthew Henry.

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar / certainly at the command of the Eternal God:

7 and he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this has touched your lips; and your crime is taken away, and your sin is forgiven.

8 Also I heard the voice of the LORD, saying, Who will I send, and who will go for Us? / Wow! The LORD certainly moves fast, doesn't He? Notice, in this audience of one... no committee meeting is called to adjudicate proper credentials; no colloquy called to assemble.

Then I said, Here am I; send me. / Isaiah speaks up. I remember when Dr. Gene Scott taught one Sunday on Matthew 21:31; he asked a question that included a show of hands: and to his question he said, "raise your hand". Well, only 3 of us in the congregation did. Then he said Nobody else raise your hand now, but those who did keep your hands in the air, because I want to see who you are.

Then and there having heard Isaiah's response, God took him at his word and sent him on a strange errand.

9 He said, Go and tell this people, You indeed listen, but do not understand; you indeed see, but do not perceive.

10 Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears dull, and their eyes dim; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and reconsider, and are healed / these artery-clogged fools will not see the danger they are in, nor the ruin that is approaching; nor the way of escape. Six times in the NT this verse is quoted in part or whole. So, we in the 21st century with all our privilege would be wise to pay sober attention to these lofty, weighty lessons taught long ago.

Isaiah is given the unenviable task to make impossible the recovery of these very stubborn people... by clogging their ability to reconsider their ways. This chapter is much like 2nd Thessalonians 2:10-12 when people who work their evil no longer want to hear the truth. For 2500 years, God Himself has given fair warning; but now He gives them a strong delusion and they will be damned. There will come a time on God's calendar that there is no sense in delaying the inevitable. Psalm 14 and 53 both read: the fool has said in their heart... there is NO God.

They insist to work their will; they seek to destroy God's people who will not follow them; they have NO fear of God, yet they fear their own fears, and ultimately slip into their darkened superstitions and phobias... until the LORD tells them, **Your will be done...** and they are dismissed from His presence – to a terrible place that was not made for them, nor intended for them.

¹¹ Then said I, LORD, how long?

And He answered, until the cities are destroyed without inhabitants, and houses without people, and the land is utterly desolate,

¹² and the LORD has removed them far away, and the land is thoroughly abandoned / so Isaiah will continue prophesying until Babylon comes and takes captive the **House of Judah** and particularly the citizens of Jerusalem; after 70 years in Babylon, the majority were satisfied with their new-found culture in the east;

¹³ Yet a tenth part will be in it, and will return and will again be burned like a teil-tree, or an oak, whose stump remains when they cast their leaves -- **the holy seed is its stump** / so there is a prophecy enfolded in this verse, only 10% of the Jewish people – only a remnant of descendants cared to return to the city of Jerusalem; like the tenth portion given in the Temple; especially during the season when they appear barren and lifeless; so the faithful few who continue to trust the LORD, no matter how small their number, they were assured that God's grace will reign in the hearts of the remnant until destruction would come again, next, by the romans; and it's as if Isaiah writes,

God likes faithfulness: He is faithful; you be faithful, too.