

# The Prophecies of Isaiah <sup>14</sup>

## Lesson 5

The third vision of Isaiah occurs in 755 BC, the year of King Uzziah's death.

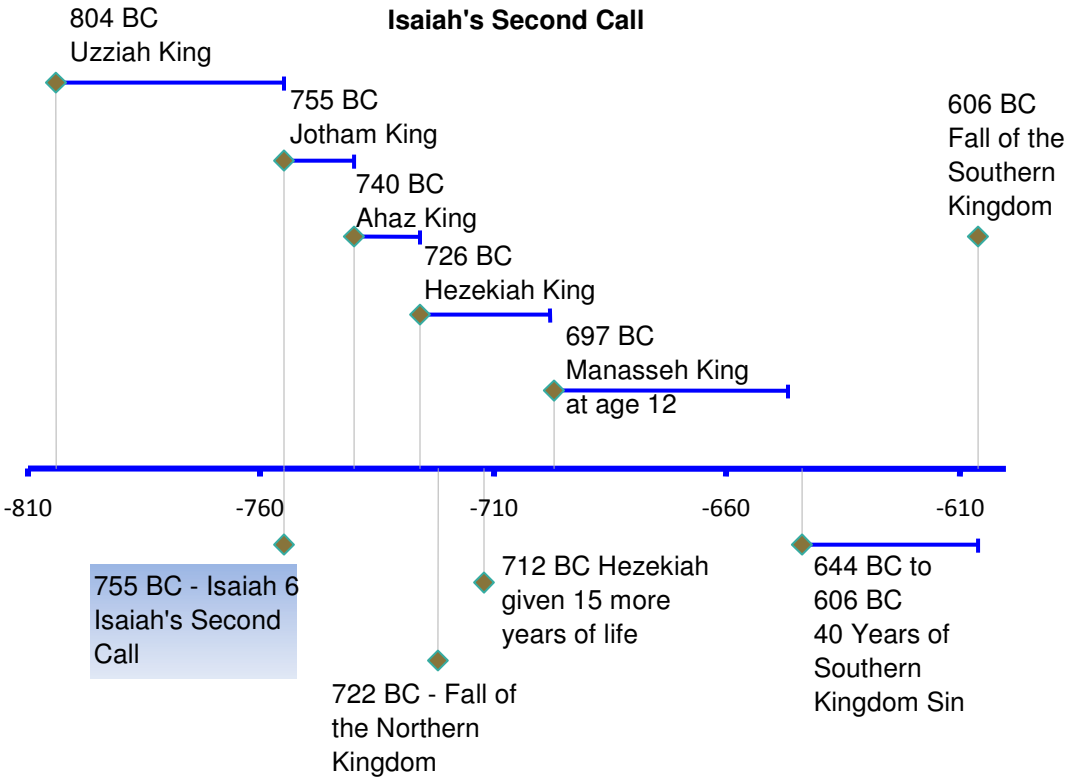


Figure 11: Isaiah's Second Call - Isaiah 6

Isaiah has already delivered two visions to the Southern Kingdom warning them of the coming doom on the Northern Kingdom. However, the third vision is not a warning or a message to be delivered to either kingdom; it is Isaiah's second call and confirmation as the Lord's prophet. The call includes the elements presented in Figure 12.

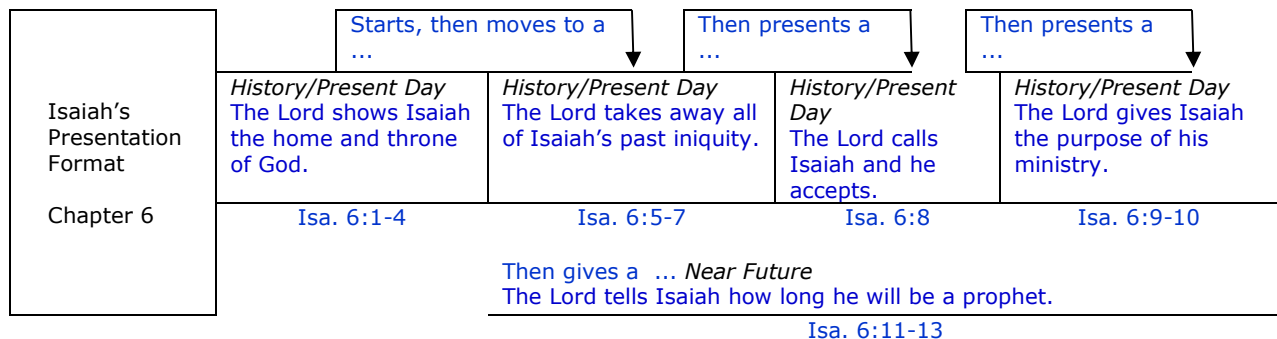


Figure 12: Third Word to Isaiah – Chapter 6

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**Isaiah 6:1** In the year of King Uzziah's death, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. <sup>2</sup> Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings; with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. <sup>3</sup> And one called out 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 foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke.

In Chapter 6, the Lord shows His home to Isaiah. Some might think that the Lord is showing Isaiah what heaven will look like in the future, but heaven was God's first creation. The opening words of Genesis 1:1 tells of the order of God's creation.

**Genesis 1:**<sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Before the Lord created and hung a big blue ball of water in space and called it earth, He created His home, His throne, and all the heavenly creatures on Sunday, the first day of the week. According to Jewish teaching, it occurred on the first day of Tishri in the first year of God's creation.

Isaiah does not describe the entire room at this point, choosing to focus on the robe and Seraphim. The train of the robe fills the temple throne room and the seraphim hover above the Lord.



Picture 1: The Throne of the Lord Artwork by Pat Marvenko Smith. Uses by Permission

The Seraphim are fiery angels, ready to jump into service at the Lord's command. They are not the same type of angles as the four that guard the throne who move in the same direction as the throne with the faces of the cow, lion, man and eagle. Although Seraphim are a different class of angels, both groups have six wings.<sup>15</sup> In the picture above, they are the angels hovering behind the 24 elders. In this passage, one Seraph calls to another saying, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory." In the Jewish tradition, another Seraph echoes the same words across the room and another follows suit. The voices of the angels boom through the hall and the foundation shakes and rumbles. They speak the word Holy three times, to represent the holiness of the Father, the holiness of the Son and the holiness of the Spirit.

Why does the room fill with smoke in Isaiah's vision? Elsewhere in the Scripture, smoke represents the presence of the Lord. In the wilderness experience, when the smoke filled the tabernacle, the people knew that the Lord had filled the tent. Occasionally, when Moses entered the tent, the smoke covered it in order to secure a private meeting. Smoke covered Mt. Sinai and Moses climbed through it and waited for the Lord to speak. For Isaiah, the smoke is a confirmation that he is in the presence of the Lord.

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<sup>15</sup> Seraphim is the plural of Seraph. A Seraph is a single angel.

History/Present Day

### **Isaiah's iniquity taken away**

**Isaiah 6:5** Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among 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, with a burning coal in his hand which he had taken from the altar with tongs. <sup>7</sup> And he touched my mouth *with it* and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away, and your sin is forgiven."

The sight of the glorious King of creation causes Isaiah to be painfully aware of his sin. He has sinned with his own lips and he lives among a lying sinful people. He has seen the Lord. Can anyone see the Lord and live? Does Isaiah see the face of the Lord or does the smoke shield Isaiah from a clear view? It does not matter. Isaiah's words, "Woe is me, for I am ruined!" indicating his fear for his life are unfounded. Isaiah has been chosen by the Lord and He will remove all of Isaiah's sin.

A Seraph swoops down in front of the Lord to pick up a piece of coal from the altar. It was from this altar in heaven that the

Lord sent fire to light the replica built by Moses for the people in the wilderness to offer the burnt offerings to the Lord. The fire sent from heaven was to be a perpetual fire on the altar on earth, never to be put out. <sup>16</sup>

The Seraph uses tongs to take the burning coal to Isaiah, not to burn his lips but to purify them. When he touches Isaiah's mouth, all his past sins are pardoned. All his sins are purged. All of Isaiah's past is forgiven.

History/Present Day

### **Isaiah's Call and Acceptance**

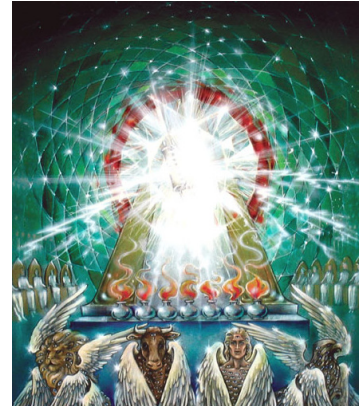
**Isaiah 6:8** Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

Isaiah hears the voice of the Lord. Both Adam and Eve knew the Lord's voice. Enoch heard the Lord and so did Noah and Moses. Other prophets besides Isaiah have heard the Lord including Samuel, Joel, Jonah, Elijah, Elisha, Amos, Hosea, and Micah. Isaiah hears the Lord say, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" The Father, the Son and the Spirit need to send a messenger. Who will it be? Isaiah feels he must answer the Lord's call. His sins have been purged and forgiven. He has seen the Lord and he is compelled to answer His call. "Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah exclaims. The call has been made and the prophet has accepted it.

History/Present Day

### **Isaiah's Message**

**Isaiah 6:9** And He said, "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on listening, but do not perceive; Keep on looking, but do not understand.'<sup>10</sup>" Render the hearts of this people insensitive, Their ears dull, And their eyes dim, Lest they see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, Understand with their hearts, And return and be healed."



Picture 2: The Throne of the Lord with the seven fire pots in front of the altar. Artwork by Pat Marvenko Smith. Uses by Permission

<sup>16</sup> Leviticus 6:12-13; Leviticus 9:24 and 2 Chronicles 7:1

The Lord charges Isaiah to keep telling the people so that they can hear, understand, return and be healed. When Isaiah begins his ministry, the Northern Kingdom of Israel has stopped listening to the Lord and looking into Scripture to understand His statutes. Their hearts are dull and their eyes are dim, but a change can still happen in their lives if they will return to the Lord. The Lord will not bring destruction on the north without a messenger to trumpet a way to avoid His wrath. Isaiah will be one of the prophets, joined by Micah in the south as well as Amos and Hosea in the north. Nothing is new about this message. The Lord is always ready to rescue anyone who turns to Him, even in the last minute of life. The greatest picture of this experience can be seen in the Lord's promise to the thief on the cross 780 years after this vision.

Near Future

### **Isaiah's Length of Ministry**

**Isaiah 6:11** Then I said, "Lord, how long?" And He answered, "Until cities are devastated and without inhabitant, Houses are without people, And the land is utterly desolate, <sup>12</sup> "The LORD has removed men far away, And the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land. <sup>13</sup> "Yet there will be a tenth portion in it, And it will again be *subject* to burning, Like a terebinth or an oak whose stump remains when it is felled. The holy seed is its stump."

Isaiah has accepted the call and been given the message, but he asks the Lord, "how long." The Lord tells him that he will prophesy until the cities are destroyed and emptied and the land lies desolate. What land? The Lord is speaking about the Northern Kingdom of Israel, not the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

Although the Lord will call for Assyria to destroy the land of Israel, not all of the people will die. Ten percent of the northern 10 tribes will survive the destruction. This remnant will thrive like the stump of the mighty terebinth or the oak trees. The terebinth is a pistachio tree and very popular in the Southern Kingdom where oaks are also prevalent. The Lord is making this comparison so the Southern Kingdom will understand Isaiah's message concerning the north. The terebinth and oak trees of the Southern Kingdom can be cut down but as long as the roots are in place, both trees will sprout from their stumps and grow to full maturity again. However, the roots are in danger if someone decides to burn the stump before it can grow. The 10 percent of the Northern Kingdom who survive are the holy seed of the north that will grow again into a magnificent nation if it will remain faithful to the Lord while in exile and afterwards. This part of the Near Future will be fulfilled in 722 BC and Isaiah's ministry will end soon after. The vision occurs in 755 BC and the fall will occur in 722 BC, 33 years later, in the fourth year after Hezekiah becomes king. But in 722 BC, the land of the whole Northern Kingdom of Israel is not completely desolate. It will take another 20 years for the Assyrians to desolate the land and plant a group of Sumerians there, specifically the land directly north and adjacent to the Southern Kingdom. The Sumer people will intermarry with the northern Jews left behind and by the time of Christ, they will be called the



Map 4: Boundaries of the Northern Kingdom - Israel

Samaritans instead of Sumerians. All of this prophecy will be fulfilled by the time of Hezekiah's death and Isaiah will die shortly after.

Table 3: Scripture Fulfillment in Isaiah – Chapter 6

<b>Passage</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Time of Fulfillment</b>
Isa. 6:1-4	<i>History/Present Day</i> The Lord shows Isaiah the home and throne of God.	Fulfilled on the first day of creation.
Isa. 6:5-7	<i>History/Present Day</i> The Lord takes away all of Isaiah's past iniquity.	Fulfilled in 755 BC when the third vision occurs.
Isa. 6:8	<i>History/Present Day</i> The Lord calls Isaiah and he accepts.	Fulfilled in 755 BC when the third vision occurs.
Isa. 6:9-10	<i>History/Present Day</i> The Lord gives Isaiah the purpose of his ministry.	Fulfilled in 755 BC when the third vision occurs.
Isa. 6:11-13	<i>Near Future</i> The Lord tells Isaiah how long he will be a prophet.	Fulfilled between 722 BC and the death of Hezekiah in 697 BC.

*Isaiah Chapter 6 is totally fulfilled.*