

Isaiah 6

Holy, Holy, Holy

# Verse 1

- ◆ Isaiah 6:1 NKJV In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple.
- ◆ King Uzziah dies in the 8th century BC

- ◆ He started out well: following the Lord
- ◆ Judah achieved great success: economically, infrastructure, and militarily
- ◆ The sin of pride took him down
  - ◆ Temple
  - ◆ Leprosy

- ◆ Isaiah went to the temple presumably looking for consolation in a time of national and personal grief.
- ◆ He got more than he bargained for

- ◆ The king was dead, but when Isaiah entered the temple he saw another king, the ultimate king, the one who sat on the throne of Judah forever
- ◆ He saw the Lord high and lifted up

- ◆ There was a crisis of sovereignty in the land
- ◆ Uzziah was dead
- ◆ Isaiah's eyes were open to see the real king of the nation
- ◆ He saw God on the throne—> the real sovereign

## Verse 2

- ◆ Isaiah 6:2 NKJV Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

- ◆ Right now we cannot see God
- ◆ That's because he is pure and without sin
- ◆ Remember Jesus said: blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.
- ◆ The problem isn't our eyes; it is our heart



- ◆ The Seraphim are not sinful humans with impure hearts.
- ◆ They ARE, however, still creatures
- ◆ With 2 wings they covered their eyes
- ◆ It is necessary for even them to shield their eyes from a direct gaze on the face of God

- ◆ With 2 wings they covered their feet
- ◆ Reminiscent of Moses:
  - ◆ Exodus 3:5 NKJV Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground."

Isaiah 6:3 NKJV

And one cried to another and said:  
"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;  
The whole earth is full of His glory!"

- ◆ Repetition is a form of emphasis.
- ◆ In the English language, when we want to emphasize, we use underlining or bold face.

- ◆ In Jewish literature repetition is used.
- ◆ The use of three repetitions gives it the highest degree of importance.
- ◆ Only a few instances of this in Scripture
- ◆ Revelation 8:13, Jeremiah 7:4

Isaiah 6:4 NKJV

And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.

- ◆ The temple shook when God's presence filled it
- ◆ The sanctuary is a sacred place and should be treated as such

Isaiah 6:5 NKJV

So I said: "Woe is me, for 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."

◆ Not only was the temple shaking, but so was  
Isaiah

◆ Isaiah pronounces woe upon himself  
because he finally understood the essence  
of God's holiness



- ◆ His new understanding moved him to pronounce judgment upon himself.
- ◆ "I am undone" —> coming apart at the seams
- ◆ \*\*\*Isaiah was considered by his contemporaries to be the most righteous man in Israel\*\*\*

“I am a man of unclean lips”

- ◆ Some commentators think Isaiah had a cussing problem
- ◆ I believe Isaiah realized that the tongue condemned him and the people of Israel.
  - ◆ James 3:6-12
  - ◆ Proverbs 18:20-21
  - ◆ Matthew 12:36-37

“For my eyes have seen the king the Lord of hosts”

- ◆ For the first time in his life, Isaiah understood who the Lord was.
- ◆ And, and that instant, Isaiah understood for the first time, exactly who he was!

Isaiah 6:6-7 NKJV

Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. [7] And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged."

◆ Isaiah was on his face in despair

◆ God's grace enters the scene.

◆ Refined by holy fire.

◆ Forgiven!

◆ The conviction he felt was critical and useful

Isaiah 6:8 NKJV

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

- ◆ All goes silent and then a voice comes booming asking, "Whom shall we send?" "Who will go for us?"
- ◆ The pattern: God appears, man quakes, God forgives and heals, God sends. (example—> Moses, Paul)
- ◆ Isaiah would be an ambassador for this Holy God he encountered (I am sure Isaiah would not want to disappoint after this encounter)

Isaiah 6:9-10 NKJV

And He said, "Go, and tell 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 shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, And return and be healed."

- ◆ The people of Israel have had opportunity after opportunity to repent, yet did not.
- ◆ God would harden their heart (example—> Pharaoh)



## Verses 11-13

- ◆ Isaiah 6:11-13 NKJV Then I said, "Lord, how long?" And He answered: "Until the cities are laid waste and without inhabitant, The houses are without a man, The land is utterly desolate, [12] The LORD has removed men far away, And the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land. [13] But yet a tenth will be in it, And will return and be for consuming, As a terebinth tree or as an oak, Whose stump remains when it is cut down. So the holy seed shall be its stump."

- ◆ Isaiah asks how long will I preach this message with no response from the people?
- ◆ Until judgment is complete (Babylonian exile)
- ◆ Can you imagine that prospect? (Reminds us of Noah)