THEN I HEARD THE VOICE OF THE LORD

Isaiah 6:8 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!”

The Setting of the Vision

Isaiah 6:1a In the year that King Uzziah died,

Isaiah 1:1 The vision concerning Judah and Jerusalem that Isaiah son of Amoz saw during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

2 Chronicles 26:21 King Uzziah had leprosy until the day he died. He lived in a separate house – leprous, and banned from the temple of the LORD. Jotham his son had charge of the palace and governed the people of the land.

2 Chronicles 27:1 Jotham…reigned…sixteen years.

2 Chronicles 28:1 Ahaz…reigned…sixteen years.

2 Kings 18:1 In the third year of Hoshea…Hezekiah…began to reign.

2 Kings 17:6a In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and deported the Israelites to Assyria.

2 Chronicles 29:1 Hezekiah…reigned…twenty-nine years.

Isaiah 36:1 In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah’s reign

Who and What Isaiah Saw

Isaiah 6:1 In 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.

The primary meaning of the word translated “Lord” is master.

John 12:40&41 “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts; so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts; nor turn – and I would heal them.” Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus’ glory and spoke about him.

Jesus was high and exalted: Isaiah 2:17 The arrogance of man will be brought low and human pride humbled; the LORD alone will be exalted in that day.

He was seated on a throne in the heavenly temple, “and the train of his robe filled the temple.”

The Worship Given Jesus by the Seraphim

Isaiah 6:2-4 Above 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. And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

Revelation 4:8 Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.”

Revelation 5:13&14 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!” The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

“LORD” is *“Yahweh,”*  “I am that I am” (Exodus 3:14) the eternally self-existent one. John 8:58 “Very truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am.”

“Almighty” is usually translated “of hosts” meaning of armies. Revelation 19:14a The armies of heaven were following him,

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

Isaiah’s Response

Isaiah 6:5 “Woe to me!” I cried. “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.”

Symbolic Cleansing

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

What Isaiah Heard

Isaiah 6:8 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!”

Notice: Then Isaiah heard what the Lord was saying. It does not say, “Then the Lord said.” God had apparently been saying this, but until he was cleansed, Isaiah did not hear it.

What Isaiah Said

Isaiah 6:8b And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

God’s Response

Isaiah 6:9 He said, “Go and tell this people…”

Isaiah’s Question

Isaiah 6:11a Then I said, “For how long, Lord?”

God’s Response

Isaiah 6:11b&12 “Until the cities lie ruined and without inhabitant, until the houses are left deserted and the fields ruined and ravaged, until the LORD has sent everyone far away and the land is utterly forsaken.”

Application

Many of us have gone through a significant time of humiliation, fasting and prayer, following the pattern of 2 Chronicles 7:13&14 “When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain,, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

As part of that, many of us have prayed David’s prayer in Psalm 139:23&24(NASB) Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.

When Isaiah confessed, “I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips,” he was cleansed, and THEN he heard God saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”

One of the results of humbling ourselves and repenting before God should be that we can then clearly hear what God is trying to tell us. And if we respond with an obedient heart, I think it is safe to say that we will hear Him say, “Go and tell!”

2 Peter 3:9b Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Matthew 9:38&39 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

John 4:35b (NASB) “Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest.”