

**“THE GLORIOUS WAY ISAIAH RECEIVED
GOD’S CALL AND APPOINTMENT AS HIS PROPHET”**

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8

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I. THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

It is indeed a glorious way God’s vision for humanity has never changed as He has a plan and a purpose for our salvation. In the last several Sunday Morning Bible Study lessons, the teachers have reiterated this repeatedly in that: a) God’s desire is for us to remain in covenant and holy communion with him; b) be fruitful and be full of his Spirit and c) to work and care for each other. Since God through Jesus Christ remains faithful, Isaiah reminds us to this date, that we are to recall continually how his fruits of love, grace, mercy, and faithfulness are to be steadfast in our daily lives. We are put on notice through His called Servants with messages of repentance, reconciliation, restoration, and healing and deliverance. Yes, this is God’s glorious way of showing us and reminding us we have a purpose and a destiny to keep going onward, forward, and upward.

We are reminded of his vision and call from faithful servants such as Job 42:5; Jeremiah 1, Ezekiel 1, Daniel 10, Exodus 32(Moses) and Revelation 1 (John) and now in our lesson today by Isaiah 6:1-8. They were all anointed and appointed to bring a divine message to the people of God. All were in the Spirit; heard the voice of God and had eyes to see and ears to hear; they looked, saw, and were empowered by the Spirit to write, speak and be obedient to that call as mandated by God Himself. All were compelled to conform to the vision of God despite the unfaithfulness, backsliding, stiff-neckedness, injustice in the environmental situations of the times.

God knows what he is doing and want the people of God to remember the promises he has given to us. This was firmly established in Jesus Christ who heard the call, was born into a glorious call to spread this good news to the kingdom on earth.

II. BIBLICAL BACKGROUND

Today, we are mindful again to see how He appointed servant-messengers to at times have visions in various ways to be over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant (Jeremiah); Ezekiel saw the wheel, looked, saw a windstorm coming out of the north—an immense cloud with flashing lightning and surrounded by brilliant light; Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around him. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. When I saw it, I fell facedown, and I heard the voice of one speaking. Moses (Exodus 32) had a direct divine encounter with God Himself, and today we see how Isaiah during the reign of King Jothan saw the Lord sitting upon a throne and God's glory in its majesty and grandeur flowed in the Temple. Often, to get a point across to the people of God, He demonstrates his presence in a grand fashion!

III. THE LESSON:

“The Glorious Way Isaiah Received God’s Call and Appointment as His Prophet”

1. **Isaiah 6:1-4. A glorious visitation:** Verses 1-4 demonstrates the power of God in a visible manner. In contrast to the times, the corruptible, leprous, dying King Uzziah; which is no contrast with the Incorruptible and Eternal King of Glory. Halleluiah! Chapter 6 was written during the reign of Jotham, chapters 7-12 during the reign of Ahaz, and chapters 13-66 during the reign of Hezekiah. Isaiah was just one of many who saw God bodily. Good and bad kings would eventually be replaced by wicked ones.
2. **Isaiah 6:5-6. A glorious effect:** Hear and see the six-fold description of Jehovah God and feel the effect of “seeing.”
 - a) “I saw the Lord sitting on a very high throne, seated, high and exalted”, a personal testimony and witness representing His eternal, sovereign, and universal rule. His long robe filled the Temple.
 - b) His glory filled the room. This must have been Solomon’s Temple, and the room was full of the seraphim (angels of God); they are glorious, immortal, powerful and mighty in body; the angels using wings to cover their feet and for flying. Each was calling to the others in the room.
 - c) **A glorious Audible expression:** “**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty**”. This chanting “holy” goes on day and night. They are answering to his presence of God. Angels know that in the presence of

God there is no room for pomp, no reason for pride. Saying “holy” three times intensifies the idea and is indescribable. To be holy means to be different, distant, or transcendent. Indescribable! Although the Lord is different from us-He is perfect-in His mercy He still reaches down to take care of us. The fullness of all the earth is his glory (Hebrews). Can you imagine seeing and feeling this awesomeness? The presence of God when evidently present, the angels must have seen this and then to be a servant of the Lord to witness the same earthly experience visibly. This was an earthly experience, imagine what heaven would be like! Even the foundations, the doorposts shook in response to God’s holiness, how much more will the whole earth shake when the Lord visits it (Matt. 24:29, 30).

- d) Confronted with this vision of the Lord, Isaiah realized that he was under judgment, so in response to God’s holiness, Isaiah said he was **undone. A glorious undone!** He must have thought that he had come to the end of his life. I am a man of unclean lips: Isaiah knew he was a sinner. He realized his lips were the only ones not giving God praise in that setting. His plight is the plight of every person. **No one, in his or her present state, is capable of standing before the Holy One (Ps. 24:3).**
- e) **Isaiah 6:6: A glorious transformation. “A live coal” ...from the altar** symbolizes both the purification of blood and the fire of the Spirit **that enables the prophet to speak!** From that moment on, Isaiah would be light to his hearers and powerful to those who would listen. The fact that a coal from the altar was used reminds us that ultimately all sin is forgiven because of a sacrifice.

The essence of true conviction is a deep overwhelming concern over what I am, not what I have done or not done. What man is more important than what he has done. Even God is more interested in His servants than what they do for Him. Holiness of life is more important than holiness of doctrine; and right doing is infinitely more important than talk about it.

Some of us have an ancient superstitious feeling that if one saw God he would die, but here again we have an example proving that this is not so. Naturally, a man person seeing the all-holy God would feel unclean, undone, and corrupt before His presence, but it carries no death sentence! Gen. 32.2 (Jacob); Judg.6:22-23; 13:22.

The live coal did not cleanse the prophet; it was merely a sign to him (Isaiah) of assurance that the message he heard about his being cleansed was

true. Genuine (real, moral) can only be accomplished by faith in the blood of Christ (Rom. 3:24-25(for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God); Heb. 9:22(for the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness); 1 Pet. 1:18-23 (be holy, because I am holy through obedient).

- f) **A glorious personal Day of Atonement before the Lord.** The coal was “laid upon his mouth”, making him confess....” this(coal) has touched my lips” ...**this has taken away** symbolically taking away my “iniquity”, purged means “covered” and is the same word atonement. This refers to the process of killing an animal and sprinkling the blood on the altar for atonement.
- g) **A glorious voice from the temple....**” I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then I said, “Here am I; send me”. **At times, the messengers of God, the prophet would be invited to participate in the heavenly court.** I King 22:19-22 (especially for those who are blatantly disobedient (King Ahab); losing all sense of God’s law, the basic teaching of which is always to love God. Ahab was the epitome of wickedness by he and wife Jezebel. Because at times, we as the “called” of God (Elijah the Tishbite) must display courage and real humility to God. Wicked people will never really enter a genuine spiritual relationship with God.

“For us” means the Lord uses this pronoun US to mean Himself and His angels. Here the God of Scripture uses human beings as a matter of course. Only at certain times does He use angels in a direct way to reveal His will to humankind. Isaiah’s willingness proceeded from a grateful heart; he wanted to serve God.

IV. CONCLUSION AND APPLICATION: Serve God as He called you to be anointed and appointed!

We must all be willing to serve God on this new commission. Never did a man, nor could a man answer the call of God more quickly than Isaiah. Don’t be slow to obey (i.e. Jonah, Gideon, Jeremiah). This is a special call to all present today. We are privileged /advantaged/ compelled to answer a call from God-Almighty today. It is indeed a glorious way “to see and hear” how Isaiah received God’s call and appointment as His messenger to tell the people to have the right “seeing and hearing”.

We need to make the heart of the people ready to understand; and be converted to God and the gospel; to heal the body; all of this go hand in hand within the OT and the NT. We will get countless blessings as we praise God with all our flesh, our eyes, our ears, our heart, soul, and mind. Don’t you want to and be willing to serve God in a glorious way.