



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

ISAIAH 6:1-13

LESSON: ISAIAH'S GLIMPSE OF GOD'S THRONE—

January 18, 2025

INTRODUCTION:

Chapters 1-6 of Isaiah focuses on the spiritual situation and needs of the people. In this 6th chapter, the prophet Isaiah is the speaker. A 'prophet' tells what God shows to him. Therefore, Isaiah tells us what he saw, then he tells us what happened to him.

HISTORY:

¹King Uzziah was a great king [also called Azariah] reigned for 52 years (2Kings 15:1-2) and prospered in the early years of his reign as he sought the Lord (2Chronicles 26:5-11). However, he died under the curse of God. His heart was lifted up with pride when he entered the temple to burn incense (2Chronicles 26:16). Only God's special servants, the priests, could go into the temple. So, because king Uzziah had gone in, God punished him. God caused Uzziah to have a serious disease in his skin. As judgment for his sin, he spent the last 12 years of his reign in a separate house as a leper (2Chronicles 26:21). The leprosy of Uzziah was the backdrop for the vision of Isaiah in this lesson. God often reveals Himself to us at the time of our greatest trials.

LESSON:

I. ISAIAH 6:1-4

THE VISION OF THE LORD

6:1 In the year that king Uzziah died —Isaiah faced a crisis when his beloved sovereign, king Uzziah, died. But in that same year God appeared to him in one of the most amazing visions in the Bible. He saw the Lord in His holiness and glory. But that made him realize his own weakness and wickedness. Then, through the cleansing of Isaiah, the Lord made him ready to accept the call to go tell the people of Israel the message of God.

6:1b...I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. "I saw my Lord."

- **"Lord"** is a word that means "Master". Here, it was God (Adonai) sitting on the throne.
- The **"throne"** represents the throne of heaven.
- The **"train"** symbolizes greatness and is a sign of royalty. It is the portion of the robe that drags behind the garment.

And, *"In the year that king Uzziah died", he said "I saw my Lord! I saw the Master!"* ²The Lord was sitting on the throne (Psalm 103:19); high and lifted up (Psalm 11:4). The "train" of the Lord filled the entire temple. Thus, Isaiah sees God sitting upon the throne of the universe, dressed in His royal robe. What Isaiah needed to realize afresh was that God Himself was still upon the throne of heaven! While human rulers may come and go, the believer needs to be reminded again and again, that God is still in control of the affairs of this world. He is in fact ruling from heaven.

6:2 Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. The word **"seraph"** means "to burn." The

¹ http://www.learnthebible.org/L-211_the_vision_of_isaiah_printable.htm

² http://www.learnthebible.org/L-211_the_vision_of_isaiah_printable.htm

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>





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Seraphim were fiery angelic beings created by God. The seraphs of Isaiah 6 are similar to the "living creatures" of Revelation 4:6-9. ³Not to be confused with 'Cherubim' (Ez.10:1-22).

1) **Seraphim** were above the throne; **Cherubim** are below the throne;

2) **Seraphim** offered praise; **Cherubim** served as guardians; guarded the entrance to both the Tree of Life (Gen.3:24), and the Holy of Holies (Exo.26:31-33). The images were part of the Ark of the Covenant (Exo.25:18-22) and primarily provided transportation (carrying God's throne Ez.1); *"The most that can be said with certainty about the **Seraphims** is that they were a separate group of attendants who praised God at His throne"* - ISBE (revised).

Six wings suggest remarkable powers, and the number 6 symbolizes mankind. Their wings were like flames of fire constantly flying in the presence of God! They stood above the throne. Two wings covered their face because they dared not gaze directly at God's glory; and two wings covered their feet acknowledging their lowliness. Even a seraphim must hide his face from the face of God. And with two wings they flew praising the One on the throne.

6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. The seraphs were speaking one to another in praise unto the Lord of hosts. We don't know how many Seraphim there were, but they kept praise and worship going on and on, declaring *"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory."* Holy repeated three times emphasizes the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Ghost—the 3 are one) being equally holy as the Lord of hosts. *"The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory!"* The term conveys the concept of a glorious King in all His splendor who leads the armies of heaven in triumph. And here Isaiah is brought into this vision in the presence of the Holy One; into the presence of the Living God Himself; the throne of God high and lifted up! **"Holy"** means that God is morally Perfect; His holiness is set apart from all Creation and all created beings; His throne is holy; His presence is holy. Everything about Him is holy! All things set apart for His purpose is holy. What a sight to see! We can see in creation that the whole earth is distinctly full of God's amazing glory! The fullness of glory was seen!

6:4 And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. The expression of His glory was seen! The shaking—*"the post and the door moved at the voice of him that cried."* All even including the smoke symbolizes God's holiness and glory (Ex.19:16-20; Rev.15:8). The covering of His glory seen in the house (the temple) was filled with smoke. Wow! What a scene of the Lord's presence Isaiah was able to glimpse into.

II. ISAIAH 6:5-7

A VISION OF HIMSELF

6:5 Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts. Upon viewing the glorious holiness of God, Isaiah then had a glimpse of a vision of himself and cries out because of his uncleanness. Isaiah pronounces upon himself sorrow and pain, *"Woe is me."*

³ http://executableoutlines.com/isa/isa_04.htm
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>





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"For I am undone" meaning ruined or cut-off. Why? Because he realized he was common and unclean before God, with no hope of measuring up to God's standard of holiness. He confesses before the Lord his unclean lips, and even dwelling in the midst of a people with unclean lips. ⁴**"Unclean lips"** just means that every word that proceeded from his mouth was not perfect. *"Out of the heart, the mouth speaketh."* Unlike the pure worship of the Seraphims, Isaiah saw that if his lips were unclean, so was his heart. He was thinking he is to be destroyed being at the throne of God; being unworthy which deserved judgment. The holiness of God was vividly before him.

His eyes were beholding the King, the Lord of hosts! It does not mean that he looked into the face of God. You cannot look upon the face of God and live even the Seraphims could not do that. This is speaking of him being in the presence of God and God's presence humbling him to really see himself. It is no wonder that Isaiah fell in self-condemnation before this infinite and eternal God; before whom he saw himself in all of his sinful condition. Are we deceived about ourselves; of our condition before a Holy God? You can never be the same upon an encounter with God! He knew at that point that anything he said had revealed that he was not a perfect man, and no one living was perfect either. It overwhelmed him by being in the presence of a Holy and Perfect God!

6:6 Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar:— One of the Seraphims flew to the altar. Besides his wings, we note that he had hands and at this time was not declaring holy, holy, holy. He was not allowed to touch the altar but, picked up a live coal with the tongs from the altar.

6:7 And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. No matter how Isaiah felt as to having unclean lips, when the Seraphims touched his lips with the burning coal; that part was touched and he was told that his sin; his iniquity was taken away (divinely removed). The shame and guilt are no longer there! This is what Isaiah needed to get him ready for God's divine call. Even in a vision Isaiah could not stay unclean in God's presence of His holy throne! **"Purged"**, means cleansed; purified; it wasn't the coal that cleansed him, but it was God's divine response to Isaiah's confession and repentant heart. It symbolizes the application of the cleansing of God on the basis of the shedding of blood on the altar of sacrifice. God offered a means of consecration to Isaiah. How can we teach others to repent if we ourselves do not repent? Our God is a consuming fire. This cleansing of Isaiah's mouth symbolically cleansed the source of iniquity. The heart is the source, but the iniquity came from his lips. Fire burns away the sin and leaves the person pure. He was spiritually cleansed for special ministry unto the Lord not salvation. Salvation doesn't occur until the coming of the Savior. We can only be cleansed by the shed blood of the Lamb of God.

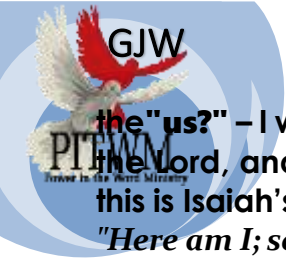
III. ISAIAH 6:8-12

A VISION OF OTHERS

16:8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me. Having experienced such a radical transformation from unworthiness to that of divine consecration of his total being, changed and cleansed Isaiah. He now hears the voice of the Lord speaking, *"Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"* Who is the "I" and who are

⁴ <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/isaiah/08.html>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>





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the "us?" – I would assume the Father, Son and Holy Ghost—the three in one. The nation needed the Lord, and the Lord needed a servant to minister to the people by answering the call. And this is Isaiah's call to answer. He is not forced, but he willingly answers the call of the Lord saying *"Here am I; send me!"*

"Send me Lord because I know how it feels to be unclean; I know my heart wasn't right; I know I needed cleansing by the Lord who only could make me pure; Send me to tell others of the vision I've seen, and what you're able to do, and that you're still on your throne."

6:9 And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. In this verse God tells Isaiah to do something that was very strange! He must tell people about God, but they would never understand him. He must show them what God has done in his life, but the people would never see what he meant. They would not understand. So, Isaiah did what God told him to do. Isaiah spoke with very simple words, so that people complained. He was speaking to them as one would speak to a baby! That is what they said in Isaiah 28:9-10. But they did not listen to him, because they were evil people. They did not understand what he said. That was because they were sinners (people that did not obey God).

6:10 Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed. Here God tells Isaiah what to do will happen. The verse starts with three descriptions.

1. **The Heart Fat.** *"Make 'the heart of these people fat."* A fat heart means *"a mind that cannot think; dulling their hearts.* and making them unwilling to respond to God's truth. One English translation: *'Make this people thick in the head'* (J.B. Phillips) which is an English way to say *"stupid."*
2. **The Ears Heavy.** *"Make their ears heavy"* in Hebrew meant *"close their ears"* meaning they cannot hear anything.
3. **The Eyes Shut.** *"Shut their eyes"; dim their eyes* meant that *"they cannot see anything."*

These three descriptions all mean the same thing. People will not understand Isaiah's words! They might listen to Isaiah, but in the end, they will not believe his message. If they did believe it, they would **"convert"** meaning 'change their minds'. They would become healthy. That means that they would obey God again. In Hosea 6:1, we read this. *"Come, and let us go back to the LORD. After he has hurt us, he will cure us."* God is long-suffering. *"Otherwise, they might see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, Understand with their hearts, And return and be healed"* and not mean it!

6:11 Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate,— The Lord did not say who would destroy the cities. He did not say who would spoil the land. God used armies from Assyria to destroy Israel. And he used armies from Babylon to destroy Judah. The words **"how long?"** is a question that brings a sadness when we hear this. But the Lord answered Isaiah's words in a way Isaiah was not expecting. It was like nobody would be left! Isaiah would be speaking to them until all was gone and armies would invade their land and wreak havoc and carried away; nobody or thing received the message of God through Isaiah! However, desolation paves the way for the Servant who *"was pierced for our transgressions!"* because of the mercy of God! God always has a plan!!!



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6:12 And the Lord have removed men far away, and there be a great forsaking in the midst of the land. The LORD did not say where the distant places were. He did not say whom He would use to do those things. But we know the answer. God will do what He has to do! Even far away, God's plan will be accomplished! When the army from Assyria defeated Israel, they took the best people away to Assyria. The army from Babylon did a similar thing with Judah.

IV. ISAIAH 6:13

6:13 But yet in it shall be a tenth, and it shall return, and shall be eaten: as a teil tree, and as an oak, whose substance is in them, when they cast their leaves: so the holy seed shall be the substance thereof. This verse seems to refer to when someone cuts down a tree, the tree will grow again from its roots. In the same way, a 'remnant' called a "tenth" a few people that still obey God will return but be burned again undergoing further trials to refine and purify them. After enemies destroy both Judah and Israel, the remnant will still be there. The tenth or remnant are compared to the Teil (Terebinths) and oak trees. *"But as the terebinth and oak leave stumps when they are cut down, so the holy seed will be the stump in the land"* (NIV). ⁵The holy seed refer to the faithful remnant that will survive and eventually lead to the restoration of Israel. The stump signifies the enduring promise of God's covenant with Israel. This imagery is fulfilled in the New Testament, where Jesus is seen as the shoot from the stump of Jesse (Isaiah 11:1), bringing nd restoration. The nation will grow again from them.

SUMMARY:

The significance of the vision merits careful examination. The first section can be described as The Prophet's Vision, in which Isaiah describes the revelation of the Lord of hosts exalted in the temple and praised by seraphim (6:1-4). The second section depicts The Prophet's Reaction as his consciousness of guilt fills him with despair in what he has seen (6:5). In the third section, we read of The Prophet's Absolution in which he is purged from his sin (6:6-7). The final section reveals

The Prophet's Commission as Isaiah first accepts the call for service (6:8). God told Isaiah to do something that was very strange: *"Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not"* (6:9). They might listen to Isaiah, but in the end, they will not believe his message. Their heart will be made fat, their ears made heavy, and their eyes shut, unless they see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert with their heart (6:10). Isaiah asked God, *"Lord, how long?"* God answered: *"Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate"* (6:11). *"The Lord removed men far away, and there are many deserting places in the midst of the land"* They are being scattered (6:12). God says, *"If only a tenth of the people are left, even they will be destroyed. But just as stumps remain after trees have been cut down, some of my chosen ones will be left."* Lest we forget Romans 11:5 *"In the same way, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace."* (6:13).

APPLICATION:

We cannot even be compared to God. The fact of the matter is that we see God as holy but how do God see us (He sees Jesus), and how do we see ourselves? (In Christ)!

⁵ <https://biblehub.com/isaiah/6-13.htm>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>

