

# Isaiah

The Day of the LORD  
Isaiah 6

1



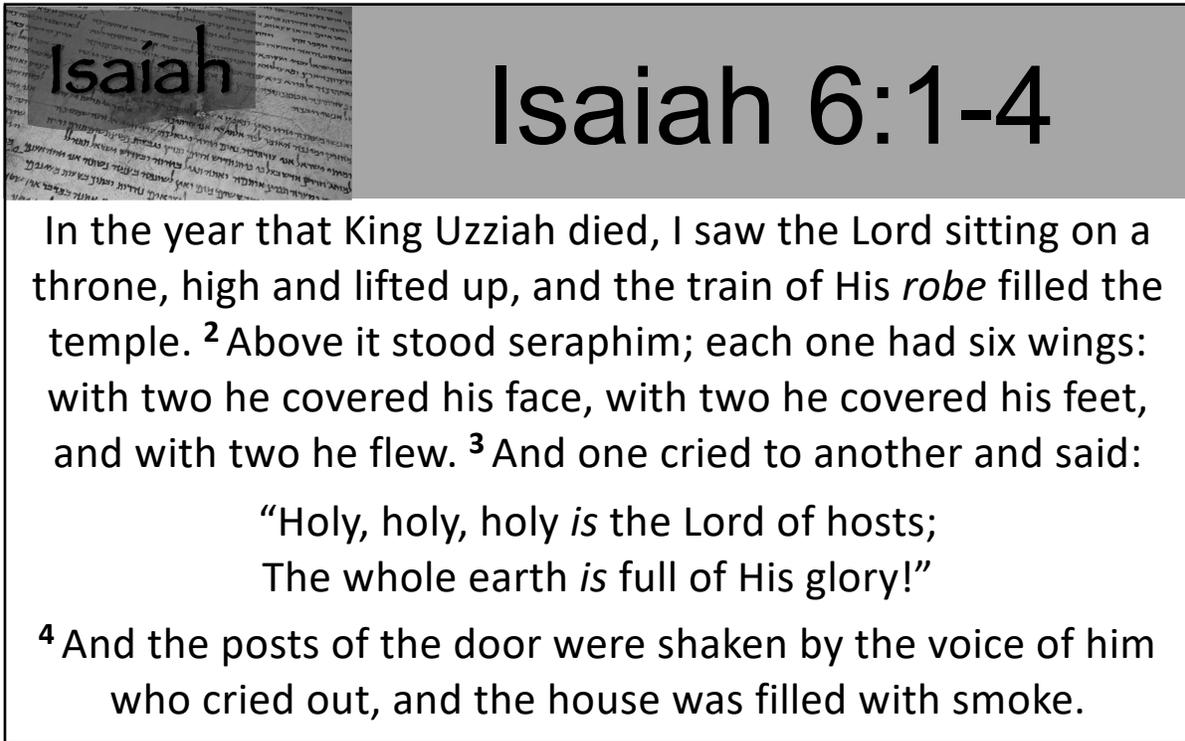
## Introduction

In the year that King Uzziah died, God gave Isaiah an extraordinary vision of Himself.

Isaiah's faith needed to be strengthened. He needed to know beyond any doubt who the Lord is and the extreme importance of the message being given to him.

Isaiah also needed to know how sinful he and others were in the light of God's holiness.

2



**Isaiah**

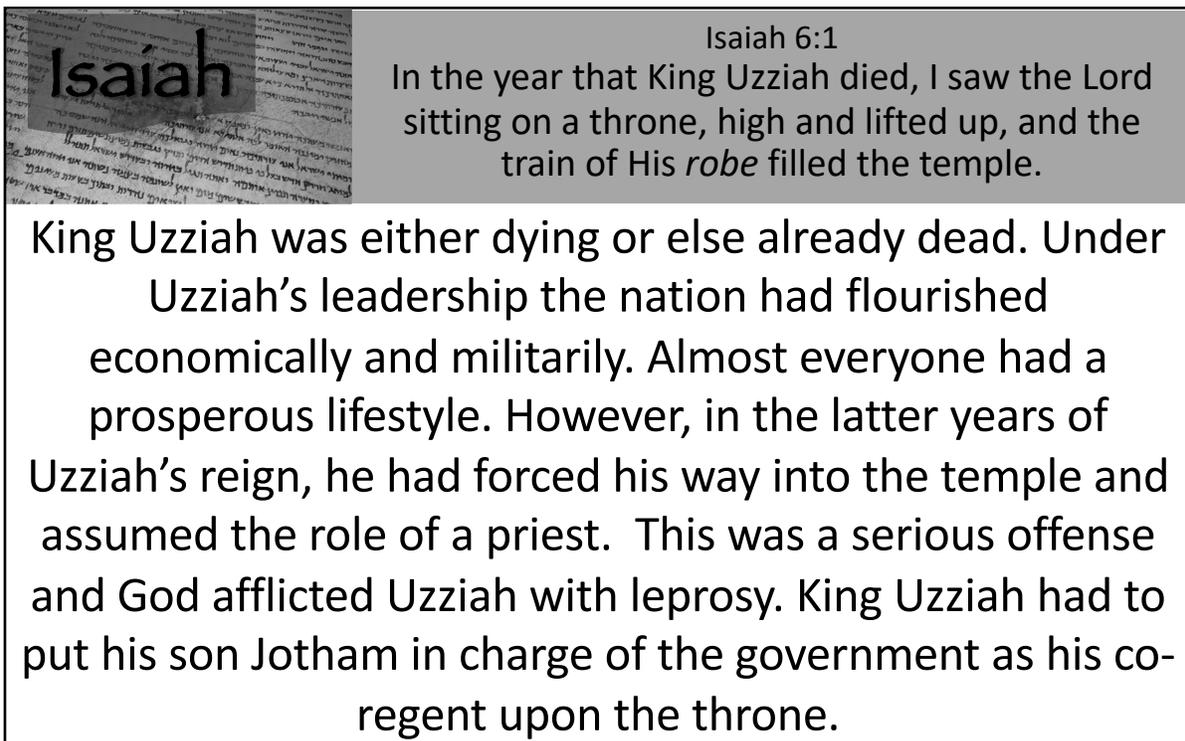
# Isaiah 6:1-4

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His *robe* filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. <sup>3</sup>And one cried to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy *is* the Lord of hosts;  
The whole earth *is* full of His glory!”

<sup>4</sup>And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.

3



**Isaiah**

Isaiah 6:1

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His *robe* filled the temple.

King Uzziah was either dying or else already dead. Under Uzziah’s leadership the nation had flourished economically and militarily. Almost everyone had a prosperous lifestyle. However, in the latter years of Uzziah’s reign, he had forced his way into the temple and assumed the role of a priest. This was a serious offense and God afflicted Uzziah with leprosy. King Uzziah had to put his son Jotham in charge of the government as his co-regent upon the throne.

4



Isaiah 6:1

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It is unclear if Uzziah was a priest. Scholars are divided over the issue. We do know that Isaiah was at the temple, perhaps concerned over the state and future of Israel. He may have been seeking the Lord when he received His vision.

5



Isaiah 6:1

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His *robe* filled the temple.

Isaiah saw the Lord sitting on His heavenly throne, high and exalted. It was the throne of the Lord Jesus Christ - the King of kings. The Gospel of John confirms this fact (Jn.12:41). Jesus was exalted as the sovereign God over all the universe over all that exists both in this world and the spiritual.

6



Isaiah 6:1

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His *robe* filled the temple.

Isaiah also saw the Lord's flowing robes fill the heavenly sanctuary. I am sure that many were at the temple when God chose to reveal Himself, but only Isaiah saw the vision. While others looked at the glory of the temple, Isaiah saw the glory that filled the temple!

7



Isaiah 6:2

Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

Flying above the throne were seraphim. The word "seraphim" (sarap) means burning ones, suggesting a burning purity and zeal for the Lord. Perhaps their presence suggests the burning, consuming fire of God's presence. In appearance, the seraphim were like humans in that they had faces, feet, and voices. But they were unlike humans in that they had six wings.

8



Isaiah 6:2

Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

⇒ With two wings they covered their faces, indicating their unworthiness and humility. They were not worthy to gaze upon the face of the Holy One.

⇒ With two other wings they covered their feet, perhaps indicating their reverence for the Lord. They are not worthy to stand before the Lord.

⇒ With the other two wings they flew or hovered above the throne of God, possibly signifying their continued ministry of proclaiming God's holiness and glory. However, their flying could also signify a readiness to undertake any task assigned by the Lord.

9



Isaiah 6:3

And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!"

Isaiah saw and heard the seraphim's fervent, unbroken praise of God's holiness and glory. The seraphim called back and forth to each other: "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory."

The threefold repetition of holy emphasizes uniqueness of God's holiness. Holy (qadosh) means to be set apart, separated, distinctive, different, transcendent. It also has the idea of perfection, purity, and moral cleanness.

10



Isaiah 6:3

And one cried to another and said:  
“Holy, holy, holy *is* the Lord of hosts;  
The whole earth *is* full of His glory!”.

The Lord is totally set apart, entirely different from all beings throughout the universe, including mankind. From the very presence of God flows life and all that is good. 1 John 1:5 states “God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all”.

The second part of the seraphim’s song declares “the whole earth is full of His glory.” All Creation declares the glory of God. Wherever we look, whether at the starry sky at night or the astounding beauty of nature, the incomprehensible glory of God is evident.

11



Isaiah 6:4

And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.

The Lord gave Isaiah a vision of His power and presence. The foundation of the temple was shaken by those who cried out. Even the huge doorposts and thresholds trembled. Witnessing this would remind Isaiah of God’s awesome power and that of His angelic agents.

Isaiah also saw smoke fill the temple. Most likely, this smoke was the cloud of glory that symbolized the Lord’s holy presence. His cloud of glory, His presence, had led the Israelites through the wilderness.

12



# Isaiah 6:5-7

So I said: “*Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I *am* a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts.*”

<sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal *which* he had taken with the tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup>And he touched my mouth *with it*, and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged.”

13



## Isaiah 6:5

So I said: “*Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I *am* a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts.*”

Seeing God in His glory and holiness, Isaiah was confronted by his own sinfulness. Isaiah had been serving the Lord and as he encountered God in His purity, he realized that the very lips he used to prophesy were unclean. Not only was he unclean, but he realized that all the nation was unclean. It is easy to think that one is living good and holy until one is confronted by the holiness of God.

14



## Isaiah 6:5

So I said: “Woe *is* me, for I am undone! Because I *am* a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts.”

“Woe” is a pronouncement of judgment. Confronted by true Holiness, Isaiah realizes that he was guilty and pronounces judgement on himself. He cries out “I am undone!” This word means to be ruined, cut off, destroyed, doomed to die. If God did not intervene, he was a doomed man.

15



## Isaiah 6:6-7

Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal *which* he had taken with the tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup> And he touched my mouth *with it*, and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged.”

Here is a picture of God’s grace and forgiveness. Instead of being condemned, Isaiah was purified. Notice that the coal was taken from the altar. This points to the sacrifice of Jesus. Through the sacrifice of the altar, Isaiah’ sin was taken away and he was cleansed.

16



Isaiah 6:8  
 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying:  
 “Whom shall I send,  
 And who will go for Us?”  
 Then I said, “Here *am* I! Send me.”

Isaiah hears the voice of God. Whom would God send to a lost, blind, and hurting world. Isaiah had seen the glory of God’s holiness and realized his own sinful state. God had forgiven and cleansed him. He understands the lostness of the people. His response, “Hear *am* I! Send me.”

17



## So What ...

God is Holy, Holy, Holy and no sin can dwell in His presence. We must recognize that we are unclean and live in a world filled with unclean people. If you are a believer, you also have experienced the forgiveness that Jesus offers. Who will go for God and warn this generation?  
 Will you say, “here *am* I, send me!”

18