

Isaiah 6 - Encountering The King

Isaiah 6

Introduction



The first 5 chapters of Isaiah have been about the state of God's people - and it's not good. The people have forgotten their God and are no longer trusting in him and the society is collapsing because of it. This gloominess culminates in the opening of Isaiah 6 - with the death of the king.

We're now a couple of weeks into this season of digging into Isaiah as a church, so it's a good chance to take a temperature test of how people are getting on with it and for people to inspire one another.

Some opening questions:

What have people found striking or memorable in Isaiah so far over the last couple of weeks?

How has everyone got on with the daily reading plane? Does anyone have any top-tip for getting back on track when you've fallen a bit behind?

Digging In

Part 1: Read Isaiah 6:1-7

The King You See and You Can't Un-See

It's important to remember in Isaiah that we're reading Hebrew poetic language - and that means that these poetic words are rich in meaning.

Q: What are all the different things that you can note about Isaiah's vision of God in the first 5 verses and what do you think they mean?

- Throne
- High and lifted up
- Robe filling the temple
- Seraphim above
- Holy, holy, holy
- Lord (lower case)
- LORD (upper case)
- Foundation shaking
- Smoke filling the building

Q: Which of these aspects of what the God is like do you think about least today?

Q: How does Isaiah react to this vision of God?

Q: What causes Isaiah to react like this? What has seeing God made him aware of?

The coal that the Seraphim takes and touches Isaiah's lips with has come from the alter - which is a place where the people of Israel were supposed to go to make sacrifices to that an un-holy people could relate to a holy God.

Q: What do you think the Seraphim touching Isaiah's lips with the coal is a symbol of? Why didn't the coal burn Isaiah in his vision?

Q: What does it mean when the Seraphim says that Isaiah's sin has been atoned for?

Part 2: Read Isaiah 6:8-13
The King Who's Worth Living For

Q: Why do you think Isaiah is so quick to volunteer to go where God will send him and do what God tells him?

Q: What motivates Isaiah to obedience that should also be a motivation to us?

Q: What is/has God called you to where you feel like you need Isaiah like faith to go in obedience in?

Isaiah is really a book that's all about Jesus. There are 2 particular ways in which this passage points to Jesus. I would encourage you to look briefly at least 1 of them this week.

High and Lifted Up

The phrase "High and Lifted Up" - is used 3 times in Isaiah. Here, in 52:13 and in 57:17. Have a look at 52:13 and scan the following verses.

Q: who is the "servant" who is "High and Lifted Up"?

Q: if the Lord that Isaiah see's is the one who is "High and Lifted Up" - who is he seeing?

Stump and Seed

At the end of verse 13 The Lord says to Isaiah that the people of God will be like a tree that was once great but has now been cut down to a stump. The stump is a picture of death where there was once life. But then the Lord says that the stump is in fact a holy seed. A seed is a picture of something small that can bring great life.

Q: What is this picture of stump (death) leading to seed (new life) a foreshadowing of?