

# Isaiah is Called

## Isaiah 6 v 1-13

### Context:

The kings of Israel and Judah were a mixed bag. Some were good, some were bad, and some were a mixture of the two. The fortunes of the nation were closely tied to the character of the king. Uzziah (also known as Azariah) was in the latter category – he started out good, but lost his way towards the end of his reign, and finished badly. He became king at the tender age of 16 and reigned for 52 years. At the beginning of his reign he was successful because he sought the face of the Lord and was instructed in the way of the Lord. However, towards the end of his reign his pride got the better of him and he overstepped his authority by trying to burn incense in the Temple, something only an anointed priest was allowed to do. As a consequence he suffered leprosy until the day he died, having had to hand power to his son, Jotham, who ruled as regent for the last few years of his father's life. It was a sad end to a reign that had promised much at the beginning. You can read Uzziah's story in 2 Chronicles 26. The death of Uzziah coincided with the call of Isaiah to serve as God's anointed prophet. Let's see how his call came about.

### Observation:

1. Who did Isaiah see in his vision in v 1 and how is he described?
2. What did Isaiah see in v 2 and how are they described?
3. What were they doing in v 3?
4. What effect did this have in v 4?
5. What was Isaiah's initial reaction in v 5?
6. What happened in v 6-7?
7. What then happened in v 8?
8. What were God's instructions to Isaiah in v 9-10?
9. What question did Isaiah ask in v 11a?
10. What was God's reply in v 11b-12?
11. What words of comfort and hope are spoken by God in v 13?

### Meaning:

1. What do you think was the significance of Isaiah seeing God in the particular way described in v 1 in the very year that King Uzziah had died? What message was God seeking to convey with this vision?
2. What do you think was the significance of the seraphs – the description of their appearance (v 2) and their words (v 3)?
3. Why do you think there was such a powerful impact brought about by the seraphs words (v 4)?
4. Why do you think Isaiah reacted as he did in v 5? Can you identify with his reaction? To what extent was his reaction similar to that of Simon Peter when he met Jesus in Luke 5 v 8?

5. Why do you think touching Isaiah's lips with the live coal (v 6-7) took his guilt away and atoned for his sin?
6. How was Isaiah's experience in v 8 similar to that of Simon Peter in Luke 5 v 8-11? What can we learn from their experience for our own lives?
7. What was the essence of Isaiah's call and commission (v 9-10)? How do you think Isaiah felt about receiving this call? How would you have felt?
8. God's words in v 9-12 suggest that Isaiah's ministry would have little if any positive results. What does this tell us about how we should assess and measure the success of our own or someone else's ministry and service?
9. What do you think the words of hope in v 13 mean and how might they have given some comfort to Isaiah?

#### **Application:**

1. Both Isaiah and Simon Peter's experiences of encountering God's holiness tell us that God doesn't expose us to his glory and holiness in order to repel us, but rather to cleanse us and draw us nearer to him, so that we may serve him in whatever way he calls. How is this biblical truth both a challenge and a comfort to us?
2. How might God's tough and seemingly unpromising call and commission of Isaiah (v 9-13) be both a challenge and comfort to us as we seek to share the good news of Jesus in our day?

#### **Pray:**

- Thank God that he exposes us to his holiness to cleanse and call us.
- Pray for God's grace to serve him with courage and faithfulness, whatever the apparent results.