

## The Bible 20/20 Week 24: “Be Present” (6-21-20)

**Introduction: The book of Isaiah - and the books of Prophecy . . .**

**Roles - Prophet** (Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah), **Priest** (Aaron), **King** (David) = Seeing Jesus in OT!

**Understanding Prophecy:** Man speaking on behalf of God, **fore-telling** and **forth-telling**

- **Fore-telling** - Speaking about the future
- **Forth-telling** - Speaking about right here, right now

Most bible prophecy is speaking into the specific moment

**Isaiah’s Message:** Present problems, coming Captivity, a return, and a future hope - Jesus!

- God’s people are broken, sinful, and not fulfilling their mission
- God’s judgement is coming
- There is Hope - Jesus, and a redeemed people

**Today: Isaiah Chapter 6** - The Importance of being in God’s Presence

Being in God’s Presence is always essential, but especially in painful, difficult, and transitional moments!

**Isaiah 6:1 (ESV)**

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne

**Context of Isaiah 6 . . .**

- **King Uzziah** - **flippant** about God’s Presence (2 Chronicles 26)
- **King Jotham** (his son) - **avoided** God’s Presence (2 Chronicles 27)

While they mostly did what was right, the people remained stuck - the high places weren’t taken down!

**Being in God’s Presence is . . . Revealing, Purifying, Inspiring**

**1) Being in God’s Presence is Revealing**

a) Reveals His glory

**Isaiah 6:1-3 (ESV)**

(1) In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. (2) Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. (3) And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”

**Note:** God’s glory is revealed - and we see earth as it should be!

All too often we judge heaven by what we see on earth.

**Reality:** We should see the earth through heaven’s eyes - that is the standard by which we reform! (Kingdom)

Isaiah sees God on his throne, and the result is the whole earth full of glory!

b) Reveals our condition

### **Isaiah 6:5 (ESV)**

And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for 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!”

**Note:** This reveals our condition - that we have got this all wrong!

We are so quick to justify ourselves and our view points, because we see everything from our perspective

But if we would spend time in the presence of God, it would bring stunning (and corrective) clarity!

**Example:** The clarity that comes when dad walks in the room (example: Micah stands at attention)

## **2) Being in God’s Presence is Purifying**

### **Isaiah 6:6-7 (ESV)**

(6) Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. (7) And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

**Note:** Isaiah was cleansed in the presence of God

**Example:** contrast Uzziah & Isaiah

### **2 Chronicles 26:16 (ESV)**

But when he was strong, he grew proud, to his destruction. For he was unfaithful to the LORD his God and entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense.

**Note:** Uzziah - is prideful and flippant about God’s presence. When he gets confronted he gets angry

The priests confront the king and tell him he’s wrong and needs to stop. His response . . .

### **2 Chronicles 26:19 (ESV)**

Then Uzziah was **angry**. Now he had a censer in his hand to burn incense, and when he became angry with the priests, **leprosy broke out** on his forehead in the presence of the priests in the house of the LORD, by the altar of incense.

**Note:** Uzziah is in the wrong, but when confronted responded in anger - and judgement comes!

**Isaiah** - Recognizes his condition, and laments! Doesn’t justify himself, he cries out for help, & is purified!

### **Consider:**

- The same presence that brings Judgement also brings Healing.
- Will I recognize my condition and seek God’s purifying touch?
- Notice it was the coal from the fire that touched Isaiah’s mouth - being purified hurts, but it heals
- You will most likely lose something, but look what you gain - it’s glorious!

### 3) Being in God's Presence is Inspiring

#### Isaiah 6:8 (ESV)

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."

**Note:** Isaiah is inspired to speak on behalf of God - even though it's most often unpopular & ignored . . .

#### Isaiah 6:9-10 (ESV)

(9) And he said, "Go, and say to this people: "'**Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.**' (10) Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed."

**Note:** We must face the reality that when we speak of God and His Kingdom, even though it's exactly what the world needs to hear - many will not want to hear it!

**These verses are quoted in all 4 Gospels and the book of Acts:**

- **Jesus (The Sower & the Soils)** - the people don't understand his parables (Matt 13, Mark 10, Luke 8)
- **Jesus (Last public declaration)** - before Passover w/ his disciples, then betrayed and killed (John 12)
- **Paul in Rome** - speaking to Jewish leaders living in Rome about Jesus (Acts 28)

**Their point:** We have missed the Kingdom of God: The power of Jesus' sacrifice, and the power of yielding to him as our King and living life based on His presence in our lives!

**Conclusion:** Don't settle for living amongst God's people and being "pretty good" - like Uzziah or Jotham

**Instead** - Purpose to be in the presence of God!

That approach will reveal truth for life, healing for our condition, and hope for the world!

**Let's Pray!**