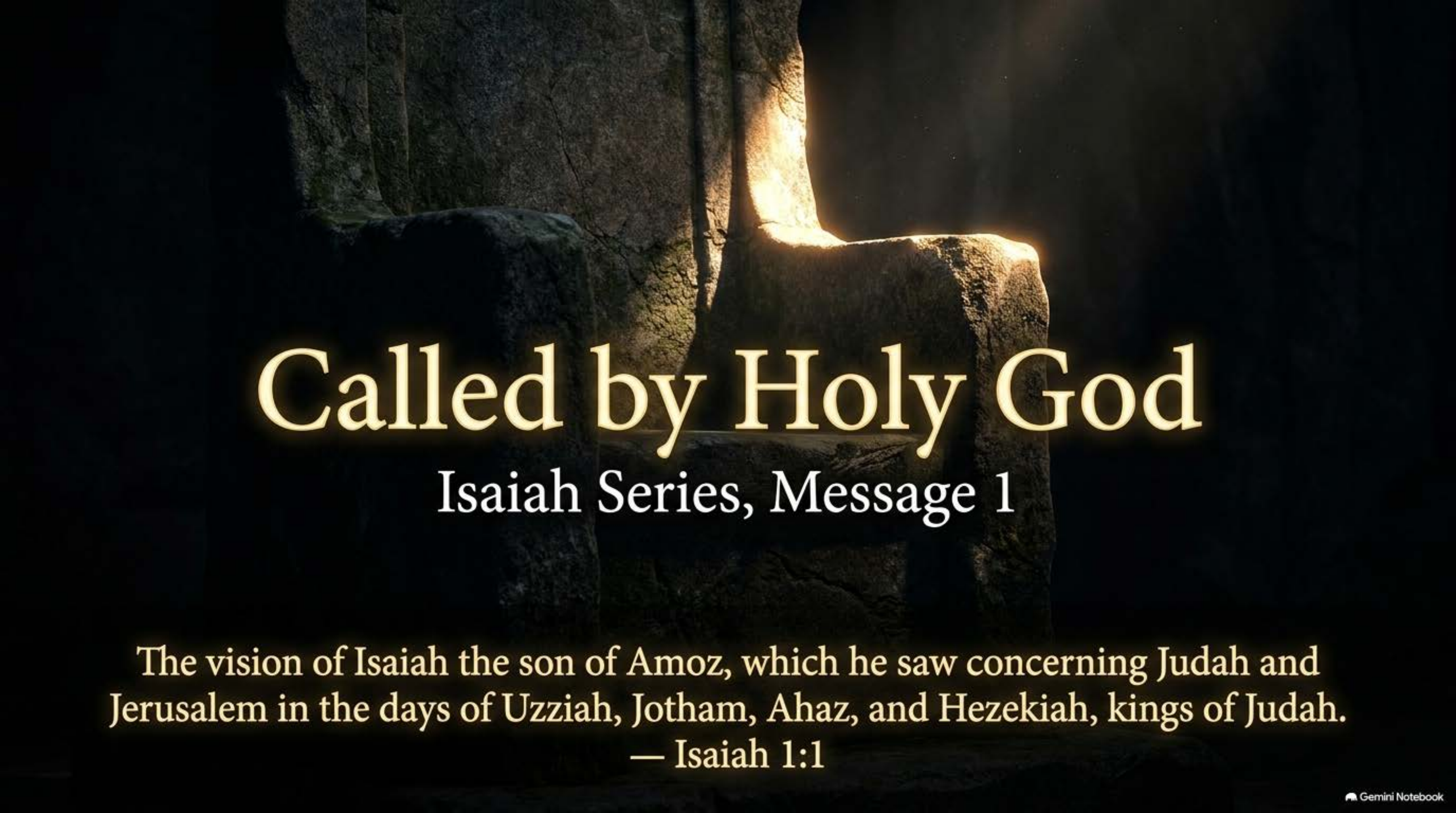




# Called by Holy God

## Isaiah Series, Message 1

The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

— Isaiah 1:1

# 52 Years of Stability, Gone.

## The Kings of Judah (740-680 B.C.)



## The Looming Threat

722 B.C.

**Northern Kingdom Collapse -**  
Assyrian war machine rises in the east.

# 1. The Condition of the Nation

A People Prosperous but Corrupt

*Laden with iniquity... sick from the sole of the foot even to the head.*

— Isaiah 1:4-6

1

**Judah**

(740 B.C.)

**Judah (740 B.C.)**

Wealthy, outwardly secure, but spiritually vacant. A society at ease in Zion on beds of ivory, while moral rot sets in.

2

**Enron**

(2001)

**Enron (2001)**

A Wall Street darling masking billions in debt. Outwardly admired; inwardly hollow. The facade wiped out \$70B in value overnight.

**Diagnostic Question:** What would an honest audit of your inner life reveal that outward prosperity has been covering up?

## 2. The Confrontation with the King of Kings

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.

— Isaiah 6:1

The earthly throne is empty, but the true throne was never in question.

# A Fixed Point on a Changing Horizon



## The 1900 Galveston Hurricane

The Bolivar Point Lighthouse (built 1872) withstood the deadliest natural disaster in U.S. history, safely sheltering 125 refugees from the rising floodwaters.

It survived artillery fire and a century of Gulf Coast storms—standing firm while everything around it was destroyed.

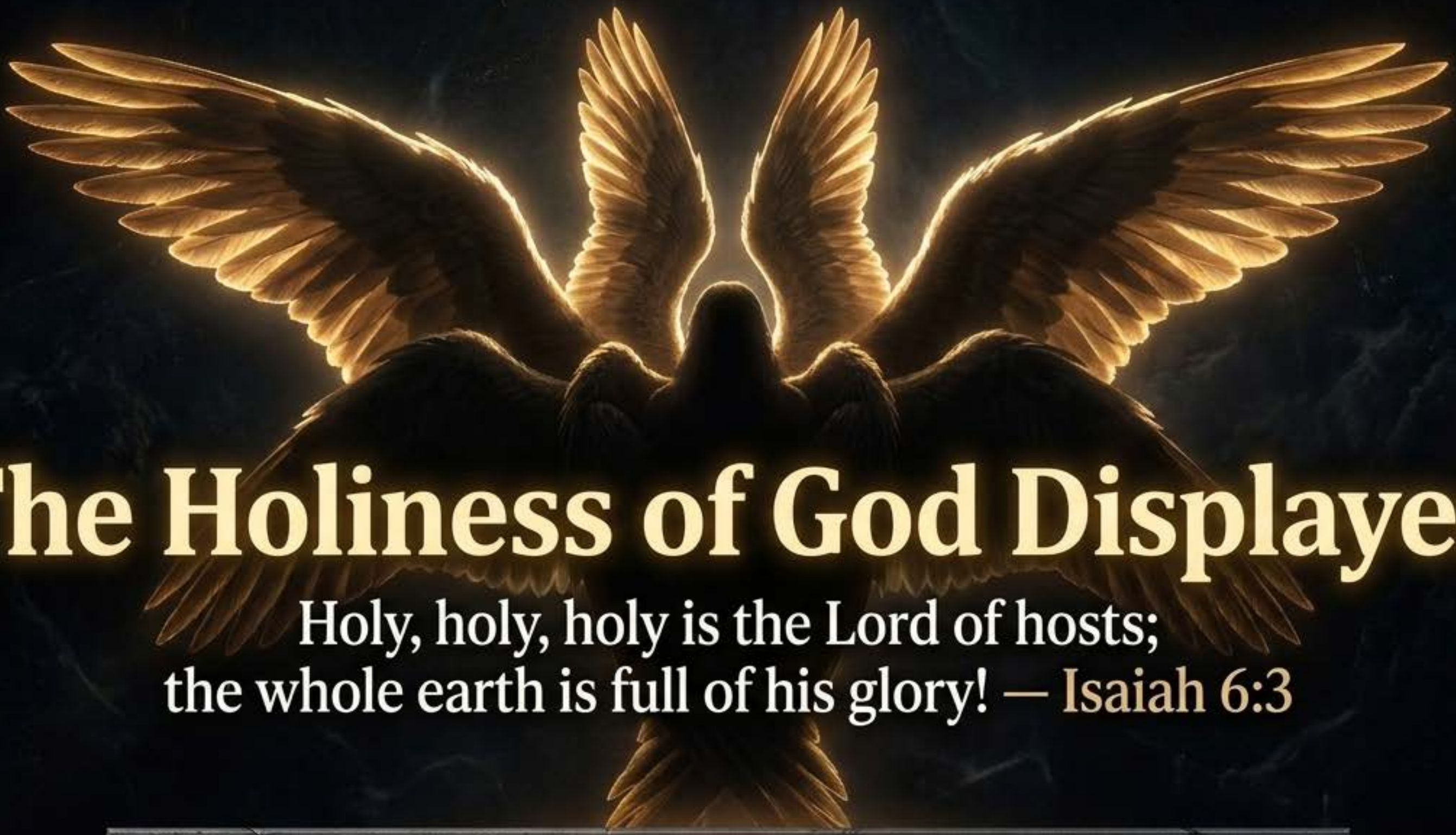
Uzziah was a leprous king shut away.  
The greater King is untouched by  
defilement and reigns forever.  
— Charles Spurgeon

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. — Habakkuk 2:14

# Visions of the Sovereign: Three Throne Rooms

|                       | <br><b>Isaiah 6</b> | <br><b>Ezekiel 1</b> | <br><b>Revelation 4-5</b> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>The Setting</b>    | National crisis & Uzziah's death                                                                       | Displacement among Kebar River exiles                                                                   | John exiled on Patmos                                                                                        |
| <b>The Appearance</b> | Transcendent and unadorned                                                                             | Storm, fire, sapphire, cautious language                                                                | Jasper, emerald rainbow, the Lamb                                                                            |
| <b>The Creatures</b>  | Six-winged Seraphim                                                                                    | Four-faced Cherubim                                                                                     | Four creatures, one face, six wings                                                                          |
| <b>The Worship</b>    | Foundations shake, temple smokes                                                                       | Movement and glory, no song recorded                                                                    | Communal crescendo, 24 elders                                                                                |
| <b>The Purpose</b>    | Commissioning for a hardening word                                                                     | Proving God's glory is mobile, not trapped in Zion                                                      | Establishing authority to open the seals of history                                                          |

**God reveals his throne at our lowest points.**



# The Holiness of God Displayed

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory! — Isaiah 6:3

The only attribute of God repeated three times for emphasis in Scripture. Isaiah will call God “the Holy One of Israel” 25 times across 66 chapters, making this vision the definitive lens for his entire ministry.

### 3. The Confession of the Prophet

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!

— Isaiah 6:5



#### The Exposure of Holiness

- Seeing the King does not inspire confidence; it exposes his condition.
- Isaiah accuses himself before he accuses the nation.
- Job 42:5-6: *"Therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."*

# Provision Made for Cleansing

Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.

— Isaiah 6:7

Isaiah doesn't cleanse himself.  
The altar does the work; he  
only receives it (1 John 1:9).

## The Doorway to Usefulness

Illustration: Chuck Colson  
From Nixon's "hatchet man"  
to weeping in a driveway.

Voluntarily pled guilty, serving  
7 months in federal prison.

The humiliation of prison  
humbled him, teaching him to  
view life "from the underside",  
leading to the founding of  
Prison Fellowship.

God sometimes has to  
'shake well' His people...  
before they are ever usable.

— Vance Havner

# 4. The Commission Received

The Call Is General Before It Is Personal

“Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”  
Then I said, ‘Here I am! Send me.’  
— Isaiah 6:8

God asks the room; Isaiah volunteers. The invitation to serve is always open before it becomes a personal assignment.

Cross-reference: Matthew 9:37-38 — Pray for laborers for the harvest.



# Looking Ahead: 66 Chapters of Prophecy

## Chapters 1–39: Retribution

God's righteous judgment  
on Judah and surrounding  
nations for breaking covenant.

## Chapters 40–66: Restoration

Comfort, deliverance,  
and the coming of the  
Suffering Servant.

*Judgment must come before blessing.* The burning coal on Isaiah's lips  
is a microcosm of the purifying work God will do for the whole nation.

# The Living Artifact: The Great Isaiah Scroll (1QIsa<sup>a</sup>)

125 BCE

Meticulously copied.  
**1,000 years older**  
than previously known  
manuscripts (e.g.,  
Aleppo Codex).

1947

Discovered by  
Bedouin shepherds  
in a cave near  
**Qumran**  
(Original 7 Dead  
Sea Scrolls).

1954

Purchased  
anonymously by  
the **State of Israel**.

1965

Housed in the  
**Shrine of the Book**  
(Israel Museum).  
The white dome  
mirrors the original  
clay jars.

2026

Museum's 60th  
Anniversary.  
Displayed in its  
**complete 24-foot**  
(734 cm) length  
for the first  
time since 1968.

# A Thousand Years of Faithful Transmission

## The Artifact

The best-preserved biblical scroll from Qumran. Contains all 66 chapters across 54 columns.

## The Apologetic Payoff

Despite minor scribal variations, the ancient text aligns remarkably with the Masoretic tradition used in modern Bibles.

## Exhibition: A Voice from the Desert

Strictly limited viewing: Only 25 visitors at a time, for 10-minute viewings, in a temperature-controlled gallery.

A once-in-a-generation display.



The word of the Lord stands forever.

# The Transformation Cycle

## 1. Condition (The Nation)

What is the true spiritual reality hiding beneath our outward prosperity?

## 2. Confrontation (The Throne)

Do we see the unmoving King presiding above our immediate crises?

## 3. Confession (The Coal)

Have we allowed His radiant holiness to expose what requires cleansing in us?

Have we allowed His radiant holiness what requires cleansing in?

## 4. Commission (The Call)

When He asks, "Whom shall I send?" – what will your answer be?

When He asks, "Whom shall I send? what will your answer be?"

