

LESSON 2

ISAIAH'S VISION OF CHRIST

Scripture Text: Isaiah 6:1-10



We know little of Isaiah's history, but it is enough to know that he was a prophet of God. Today we study just one of a number of prophecies that he prophesied of Christ. He calls his prophecy **the vision of Isaiah . . . which he saw**, meaning that it came from God to him and was not his own thinking (Isaiah 1:1).

Jesus Christ visited the earth before He was born into it. Today we study one such visit as told by Isaiah who saw Him. This was in the temple of Jerusalem **in the year that king Uzziah died**—758 B.C. Uzziah died from leprosy resulting from his rebellion against God. Jesus appearing on the earth before His birth shows that He existed then. In his conversion Isaiah found that in Christ was life.

MEMORY VERSE: *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.* *Isaiah 6:8*

Holy, Holy, Holy

Isaiah 6:1 I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. The Lord was Jesus Christ. The throne was because He is **KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS** (Revelation 19:16). He is the **exalted One**, the One **before all things** (Colossians 1:17), whose name is **above every name** (Philippians 2:9).

Isaiah 6:2 Above it—the throne on which the Lord was sitting—**stood the seraphims**—a close relationship in which they had been placed by the Lord—**each one had six wings**—God's ministering angels. They were honoring and worshiping the Lord. There needs to be more honor and a greater respect and reverence in our worship to the Lord. **With twain he covered his face**—he wanted to see nothing of his own, but to see through the eyes of the Lord the things to be seen. **With twain he covered his feet**—he wanted to walk no way except the way the Lord led,—**and with twain he did fly**—in the power by which one is able to rise above the fleshly desires and deeds of the human and follow the Lord on a higher plane of living with the Spirit leading. (Read Ezekiel, Chapters 1-3.)

Isaiah 6:3 And one cried . . . Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts. If the Lord is to be seen high and lifted up there must be seraphims to cry out. Seraphims are a type of God's ministering servants, those who are holy and preach holiness. The message here is Holy God, Holy Son, Holy Spirit. It is holy all the way through. Nothing short of a message of holiness will fill the temple of God. It is no wonder that those who do not believe in holiness or living a holy life are dead, and their worship is lifeless. **The whole earth is full of his glory.** There was so much glory in the temple that the whole earth appeared to be full of the glory of God. When the temple is filled it causes these earthen vessels to receive more of His glory than they can contain.

Isaiah 6:4 And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried,—The cry of **Holy, holy, holy**, from a Spirit-filled ministry will cause the door to the way people live to become more narrow—**the house was filled with smoke**—the presence of God. Only holy preaching will fill the house with the presence of God (Psalm 72:19).

Holiness Condemns Sin

Isaiah 6:5 Isaiah, amazed, overwhelmed, looks and listens. This is Jesus Christ the Lord. He senses His holiness in a flood of new revelation. It causes him to humble himself in a rush of conviction of his own sin. Repentance overcomes him. The sight of goodness condemns sin as no words can. A holy life is the greatest proof of holy living. When the unsaved see Jesus active in our lives that is the greatest evangelism which we can have. **Woe is me! for I am undone . . . I am a man of unclean lips . . . for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.** What a contrast! Isaiah, unclean, dead in sin, did not fit into this glorious scene (Psalm 1:5). When we see Jesus as He is we see ourselves more nearly as we are.

Isaiah 6:6-7 Flew one of the seraphims—acting as Christ's agent—**live coal . . . from off the altar.** Coming from the altar where the sacrifice was offered, which was a type of Jesus' death on the Cross, the live coal symbolized His cleansing blood. **This hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.** God always meets the true repentance with forgiveness and cleansing. Cleansing is only by the blood of Christ.

The Natural Response

Isaiah 6:8 God's cleansing is just the beginning. **Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?** Who are "us"? The Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). God has work to be done and seeks those willing to do it. As soon as one is cleansed from sin God calls to service. **Here am I; send me**—Isaiah heard and gave himself. God does not force, but invites. He can use only those who consecrate themselves to Him. True happiness is found only when one yields himself wholly to the Lord.

Isaiah 6:9-10 God had need for a messenger—a prophet, **Go, and tell this people.** This is the duty of each messenger today to take Christ's message of warning to a sinful people. **Lest they see . . . and hear . . . and understand . . . and convert, and be healed.** To see and hear and understand and obey the message of holiness is the only way to be healed of sin. Christ is **not willing that any should perish** (2 Peter 3:9). God gives us the result of our own choice, the fruit of our sowing (Matthew 13:10-15; John 12:37-41). This is a warning to us. It is possible to neglect God's call until our ears hear it no more, our minds understand it no more, and we lose the salvation we once could have had.

God's Plan

The vision of today's lesson came at the beginning of Isaiah's prophetic work. He went on to record more prophecy concerning Christ and His kingdom. It would not have been possible for him to write the great Book of Isaiah without his surrender and cleansing. What God can do in our lives depends upon our answer to Him when He calls. Let us ask, "Is my life filling the pattern God planned? Am I letting Him use me?" His design for every life is a good one, but He can carry it out only with those who listen and yield.

JUST A THOUGHT

You cannot walk with God and run with the devil.