

## Wow oh wow Isaiah Chapter 6

Vision of Royalty. How do you view the royal family. Now some answer with a sneer, others with pride. Some here have actually seen members of the royal family. I saw Princess Diana at Maitland. I assume Charles was there too but she was beautiful, stunning – She was a vision. Now we know the Queen has been very effective as a monarch but these days she is more like Queen Elizabeth more like a nice little old lady. Not a queen that strikes fear into you. Having said that I wouldn't cross her.

In the bible, the kings and queens had a different kind of presence. A fear. They had power over their people.

Then there is God. Isaiah is left speechless just by a vision of Him and it changed his life.

Seeing the queen doesn't change a real lot, experiencing God- now that is a different matter.

Lets have a look at the passage. There is so much in here, I would love to do a whole series on this one passage. I have preached from it before and still keep getting new stuff out of it.

### 1. *Verses 1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple*

**He saw God.** Your suppose to die if that happens. That's What God said to Moses. That's why he is a bit stressed here. I've seen God – I'm dead.

But What is it that he sees?

God on a throne, Notice he doesn't describe God just what's around him. God would be a bit it hard to describe. That's why Revelation is full of images and comparisons rather than actual description. Anyway he see's a throne up **high**, indicating God is up there. In those days the higher the throne the more important the king. That's the image, it's a throne right up there, as high as possible.

It says that the temple is filled with the **train** of his robe. The actual Hebrew word we would translate as hem. The temple was huge, and the little turned up bit at the end of his robe fills it. Again the longer the robe the more important the king. The image is of one who is the most important in existence. Now, when I get my trousers taken up, there is a

big hem, cause I've got little legs. But the hem doesn't fill a toilet cubicle let alone a whole temple.

How does this image compare to ours? Is our image of God big or just like us?

## **2. The reaction.**

*Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. <sup>3</sup> And they were calling to one another:*

*"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."*

*ISA 6:4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.*

*ISA 6:5 "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! 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."*

These seraphs, they are the burning ones –that's what the word means. Hot guys. They are with God all the time, already they have spent an eternity with him

And what is their reaction

They cover their faces; -they can't look at God

They cover their feet ; -They are not worthy for God to look at them

They fly - they do God's work.

And they cry out, not sing they just yell it out. Holy Holy Holy. After all those years with God you'd think they would have more to say. But the only way they can describe God is by those words. In other words, after all that time, they are still in awe of God.

But when they said it the place shook. Like an earth quake, the place shook and filled up with smoke. Like a bad rock concert or something.

What they said had effect. It was true.

Look at Isaiah's reaction

*Woe – in hebrew it is pronounced oi. 3 woes would be oi oi oi.*

Straight away Isaiah recognises his state. Absolutely sinful, he is not worthy even to be there. Recognise that his whole being and in fact everything that he has contact with is inadequate when it is put before God. Everything is tainted with sin.

Too often we forget that that is us. Totally tainted with sin. It is in us and all around us.

Yet here Isaiah is – he has seen God. The king of kings , Lord of Lord, maker of everything. Woe or should I say oi.

Meeting God is not necessarily a pleasant experience. We say we meet with God in prayer or at church and that is true but the closer we get to God the more we realise our sinful state and if we haven't sorted that out with Him – it is scary. In the book of Amos the people looked forward to the “day of the Lord” Remember, we talked about it last year when we went through Amos. But what that actually meant to God was the day of judgment.

***Woe to you who long***

***for the day of the LORD!***

***Why do you long for the day of the LORD?***

***That day will be darkness, not light. Amos 5:18***

With all the sin that they had, they still thought that on the day of the Lord God was going to bless them just because they did the worship thing. But they oppressed the poor took bribes, told prophets not to tell the truth. They were deluded.

What about us? Do we think God will bless just because we do the Sunday church thing, or if I preach well on Sunday that means that I can be a scum bag the rest of the week - No. And that is what Amos is about – being real about your faith and that is what Isaiah is about to learn.

### **3. It is good that God always seems to have a rescue plan.**

And here he uses the seraphs.

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

Notice that **God provides** a purification process. The altar is sanctified and purified by God and thus the coal is pure, so when Isaiah is touched

on the lips, God is cleansing him. Now God will talk to him and he can stand before God.

Our cleansing system has to do with the cross. When we accept what Jesus did on the cross, we are purified, we can now relate to God. Similar process to Isaiah. Our guilt is taken away. Notice though that guilt is not a feeling. We tend to think of guilt a feeling guilt for something. Guilt is a fact, guilt is the fact that you have done something wrong, you are guilty only when you have sinned, and you feel guilty accordingly, but our guilt is a fact, not just a bad feeling to be ignored.

#### **4. I am amazed at Isaiah's response.**

*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!"*

Here I am send me.

I'll do whatever. I'll go anywhere, do anything I'm your man. Like Mary last week – no excuses, just asked how God would do it. Here Isaiah volunteers. Probably the only Prophet to volunteer for the job. When the opportunity comes, his hand is up. It is interesting to note. As far as I can tell, Isaiah is the only prophet to volunteer. Jeremiah said he was too young, Jonah ran away, others complained.

Do we react that way when there is a job to be done at church or someone to help.

Will we volunteer or run away, will we have to be coerced.

When we experience Jesus's amazing forgiveness and grace –has it affected us enough to **want** to do God's work??????

#### **5. I keep saying how the bible is so realistic.?**

God is realistic enough to tell Isaiah that the people wont listen. Great an impossible job. "Go and tell this people:

*" `Be ever hearing, but never understanding;  
be ever seeing, but never perceiving. '*

*ISA 6:10 Make the heart of this people calloused;  
make their ears dull  
and close their eyes.*

*Otherwise they might see with their eyes,  
hear with their ears,  
understand with their hearts,  
and turn and be healed."*

People wont listen Not much has changed – my mates don't listen much either.

They will be punished, Yes whoever does not call on the name of the Lord will be. That means our friends and family who don't know Jesus. Their will be destruction. This is probably a little bit more specific to that time than now.

For how long. Reading this I always think of the soup add on TV  
How long must I stay master – As long as the candle burns" Well it is similar for Isaiah and for us.

*For how long, O Lord?"*

*And he answered:*

*"Until the cities lie ruined  
and without inhabitant,  
until the houses are left deserted  
and the fields ruined and ravaged,*

*ISA 6:12 until the LORD has sent everyone far away  
and the land is utterly forsaken.*

Notice again the use of the word how. Last week Mary asked How will this be? How will God do it. Now Isaiah is saying How Long?

**Until the end.** You don't stop ministering until the end. Your end or their end. My grandfather told me once "There is no retirement in of ministry" He was still preaching at 86. Oh sometimes what we do changes, sometimes there are seasons of ministry styles and formats, but ministry keeps on. What is your ministry at the moment?

What has Isaiah taught us?

Well,

1stly be in awe of God

2ndly, we are sinners

but

3rdly, we can be fixed up by God through Jesus

4thly be prepared to do anything

And

5thly, finally be realistic.

