

Isaiah’s Call Report

Isaiah’s call report was his story of how he was called as a Priest into the office of a Prophet. He records it **Isaiah 6:1-4 In the year that King Uzziah died,**

Uzziah, whose name means “The Lord is my Strength” was the King of Judah. He began his reign at an early age of 16 and ruled as King for 52 years. He was a charismatic young king who was loved by the people.

He was one of the good Kings who **“did what was right in the eyes of the Lord.”**

Uzziah brought back temple worship and lead the nation to experience economic and military success. You can read about him in 2 Chronicles.

But Uzziah didn’t finish well. At the peak of his career as he became more successful and more prominent, in the pride of his heart and in arrogancy, he went into the temple an tried to perform priestly duties himself. He tried to burn incense on the altar, which was strictly forbidden. Only the priests were allowed to perform priestly duties.

The legitimate priesthood resisted him and King Uzziah became so angry that he was stricken on the forehead with leprosy. He ran from the temple and lived the rest of his life with leprosy, becoming a national disgrace. He was never allowed in the temple again and his son had to take over his leadership role. Uzziah lived in a separate palace and later died of the leprosy.

Side Note. Uzziah is also mentioned in the lineage of Christ Jesus, Matthew 1:8-9

So, this is the historical reference point that Isaiah is using when he begins Isaiah 6.

Isaiah 6:1-5 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, (KJV I saw ALSO the Lord) high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple.

2 Above him were seraphim, (the only place in the bible is the seraphim is mentioned. A fiery burning beast of worship) **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; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

4 At 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.”

This is one greatest of all personal visions granted to a prophet or any person in the bible.

Up until the transfiguration of Christ that Peter, James, and John saw, this in one of the most extravagant descriptions of the Lord of hosts ever given to men.

It’s interesting that Isaiah dates this extravagant vision with a contemporary political event.

Isaiah 6:1-5 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw (ALSO) the Lord,

It seems like the temporary fleeting political event such as the death of an earthly king is nothing compared to the eternal vision of an immortal God. But he dates the later with the former.

But don’t we all do that? We all have those years that are dated by historical events.

- The Year JFK was shot.
- The year MLK was shot on a motel balcony in Memphis Tennessee.
- The year of Columbine High School.
- The year of 9-11. (2001) Everyone here remembers where you were when you got the news that our secure nation was under attack. Realizing we have a target on us.
- The year of the Covid Virus.

These events mark the year for us. These historical event name the year.

The King of Heaven

But notice what Isaiah is saying. In the year of this terrible thing, the year of the death of our King, I also saw THE KING OF HEAVEN.

Now, God can reveal himself to people in various forms- in any way he chooses. He appeared to Moses as a burning bush. He appeared as a column of fire, a cloud by day and pillar of fire by night, as smoke, and as a dove when Jesus was baptized. He can appear to anyone at any time, in any form that he wants.

So why did God choose to appear to Isaiah the prophet at exactly that moment in human history as a KING sitting on his throne? God is sending Isaiah a wonderful comforting message.

- He is saying, “I know that you are worried because the King of Israel is dead, but I’m showing you the KING OF HEAVEN is alive!”
- You are concerned. You are worried about the future because the throne of the country is empty, but I’m revealing to you the throne of heaven is occupied.

That’s why the little word “ALSO” is so important. Because Isaiah is saying in the year that King Uzziah died, I saw, ALSO, the Lord!

Faith is Not Denial

Isaiah is not denying that King Uzziah had died, and their country is not in trouble.

Faith in the times of crises is not denial.

We don’t deny there is a pandemic, we don’t deny when there is an economic crisis, we don’t deny when the stock market goes down, we don’t deny when there is widespread division and unrest in our country, or whatever it is. We see it. Faith is not denial.

When the spies in the Old Testament returned from the promise land, Ten of the twelve spies gave a bad report. When they said there are giants in the land, that wasn’t a bad report, that was reality. The bad report was when they said, “Giants are in the land, and we can’t beat them.”

Two of the spies Joshua and Caleb, men of faith, didn’t deny that there were giants in the land, they said, “There are giants in the land flowing with milk and honey and with God on our side we can win!”

Faith is not denial. Faith is seeing the historical reality that we are facing but seeing ALSO the glorious triumph God Almighty! The King is dead, but I see that God is my true King!

What about when we have a crisis in our lives?

- The year I lost my job. The year daddy died. The year he or she walked out on me.
- The year I failed out of school. The year the doctor told me I had cancer.
- The year we lost our child. The year when everything fell apart.

These things cause us to name our year.

NEXT STEP: This week I will think about what major life events named a year for me. Such as: “That was the year that _____.”

But we stay calm. We walk in peace. Yes, we see it. We realize what’s going on.

We say, “Yes, I see this crisis in my life, BUT **I see ALSO the Lord** and he is **high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple.**

And amid my crisis, I’m going to trust him and (like the seraphim) I going to worship him, crying Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.

NEXT STEP: No matter what has happened in the past, what is happening now, or what will happen in the future- I will memorize, believe, and quote 2 Corinthians 1:10. “From such terrible dangers of death he saved us, and will save us; and we have placed our hope in him that he will save us again,” -2 Corinthians 1:10