

The Word of God: Divine Sovereignty and Human Responsibility

Isaiah 6

- Isaiah lived about 140 years prior to the Babylonian captivity
- His divine commissioning (6.1-8)
- Was to have a ministry in which people were hardened by the Word of God
- They would not understand. 6.9-10
- They would not understand for a long time. 6.11-12
- This will be true for 90%. 6.13

- And the “holy seed” shall be the substance—the pillar.
- Cf. 11.1-2
- But this hardening will not simply take the form of outright rejection. Isaiah 29.1-16/Matthew 15.7-9

This hardening is a judgment upon the nation, because of their refusal to hear the Word of God, and it continued into Jesus' day, and continues even to this day

- To this day: Romans 11.5-8
- In Jesus' day:
- John 2.23-24
- John 12.34-43
- Matthew 23.37-39

The hardening predicted by Isaiah
becomes the foundation of the
Parable of the Sower

- Luke 8.1-15
- Mark 4.1-20
- Matthew 13.1-23
- The “success” of the seed is in understanding. Matthew 13.19, 23

This parable

- Is foundational to all other parables.
Mark 4.13
- Is revelation. A “mystery” is revelation.
- The seed is the Word
- The seed is sown in hearts

This takes us back to Isaiah 6.9-10

- This is the “process” in which God dealt with Israel through His Word
- There is no other nation to which God deals this way
- But there are individual applications