

# INITIATION INTO ISAIAH

by

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## CHAPTER SIX

### THEME:

The call and commission of Isaiah to the prophetic office.

### REMARKS:

Chronologically, as well as logically, the book of Isaiah begins with this chapter, which constitutes the crisis in the life of Isaiah and brings him into the prophetic office. Prior to this we have no record of his life or relationship to God. This chapter begins with the death of Uzziah, and the next recorded prophecy in chapter seven is in the reign of Ahaz, the grandson of Uzziah. The reign of Jotham for sixteen years completes the interval between Uzziah his father and Ahaz his son.

This chapter constitutes the center of the first major division of Isaiah. Here the throne is prominent. The government of God is in evidence in this section. Isaiah 53 is the center of the last major division of the book. There the cross is prominent. The grace of God is the theme there. This chapter furnishes a pattern for God's call to men in all ages. First, the glory of God is revealed. Then the man being called sees his own unworthiness, ungodliness, and uncleanness. God supplies the cleansing and the sanctifying power. Then the man is put into office. (See Moses, Joshua, Job, Ezekiel, Daniel, and Paul).

Another aspect of this chapter, which has elevated it to a place of prominence, is that it is featured in the New Testament.

**While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them. But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: that the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed? Therefore, they could not believe, because that Esaias said again. He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart: that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them. These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him (John 12:36-41).**

Isaiah saw Jesus on the cross and he likewise saw Him on the throne.

## OUTLINE:

1. **TIME, Place, Person, Glory, and Holiness of the Lord in the Vision Seen by Isaiah.**  
Verses 1-4
2. **TRANSFORMING Reaction upon Isaiah.** Verse 5
3. **TOUCHED by the Cleansing Fire of the Altar, Isaiah Hears and Responds to the Call of God.** Verses 6-8
4. **THRILLING Commission of and Transforming Message of Isaiah.** Verses 9-13

## COMMENT:

Verse 1—**In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.**

Isaiah opens on a very doleful note by taking us to the funeral of Uzziah. He went into the temple “. . . **in his temple doth everyone speak of his glory**” (Psalm 29:9) and discovered that the true King of the nation Israel was not dead but that He was very much alive and on the throne. **“I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne.”** God was still upon the throne. He was **“high and lifted up.”**

Verse 2—**Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.**

**“Seraphim.”** This is the only mention of these created intelligences in Scripture. Practically nothing is known concerning them. “Saraph” means *“to burn.”* It is the word used in connection with the sin offerings and judgment. Never is it connected with the sweet incense or sweet savour offerings. They seem to speak of the searching and penetrating of the holiness of God in burning away the dross. **“Our God is a consuming fire.”**

Verse 3—**And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.**

Verse 4—**And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.**

The seraphim repeat the monotonous refrain to the high holiness of God. All of this sets before us the fact that God is still on the throne and that He is a holy God. He will not compromise with evil.

Verse 5—**Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.**

The reaction of Isaiah to such a vision is revolutionary. He sees himself as he really is in the presence of God—**“undone.”**

Job had such an experience, and his reaction was **“I abhor myself.”**

John on the Isle of Patmos had just such a vision of the glorified Christ and said. **“I fell at his feet as dead.”**

Verse 6—**Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar:**

This is highly symbolic. The altar speaks of the cross of Christ. The coal from off the altar is an application of the blood of Christ to the sins of Isaiah. **“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”**

Verse 7—**And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.**

The condition is confession. **“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”** (I John 1:9).

Verse 8—**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.**

After cleansing. Isaiah heard the call of God for the first time, and he responded.

Verse 9—**And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not.**

This is the commission of God to Isaiah: **“Go and tell.”**

It is an enigmatic message. The messenger is responsible to deliver the message, not to get results.

Verse 10—**Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart and convert, and be healed.**

Light merely revealed the blindness of the people. In darkness they did not know if they were blind or not.

**“And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them”** (Matthew 13:14-15).

Our Lord said again, **“If the light in you be darkness, how great is that darkness.”**

Verse 11—**Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate.**

Verse 12—**And the LORD have removed men far away, and there be a great forsaking in the midst of the land.**

“**How long**” is an expression of faith. Judgment must come in the end. God’s program is through the darkness of night to the light of a new day—through the Great Tribulation to the Millennium.

Verse 13—**But yet in it shall be a tenth, and it shall return, and shall be eaten: as a tall tree, and as an oak, whose substance is in them, when they cast their leaves: so the holy seed shall be the substance thereof.**

There will be a remnant always. They will return to the land. That is sure.

~ end of chapter 6 ~

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