

WHAT EVERY BELIEVER MUST NEVER FORGET

Isaiah 6:1–8



LET'S BEGIN HERE

Times were hard—very hard. A corrupt government and a covetous judiciary made life miserable for all living in a nation that was once strong and stable. Abuses, resentment, unrest, unfair and prejudicial class distinctions, and selfish profiteering were everywhere to be found. Idolatry was rampant, leaving the land with no spiritual vitality and an absence of moral fortitude. Ethical standards were low; the economy was in the tank; and most citizens were coarse, sensual, drunken, and careless. What is worse, the prophets, who would normally guide the people toward righteousness, were weak and shamelessly compromising.

Most of these horrid conditions could be traced back to the failure of King Uzziah, who had once been a strong and competent leader. His extraordinary fame and success resulted in pride and arrogance, so much so that the high priest, Azariah, and 80 other priests confronted him, resulting in the Lord's striking the king with leprosy, a punishment that would follow him to his grave. In the backwash of all this, a young, very-concerned prophet named Isaiah turned to the Lord to gain understanding. What happened to that young prophet leaves us with four truths we must never forget.



LET'S DIG DEEPER

1. When Isaiah Saw the Lord (Isaiah 6:1–4)

As Isaiah knelt in God's temple, grieving the loss of King Uzziah and seeking guidance in the midst of a chaotic time in Judah, God opened the doors of heaven and let Isaiah in. Isaiah came face to face with the holy Lord, enthroned and dressed in kingly attire. And not only that, Isaiah saw how the majestic angels, the seraphim, spend their time: continually proclaiming, "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Heaven's Armies! / The whole earth is filled with his glory!" (Isaiah 6:3).

While King Uzziah's pride and the idolatry in Judah had broken Isaiah's heart, his vision reminded him that above it all, God is holy and His glory invades the dark world. From Isaiah's vision we must never forget: *God alone is awesome!* Our cars, dogs, and even the majestic mountains, are not awesome. Only God is *holy*. Only God is *awesome*. By grasping a touch of His holiness, we begin to understand a bit of His awesomeness.



Quotable

Many Christians meander through life, never having risked saying, "God, here am I. Send me!"

— Charles R. Swindoll



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2. When Isaiah Spoke to the Lord (Isaiah 6:5)

After Isaiah stood beneath the awesome Lord, who is eternally surrounded by supernatural beings shouting praises to God, Isaiah felt the weight of his sin. In the presence of infinite holiness, Isaiah stood exposed: “It’s all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man” (Isaiah 6:5).

The more Isaiah understood the height of God’s holiness, the more he faced his own depravity. Likewise, we must never forget: *God alone exposes the depth of our depravity*. Only God is omniscient. Only God has comprehensive knowledge of everything in His universe, from the intricacies of the grandest galaxy to the hidden thoughts in every human heart.

3. When Isaiah Was Touched by the Lord (Isaiah 6:6–7)

In the stinging light of God’s omniscience and holiness, Isaiah felt deprived, doomed, and deserving of punishment. After Isaiah confessed his propensity to profanity, God didn’t shame the sorrowful prophet. Instead, the Lord dispatched one of His seraphim with a blazing coal from the altar before God’s throne. Instead of burning Isaiah in punishment, the seraph touched Isaiah’s lips, the place of his sin, and cleansed him.

Though God’s holiness exposes every sin and our most significant struggles, His grace removes our guilt. As believers, we must never forget: *God alone forgives the guilt of our sin*. Knowing the depth of sin in each human heart, God reached out. He sent His Son to remove our guilt and extend forgiveness. That’s *grace*!

4. When Isaiah Heard from the Lord (Isaiah 6:8)

With a clear vision of the Lord’s awesomeness and having received the cleansing power of His grace, Isaiah responded to God’s question: “Whom should I send as a messenger to this people?” Isaiah probably shouted, “Here I am. Send me.” And to whom did God send Isaiah? To Judah—a corrupt, idolatrous, prideful nation that would ultimately make Isaiah a martyr.



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God asks us that same question: “Whom should I send as a messenger to this people?” As we prepare to answer that question, we must never forget: *God alone leads us to where He would have us serve.* God alone is sovereign. He has the ultimate say in and complete control over our lives. If we say to Him, like Isaiah, “Here I am, Lord,” He will lead us to the specific ministry He designed just for us—using our passions, experience, gifts, and deepest pains for His glory.



A CLOSER LOOK

Standing in God’s Glory

Isaiah met with the Lord of Hosts and witnessed His glory and holiness. Isaiah’s response? Conviction, exposure, and woe (Isaiah 6:5). In the bright light of God’s presence, the sin of humanity is instantly exposed. But the Lord’s light was not meant to shame Isaiah. Instead, the light made Isaiah aware of what God already knew: there’s a great gulf between God’s holiness and even the most righteous person’s ways. God did not leave Isaiah in his woe; instead, He provided Isaiah with hot coals to cleanse his lips, which qualified Isaiah to speak. God then gave him a calling as a prophet. And so our Holy God cleanses and qualifies every Christian, equipping us to be His witnesses (Acts 1:8) regardless of our pedigree or worthiness. Our past doesn’t dictate our fitness to be God’s witness. If we confess our sins, God is faithful to forgive and cleanse us (1 John 1:9).



LET’S LIVE IT

Throughout Isaiah’s prophetic ministry, as he faced rejection, isolation, protest, and ultimately death, he no doubt looked back on his vision of the awesome and gracious Lord of Hosts and took courage. Believers, like Isaiah, must continually and actively remember these four truths so that when we face persecution and trials, our faith will stand firm. Truly, *when our focus is on God alone, it transforms our entire perspective.*

Have you acknowledged your sin and received God’s grace through Jesus Christ? If so, do you truly believe that God is awesome, holy, gracious, and has a plan for your life? Have you told the Lord, “Here I am. Send me!” If not, what is preventing you from giving yourself to Him?



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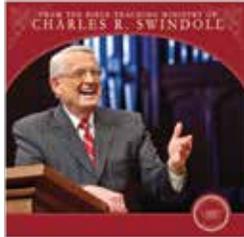
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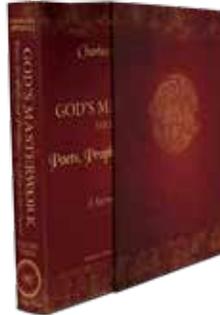
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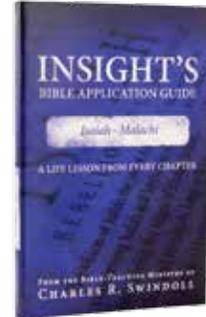
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