



## Fresh Vision for Times of Change

Text: Isaiah 6:1-8

### OPEN

During times of change, we often need a fresh reminder of God being in control. This is what we see in our text for this week, Isaiah 6:1-8. In our text, the prophet Isaiah shares with us a dramatic vision he receives of seeing “the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne”. Isaiah tells us that he receives this vision “In the year that King Uzziah died”, a time of change and uncertainty for God’s people. In this text we see three things God showed Isaiah in this vision that God wanted Isaiah -- and us – to see and not lose sight of. In this dramatic encounter, Isaiah is given a picture of God’s glory. He also hears that God is holy. And third, Isaiah hears God give an invitation. Let’s look together into these three foundational aspects of knowing God, as we see them expressed in this vision given to Isaiah. After what he sees and hears, how does Isaiah respond? How do you respond to the revelation of Isaiah’s vision?

### READ

- **Read Isaiah 6:1-8.** Read through the passage aloud as a group. Perhaps break the passage into 3 sections and have a different person read aloud each chunk (vv.1-3, vv.4-5, vv.6-8). This vision given to Isaiah is a picture of what we cannot physically see. As the passage is read, close your eyes and try to put yourself in Isaiah’s ‘shoes’ to imagine what he might have seen and experienced in this vision:
  - After hearing Isaiah’s words, what were the main images of the vision in terms of what Isaiah saw or heard?
  - Describe what Isaiah sees first. What is described?
  - What were the actions of the living creatures? What do you think each action signified or communicates about God?
  - How does Isaiah describe both himself and his people in v.5?
  - What does Isaiah call God in v. 5? What does this say about God?
  - What is an altar? Before God, how does it function to atone for sin?

### REFLECT

- Read 2 Chronicles 26...after a 52-year reign of relative peace, King Uzziah of Judah died of leprosy in 739 BC, the same year that Isaiah began his prophetic ministry. After a time of stability, suddenly there was uncertainty in the life of God’s people. How about your life? Can you think of a time in the past where suddenly things in your life became uncertain? A change in job, or a family loss. How did it feel at the time? And what were your thoughts or feelings toward God in this time? How may have Isaiah or the people felt at this time?
- During the time of Isaiah’s vision, there were many earthly thrones – or seats of power. What are some of the earthly powers that we look to today in our lives for a sense of security or stability?
- In this vision, Isaiah sees another throne – a greater throne. He saw God’s throne, though it is normally ‘unseen.’ In your own words, what was the basic message to Isaiah and God’s people in showing him God’s throne at this time? What are some of the takeaways about this for our own lives?
- In verses 5 to 8, Isaiah moves from ‘Woe is me!’ to ‘Send me!’ What gives Isaiah the boldness and ability from moving to being afraid before God to suddenly and boldly wanting to serve God?
- What was the basic problem that first had to be addressed in Isaiah’s life before he could embrace God’s call on his life? What does this say about our own life and our own call from God?
- In reflection on this passage, is the removal of sin something we achieve ourselves? Explain? If not, what is our role? What do we do?
- Finally, has there been a time when you have intentionally offered your life to God to serve him? If so, share. If not, why not today?

### APPLY/PRAY

- Take time as a group to worship through prayer in praising God for who he is, for his power, his character, and his grace.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to bring both yourself as an individual but also the church a renewed spirit of repentance and humility before God.
- Consider freshly taking up God’s invitation to serve him by telling God in prayer together that you want to take up his call to serve him.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you see where God may want you to serve.

