

ISAIAH 6:1-13. (**Colossians 3:1-4**)

This chapter begins with a death, and then God establishes a salvation partnership with Isaiah, ending with Jesus' resurrection and eternal life.

1. **Light to enlighten!** Isaiah was a prophet, exposing truth, God's words of judgment and salvation in this darkened world of sinful deceit. (Is.1-5) What did God want Isaiah to do so he seeks to connect with him in prayer. He did not know what to expect and is God listening to him? We have not seemed to receive answers.
2. **King Uzziah died** - This was a shock to Isaiah because King Uzziah was a powerful and influential leader. (Azariah - 2 Kings 15:1-7, 2 Chron.26). He had extended the borders of Judah as great as David & Solomon had done. The nation was affluent and he became he became proud for which God punished him with leprosy. The nation drifted away from worshipping the eternal God to worship temporary comfort, business and money. **Isaiah was grief-stricken and went to the temple to pray.** He wondered what would happen to Judah without a strong leader. Uzziah's son Jotham was good and ruled under his father but did not have the same authority. In our limited light we only see pain.
3. **God appeared** and Isaiah was surprised. "**I saw the Lord God seated on a throne, high and exalted**" revealing that he was sovereign and still King. **God dazzled him with moral majesty** and this purity and holiness terrified because he was a sinful man. God is huge and just the hem of his garment filled and overflowed the temple, being greater than the whole universe. God is lovingly patient and graciously giving Judah time to do his will. But will his patience run out because of their cart loads of sin. (Isaiah 5:18) In comparison with God, we are just specks of dust. **Have you has a vision like this?** Moses met God who appeared in a burning bush and he "**hid his face!**"(Exodus 3) Ezekiel met God in a glorious vision and "**fell face down.**" (Ezekiel 1) Three disciples saw Jesus' face "**shine like the sun, white as light**" (Matthew 17) John met Jesus on Patmos and his "**eyes were like blazing fire, shining like the sun in all its brilliance.**" (Revelation 1) Isaiah thought of God in human terms - His GOD was too small - like a man! He began to see all things more clearly and glorified God by this light. Only those who believe will see God's glory. The Jews came out of Egypt but only saw the pain of the desert journey and complained all the time. They never saw God's glory.
4. **God was surrounded by 'firey angels'**. They were praising God the Lord of heaven's armies (used 235 times in the Bible) because he is the greatest and best. "**Holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory.**" (Psalm 19:1-4, 72:19, Numbers 14:21) They had two wings to cover their face, with two to cover their feet and with two they flew. **WHY?** They were only created beings and before **the dazzling perfection and purity of the uncreated holy God**, they were minor with no comparison to him. So in realistic humility, they hid themselves. What about us, do we bow in our human smallness before our great and holy God and seek to be like him?
5. **Holiness?** When the Holy Spirit enters us he reveals God is Lord, pure, love, power, good, eternal, knows all, wise. **He is wonderful and all that we are not!** Our eyes are limited to see physical things but not the invisible realities. God sees more than the visible. We can't see the reality of love, thinking, joy, peace, anger, etc. Our minds see the invisible by faith and our rationally. Spiritual realities are revealed to us by God. He was, exists, and is Lord over all forever. In creation, God spoke to nothing and the physical universe appeared. (Hebrews 11:3)
6. **The temple shook.** The sound of the singing and calling must have caused the building to shake. Have you see the vibration of a high pitch sound shatter a drinking glass? Isaiah must have been terrified, lest the building collapse? The temple was filled with smoke (burnt offerings or dust from the shaking). We have all felt earthquakes and they can be terrifying. This happened when the Holy Spirit came in Acts 4:31 after Pentecost and all shook.

7. God said nothing but Isaiah was aware of his sin! The holy God shone into his life and revealed his lies and he was shivering in his boots. 'I am doomed!' He did not run away but thought judgment was about to fall on him because of his sinful language. He admitted his and the nation's sin.

8. God cleansed his sin. God graciously took the initiative and sent an angel with a red-hot coal off the altar (with tongs), put it on his lips. Were they burnt? God purged away his sin. O what a **joyous relief** for Isaiah that the guilt and shame has gone and no judgment fell on him. Isaiah was filled with thankfulness. **"We have been made holy through the offering of the body of the Lord Jesus... and have confidence (boldness) to enter God's presence through Jesus' blood."** (Hebrews 10:10, 14, 19) Do we know the reality of this acceptance by God?

9. God invites us to be co-workers. **'Who will go for us?'** After seeing God's greatness, power, holiness and grace Isaiah is willing to do God's will. [We are living sacrifices - Romans 12:1-2, Hebrews 10:9) How long will I warn them? God shows Isaiah how sinful the people really are. This people do not listen to God but follow only their own desires which is a message of DOOM. But God is gracious and there is hope and salvation for those who believe. Isaiah is to go on warning them till the end. Could you imagine Sydney being empty of people as we warn them of judgment like happened to Jerusalem?

10. Grace is stated in verse 13. Although the nation will be punished righteously, because of 'never listening, understanding, perceiving, dull ears, hardened hearts.'" Even though many are killed or exiled **God has a remnant**, a stump left over from the cutting down of the forests. The nation will revive and God's purposes will be fulfilled. **Jesus is the living 'seed'** (Galatians 3:16-19) and our heavenly Father makes us his children to **become his 'seeds'** too. (Galatians 3:26-29)

Christ our LIFE

'Since you have been raised with Christ, set your heart on holy and loving things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of the throne of God... not on earthly things... When Christ who is your life appears, then you will appear with him in glory.' Colossians 3:1-4