



Growth Group Questions
September 7, 2025
“When God Shows Up”

CONTEXT

Isaiah was different than many of the Old Testament prophets in that he was well connected to the rulers and leaders of Judah. Many of the other prophets came from unknown families or rural locations, yet later Jewish tradition believed that Isaiah’s father and King Uzziah’s father were actually brothers. That cannot be proven, but it is clear that Isaiah grew up with access to the king’s court and was aware of political matters.

King Uzziah reigned for over fifty years when he died, but at some point during his reign he was struck with leprosy when he entered the temple to burn incense on the altar which was only something priests could do. He refused to stop what he was doing when the priests confronted him and was struck with leprosy. See 2 Chronicles 26:16-23. As a result, he spent the rest of his life reigning in seclusion. His story also was a warning to all of Judah about failing to follow God faithfully.

Isaiah goes to the temple to worship and experiences something he has never seen or felt before. He sees God high and lifted up. God’s holiness and glory are on full display. Isaiah is reminded of who the “true” king of Israel is. Words are sometimes used twice in the Old Testament for emphasis, but only in a few other places are they used three times so hearing the words “holy, holy, holy” speaks to the true holiness of God. The foundations of the temple shake, and it is filled with smoke. All of creation trembles before God.

Isaiah, who is used to pronouncing judgment on others and calling others to repentance, is now the one repenting. He recognizes his own guilt and unlike Uzziah, he confesses his guilt. A seraph brings a live coal from the altar and rather than the coal burning Isaiah, it brings cleansing. Isaiah hears that he is forgiven, and his guilt removed. Instead of receiving God’s judgment, he is restored.

Then God asks... “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Isaiah responds, “Here am I, send me” before he even knows where God is going to send him. This is an incredible step of faith. As a result of seeing and experiencing God, he is ready to now carry out God’s mission.

SCRIPTURE AND QUOTES

Isaiah 6:1-13

¹In 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. ²Above 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. ³And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; he whole earth is full of his glory.” ⁴At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

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.” ⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.” ⁸Then 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!”

⁹He said, “Go and tell this people: “‘Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.’” ¹⁰Make 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.”

¹¹Then I said, “For how long, Lord?” And he answered: “Until the cities lie ruined and without inhabitant, until the houses are left deserted and the fields ruined and ravaged, ¹²until the LORD has sent everyone far away and the land is utterly forsaken. ¹³And though a tenth remains in the land, it will again be laid waste. But as the terebinth and oak leave stumps when they are cut down, so the holy seed will be the stump in the land.”

Acts 4:31

³¹After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

James 4:7-10

⁷Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

J. Alec Motyer: "Hope is the unexpected fringe attached to the garment of doom."

QUESTIONS

1. What can we observe about God from reading Isaiah 6:1-13?

2. In Isaiah 6:8, Isaiah responds to God by saying: “Here am I. Send me!” What does his response to God’s calling tell us about Isaiah?
3. As Pastor Paul said, God calls us in many different ways. How can you tell if God is calling you to do something?
4. What can we learn from Isaiah’s experience about how we should respond to God’s call?
5. In James 4:7, we are told to “submit” ourselves to God. What does the word “submit” mean to you in this context and what does it look like to submit yourself to God?
6. In James 4:8, we are told if we come near to God, He will come near to us. What does that mean?
7. What does it mean to humble yourself before the Lord? (James 4:10)
8. Pastor Paul quoted J. Alec Motyer as saying: “Hope is the unexpected fringe attached to the garment of doom.” What does that quote say to you?
9. What is your main takeaway from Isaiah 6:1-13 for your own personal faith and spiritual growth?

PASTOR PAUL’S SERMON QUESTIONS

1. How can you be more intentional this week about meeting with God?
2. Is there a way you can help bring hope to someone this week?