

Good Morning Everyone. It has been a while since I was last here. It is such a blessing to be here.

Brief personal intro

Today I wanted to talk about the call of God. Specifically how God will call an individual to serve Him. First of all, I believe that if you are a believer here this morning then you have been called by God. I also do believe that as believers, there are general callings that God has for all of us....For example

Matthew 22:28-30

Matthew 16:24

Romans 12:1-2

Matthew 28:19-20

These are basic commands, callings if you will, that God has placed on all believers. But this morning I would like to take a look at God calling an individual into service....I would like to look at specifically at the prophet Isaiah and God's calling on him to the ministry and then see how God continues to call people today in a similar way.

So if you have your Bibles, please turn with me to the book of Isaiah chapter 6.

Isaiah 6:1-4

A new section of Isaiah – his call to the ministry.

:1 In the year that king Uzziah died

Uzziah, also known as Azariah, was king over Judah from 792-740 BC.

Even though he had a moment of pride and stumbled, overall he had a long reign.

Uzziah began his reign when he was only 16 years old, and he reigned 52 years.

Overall, he was a good king. This was a king that people counted on.

But sadly Uzziah's life ended tragically. Let's look at his life...

2nd Chronicles 26 (Paraphrase)

Uzziah had such an amazing and fruitful life.....but it was a life that ended tragically.

So to read this phrase "In the year that king Uzziah died", it is more than just a timestamp for us.

I always try to imagine myself in the setting of what I read in the scripture....To try to get a real picture of what I am reading.

It was really an amazing time. A time of growth....a time of success nationally...This was a king that had reigned for a long time...he was a king that people had relied upon...life was going well.

But here we are at the end of a great king's life who died quite tragically. Really it would have been been an uncertain time.....and in this uncertain time what happens?

:1 I saw the Lord sitting on a throne

Isaiah tells us that He personally saw the Lord seated on the throne.

**There is only one true King sitting on the throne.**

There has always only been one true King. And it wasn't Uzziah, it has always been the Lord.

This is a vision.

Isaiah was not the only person to see God's throne.

Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Daniel, David and of course John all saw the throne of God in a vision.

But Isaiah sees the Lord on the throne. Why is this important?....

Isaiah was probably discouraged because a great leader of Judah was no longer on the throne.

So what does God do? God shows Isaiah...that although Uzziah was not on the throne in Jerusalem anymore I am on My throne.

**Point #1 This is the First thing that we see in Isaiah's call to ministry is that he Saw THE LORD for who He is...The King on the throne.**

:2 Above it stood seraphim

Surrounding the throne of God are angels known here as seraphim. In many other passages, these angels are known as cherubim (Psalm 80:1; Isaiah 37:16; Ezekiel 10:3) they are also called the living creatures of Revelation 4:6-11. This is the only chapter in the Bible where these creatures are named seraphim, literally, "burning ones".

:2 Each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew

Revelation 4:8

Spurgeon has an interesting take on the 6 wings

"Thus 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 reverent and humbled in his presence."

:3 Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts

We hear this refrain often in heaven, in God's presence.

God is holy.

holy – qadowsh – sacred, holy, set apart.

He is not like us. He is totally pure, totally clean, totally apart from sin. We see God's holiness often described as "light".

1st John 1:5

Why do the angels repeat "holy" three times? It might be because there are three persons in one God. It might be to declare his Holiness to the highest level possible.

:4 The posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out  
It is a vision but it appears that Isaiah not only sees but he also feels.

:4 the house was filled with smoke

This is a physical manifestation of God's glory.

In Moses' day, when the Tabernacle was first set up, it was filled with a cloud

Exodus 40:34-35

When Solomon first set up the Temple, it too was filled with smoke

2nd Chronicles 5:13-14

Isaiah 6:5

**The second thing that we see is that Isaiah SAW HIMSELF for who he truly was...  
undeserving**

:5 Woe is me, for I am undone!

I believe this is exactly what happens when a person truly finds themselves in God's presence. They are under the intense light of God, and they are so aware of their own failures. He is holy, I am not. Notice that this vision of the throne of God did not make Isaiah feel warm or good. The more clearly he saw the LORD, the more clearly he saw how bad he was. This is common throughout the scripture.

Job in chapter 42, Daniel in chapter 10, John in revelation chapter 1 all had similar experiences. Even Peter when Jesus told the fishermen to let down their nets and they caught a HUGE catch, Peter realized that Jesus was Holy and Powerful.

Luke 5:8

This is part of real worship.

:5 For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts

Isaiah was a righteous, godly man. Yet when he saw the enthroned King, the LORD of hosts, he saw how sinful he was in comparison.

We see in verse 1 the word Lord (adonai), then in verse 3 and verse 5 the word LORD (YHWH), the name of God. Notice what John says about it.

John 12:41

Isaiah 6:6

**The next thing we see is that Isaiah is CLEANSED**

:6 One of the seraphim flew to me

These angels ministered to Isaiah. One flew to Isaiah with a live coal – which means the coal was still hot and burning. It was so hot that even an angel had to use the tongs from the altar.

:6 live coal ... from the altar

This coal is from the "golden altar", the altar of incense. This was the place of prayer.

It was located just outside the Holy of Holies. The throne is for God...that is where He rules and reigns. The altar is for us; that is where we find cleansing and purging from sin.

Our altar is the cross

:7 Your iniquity is taken away

This too is something that should happen in worship – we don't just find conviction of sin, but we find cleansing as well.

Isaiah 6:8-13

### **The fourth thing we see is actually three things...Isaiah is asked and responds and is sent**

:8 Whom shall I send, who will go for Us?

God is asking a question here. God looked for someone to send. He wanted someone to go. God was asking for a person because God wants to reach a people, and He wants to reach it through willing people. It is the same today.

:8 Here I am Send me

God is looking for a person because God wants to reach the world. Could God reach the world another way?

Isaiah wanted to be the answer to God's question.

Do you?

:9-10 Make the heart of this people dull

Verses 9 & 10 are quoted six times in the New Testament.

(Matthew 13:14-15; Mark 4:12; Luke 8:10; John 12:39-41; Acts 28:26-27; Rom. 11:8)

It can sound as if God doesn't want these people to change so He can wipe them out, but we know that God's heart is for people to repent and be saved. This is about people who don't want the truth. So God will help them. He will send them the truth and they will reject it so many times that they will become hardened against it.

:11-13 Lord, how long?

How long would these people be blind? How long should Isaiah keep preaching?

The people would stay rebellious against God until the time came that they would be removed from the land. We might ask God the same question today.

Romans 11:25

Isaiah's ministry was to preach, even if the people didn't listen.

We see in verse 8 God Call Isaiah into ministry...but really we can see the call of God is really throughout the chapter.

It is the same today

First he saw God....ON THE THRONE

Next he saw himself...SINFUL

Then he is cleansed..BRING YOUR SINFUL SELF TO THE LORD AND BE CLEANSED  
Then he is asked and responds and is sent