

WEEK 7

HERE I AM! SEND ME (ISAIAH 6:1-8)

In verse 8, the prophet Isaiah says, "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." You see, Isaiah understood that he was created and called by God to LIVE SENT!

But, we're about to see the verses leading up to verse 8, which is the motivation behind that bold statement – *Here I am! Send me.*

Isaiah 6:1-4 [Isaiah said] "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!" ⁴ And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke."

First of all, Isaiah said God gave him a vision of "the Lord" sitting on a throne, high and lifted up. But, the apostle John gives us even more clarity – he says in John 12:41 that Isaiah was seeing none other than the Lord Jesus Christ in this passage. Isaiah was getting a glimpse of King Jesus before He ever came as the Messiah.

And in this vision, Isaiah saw Jesus on His glorious throne at the top of a series of steps ("high and lifted up"). It shows how the Lord is seated high above all creation:

Psalm 113:4-6 "The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens! ⁵ Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high, ⁶ who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?"

Notice how the "heavens" – the vast expanse of the cosmos – looks down on the tiny speck of dust we call earth!

Show pictures entitled "Pale Blue Dot"

Now get what the psalmist is saying. The vast heavens look down on the tiny earth while God “looks far down” on the heavens *and* the earth. He is *far* above all that exists! This is one of the reasons why God is often referred to as the “Most High God” throughout Scripture.

And verse 1 tells us that Jesus is “seated” on His throne because His work on the Cross is done – *it is finished*. And verse 1 also describes the huge train of Christ’s royal robe which illustrates His majesty as King of the universe.

Then we see, flying above Him are creatures called *seraphim*, which means the “burning ones” or “flaming ones.”¹ They each have six wings...

- Two wings to cover their faces, protecting them from the brilliance of God’s glory.
- With two other wings they cover their feet, showing their humility and reverence.
- With the other two wings they fly as they serve God while crying out, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.”

So, as they’re flying to carry out their *service* to God, they’re simultaneously crying out the *nature* and *character* of God – You are holy, holy, holy! To say the word *holy* twice in Hebrew means that God is “most holy.” And to say it three times means that the holiness of God is indescribable in human language.²

Isaiah’s vision is showing that when you and I get an accurate glimpse of Christ, we see that He is *higher* and *holier* than we can possibly imagine. And this motivated Isaiah to LIVE SENT because he could say...

1. I know what I’ve been saved from.

Isaiah 6:5 “And [Isaiah] 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!’”

When Isaiah got a clear view of Jesus, he was suddenly aware of his own guilt. Isaiah said, “I am lost, undone, ruined” and “unclean.” You see, when our impurity is seen next to the purity of God’s holiness, our sin is all the more evident.³

¹ *The Jeremiah Study Bible* (p. 887)

² Radmacher, E. D., Allen, R. B., & House, H. W. (1999). *Nelson’s new illustrated Bible commentary* (Is 6:3). Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers.

³ Martin, J. A. (1985). Isaiah. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 1045). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

"The best way to prove that a stick is crooked is to set a straight one beside it. No words need to be spoken." – A.W. Tozer

Nothing had to be said or explained to Isaiah. When you see Christ for who *He* really is, you immediately see yourself for who *you* really are – a sinner that is guilty before a holy God! For example...

- When **Abraham** realized the holiness of God, He said, "I am but dust and ashes" (Genesis 18:27).
- **Job** told God, "My eye sees You; therefore I despise myself, and repent" (Job 42:5–6). Job's sin was immediately evident when he saw the purity of God.
- **Peter** did the same thing when he realized who Jesus was. He fell down at Jesus' feet and said, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord" (Luke 5:8).

"When you feel yourself to be utterly unworthy, you have hit the truth." – Charles Spurgeon

And knowing what you've been saved from is a powerful motivation to tell others about Christ so they too can get a glimpse of who Jesus is!

2. I know my guilt has been taken away.

Isaiah 6:6-7 "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."

The term "taken away" alludes to the "scapegoat" used by the Israelites in the OT. The priest would symbolically place the sins of the people on a scapegoat and the animal would be sent away into the wilderness, never to be seen again. ⁴

Leviticus 16:21–22 "And Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, all their sins. And he shall put them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who is in readiness. ²² The goat shall bear all their iniquities on itself to a remote area, and he shall let the goat go free in the wilderness."

⁴ Radmacher, E. D., Allen, R. B., & House, H. W. (1999). *Nelson's new illustrated Bible commentary* (Is 6:7). Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers.

Of course, the scapegoat was pointing to the fact that Jesus – our scapegoat – would “bear all our iniquities” upon Himself and take them away, never to be seen again.

And to help Isaiah understand that God was removing his guilt, a seraph took a coal from an altar and touched Isaiah’s unclean lips. Sounds painful, right? Imagine a glowing hot coal touching your lips. Repentance is painful.

“Repentance is like antiseptic. At first, it stings. Then it heals.” – Tim Keller

It’s not easy or painless to surrender your life to Christ and walk away from a life of sin and selfishness! And, once God atoned for Isaiah’s sin, there was no longer a separation between God and Isaiah...

Isaiah 59:2 “But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.”

So, when Isaiah’s sin was exposed and he experienced forgiveness, there was no longer a separation between him and God! Then Isaiah was ready to serve God, which leads us to the third ...

3. My generation must experience this with me!

Isaiah 6:8 “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.”

Isaiah knew that he couldn’t have such a life changing encounter with God and not share it with his generation. He knew that the whole world needed the same kind of cleansing that he had received so the only logical response was, *“Here I am! Send me”*.⁵

He didn’t make excuses like...

- **Moses** (I’m not persuasive enough)
- **Jeremiah** (I’m not old enough)
- **Gideon** (my family is not prevalent enough)

Isaiah gladly offered his service to God. It shows us that a clear vision of God is directly related to a clear willingness to serve Him!⁶ But remember,

⁵ Martin, J. A. (1985). Isaiah. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 1045). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

⁶ Adapted from Smith, G. V. (2007). *Isaiah 1–39*. (E. R. Clendenen, Ed.) (p. 194). Nashville: B & H Publishing Group.

LIVING SENT is not only about *sharing* the truth, it's also about *living* the truth...

"If your life does not worship God, your lips do not worship God either."
– A.W. Tozer

It's great to take mission trips across the oceans, but every day when we leave our driveway, we're taking a mission trip into a needy world. Learn to pause as you leave home each day and say, "Here I am Lord. Send me!"

The motivating factors are:

- **I know what I've been saved from.** I was lost, undone, ruined, and unclean.
- **I know my guilt has been taken away.** My guilt has been laid on my Scapegoat, who is Jesus.
- **My generation must experience this with me!** Here I am Lord! Send me to tell them about You!

Small Groups