- **Isaiah 6:1-8:** In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ² Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. ³ And they were calling to one another:
- "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;

the whole earth is full of his glory."

- ⁴ At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.
- ⁵ "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty."
- ⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."
- ⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"

And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

INTRO

-Isaiah, the son of Amoz, prophesied around 700 years before Jesus, and he was active in God's service during the reigns of 4 different kings. **Isaiah 6** records the moment of Isaiah's vision of God's throne room and also when he received his calling from the Living God to speak God's as a prophet among the people.

THE SETTING (vs. 1-4)

- -Isaiah says: I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple.
- -God's presence so overwhelmed the space of His throne room that His robe spilled out into the entire temple.
- -In the presence of God, Isaiah describes seraphim in great detail who were flying and calling out to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."
- -Calling out to holy, holy was both a way to describe God's holiness as perfect, and also points to the Trinity: "The Father is Holy, the Son is Holy, the Spirit is Holy,"
- **-vs. 4**: At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

I. Our reaction to a genuine encounter with the living God is humility. (vs. 5)

- -When Isaiah saw the Lord and heard the calls of the angels, he had no other response except to say: "Woe to me! "I am ruined!"
- -In the presence of God's holy throne, Isaiah also became aware of his sinfulness and the sinfulness of God's people: "For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty."
- -God's presence is like a bright light that exposes every hidden part of the soul.
- -Isaiah's sin and disobedience were never as clear to him as they were here, in this vision, in the presence of God.
- -Thankfully, God provides the perfect and only remedy for the sickness of sin—His holiness and righteousness.

II. The result of the transforming work of the living God is holiness. (vs. 6-7)

- -As Isaiah's vision continued, the Lord sent one of the seraphim to purify Isaiah. The angel takes a hot coal from the altar of the temple and touches it to Isaiah's lips. In God's temple in Jerusalem during the days of Isaiah, the Levites and the Priests would take hot coals from the fire inside the The Most Holy Place in the temple and use them as part of the sacrifice for the sins of the people. This happened on the Day of Atonement.
- -God purified Isaiah from His own holiness. In the same way, God purifies us and makes us both holy and righteous in and through Jesus Christ—because the purification we need for our own hearts and lips can only come from Him. (see **1 Peter 1:16** and **2 Corinthians 5:21** below).

III. Our response to the call of the living God is obedience. (vs. 8)

- -For the first time in the vision, the Lord Himself speaks. And He speaks in the plural **vs. 8**: Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"
- -We would almost expect one of the angels to answer God's call to go for Him, but it wasn't an angel. It was Isaiah.
- -Isaiah responded to the Lord vs. 8b: "And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

-Isaiah's answer of yes was not based on the certainty or even probability of success, but simply on the fact that God, whom He had seen clearly in His perfection, told Him to go.

-When we hear the voice of the Lord calling asking, "Who shall I send? Who will go?," what will our response be?

Other Scriptures Referenced:

1 Peter 1:16: "...for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

2 Corinthians 5:21: "God made [Jesus], who had no sin, to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."

John 20:19-21: On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.
21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Other Quotes/Resources:

- -"It was not out of arrogance or self-assuredness that Isaiah promised he would go, it was out of fidelity." -Jerome
- -From the *Perspectives* course—"Put your yes on the table, and let God put it on the map."
- -From J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Fellowship of the Ring*:

At last with an effort he spoke, and wondered to hear his own words, as if some other will was using his small voice.

'I will take the Ring,' he said, 'though I do not know the way.'