

ISAIAH

The Holy One of Israel

Introduction: "Ah, Sinful Nation!"

The Great Vision

Isaiah 1:1

PASTOR'S PRAYER

Almighty God, You are Holy, Holy, Holy. Your kingdom is established by your mighty right hand and is forevermore. The Lord reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake under His sovereign rule. You are to be praised for great and awesome is your name! Lord, this morning we confess our hearts often wander from one empty god of our own making to another. We know that the sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply and we sit here this morning as people who are marked such sorrows. Lord, would you come this morning in the power of your Spirit and triumph over our independent hearts which run after so many other gods. Reign sovereign in these hearts of ours so we might be established and fixed in your sure and satisfying holiness. Lord, cause the glorious vision of Isaiah to reveal our false gods and hopes; and to plant there an abiding trust in our Savior and King, Jesus Christ, the Holy One of God's covenant people. Amen & Amen.

Central Textual Truth

Isaiah wanted Israel to see the Holy One of Israel.

Central Sermon Aim

I want SGBC to see the Holy One the Church.

OUTLINE

1. The God Sent Message ~ *"The vision..."*
2. The God Called Prophet ~ *"Isaiah the son of Amoz..."*
3. The God Blessed People ~ *"concerning Judah & Jerusalem..."*
4. The God Appointed Time ~ *"in the days of..."*

INTRODUCTION

Isaiah is the Romans of the OT. There is more biblical theology in Isaiah is more complete than any other OT book. It has its difficulties but let us lean into this study and be patient to ask the Lord to turn our hearts to trust Him in this midst of this study. I am looking at about a year & a half for us to work through this book (65 Sermons).

“The Holy One of Israel” ~ This phrase occurs 25x in Isaiah of the 30x in the Bible. God’s holiness is indeed one of the scarlet threads through this book. We will see this phrase especially pop up as we work through this book.

THE GOD SENT MESSAGE

The Holy One who is Sovereign King ~ God’s holiness is demonstrated through his sovereign reign over heaven and earth.

Isaiah 33:17–22 ^{ESV} | "17 Your eyes will behold the king in his beauty; they will see a land that stretches afar. 18 Your heart will muse on the terror: “Where is he who counted, where is he who weighed the tribute? Where is he who counted the towers?” 19 You will see no more the insolent people, the people of an obscure speech that you cannot comprehend, stammering in a tongue that you cannot understand. 20 Behold Zion, the city of our appointed feasts! Your eyes will see Jerusalem, an untroubled habitation, an immovable tent, whose stakes will never be plucked up, nor will any of its cords be broken. 21 But there the LORD in majesty will be for us a place of broad rivers and streams, where no galley with oars can go, nor majestic ship can pass. 22 For the LORD is our judge; the LORD is our lawgiver; the LORD is our king; he will save us."

The Holy One who is Suffering Servant ~ God’s holiness is demonstrated through the suffering servant.

Isaiah 52:13 ^{ESV} | "Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted."

Isaiah 53:11 ^{ESV} | "Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities."

I am unaware of any other place in the whole Bible (OT or NT) which so clearly and carefully lays out penal substitutionary atonement (Christ receiving the just penalty for sin for another). This is the very heart of the gospel message and we have it in the OT of all places.

The Holy One who is Anointed Conqueror ~ God's holiness is being demonstrated as we wait in hope for Jesus Christ to finally conquer all evil in this world.

Isaiah 61:1–7 ^{ESV} | "1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; 3 to grant to those who mourn in Zion— to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. 4 They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. 5 Strangers shall stand and tend your flocks; foreigners shall be your plowmen and vinedressers; 6 but you shall be called the priests of the LORD; they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God; you shall eat the wealth of the nations, and in their glory you shall boast. 7 Instead of your shame there shall be a double portion; instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their lot; therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion; they shall have everlasting joy."

THE GOD CALLED PROPHET

Isaiah's name means "Yahweh is salvation".

We notice in our text that Isaiah is described as "*the son of Amoz*". It would make Isaiah part of nobility & therefore would explain his access to the kings we see in this book.

We also notice from Isaiah 7 & 8 that Isaiah was married & had at least 2 sons.

Unlike other prophets Isaiah does not tell us much about himself even with the large size

of the book which takes his name. The most revealing portion of text which lets us into the a bit of the person of Isaiah is chapter 6 where Isaiah is called to be a prophet.

Much like the watershed encounter Paul had on the road to Emmaus in Acts 9, Isaiah 6 was such a watershed encounter for Isaiah. It literally defined and shaped the rest of his life.

Isaiah was most defined not by the elite status he found himself but instead by the confrontation he had with His Holy God.

THE GOD BLESSED PEOPLE

Judah ~ Judah is the southern region of God's land. The northern kingdom is defeated by Assyria which is a result of their extended wickedness. Judah has had its share of faithlessness, however, they have also been peppered with a few faithful kings which stayed the Assyrian attacks.

and Jerusalem ~ Also, they had God's city, Jerusalem. Jerusalem is where the temple was and where God's people went to worship God. However, God's people were developing false sense of security. They thought, there is no way God will allow His city and his temple to be overrun by the Assyrian army.

Though we have these two areas listed for us here in the introduction we will quickly notice that this simply a vantage point where God begins to display his sovereign rule which will stretch throughout all nations.

THE GOD APPOINTED TIME

Isaiah's ministry takes place in the early 8th century (ca. 750-700 BC). However, the mention of these kings are not only for dating markers but to give us the background of what is going on during this time.

Prideful Uzziah / Jotham ~ Uzziah became king at 16 yrs old. We are told he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord (2 Kings 15 & 2 Chron 26).

God made Uzziah successful.

2 Chronicles 26:5 ^{ESV} | "He set himself to seek God in the days of Zechariah, who instructed him in the fear of God, and as long as he sought

the LORD, God made him prosper."

He became proud in his success.

2 Chronicles 26:16–21 ^{ESV} | "16 But when he was strong, he grew proud, to his destruction. For he was unfaithful to the LORD his God and entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense. 17 But Azariah the priest went in after him, with eighty priests of the LORD who were men of valor, 18 and they withstood King Uzziah and said to him, "It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron, who are consecrated to burn incense. Go out of the sanctuary, for you have done wrong, and it will bring you no honor from the LORD God." 19 Then Uzziah was angry. Now he had a censer in his hand to burn incense, and when he became angry with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead in the presence of the priests in the house of the LORD, by the altar of incense. 20 And Azariah the chief priest and all the priests looked at him, and behold, he was leprous in his forehead! And they rushed him out quickly, and he himself hurried to go out, because the LORD had struck him. 21 And King Uzziah was a leper to the day of his death, and being a leper lived in a separate house, for he was excluded from the house of the LORD. And Jotham his son was over the king's household, governing the people of the land."

God's Holiness shows us our pride.

Wicked Ahaz ~ Ahaz did NOT do what was right in the eyes of the Lord his God (2 Kings 16 & 2 Chron. 28).

He sacrificed his own sons.

2 Chronicles 28:2–4 ^{ESV} | "2 He even made metal images for the Baals, 3 and he made offerings in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom and burned his sons as an offering, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel. 4 And he sacrificed and made offerings on the high places and on the hills and under every green tree."

He replaced the altar of the Lord (& many other items in the temple) with one of his own making.

2 Kings 16:15–16 ^{ESV} | "15 And King Ahaz commanded Uriah the priest, saying, "On the great altar burn the morning burnt offering and the evening grain offering and the king's burnt offering and his grain offering, with the burnt offering of all the people of the land, and their grain offering and their drink offering. And throw on it all the blood of the burnt offering and all the blood of the sacrifice, but the bronze altar shall be for me to inquire by." 16 Uriah the priest did all this, as King Ahaz commanded."

Ahaz's name is Hebrew for "he has grasped". This is appropriate because Ahaz grasped for help by asking help from the Assyrian king when being attacked by Syria & Israel instead of trusting in God (Isaiah 7).

Isaiah 7:9 ^{ESV} | "If you are not firm in faith, you will not be firm at all."

God's holiness shows us our wicked hearts.

Fickle Hezekiah ~ Hezekiah did what was right in the eyes of the LORD (2 Kings 18; 2 Chron 29). He tore down all the high places and removed the idolatry in the land. He even re-established the faithful temple worship and the passover. His prayers are some of the most encouraging recorded from the kings. His prayer for deliverance from the Assyrian armies within miles of Jerusalem resulted in the angel of the Lord striking down 185,000 Assyrians in their sleep (2 Kings 19). Hezekiah became very sick. Isaiah told him that he was going to die from his sickness. Hezekiah prayed in his brokenness (2 Kings 20) and the Lord granted him 15 more years to live.

However, Hezekiah kept wanting to "do something". He was not willing to wait and trust the Lord. He kept wanting to go to Egypt to ask for help especially as the Assyrian armies were pressing in. After his recovery from death he brought in the king of Babylon and showed him everything in his kingdom, all the riches in his house, storehouses and temple. We know that this was pride on Hezekiah's part (2 Chron. 32) and Isaiah rebukes him for this prideful showing off of his achievements by telling Hezekiah...

Isaiah 39:5–6 ^{ESV} | "5 Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD of hosts: 6 Behold, the days are coming, when all that is in your house, and that which your fathers have stored up till this day, shall be

carried to Babylon. Nothing shall be left, says the LORD."

God's Holiness shows Us Our Strength and how foolish and frail we are apart from Him.

CONCLUSION

"The closer we get to God, the more clearly we see ourselves as we really are. As long as we compare ourselves to others, we can always find someone who makes us feel good about how well we are doing. But when we step into the light of God's holiness, our lives are brought into sharp relief. What once may have seemed clean and pure suddenly looks soiled and tarnished. The pure light of His holiness exposes the nooks and crannies, the cracks and crevices of our innermost being...To know God, to live in His presence, and to be occupied with a vision of His holiness is to know how foolish and frail we are apart from Him; it is to be broken from our preoccupation with ourselves; it is to experience the cleansing, restoring power of Christ who was broken on the cross on our behalf." - Nancy Leigh DeMoss

John 1:14 ^{ESV} | "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."