

ISAIAH 6

Isaiah Commissioned as Prophet

1 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord (יְהוָה) 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, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called to another and said:

Holy, holy, holy¹ is Yahweh of hosts (יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת). The whole earth is full of his glory!²

4 And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.³ 5 And I 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, Yahweh of hosts!⁴

6 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.

8 And I heard the voice of the Lord (יְהוָה) saying,

Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?⁵

Then I said,

Here I am! Send me.⁶

9 And he said,

Go, and say to this people:

Keep on hearing, but do not understand. Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.⁷

¹ See *The Holiness of God*.

² See *The Glory of God*.

³ **Ex 20:18** 18 When all the people [Israel] saw the thunder, the flashes of lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off.

⁴ This was a very good response from Isaiah. He understands who he is before the holy God.

⁵ Here is hinted plurality in the Godhead. **Ge 1:26** 26 Then God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.

⁶ God posts a job notice, and Isaiah responds.

⁷ Isaiah's message is to be mainly a negative one. His is opposite of the seeker sensitive approach.

10 Make the heart of this people dull and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes, lest they see with their eyes, hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.⁸

11 Then I said,

How long, Lord (יְהוָה)?

And he said:

Until cities lie waste without inhabitant and houses without people, and the land is a desolate waste, 12 and Yahweh (יְהוָה) removes people far away, and the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land. 13 And though a tenth remain in it, it will be burned again, like a terebinth or an oak, whose stump remains when it is felled. The holy seed is its stump.

⁸ To go from unbelief to belief in Jesus, the process is always the same: see, hear, understand, turn, and be healed.

Biblical Worldview

1. **Isaiah provides a model for all who would answer God's call to preach and teach.**
2. **One of Isaiah's primary jobs is to dull the hearts of the majority.**
3. **That God will remove Israel from the land because of her sin is not a new concept.**
 - a. **Dt 30:1-6** 1 When all these things have happened to you—the blessings and the curses that I have set before you—if you call them to mind among all the nations (גוֹיִם) where Yahweh your God has driven you 2 and return to Yahweh your God, and you and your children obey him with all your heart and with all your soul, just as I am commanding you today, 3 then Yahweh your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion (רַחֵם) on you, gathering you again from all the peoples (עַמִּים) among whom Yahweh your God has scattered (פּוּץ) you. 4 Even if you are exiled (נָדַח) to the ends of the world, from there Yahweh your God will gather (קָבַץ) you, and from there he will bring you back. 5 Yahweh your God will bring you into the land that your ancestors possessed, and you will possess it. He will make you more prosperous and numerous than your ancestors. 6 Moreover, Yahweh your God will circumcise (מָוַל) your heart (לֵבָב) and the heart of your descendants, so that you will love (אָהַב) Yahweh your God with all your heart (לֵבָב) and with all your soul (נַפְשְׁךָ), that you may have (חַי) life.

Notes

See [] Klingler's dissertation on allusion.