

“Holiness, Brokenness, and Submissiveness”

Isaiah 6:1-13

Context: Isaiah, as a prophet, served as God’s prosecuting attorney, declaring God’s indictment against Judah and Jerusalem during the reigns of Kings Uzziah through Hezekiah. After declaring judgment and punishment for Judah’s self-exaltation in chapters 1-5, Isaiah reveals true holiness and majesty in stark contrast. The revelation of chapter six also discloses Isaiah’s call and message. These are preparatory to the great “Immanuel Book” that follows in chapters 7-12.

1. Holiness – Isaiah 6:1-4

Uzziah’s life and death serve as a metaphor for humanity’s majesty, where (1) pride connotes self-exaltation, (2) sin leprosy, and (3) death frailty. In contrast to Uzziah’s ignominious burial, Jesus Christ sits living and exalted on high, served by His powerful servants of fire, the Seraphim, and glorified so as to fill the heavenly Temple, leaving no room to stand. Christ’s surpassing majesty is disclosed by the reverence of His mighty Seraphim who, shaking the foundations of the temple with their praises of Christ’s glory, show deference by the covering of their faces and feet. Their praises and His presence are represented by the smoke rising from the altar.

2. Brokenness – Isaiah 6:5-7

Perceiving the holiness of the Lord from a distance brought Isaiah to a point of perishing in stunned silence. The Lord’s grandeur magnified Isaiah’s sin and the sin of his people, as reflected in the declaration of filth-laden lips. Purification of his mouth, which revealed a sinful heart, was sourced in the Lord and applied by the Seraphim. It turned aside his guilt completely and his future transgressions against the Lord would continue to be covered.

3. Submissiveness – Isaiah 6:8-13

Forgiveness issued into the freedom of transformed obedience as Isaiah accepted the Trinity’s call to service. When the Lord revealed that Judah would reject Isaiah’s God-given message and mission, he asked the Lord to disclose the length of his service. The answer was shocking in that Judah’s hardened heart resulted in further hardening and eventually their utter destruction. Isaiah was encouraged as the Lord made clear that a remnant would survive.

Study questions:

- Historical backdrops often provide the power of contrast in prophecy. As a **Bible study method**, read the historical backdrop of Uzziah’s final days and death (cf. cross reference to Isaiah 6:1). What caused his disease? How does Uzziah’s ‘majesty’ contrast to the throne scene that follows? What does this contrast reveal to you about your self-image and God’s majesty?
- Isaiah 6:1 describes Isaiah ‘seeing’ the Lord on the throne. Using a concordance, search the Gospels to determine who it was that Isaiah saw. Our doctrinal statement claims Jesus is both the mediator of fallen man and yet wholly and fully God. (see footnotes 2, 3, 5 addressing ‘**On Jesus Christ**’ in our **doctrinal statement** under **what we believe** at www.gracepointfellowship.org (cf. John 12:35-41) In light of Isaiah 6:7-8, why does it make sense that God would manifest Himself in the person of Jesus Christ in this context (cf. Mark 2:5-11; Romans 3:23-26; Matthew 28:19ff)?
- Upon what does Isaiah’s commission to serve depend in Isaiah 6: 7ff? If ministry success was not his hope, what was? Is God calling you to serve Him? What is keeping you from the response, “send me?” Is it guilt from sin? If so, acknowledge it and ask forgiveness!

Transformation exercise:

Meditate on Isaiah 6:5-7 each evening before retiring to bed. As preparation for communion next Sunday, quiet yourself on your bed and before the Lord on His throne, and ask the Spirit to show you any personal sins of “unclean lips” such as lies, wrath, clamor, boasting, malice, slander, cursing, coarse jesting, gossip, thanklessness, and mindless chatter (cf. Ephesians 4:25, 29, 31; 5:4). Ask for a change of mind through spiritual conviction for the challenges of tomorrow, that you might begin a new habit of the heart in areas of conviction.