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A.P. 06-17-18

HIGHLIGHT: Isaiah 6

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne, and His robe filled the temple. ²Seraphim were standing above Him; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³And one called to another:

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts; His glory fills the whole earth.

⁴The foundations of the doorways shook at the sound of their voices, and the temple was filled with smoke.

⁵Then I said:

Woe is me for I am ruined because I am a man of unclean lips and live among a people of unclean lips, and because my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts.

⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me, and in his hand was a glowing coal that he had taken from the altar with tongs. ⁷He touched my mouth with it and said:

Now that this has touched your lips, your wickedness is removed and your sin is atoned for.

⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying:

Who should I send?
Who will go for Us?

I said:

Here I am. Send me.

⁹And He replied:

Go! Say to these people:

Keep listening, but do not understand; keep looking, but do not perceive.

¹⁰Dull the minds of these people; deafen their ears and blind their eyes; otherwise they might see with their eyes and hear with their ears, understand with their minds, turn back, and be healed.

¹¹Then I said, "Until when, Lord?" And He replied:

Until cities lie in ruins without inhabitants, houses are without people, the land is ruined and desolate, ¹²and the Lord drives the people far away, leaving great emptiness in the land.

¹³Though a tenth will remain in the land, it will be burned again.

Like the terebinth or the oak that leaves a stump when felled, the holy seed is the stump.



EXPLAIN

Isaiah was one of the longest-working prophets in the Old Testament, with a ministry that spanned about sixty years. The things that He said usually succeeded only in making people mad, but that's the call of a prophet: speak God's Word no matter how it's received. The chapter we will explore today recounts how he came to respond to the call that would carry him the rest of his life.

- v.1 “In the year that King Uzziah died” is a brief phrase, but one that carries enormous, poignant weight. King Uzziah is recorded in 2 Chronicles 26 and 2 Kings 15, and was known as a king who did what was right in the sight of the Lord. He was a good king, but his prosperity brought pride, as well. Because of his pride, he profaned the altar of the Lord and was struck with leprosy; he lived with leprosy for the rest of his life and died alone and broken. “In the year that King Uzziah died” is another way to say, “In the year a great and wise king who met a tragic end died...”

The word for “Lord” in this verse is “*adonai*.” This is one example of Christophany in this chapter—an image of Christ in the Old Testament. Acts 10:36 reminds us that Christ is Lord (the Greek equivalent of *adonai*) of All.

- v.2 Notice the ratio of the Seraphim's wings. They have six of them; 4 are used to express their humility before God and 2 are used to show their actions for Him. Spurgeon wrote, “they have four wings for adoration and two for active energy; four to conceal themselves, and two with which to occupy themselves in service; and we may learn from them that we shall serve God best when we are most deeply reverend and humbled in his presence.”
- v.3 The Seraphim's song was not directed toward God; they were calling it out to one another. The content of their speech was exclusively the praise of the Lord, God Almighty. Our speech to one another can also be an act of worship!
- v.8 Isaiah did not say, “Here I am, I will go.” He said, “send me.” This is a crucial difference for two reasons. First, he understands that he can do nothing unless he is sent. Second, he does not have any excuse for inaction. He's not waiting around idly; he's already written the check and placed his “yes” on the table.
- vv.9-10 It is difficult to hear that the Word of God will fall on deaf ears, but this is a message consistent with God's Word throughout Scripture. Peter wrote in 1 Peter 2:8 that Christ is “A stone to stumble over, and a rock to trip over. They stumble because they disobey the message; they were destined for this.” The message of the Gospel will be pure foolishness to those who are perishing. That is okay, for it is not up to us to change the hearts of men. We are to simply deliver God's message to anyone who will hear it.



A**APPLY**

1. What stuck out to you or challenged you in what you read in the text?
2. There were a number of different pictures of worship in this passage. Which one resonated with you the most? What does that teach you about what worship is?
3. How did Isaiah react to seeing the Lord's throne room? How should we approach the presence of God today?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 2:15-16. How does that passage help illustrate what Isaiah's task is? How is our mission similar to his? How can the Word of God be life to some and death to others? When you have shared the Word of God, how was it received?
5. What was the outcome of Isaiah's "undoing" in verse 5? Share about when you came, like Isaiah did, to the end of yourself in order to surrender completely to the Lord.

R**RESPOND**

- Is your "yes" on the table like Isaiah's was? How does that affect how you'll live tomorrow?
- Pray about a specific person in your life who needs to know Jesus Christ. Pray for a divine appointment with that person this week.



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