

# 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 ultimately had prophet Isaiah placed in a hollowed-out log and sawn in two.



**<sup>1</sup> In the year that king Uzziah died / 740 BC...**

**I saw the LORD sitting upon a throne,**

**high and lifted up, and his train / whatever He was clothed in was beyond glorious;**

**his train filled the temple.**

Why Isaiah was invited into the presence of the Eternal King, we are not told. Whatever Isaiah saw was simply spectacular, simply awesome! Beyond anything words could describe.

**<sup>2</sup> Above it stood the seraphim / brilliant, burning agents of eternity: each had six wings; two covered their face, and two covered their feet, and with two they flew.**

**<sup>3</sup> And one called out to another, saying, Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts / 3 times Holy:**

**the whole earth is full of His glory / His glorious imprint is graciously and kindly left in every animate and inanimate thing created -- marvelous in design and complexity... made 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 of the sun to its setting... the LORD intended His Name be great in all the earth.**

**<sup>4</sup> And the posts of the door / the foundations of the threshold... moved at the voice of him who called out,**

**and the temple filled with smoke / no one, not Isaiah... not the seraphim were permitted to view or even out of perverse curiosity sneak a peek of this moment of God's anger.**

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

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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 upon in himself terrified him.

Once I remember Dr. Dallas Willard succinctly said, 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; of evil communication which corrupts good manners, and which all too often leads to our destruction. It's a diseased language that is hereditary and epidemic.

**Woe is me!** / how terrifying it is for me...

**I am undone.**

**because I am a man of unclean lips,**

**and I dwell in the midst of a people of 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 low in their own eyes... and are made deeply sensible of their own weakness and unworthiness – Matthew Henry.

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

**<sup>7</sup> and he laid it upon my mouth, and said,**

**Lo, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged.**

**<sup>8</sup> 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, no committee meeting is called to adjudicate proper credentials; no colloquy or convocation called to assemble.

**Then said I** / Isaiah speaks up. I remember when Dr. Gene Scott taught one Sunday on Matthew 21:31; he asked a question which included a show of hands: and to his question he said "raise your hand". Well, there were 3 of us scattered across the congregation who did. Then he said to the rest, "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 said I, Here am I; send me.**

And then and there having probably replayed Isaiah's response, God took him at his word and sent him on a strange errand.

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**<sup>9</sup> He said, Go and tell this people,**

**You indeed hear, but do **not** understand;**

**you indeed see, but do **not** perceive.**

**<sup>10</sup> Make the heart of this people fat,**

**and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes;**

**lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears,**

**and understand with their heart,**

**and change, and be healed** / these artery-clogged fools will no longer see the danger they are in, nor the ruin that is approaching; nor the way of escape from it. Six times in the NT these verses are quoted in part or whole. So, we in the 21<sup>st</sup> 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 willful, stubborn people... by clogging their ability to reconsider their ways. This chapter is much like 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:10-12 when people who work their evil no longer want to hear the truth. For 2500 years, God Himself has given us 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 on working 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, **Thy will be done**... and they are dismissed from His presence – to a terrible place that was not made for them, nor intended for them.

**<sup>11</sup> Then said I, LORD, how long?**

**And he answered,**

**Until...**

**the cities are wasted without inhabitants,**

**and houses without man,**

**and the land is utterly desolate,**

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<sup>12</sup> **And the LORD has removed men far away,**

**and great abandonment is throughout the land** / so Isaiah will continue prophesying until Babylon comes and takes captive the **House of Judah** and particularly the citizens of Jerusalem.

<sup>13</sup> **Yet a tenth part will be in it, and will return** / after 70 years in Babylon, only 10% of the Jewish people cared to return; the majority were satisfied with their new-found culture of Babylon,

**and will be *accepted* / eaten...** like the tenth portion given in the Temple:

**like a teil-tree, and as an oak,**

**whose substance is in them** / especially during the winter season,

**when they cast their leaves** / when they appear barren and lifeless:

**so the holy seed** / the faithful few... who continue to trust the LORD, no matter how small their number, they are assured that wherever grace reigns in the hearts even of the remnant few...

**the holy seed... will be its substance** / said a little differently: Isaiah says,

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