

# Behold Our God!

## Isaiah Six

**1 Peter 1:15-16** “but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves in all your behavior; because it is written, “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”



# I. God's Conversion of Isaiah

## A. When Isaiah Saw vs 6:1a

◆ “In the year of King Uzziah's death”—> Isaiah 1:1

**John N. Oswalt**

“Judah had known no king like Uzziah since the time of Solomon. He had been an efficient administrator and an able military leader. Under his leadership Judah had grown in every way. How easy it must have been to focus one's hopes and trust upon a king like that. What will happen then when such a king dies, and coupled with that death there comes the recognition that a resurgent Assyria is pushing nearer and nearer?”

“In the context of such a crisis, God can more easily make himself known to us that when times are good and we are self-confidently complacent.”

“In the year of Uzziah's death....mine eyes have seen the king.”



# I. God's Conversion of Isaiah

## A. When Isaiah Saw vs 6:1a

- ◆ “In the year of King Uzziah's death”—> Isaiah 1:1
- ◆ At the Beginning of Isaiah's Ministry

### Gary Smith

“Chapter 6 records a pivotal turning point in Judah's history and marks the beginning of a new era in Isaiah's preaching. The death of Uzziah (6:1) ends a period of relative strength and prosperity in Judah, when Assyria was weak. The wicked king Ahaz will now rule Judah (7:1), war and weakness will characterize this king's reign, and Assyria will become the dominant international power on earth.”



## Arguments for Isaiah 6 being a 'New Era' in Ministry

### 1. Why wait until chapter Six to record his initial call to ministry?

**Ed Young**

The important point is that the year in which Isaiah saw God was that of the king's death. In the year in which the old order ended God appeared to the prophet. The great glory and national pride of Judah were now facing an end, never to rise again. The year of Uzziah's death may not have been the actual year of the founding of Rome, but according to tradition, the great city on the Tiber arose about this time. From now on Judah declined more and more, and Rome increased.

## Arguments for the Initial Calling of Isaiah

—> **Amos's Calling** (chp. 7)

—> **The Vision Itself** (vs 6:5-7)

—> **The Need for Isaiah**



# I. God's Conversion of Isaiah

## **B. When Isaiah Saw** vs 6:1b-4

### #1- The Lord vs 1b

- ◆ “sitting on a throne” —> Revelation 4:2 - John
- ◆ “with the train of His robe filling the temple” ==> Isaiah 45:6 - “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom.”
- ◆ “lofty and exalted” Exodus 33:20
- ◆ **“And What Else?”** “You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live”





# I. God's Conversion of Isaiah





# I. God's Conversion of

Isaiah

**1 Peter 1:15-16** “but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves in all your behavior; because it is written, “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”

In what ways do we struggle with Holiness?

How do we excel in Holiness?

Gary Smith

“The repetition of a word is a way of expressing a superlative idea in the Hebrew language. Thus the seraphs claim that God is completely, totally, absolutely, the holiest of the holy.

Holiness is the essence of God's nature and God Himself is the supreme revelation of holiness. **God's absolute holiness reveals how separate, different, or totally other He is in comparison to all other aspects of the created world.**”



# I. God's Conversion of Isaiah

## B. Who Isaiah Saw vs 6:1b-4

#2 - The Seraphim vs 2-3 —> “Burning Ones”

- ◆ “Their Wings” vs 2

- ◆ “Their Message” vs 3

- ◆ “Their Voice” vs 4

Revelation 15:8

“And

the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power; and no one was able to enter the temple until the 7 plagues of the 7 angels were finished.”



# I. God's Conversion of Isaiah

## C. What Isaiah Said vs 6:5

#2- He Confesses his People's Depravity vs  
#1- He Confesses his Depravity vs 5  
5

✦ “Woe is me, for I am ruined”  
—> **Ruined:** cut off, destroyed, to  
cease

\*Luke 5:4-8

Psalm 49:12 “But man in his pomp will not  
endure; He is like the beasts that **perish**.”

—> **Why is he Ruined?**  
“Because I am among people not as clean  
lips”  
“For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.”



# I. God's Conversion of Isaiah

• Isaiah 1:10 - "They are compared to Sodom & Gomorrah"

• Isaiah 1:18 - "Their Sins are as Scarlet"

• Isaiah 1:21-23 - "They were a Faithful City... Now a city of Harlotry"

• Isaiah 2:6-7 - "Filled with Pagan Influence & Materialism"

• Isaiah 2:12 - "A Prideful People":18-20

"Come now, and let us reason together," Says the Lord, "Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like

crimson, They will be like white wool." Isaiah 1:16-17 "Their Culture is Obsessed with False Beauty, They will eat the best of the land; "But if you refuse and rebel, You will be devoured by the

• Isaiah 5 - "God's Special Vineyard Gone Bad"  
sword. Truly, the mouth of the Lord has spoken."



# I. God's Conversion of Isaiah

## D. What Isaiah *Seized* vs 6:6-7

### #1- God's Grace vs 6

- ◆ “Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs.”

### #2- God's Cleansing vs 7a

“White  
as  
Snow”



- ◆ “He touched my mouth with it and said, “Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away”



# I. God's Conversion of Isaiah

## D. What Isaiah *Seized* vs 6:6-7

#3- God's Forgiveness vs 7b

◆ “and your sins are forgiven.”

Is Isaiah proposing a new way of salvation?

◆ Isaiah 53



# II. God's Commission of Isaiah

**A. The Lord's Offer** vs 6:8a

**B. Isaiah's Acceptance** vs 6:8b

## Behold Our God!

- ✠· His Cleansing Qualifies us for Ministry
- ✠· His Forgiveness is Immediate & Complete
- ✠· His Lordship is Undeniable

**\*John 21:17 - "Tend My Sheep"**



# II. God's Commission of Isaiah

**A. The Lord's Offer** vs 6:8a

**B. Isaiah's Acceptance** vs 6:8b

**C. The Lord's Orders** vs 6:9-10

**Order # 1** - "He said, go and tell this people..."

- "Keep on listening, but do not perceive;"
- "Keep on looking, but do not understand."

**\*Acts 28:16-28**



# II. God's Commission of Isaiah

**A. The Lord's Offer** vs 6:8a

**B. Isaiah's Acceptance** vs 6:8b

**C. The Lord's Orders** vs 6:9-10

**Order # 1** - "He said, go and tell this people..."

**Order # 2** - "Render the hearts of this people insensitive, Their ears dull, And their eyes dim," **Why?**

"Otherwise they might see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, Understand with their hearts, And return and be healed."



## II. God's Commission of Isaiah

Behold Our God!

**“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY”**



## II. God's Commission of Isaiah

- A. The Lord's Offer** vs 6:8a
- B. Isaiah's Acceptance** vs 6:8b
- C. The Lord's Orders** vs 6:9-10
- D. Isaiah's Acceptance** vs 6:11a
- E. The Lord's Conclusion** vs 6:11b-13



# Behold Our God!

John N. Oswalt  
Ed Young

“The vision which verse 6:1-8 report was clearly fundamental to the entire course of Isaiah’s ministry and to the shape of the book. The favorite designation of God was “the Holy One of Israel.” The glory, the majesty, the holiness, and the righteousness of God became the ruling concepts of his ministry. Furthermore, it is this experience which explains Isaiah’s contempt for, and horror of, any kind of national or individual life which did not pay adequate attention to the one God.”



# Behold Our God!

- ◆ **Understand Him More**

- ◆ **Trust Him More**

- ◆ **Love Him More**

- ◆ **Imitate Him More**

- ◆ **Serve Him More**

**Ed Young**

“Isaiah’s response is immediate. A moment before he had feared that there was no hope for him; now, however, that he has received the assurance of the forgiveness of his sins and understands that God will not banish him from His presence, he is ready to do service for the sovereign Lord. It is the readiness of true faith. Indeed, even before the prophet knows what God’s bidding is, he is willing to do that bidding.”

**\*Acts 8:26ff**

**The Ethiopian Eunuch**