

Message - Grace Calvary Chapel - July 6, 2025

“When Isaiah Meets Jesus! – Isaiah 6:1-8, John 12:38-41

Aim of Message: When we get closer to Christ we realize our insignificance. We come face to face with His glorious majesty leads us to acknowledge our sinful depravity.

“God has wondrous ways of making people feel they are but dust...One of the greatest works of grace in the heart is to humble our pride.” Charles Spurgeon

Intro

Good Morning Grace Calvary Chapel! It's good to be with you this morning. What an honor it is to be able to bring God's Word to you today! (I Cor 2). I know he's not here but I want to thank Pastor Josh for inviting me. You already know that you have an amazing pastor. I appreciate two things about him: [1.He](#)'s an encourager and; [2.He](#)'s a truthful expositor of God's Word!

But, whatever compliments, praises that we give to men, they need to be quickly diffused and transferred right back to God! Amen?! (Psalm 115:1). He's the only one deserving of our praise, worship, adoration, etc! When we talk in the first person (“I did this”) and not in the 3rd Person (He, God is worthy) we've gone horribly wrong!

Let's give praise and worship to our God this morning...Will you pray with me?

*Changed Lives - The Bible and sources outside the Bible tell us that a man, Jesus Christ literally and bodily actually came to this planet. Earth became His “Theater of Redemption.” (John 1:14). Why would God send His Son to this planet? His is quite a story. C.S. Lewis said, “You can't make this stuff up.” Jesus' life is a string of holy events that are unrepeatable in history (or the future)--a Virgin Birth, Sinless Life, Miracles, Raising the Dead, Dying for others sin, Rising from the dead and Ascending back to the Father.

He didn't come merely to preach great sermons, teach never before heard of parables or perform miracles. He did all these but, these were a means to a

greater purpose. He came to CHANGE LIVES! Jesus wasn't content to let us live or die in our sins. Many here can testify to this reality in your life! (2 Cor 5:17).

But, maybe you're here today and this isn't a reality in your life. You come to church, put some \$\$ in the offering plate, read your Bible a little and hang around Christian people. Yet, there is still something missing. You have not had a real encounter with Him that has brought about an honest awareness of your sin that has humbled, broken and brought you to your knees before Him! (Luke 18:13).

Jesus made it His 'Father's Business' to have true and powerful encounters with people of all kinds to redeem, heal, forgive and restore. We've seen that in the Gospels, in the history of the church and today!. When a person meets Him, they will never forget and they will never be the same! Jesus didn't merely come to teach us something but to make us into something—to conform us to His image!

What if I told you that Jesus was encountering, saving, redeeming and changing people even before—Bethlehem(His birth), Galilee(His ministry) and Calvary (His cross). That's because Jesus has always been even going centuries, millennia back into the O.T. He's the only person that has ever existed before He was born! There are several Christophanies, pre-Incarnate appearances in the O.T. (Cite examples)

Probably one of the most well-known and dramatic appearances of Christ happens in Isaiah 6—when Isaiah goes to the temple and sees Jesus! Isaiah is wrecked but then he's restored to be the prophet of Judah for the next 60 years! So, when Isaiah meets Jesus it's not an insignificant thing at all! This encounter changed a man's life, ordained His calling and it reconfirmed God's prophecy on a rebellious nation!

The prophetic book of Isaiah is the first of four Major Prophets in the O.T. Major, not as in better or more important. But, major as in longer books than the 12 minor prophets. These were the "Long-winded" Prophets! Haha! The book of Isaiah is the Bible in miniature. There are 66 chapters in the Bible—39 in the Old and 27 in the New. In the first 39 chapters we find the problem of sin and God's judgment of it if there is no repentance. The same is true of Isaiah. Isaiah primarily speaks to the nation of Judah, warning them of their future judgment of

God. The last 27 chapters (40-66) reveal to the nation the hope and restoration and new kingdom on earth through the Messiah (Yeshua HaMashiach).

In the midst of darkness, chaos and rebellion, God always makes sure to provide a ray of light that provides us with hope of a better future, a better place. Hope is the guarantee that our tomorrows will be better than our todays! That's true of your life as well!

Let's learn a little of this 8th century Judean prophet before we look at his encounter with Christ. We really don't know too much about him being a private and humble prophet. But, Isaiah (whose name means "Yahweh is Salvation") was the son of Amoz and prophesied during the reign of 4 Kings (Uzziah, Jotham (good kings), Ahaz (wicked) and Hezekiah (a great king) for a period of about 60 years. He was married "prophetess" and had two sons (Is 7 - Shear-Jashub "a remnant will return) and Is 8 - Maher-Shalel-Hash-Baz means "Quick to the plunder, swift to the plunder")

Isaiah's name means ("Yahweh is Salvation") which is pretty much the theme of the book because the word Salvation appears about 26 times. More than all the times the other prophets talk about salvation in their books combined. While there is much sin, rebellion and idolatry, God is also relentless to save people (Is 1:18, 53) and Isaiah writes of the "Gospel" before the Gospel shows up in its fullest understanding!

One of Isaiah's best contributions (other than chapter 53) of the Gospel are the prophecies of the Incarnation—God becoming a man in the person of Jesus Christ. Is 7:14, 9:6-7 are verses that we typically revisit around Christmas time. Isaiah knew of "Christmas" long before it was a holiday.

Let's go to Isaiah 6 and see what spark set Isaiah on fire to take God's Word to the nation of Judah that wouldn't listen to him. When we know something is very difficult and almost impossible, there has to be something that happens in us to motivate us to do what we ordinarily do (ILL - Disciples risk their lives for the Gospel mission). Something worth living and dying for!

"A person is willing to die for something they believe to be true but no one is willing to die for something they know to be a lie."

For Isaiah, I believe it was 5 motivations:

- *A Holy Christ (6:1-4)
- *A Holy Conviction (6:5a)
- *A Holy Confession (6:5b-c)
- *A Holy Cleansing (6:6-7)
- *A Holy Calling (6:8)

A Holy Christ (6:1-4)

*In the **year** that **King Uzziah died**, I saw the **Lord**, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the **train** of his robe **filled the temple**. 2 Above him were **seraphim**, each with **six wings**: with two wings they covered their **faces**, with two they covered their **feet**, and with two they were **flying**.. 3. And they were calling to one another:*

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

*4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds **shook** and the **temple** was filled with **smoke**.*

*In the Year – Around 740 B.C. (around 2 decades before Israel invaded by Assyria) - Bible written in history - real people, real time, real events - In the beginning (time) God - The Bible is God's story of redemption ("His - Story")

*King Uzziah - Good king – (2 Chron 26:1-15) popular, prosperous, architect, builder, strong military force, famous and had the confidence of the nation.

Died – Got news for you – one out of one people die. Statistics are holding steady. God's word is true. 2 Chron 26:16-22 - How did Uzziah die? Powerful, proud, rebellious - God judged him with Leprosy - His epitaph how sad!

Saw the Lord – Whether it was a vision, in his mind's eye or some other way, Isaiah saw the Lord, Jesus (John 12:39-41). Matt 5:8 - What keeps us from seeing the Lord? (Saul in Acts 9 - Pride, stubbornness) - Could God take out who/whatever is keeping us from seeing Him? Human hero vs. God

*Train of His robe filled temple – Or hem of his garment. God's presence fills everything He inhabits. He fills the heavens I Kings 9!

*Seraphim, 6 wings, faces/feet/flying (only time mentioned in Bible) They were so close to God, that they were also called 'burning ones'. Resemble living creatures in Rev 4:8 eyes all around and under their wings, reverent worshippers, servants,

Holy, holy, holy - To be set apart for a holy purpose. Not just moral but a special, sacred purpose. These seraphs never stop saying in Rev 4:8 that God, the Trinity is Holy - One for each member of the Godhead. Only virtue of God in triplicate! (Exodus 15:11).

*Whole earth full of his glory! God's Awesomeness is on display for everyone, everything to acknowledge Him, praise, worship, adoration. His glory is the fullness of all that He is, sum total of His being, essence, nature, character and works. One idea of His glory is His weightiness. That's He's important, He matters!

Shook, temple, smoke - Their praise shook the very foundations of the temple! How do we know when God shows up when we can't see Him? God gives us physical things that we can feel, to see, know His presence!

Isaiah's real vision of Christ led him to a deep conviction...

A Holy Conviction (Isaiah 6:5a)

"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined!"

In the glory, beauty, majesty, perfection, purity and worship of Christ, it led Isaiah to realize his unworthiness (Psalm 8:4 - what is man that you are mindful of him?)

"Woe" is a word of destruction, devastation, judgment, ruin. I'm a wreck, a mess. Next to Christ, he realized his insignificance, his smallness, In the Bible 'conviction' is two things: [1.](#) In a court of law I'm convicted, will be sentenced to punishment. [2.It](#) also means I'm convinced by the H.S. that I'm guilty but also

comforted. Isaiah was going through both. Salvation begins with a deep conviction of our guilt, shame and sin! (ILL - Augustine ?? - Rom 13:11-14)

A deep conviction of our mess leads to a sincere confession of our sin...

A Holy Confession (6:5b-c)

*“...For I am a man of **unclean lips**, and I live among a **people of unclean lips**, and my eyes have **seen the King, the LORD Almighty.**”*

Confession means that I agree with God about what He says, about anything! Christ, the Bible and here sin! Yes, God you're right what you said about me. I confess, acknowledge and agree with you!

*Unclean lips – Isaiah realized that his mouth was a major deficiency in his life. Lies, deceit, profanity, gossip, etc. As a prophet that would proclaim God's Word (the truth), he knew he needed a major redemption with his lips. It should make us evaluate and confess our sins—whether that be your mouth or anything else. Whatever part of our lives that doesn't line up with God's expectations needs to be addressed and repented of. (Matt 12:34-35) (ILL - Too Busy Not to Pray Confe

*seen the King, the Lord Almighty – How did Isaiah detect his sin? He was in very close proximity to the one who is pure, perfect, holy, harmless and undefiled! (ILL - Peter falling down at Jesus' feet - Luke 5:8 - “Go away from me, Lord, I am sinful man!” - ILL - Job's repentance - 42:5-6).

When we make a humble and honest confession, it will lead to a holy cleansing! (I John 1:9).

A Holy Cleansing (6:6-7)

*Then one of the **seraphim** flew to me with a **live coal** in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 With it he **touched my mouth** and said, “See this has touched your lips; **your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.**”*

Remember, the seraphim (the burning ones) we met a few verses ago? They're not only continual, humble worshippers of God. They're also servants of God. Intermediaries who serve between heaven and earth. While they don't save anyone, they always serve God and point people back to Him and His Son, Christ!

There are two kinds of people in the world. Those who are 'dead in their sin' and those who are 'dead to sin.' Before we truly come to Christ, we are dead in our sin. We're ok with it, like it, even love it (John 3:19-20) but we don't always realize what sin is doing to us. "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." It's destroying us, killing us.

The wages of sin is DEATH! Paul realized the devastation of sin. "Oh, wretched man that I am. Who will rescue me from this body of death?" This is Paul's echo of Isaiah's "Woe is me. I'm ruined." They both realized that left to themselves in their sin, there is no way out. They knew there had to be something outside of them to rescue, deliver and cleanse their sin and guilt!

The seraph provided a temporary cleansing and atonement (At-one-ment) by purging Isaiah's lips (his sin) until Christ could pay for the debt of sin in FULL! (1 Cor 15:3-4). Not with a 'hot coal' from the altar but from the precious blood of Jesus! (1 Peter 1:18-19).

From that point in Isaiah's life and in our life when we become a believer, we begin to live a life that's DEAD TO SIN! Sin no longer has the affect, pull, attraction and dominance that it once did on us. We don't have to sin. We can say no to it because the blood of Jesus has taken away its power and control over me! (Rom 6:1-2).

Once Isaiah was cleansed, he was ready to answer His call on his life...

A Holy Calling (6:8)

*Then I **heard** the **voice** of the **Lord** saying “**Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?**” And I said, “**Here am I. Send me!**”*

It's amazing how much better we can hear the voice of the Lord when our sin (pride, stubbornness, selfishness) is uncluttered from our hearts and lives! Remember, holiness is being set apart for a sacred, Godly purpose. Not for me but for Him! We're no use to God if we're still trying to please and honor ourselves. God knows that when you are dying to your sin you'll be ready to share the Good News with others!

God asks, “Whom shall I send?” That's unity! Then, He asks, “Who will go for us?” That's the Trinity—Father, Son and Holy Spirit are the ones that call and commission us to go. It's their mission! Notice that Jesus doesn't beg, force or manipulate. He just asks. Who's available? Who's willing?

Wrap-Up

*What's my purpose? Why is everyone panicky about their purpose? Isaiah didn't seem to question or fret in trying to find His purpose. He found His God and then God revealed His calling and Isaiah responded with a willing and ready heart to go! He has a purpose for you too! When you see God, be convicted of your sin, confess it, you'll be ready to be used by God. Then, you need to go! (Is 9:9).

*Isaiah couldn't be the prophet, the mouthpiece of God for the “Gospel” until he came face to face with Christ and experienced his own Gospel conversion! Paul talks about having this ‘treasure in jars of clay’ (2 Cor 4:7 - which is Jesus/the Gospel). You can give this away unless you have it yourself!

Just to make sure we all understand the Gospel so we know what changes us, convicts us and calls us! (Rom 1:16, Eph 2:8-9). We're saved by grace through faith in Christ alone! It has nothing to do with my virtue or accomplishments at all! The Gospel is when I understand that I'm born again to live a life from above. Where, I have a radical reorientation of every aspect of my life as I'm trusting in Christ everyday!

