

“God Sends” - Isaiah 6:1-13

Ask - “Have you ever played a game that you knew you couldn’t win?”

Background - Isaiah’s prophetic ministry in Judah began near the end of King Uzziah’s reign, and continued through the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. This would have been from approximately 740 BC - 686 BC. In today’s lesson, we will see how it all began...

“A Holy Vision” - Isaiah 6:1-7

(v1-3) What did Isaiah see? What are seraphim? What characteristic of God were the seraphim praising? How does this scene compare with Revelation 4?

(v4-5) What does the temple filling with smoke represent (*see Revelation 12:8*)? What was Isaiah’s response? Why did he feel this way? Explain.

(v6-7) What did one of the seraphim do? What happened as a result? Why is the mouth (or lips) so important (*see Luke 6:45*)?

ISAIAH SAW A VISION OF THE LORD IN HIS THRONE ROOM. HE FELT IMPURE AND ASHAMED IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD’S HOLINESS. THE LORD’S SERAPHIM TOUCHED HIM WITH A COAL AND MADE HIM CLEAN.

“A Divine Call” - Isaiah 6:8-10

(v8) What did Isaiah hear the LORD say? Who is the “Us” in this question (*compare with Genesis 1:26*)? What was Isaiah’s answer?

(v9) What basic message did God call Isaiah to deliver (*answer: the impending judgment of Judah*)? What did He foretell would be their response? How difficult would it be to prophecy knowing in advance that no one would listen? Discuss.

(v10) Describe the eyes, ears, and hearts of the people to whom Isaiah was sent. Can you think of other Biblical examples or stories of people who refused to heed God’s message?

THE LORD CALLED ISAIAH TO PROPHECY TO THE PEOPLE AND HE ENTHUSIASTICALLY AGREED. HOWEVER, HIS AUDIENCE WOULD BE STUBBORN, OBSTINATE, AND DESTINED FOR JUDGMENT.

“A Sincere Question” - Isaiah 6:11-13

(v11a) Having been given a description of how he’d be received, what did Isaiah want to know? Should prophets be measured by their obedience to the LORD’s

command or by their effectiveness among the people? Discuss.

(v11b-12) How did God answer Isaiah's question? Though he faithfully prophesied about it for many years, did Isaiah personally live long enough to see the destruction of Judah take place (*research on your own*)?

(v13) Would all of God's people be destroyed? To what are the few survivors, the holy remnant, compared? Why would God spare a remnant?

ISAIAH WANTED TO KNOW HOW LONG JUDAH'S HARD-HEARTEDNESS WOULD PERSIST. GOD EXPLAINED THAT IT WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL THEIR DESTRUCTION, BUT A REMNANT WOULD BE SPARED.

Application - The judgment of Judah (and several other nations) was a foregone conclusion. It had already been ordained by God. Still Isaiah was called to prophecy of it. As a whole, his message would be rejected and he himself would be persecuted. However, a small minority - a holy remnant - would be spared. Can you see parallels between Isaiah's ministry and that of Christians today?