

THE PROPHET WHO SAW THE LORD

Isaiah 6:1-13

Introduction:

- 1. During the last half of the 8th century BC (750-700) four great prophets were alive:**
 - a. Hosea and Amos prophesied to Israel.**
 - b. Isaiah and Micah prophesied to Judah.**

- 2. Uzziah reigned over Judah and Jeroboam II. ruled Israel.**
 - a. These two kingdoms were prosperous and outwardly strong, but their days were numbered.**
 - b. The people were corrupt, covetous, and complacent.**

- 3. Assyria, the world power, threatened both Israel and Judah.**
 - a. In 722 Assyria conquered Israel and led them into captivity.**
 - b. In 701 Sennacherib of Assyria invaded Judah and besieged Jerusalem (Isaiah 36, 37).**
 - c. King Hezekiah prayed to God for deliverance.**
 - d. God sent an angel who killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in one night (Isaiah 37:36-38).**

- 4. Isaiah prophesied during the reigns of Uzziah, Joham, Ahaz and Hezekiah.**
 - a. He is called the “statesman prophet” for he advised kings.**
 - b. He is also known as “the messianic prophet” for his many prophecies of the Christ.**

- 5. Isaiah’s call to be a prophet is recorded in Isaiah, chapter six.**

Discussion:

- I. THE CALL OF ISAIAH TO BE GOD’S SPOKESMAN (1-4).**
(1)

A. The call came in the year that King Uzziah died (739 BC).

- 1. Isaiah would have been a young man of 20 to 30.**
- 2. He was married to a prophetess and had two sons (Isaiah 7:3; 8:1-4).**

B. Isaiah saw the vision of the Lord in the temple.

- 1. The Bible teaches: “No man has seen God at any time” (John 1:18).**
- 2. God told Moses: “You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me and live” (Exodus 33:20).**
- 3. Jesus said: “God is spirit” (John 4:24); He also said: “...for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have” (Luke 24:39).**
- 4. Our physical eyes can only see physical realities.**
- 5. John applies this to Christ: “These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him” (Jno. 12:41)**
- 6. This was in a vision similar to John’s (Rev. 4 & 5).**

C. The Lord was “high and lifted up.”

- 1. There is none higher than He in the heavens or earth.**
- 2. He was on His throne: the rule of earthly kings is temporal, but God reigns forever (1 Timothy 6:15,16).**
- 3. The seraphim stood above God’s throne (Rev. 4:6-9).**
 - a. They are angelic beings.**
 - b. They are depicted as having six wings.**
 - c. They proclaim the holiness of God continually.**
- 4. The Lord is infinitely holy and pure (Habakkuk 1:13).**
- 5. They proclaimed: “The whole earth is full of His glory” (Psalms 8:1; 19:1).**

II. THE CLEANSING OF ISAIAH TO BE GOD’S SPOKESMAN (5-7).

- A. Being in the presence of the holy God made the prophet aware of his sinfulness.**
- 1. We must compare ourselves with God, not men!**
 - 2. Isaiah feared he could not live and cried out: “Woe is me, for I am undone” (lost, condemned or ruined).**
 - 3. Not only was he unworthy, but he lived among people of unclean lips.**
 - a. What comes out of the mouth reveals what is in the heart (Matthew 12:34-37).**
 - b. The tongue is “an unruly evil, full of deadly poison” (James 3:8).**
- B. One of the seraphim flew to the altar, took a burning coal, touched Isaiah’s mouth with it and said:**

“Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged.”

III. THE COMMISSION OF ISAIAH AS GOD’S SPOKESMAN (8).

- A. Isaiah heard the voice of the Lord: “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?”**
- 1. The Lord needed a man to deliver His Word to the people.**
 - 2. Isaiah has been cleansed and is now fit to do God’s work.**
 - 3. God has given the Great Commission to His people today (Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16).**
 - a. He is still asking: “Who will go for us?”**
 - b. A book of this title by the late J.C. Choate motivated me to be a missionary.**
- B. The Lord said: “Go and tell this people...!”**

1. We must go with the Gospel to every lost soul!
2. Jesus said: “The fields are white unto harvest, but the laborers are few” (Matthew 9:36-38).
3. Let’s ask ourselves: “Where would I be if someone had not taught me the Gospel?”
4. Isaiah’s job was to deliver God’s warnings and His promises to His people.

IV. THE CONCLUSION OF ISAIAH’S WORK AS GOD’S SPOKESMAN (9-13).

A. The people would not be responsive to Isaiah’s preaching.

1. They would “hear, but not understand.”
2. They would not understand because they had hardened their hearts.

“For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them” (Acts 28: 27).

B. Isaiah’s message would only be accepted by a remnant.

Conclusion:

1. Our job is to sow the seed; God gives the harvest (1 Cor. 3:6).
2. We must “preach the word, in season, out of season” {“When they like it and when they don’t like it”} (2 Timothy 4:1-5).
3. Not everyone will obey, but we must continue to teach the way to be saved, the oneness of the church, the death of Jesus as the only remedy for sin, and Jesus Christ, the only hope for eternal life!

