

CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Isaiah Chapter 6 — Isaiah's Vision and Commission

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Isaiah Chapter 6 is one of the most majestic passages in the entire Old Testament.

Isaiah is given a vision of God.

He sees:

A throne.

A King.

A temple filled with glory.

Seraphim surrounding the throne.

Smoke filling the temple.

Foundations shaking.

And he hears heaven declaring:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Heaven's Armies.”

Everything changes when Isaiah sees God as He truly is.

Before Isaiah can become the prophet who declares:

“Woe to others,”

he first says:

“Woe is me!”

The holiness of God exposes the sinfulness of Isaiah.

He becomes especially aware of his:

Unclean lips.

And the unclean lips of the people around him.

Yet God does not leave Isaiah condemned.

A seraph takes a burning coal from the altar.

The coal touches Isaiah's lips.

Then comes the declaration:

“Your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

Only after:

Vision.

Conviction.

Cleansing.

Does Isaiah hear the call:

“Whom shall I send?”

Isaiah responds:

“Here am I. Send me!”

The order is important.

Isaiah sees God.

Isaiah sees himself.

Isaiah is cleansed.

Isaiah hears God.

Isaiah volunteers.

Isaiah is commissioned.

But his assignment will not be easy.

He will preach to people who repeatedly hear but refuse to understand.

His ministry will expose their hardened condition and confirm judgment upon persistent rebellion.

Isaiah asks:

“Lord, how long?”

The answer is sobering.

Until:

Cities are ruined.

Houses are abandoned.

The land is devastated.

The people are scattered.

Yet even then:

God preserves hope.

A stump remains.

And within that stump:

“The holy seed.”

Judgment will not destroy God’s promises.

The central truth of Isaiah 6 is:

A true encounter with the holiness of God exposes human sinfulness, leads to cleansing by divine grace, produces willing service, and equips God’s servant to proclaim His Word faithfully even when the message is rejected, because God will preserve His holy purposes through a faithful remnant.

I. ISAIAH SEES THE LORD UPON HIS THRONE

Isaiah 6:1 — The King Still Reigns

“In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of His robe filled the temple.”

The chapter begins with a historical marker:

King Uzziah died.

An earthly king has died.

But Isaiah sees another King.

The Lord is:

Alive.

Seated.

Reigning.

High.

Exalted.

Uzziah’s throne is empty.

God’s throne is not.

This contrast is essential.

Human rulers come and go.

God remains King.

The train of His robe fills the temple, emphasizing the overwhelming majesty of His royal presence.

Cross References

2 Chronicles 26:23

Uzziah died and was buried with his ancestors, though because of the disease that marked the end of his life he was buried in a field associated with the royal burial place, and his son Jotham became king after him.

John 12:41

John explains that Isaiah said these things because he saw Christ's glory and spoke concerning Him.

Revelation 4:2

John was immediately caught up in the Spirit and saw a throne established in heaven with One seated upon that throne.

Spiritual Principle

When earthly stability disappears, heaven's throne remains occupied.

Key Truth

Kings die.

Governments change.

God still reigns.

II. THE SERAPHIM STAND BEFORE THE LORD

Isaiah 6:2 — Reverence in the Presence of God

“Above Him stood the seraphim, each with six wings: with two they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew.”

Isaiah sees heavenly beings called:

Seraphim.

Each has six wings.

Two cover the face.

Two cover the feet.

Two are used to fly.

Their posture communicates:

Reverence.

Humility.

Readiness.

Even sinless heavenly beings do not behave casually in the presence of God's holiness.

Cross References

Revelation 4:8

The living creatures around God's throne each have six wings and continually worship God day and night, declaring His holiness, almighty power, eternal existence, and coming rule.

Ezekiel 1:11

The heavenly creatures had wings extended upward, wings touching one another, and other wings covering their bodies as they served in God's presence.

Exodus 25:20

The cherubim above the mercy seat were to spread their wings upward, overshadowing the cover, while facing one another with their attention directed toward the mercy seat.

Spiritual Principle

The closer we understand God's holiness, the less casually we approach Him.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Reverence is not distance from God.

It is the proper response to recognizing who God truly is.

III. HEAVEN DECLARES GOD THREE TIMES HOLY

Isaiah 6:3 — “Holy, Holy, Holy”

“And they called to one another: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Heaven's Armies; the whole earth is filled with His glory.’”

The central attribute emphasized is:

Holiness.

Not merely:

Holy.

But:

Holy.

Holy.

Holy.

This threefold declaration intensifies the truth.

God is completely:

Pure.

Set apart.

Morally perfect.

Majestic.

Unlike anything created.

The seraphim also proclaim:

“The whole earth is filled with His glory.”

God’s glory cannot be confined to one temple.

His glory fills creation.

Cross References

Revelation 4:8

The heavenly creatures never cease declaring that the Lord God Almighty is holy, holy, holy—the eternal God who was, who is, and who is coming.

Habakkuk 2:14

The earth will one day be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as completely as waters cover the sea.

Psalms 72:19

Blessed forever is God’s glorious name, and may the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and amen.

Spiritual Principle

Holiness is not merely something God possesses.

God is holy in His very nature.

Key Truth

Everything about God is untouched by moral corruption.

IV. THE TEMPLE SHAKES AT THE SOUND OF WORSHIP

Isaiah 6:4 — Smoke Fills the Temple

“The foundations of the thresholds shook at the sound of their voices, and the temple was filled with smoke.”

Heavenly worship is not presented as weak or casual.

The foundations shake.

Smoke fills the temple.

The scene communicates:

Power.

Majesty.

Awe.

Divine presence.

Isaiah is overwhelmed by the reality of God.

Cross References

Exodus 19:18

Mount Sinai was covered with smoke because the Lord descended upon it in fire; the smoke rose like smoke from a furnace, and the entire mountain shook violently.

Revelation 15:8

The heavenly temple was filled with smoke from the glory and power of God, and no one could enter until His judgments were completed.

Acts 4:31

After the believers prayed, the place where they were gathered was shaken, they were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke God’s Word with boldness.

Spiritual Principle

The presence of God should never be reduced to something ordinary.

V. ISAIAH SEES HIS OWN SINFULNESS

Isaiah 6:5 — “Woe Is Me!”

“Then I cried, ‘Woe is me! 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 of Heaven’s Armies.’”

Isaiah has already pronounced:

Woe.

Against sin.

Now:

He pronounces woe upon himself.

The closer Isaiah gets to God’s holiness, the more clearly he sees his own sin.

He does not compare himself with:

Other prophets.

Other Israelites.

Wicked rulers.

Idolaters.

He compares himself with:

God’s holiness.

And he says:

“I am ruined.”

He especially recognizes his:

Unclean lips.

That is significant for a prophet whose ministry will depend upon words.

Cross References

Exodus 33:20

God told Moses that no human being could behold the fullness of His unveiled presence and survive such an encounter.

Job 42:6

After gaining a deeper awareness of God, Job rejected his former presumption and humbled himself deeply in repentance.

Luke 5:8

After witnessing Jesus' miraculous power, Peter fell before Him and cried out that he was a sinful man unworthy of such holiness.

Spiritual Principle

A genuine vision of God produces humility, not spiritual pride.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The person who sees God more clearly usually sees himself more honestly.

VI. A SERAPH BRINGS A COAL FROM THE ALTAR

Isaiah 6:6 — Cleansing Comes from God's Provision

“Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar.”

Isaiah cannot cleanse himself.

He confesses.

God provides cleansing.

The coal comes from:

The altar.

The altar points toward:

Sacrifice.

Atonement.

God's provision for guilt.

The seraph moves toward Isaiah because grace originates with God.

Cross References

Jeremiah 1:9

The Lord reached out, touched Jeremiah's mouth, and declared that He had placed His words in the prophet's mouth.

Revelation 8:5

An angel took fire from the heavenly altar, placed it in a container, and cast it toward the earth, followed by thunder, voices, lightning, and an earthquake.

Leviticus 16:12

On the Day of Atonement, the high priest was instructed to take burning coals from the altar before the Lord, together with fragrant incense, as part of his sacred service.

Spiritual Principle

The sinner does not manufacture cleansing.

God provides it.

VII. ISAIAH'S GUILT IS REMOVED

Isaiah 6:7 — “Your Sin Is Atoned For”

“He touched my mouth with it and said, ‘See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.’”

Isaiah confessed:

Unclean lips.

God cleanses:

His lips.

The declaration is complete.

Guilt:

Taken away.

Sin:

Atoned for.

God does not merely tell Isaiah:

“Try harder.”

He deals with the guilt.

Cross References

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and righteous to forgive our sins and cleanse us from every kind of unrighteousness.

Zechariah 3:4

God commanded that Joshua's filthy garments be removed and declared that his guilt had been taken away, after which he was clothed in clean garments.

Psalm 51:2

David asks God to wash him thoroughly from guilt and cleanse him completely from sin.

Spiritual Principle

God does not call forgiven people to live under guilt He has removed.

Key Truth

Conviction says:

“You have sinned.”

Grace says:

“Your guilt can be taken away.”

VIII. ISAIAH HEARS THE CALL OF GOD

Isaiah 6:8 — “Here Am I. Send Me!”

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?’
And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’”

Notice the word:

“Then.”

After:

Vision.

Conviction.

Cleansing.

Then:

Commission.

Isaiah is no longer saying:

“Woe is me.”

Now:

“Send me.”

Forgiven people become available people.

He does not first ask:

Where?

How long?

Will people listen?

Will it be safe?

He says:

Here I am.

Cross References

Exodus 3:11

When God called Moses, Moses asked who he was that he should go to Pharaoh and bring Israel out of Egypt.

Acts 9:15

The Lord declared that Saul was His chosen instrument to carry the name of Jesus before Gentiles, kings, and the people of Israel.

Romans 10:15

People cannot preach God's message unless they are sent, and Scripture celebrates those who carry the good news to others.

Spiritual Principle

Cleansing should lead to availability.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not merely ask:

“What can God do for me?”

Ask:

“Where can God send me?”

IX. ISAIAH IS COMMISSIONED TO A HARD-HEARTED PEOPLE

Isaiah 6:9 — Hearing Without Understanding

“He said, ‘Go and tell this people: “Keep listening, but do not understand; keep looking, but do not perceive.”’”

Isaiah receives a difficult commission.

His preaching will not initially produce widespread repentance.

The people have repeatedly rejected truth.

Isaiah's ministry will expose that hardened condition.

This passage does not mean that God delights in people being spiritually blind.

Rather, persistent rejection has reached a point where the proclamation of truth itself becomes part of judicial hardening.

The same Word that softens a receptive heart can confirm a rebellious heart in the path it repeatedly chooses.

Cross References

Matthew 13:14

Jesus explains that Isaiah's prophecy was being fulfilled in people who continually heard the truth without truly understanding and saw God's works without spiritually recognizing them.

Mark 4:12

Jesus explains that parabolic teaching both reveals truth to receptive hearers and leaves resistant hearers confronting the consequences of their refusal to receive it.

John 12:40

John applies Isaiah's words to people who persistently refused to believe despite witnessing Jesus' signs, describing their blindness and hardness under divine judgment.

Spiritual Principle

Repeatedly rejecting truth can make the heart increasingly resistant to truth.

Key Truth

Do not assume you can continually refuse God today and remain equally sensitive to His voice tomorrow.

X. THE PEOPLE'S HEARTS HAVE BECOME DULL

Isaiah 6:10 — Seeing, Hearing, and Understanding

“Make the hearts of this people dull, make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, turn and be healed.”

Three areas are mentioned:

Eyes.

Ears.

Heart.

The problem is comprehensive spiritual insensitivity.

They see physically.

But not spiritually.

They hear sounds.

But resist truth.

The heart refuses understanding.

Isaiah's preaching will reveal and intensify the consequences of that longstanding resistance.

Cross References

Matthew 13:15

Jesus describes people whose hearts have grown dull, whose ears scarcely hear, and whose eyes they have closed, so that they do not see, hear, understand, turn, and receive healing.

Acts 28:27

Paul quotes Isaiah to describe people who have become spiritually dull, refusing to hear and see in a way that would lead them to understand, turn, and experience God's healing.

John 9:39

Jesus says His coming brings a kind of judgment in which those recognizing their blindness may receive sight while those confidently claiming spiritual sight expose their blindness.

Spiritual Principle

Spiritual blindness often deepens when people repeatedly close their eyes to truth.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Every response to God's Word matters because every response helps shape the condition of the heart.

XI. ISAIAH ASKS HOW LONG

Isaiah 6:11 — Faithfulness Through a Long Ministry

“Then I asked, ‘Lord, how long?’ And He answered, ‘Until the cities lie ruined and without inhabitant, until the houses are deserted and the land is completely desolate.’”

Isaiah understands the severity of his assignment.

He asks:

How long?

The answer:

Until judgment runs its course.

This means Isaiah must continue preaching even when:

People reject him.

Visible results are small.

Judgment approaches.

Faithfulness, not popularity, will define his ministry.

Cross References

Psalm 13:1

David cries out to God, asking how long it will seem that the Lord has forgotten him and hidden His face.

Revelation 6:10

The martyrs cry out to the sovereign and holy Lord asking how long it will be until He judges evil and brings justice.

Habakkuk 1:2

Habakkuk asks how long he must cry out about violence and injustice before God visibly intervenes.

Spiritual Principle

God's servants may not always know how long difficult assignments will last.

Key Truth

Faithfulness is not measured by how quickly circumstances change.

XII. THE PEOPLE WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE LAND

Isaiah 6:12 — The Land Forsaken

“Until the Lord has sent everyone far away, and the land is utterly forsaken.”

Judgment includes:

Exile.

Removal.

Desolation.

The land God had given becomes emptied because the people rejected the covenant Lord who gave it.

Cross References

2 Kings 25:21

After Jerusalem's fall, the Babylonians executed leading prisoners at Riblah, and Judah was carried away from its land into exile.

Deuteronomy 28:64

Moses warned that continued covenant rebellion could result in Israel being scattered among nations from one end of the earth to the other.

Leviticus 26:33

God warned that persistent disobedience would result in His people being scattered among the nations while their land became desolate.

Spiritual Principle

Persistent rebellion can cost us blessings we once assumed could never be lost.

XIII. A HOLY SEED WILL REMAIN

Isaiah 6:13 — The Stump After the Tree Is Cut Down

“Yet a tenth will remain in it, but it will be burned again, like a terebinth or an oak tree whose stump remains when it is cut down. So the holy seed will be the stump in the land.”

Judgment is severe.

But not absolute.

A stump remains.

That stump contains:

Life.

Hope.

Future growth.

God preserves:

A remnant.

A holy seed.

The tree is cut down.

But God's promises are not dead.

Cross References

Romans 11:5

Paul explains that even in times of widespread unbelief, God preserves a remnant chosen according to His grace.

Isaiah 10:22

Though Israel may be as numerous as the sand of the sea, only a remnant will return through the judgment God has appointed.

Ezra 9:8

Ezra recognizes that God had shown grace by preserving a remnant, giving His people a secure place, bringing light to their eyes, and allowing them a measure of revival after bondage.

Spiritual Principle

God can preserve life beneath what looks completely cut down.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never mistake a stump for the end of God's story.

XIV. SEVEN GREAT LESSONS FROM ISAIAH 6

1. God Remains King When Earthly Kings Die

Uzziah dies.

God remains on His throne.

Principle:

Human instability never produces instability in heaven.

2. God Is Absolutely Holy

The seraphim proclaim:

"Holy, holy, holy."

Principle:

Everything about God is morally perfect and completely worthy of reverence.

3. Seeing God Clearly Produces Humility

Isaiah does not boast.

He confesses.

Principle:

The closer we come to God's holiness, the less room remains for spiritual pride.

4. Sin Must Be Cleansed Before Service

Isaiah's lips are cleansed before he is commissioned.

Principle:

God prepares the messenger before sending the message.

5. Cleansing Should Produce Availability

Isaiah says:

"Send me!"

Principle:

Grace should make us willing servants.

6. Faithful Ministry Does Not Guarantee Popular Response

Isaiah will preach to resistant people.

Principle:

Success before God is measured by faithfulness, not merely visible results.

7. God Preserves a Remnant

A stump remains.

Principle:

Judgment never causes God to lose control of His redemptive purposes.

XV. WHAT ISAIAH 6 TEACHES ABOUT GOD

Isaiah sees God as:

King.

Lord.

High.

Exalted.

Holy.

Glorious.

Sovereign.

Isaiah's theology begins with God Himself.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

You will never understand yourself correctly until you begin by seeing God correctly.

XVI. WHAT ISAIAH 6 TEACHES ABOUT HOLINESS

The seraphim do not merely say:

Powerful.

Powerful.

Powerful.

They say:

“Holy, holy, holy.”

Holiness stands at the center of the vision.

Spiritual Principle

God's holiness means He cannot be measured by fallen human standards.

XVII. WHAT ISAIAH 6 TEACHES ABOUT SIN

Isaiah's immediate response is:

“Woe is me.”

He sees sin differently after seeing God.

Key Truth

We often minimize sin because we compare ourselves with other sinners rather than with the holiness of God.

XVIII. WHAT ISAIAH 6 TEACHES ABOUT CONFESSION

Isaiah names the problem.

He does not say:

“I have made a few mistakes.”

He says:

“I am a man of unclean lips.”

Confession becomes specific.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

General confession can sometimes become a way of avoiding specific repentance.

XIX. WHAT ISAIAH 6 TEACHES ABOUT CLEANSING

God responds to Isaiah’s confession with cleansing.

The coal touches precisely the area Isaiah confessed:

His lips.

Spiritual Principle

God’s grace addresses the real guilt of the sinner.

XX. WHAT ISAIAH 6 TEACHES ABOUT ATONEMENT

The coal comes from the altar.

The altar is connected with sacrifice.

Then Isaiah hears:

“Your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

Atonement deals with guilt before a holy God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Forgiveness is not God pretending sin never mattered.

It is God providing a way for guilt to be removed.

XXI. WHAT ISAIAH 6 TEACHES ABOUT CALLING

God asks:

“Whom shall I send?”

Isaiah responds:

“Here am I.”

He makes himself available.

Spiritual Principle

The first qualification for many acts of service is willingness to obey God.

XXII. WHAT ISAIAH 6 TEACHES ABOUT MISSION

Isaiah is not sent with his own message.

God says:

“Go and tell.”

The prophet is:

Sent.

The message is:

God’s.

Key Truth

The servant does not own the message.

He delivers it.

XXIII. WHAT ISAIAH 6 TEACHES ABOUT HARDENING

Verses 9–10 are difficult but important.

The people have repeatedly resisted God.

The prophetic Word now becomes part of their judgment.

Truth reveals what is already in their hearts.

Repeated refusal produces increasing hardness.

This does not make God morally responsible for their rebellion.

Their hardening occurs in the context of persistent resistance to His revelation.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The same sunlight that softens wax can harden clay.

The difference is not in the light but in what receives it.

XXIV. WHAT ISAIAH 6 TEACHES ABOUT PREACHING

Isaiah will not preach merely because people respond positively.

He will preach because:

God sent him.

That distinction matters.

Spiritual Principle

Faithfulness to God cannot be determined solely by audience reaction.

XXV. WHAT ISAIAH 6 TEACHES ABOUT DISCOURAGEMENT

Isaiah asks:

“How long?”

Faithful servants sometimes become weary.

Scripture does not hide that reality.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Asking “How long?” is not always unbelief.

Sometimes it is the prayer of someone committed to obeying through a difficult assignment.

XXVI. WHAT ISAIAH 6 TEACHES ABOUT JUDGMENT

Judgment is extensive.

Cities:

Ruined.

Houses:

Empty.

Land:

Desolate.

People:

Removed.

God takes persistent rebellion seriously.

Spiritual Principle

The patience of God should never cause us to think His holiness has changed.

XXVII. WHAT ISAIAH 6 TEACHES ABOUT THE REMNANT

The chapter could have ended with:

Desolation.

Instead:

A stump remains.

The holy seed survives.

Key Truth

God always retains sovereignty over the future of His promises.

XXVIII. THE THRONE ABOVE THE EMPTY THRONE

The historical context matters.

Uzziah has died.

Judah may wonder:

What now?

Isaiah sees:

God.

On the throne.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When the throne you can see becomes empty, remember the throne you cannot see is still occupied.

XXIX. “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY”

This is the sound of heaven.

Heaven does not become bored with God’s holiness.

The seraphim continually proclaim it.

Spiritual Principle

If heaven never tires of declaring God’s holiness, God’s people should never reduce worship to routine.

XXX. “WOE IS ME”

Isaiah’s first response is not:

“Look at those sinful people.”

He says:

“I am unclean.”

That is the proper order.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Before God sends us to confront sin in others, He often confronts sin in us.

XXXI. THE UNCLEAN LIPS OF A PROPHET

Isaiah identifies his lips.

That is significant.

A prophet serves with words.

The very instrument God intends to use must be purified.

Spiritual Principle

God often cleanses the area He intends especially to use.

XXXII. THE COAL FROM THE ALTAR

The coal is hot.

Cleansing is not pictured as casual.

Yet its purpose is not destruction.

It is purification.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Some of God’s cleansing work may be uncomfortable, but His goal is usefulness rather than ruin.

XXXIII. “YOUR GUILT IS TAKEN AWAY”

Isaiah does not cleanse himself.

He receives cleansing.

The declaration comes from heaven.

Spiritual Principle

The authority to remove guilt belongs to God.

XXXIV. “HERE AM I”

Isaiah does not say:

“There he is.”

Or:

“Send someone else.”

He says:

Here I am.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Revival becomes practical when “Lord, bless me” becomes “Lord, use me.”

XXXV. “SEND ME”

Isaiah volunteers before hearing the details of the assignment.

That is surrendered obedience.

Spiritual Principle

True surrender gives God the right to determine the assignment.

XXXVI. MINISTRY WITHOUT APPLAUSE

Isaiah’s commission would not make him popular.

He would speak truth to people who resisted it.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never confuse applause with anointing or rejection with failure.

The question is:

Did God send you?

Were you faithful?

XXXVII. THE DANGER OF REPEATED REJECTION

They have:

Eyes.

But will not see.

Ears.

But will not hear.

Hearts.

But will not understand.

Repeated refusal becomes spiritual insensitivity.

Spiritual Principle

Every time God speaks, the heart moves somewhere.

Toward:

Softness.

Or:

Hardness.

XXXVIII. “LORD, HOW LONG?”

Some assignments are:

Long.

Difficult.

Unrewarding by visible measurements.

Isaiah still obeys.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not quit merely because obedience has lasted longer than expected.

XXXIX. THE STUMP STILL LIVES

The tree looks finished.

Cut down.

Burned.

Reduced.

But the stump remains.

And the stump contains:

A holy seed.

Spiritual Principle

God specializes in preserving hope where human eyes see only remains.

XL. CHRIST IN ISAIAH'S VISION

John 12:41 gives the Christian reader an extraordinary perspective on Isaiah 6.

John connects Isaiah's vision with the glory of Christ.

The King Isaiah sees is therefore deeply significant for New Testament Christology.

Jesus is not merely:

A teacher.

A prophet.

A moral example.

He shares in divine glory.

Key Truth

The Christ revealed in the New Testament is the glorious Lord before whom heaven cries:

“Holy, holy, holy.”

XLI. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

What happened in the year King Uzziah died?

Isaiah received an overwhelming vision of the Lord seated upon His heavenly throne.

Question 2

Why is Uzziah's death significant?

It contrasts the mortality of earthly kings with the unchanging reign of God.

Question 3

What do the seraphim proclaim?

They proclaim that the Lord is holy, holy, holy and that the whole earth is filled with His glory.

Question 4

Why do the seraphim cover their faces?

Their posture communicates profound reverence before God's overwhelming holiness and majesty.

Question 5

What happens when Isaiah sees God?

He becomes immediately conscious of his own sinfulness and cries:

"Woe is me!"

Question 6

Why does Isaiah mention his lips?

As a prophet, his lips would be central to his ministry, yet he recognizes that even the instrument God will use needs cleansing.

Question 7

Who provides Isaiah's cleansing?

God does.

The cleansing comes from the altar and is applied by the seraph.

Question 8

What is the result of the cleansing?

Isaiah's guilt is removed and his sin is atoned for.

Question 9

What happens immediately after Isaiah is cleansed?

He hears God's call for a messenger.

Question 10

How does Isaiah respond?

He says:

“Here am I. Send me!”

Question 11

Would Isaiah’s ministry produce immediate national repentance?

No.

His message would largely encounter resistance and reveal the people’s hardened spiritual condition.

Question 12

Why does Isaiah ask, “How long?”

He wants to know how long this difficult ministry and coming judgment will continue.

Question 13

What happens to Judah?

Cities are devastated, houses abandoned, the land becomes desolate, and people are removed.

Question 14

Does the chapter end without hope?

No.

A stump remains.

The holy seed shows that God preserves a remnant and His redemptive purposes continue.

XLII. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Isaiah 6 asks several searching questions.

How Big Is My View of God?

Is God merely:

A helper?

An idea?

A religious subject?

Or do I understand Him as:

Holy.

Majestic.

Sovereign.

King?

When I See God's Holiness, Do I Examine Myself?

Do I immediately think about everyone else's sins?

Or do I say:

“Woe is me”?

What Area of My Life Needs Cleansing?

My:

Words?

Thoughts?

Attitudes?

Habits?

Motives?

Have I Received God's Forgiveness?

Am I still carrying guilt God has offered to remove?

Am I Available to God?

If God asks:

“Whom shall I send?”

What is my answer?

Do I Need to Know Every Detail Before I Obey?

Or can I say:

“Send me”?

Can I Remain Faithful When People Do Not Respond?

Do I measure obedience only by visible results?

Has Repeated Exposure to Truth Made Me Softer or Harder?

Do I still tremble at God's Word?

Am I Discouraged by What Looks Cut Down?

Can I trust that God may still preserve a holy seed in the stump?

XLIII. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Before God Uses the Servant's Lips, He Cleanses the Servant's Lips”

Isaiah wanted to speak for God.

But first:

God dealt with Isaiah.

Vision came before commission.

Conviction came before service.

Cleansing came before sending.

Principle:

God is concerned not only with the message we deliver but with the condition of the messenger delivering it.

XLIV. SEE GOD FIRST

Many spiritual problems begin because our view of God has become too small.

Isaiah's transformation begins not by looking more deeply at himself.

It begins by seeing:

The Lord.

Spiritual Principle

A high view of God produces a more accurate view of everything else.

XLV. CONVICTION BEFORE COMMISSION

God does not begin by telling Isaiah:

“Go preach.”

First Isaiah sees:

Holiness.

Then:

Sin.

Then:

Grace.

Only then:

Mission.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Service without holiness can become performance.

Holiness turns service into worship.

XLVI. CLEANSED PEOPLE SHOULD BECOME WILLING PEOPLE

Isaiah’s guilt is removed.

His next words are:

“Send me.”

Grace produces gratitude.

Gratitude produces surrender.

Spiritual Principle

We do not serve God to earn cleansing.

We serve because cleansing has been graciously given.

XLVII. WHEN THE MESSAGE IS REJECTED

Isaiah’s assignment reminds us that not every faithful ministry produces impressive statistics.

A preacher can:

Preach truth.

Love people.

Remain faithful.

And still encounter resistance.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Our responsibility is faithfulness to the message.

The response belongs ultimately between the hearer and God.

XLVIII. THE HOLY SEED

The chapter ends with hope hidden in judgment.

A tree can lose:

Branches.

Leaves.

Trunk.

Yet:

A stump remains.

Within it:

Life.

Spiritual Principle

God can begin restoration from what appears to be almost nothing.

XLIX. THE GREAT MOVEMENT OF ISAIAH 6

Isaiah 6 moves through five great stages:

1. Revelation

“I saw the Lord.”

2. Conviction

“Woe is me.”

3. Cleansing

“Your guilt is taken away.”

4. Commission

“Whom shall I send?”

5. Surrender

“Here am I. Send me!”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

This is one of Scripture’s clearest patterns for spiritual service:

See God.

See your sin.

Receive cleansing.

Hear the call.

Go.

L. FINAL APPLICATION

Isaiah Chapter 6 begins with the death of a king.

But Isaiah quickly learns:

The true King is not dead.

The Lord remains:

Seated.

High.

Exalted.

Holy.

Glorious.

That truth is still important whenever life becomes uncertain.

Leaders change.

People die.

Institutions fail.

Circumstances shift.

But:

God remains on His throne.

Isaiah then sees himself.

The prophet who has been speaking against Judah's sin suddenly says:

“Woe is me!”

That is what genuine encounters with God do.

They do not first make us proud of how spiritual we are.

They humble us.

They expose what needs cleansing.

Then grace appears.

The coal touches the lips.

Guilt is removed.

Sin is atoned for.

Isaiah is no longer merely:

Convicted.

He is:

Cleansed.

Then he hears:

“Whom shall I send?”

And the man who moments earlier felt ruined now says:

“Here am I. Send me!”

That is the transformation grace produces.

From:

Woe is me.

To:

Send me.

But the assignment will be difficult.

Isaiah must preach whether people listen or not.

That teaches us:

Do not measure faithfulness only by results.

Some people plant.

Some water.

God gives the increase.

Your responsibility is to obey.

And when ministry feels discouraging:

Remember the stump.

When everything seems cut down:

Remember the holy seed.

God is not finished because circumstances look finished.

He preserves His purposes.

Therefore:

See God high and lifted up.

Recognize His holiness.

Confess your sin honestly.

Receive His cleansing gratefully.

Listen for His call.

And when He asks:

“Whom shall I send?”

May your heart be ready to answer:

“Here am I. Send me!”

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

You are holy.

You are high and exalted.

You are King above every king.

Earthly rulers rise and fall, but Your throne remains forever.

Give us a fresh vision of Your greatness.

Do not allow us to reduce You to something small, ordinary, or manageable.

Teach us to worship You with:

Reverence.

Awe.

Humility.

Love.

Father, when we see Your holiness, help us see ourselves honestly.

Expose what is unclean in us.

Especially cleanse our lips.

Forgive:

Harsh words.

Dishonest words.

Gossip.

Criticism.

Prideful words.

Impure speech.

Careless speech.

Wash us completely.

Thank You that You do not merely expose guilt.

You remove guilt.

Thank You for atonement.

Thank You for forgiveness.

Thank You that cleansing is available through Your grace.

Father, make us available.

When You ask:

“Whom shall I send?”

Give us courage to say:

“Here am I.”

Keep us from requiring every detail before obeying.

Teach us to trust Your assignment.

Give preachers, teachers, missionaries, pastors, and every servant of Your Word strength to remain faithful when people refuse to listen.

Protect us from measuring ministry entirely by:

Numbers.

Popularity.

Applause.

Recognition.

Help us measure by obedience.

Keep our hearts soft.

Never let repeated exposure to Your truth make us spiritually dull.

Give us:

Eyes that see.

Ears that hear.

Hearts that understand.

And when circumstances appear ruined, remind us of the stump.

Remind us of the holy seed.

Remind us that Your purposes remain alive.

Above all, lift our eyes again toward Your throne.

May our lives join heaven in declaring:

Holy.

Holy.

Holy.

Is the Lord of Heaven's Armies.

The whole earth is filled with Your glory.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Key Verse

**“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?’
And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’” — Isaiah 6:8**

Central Truth

A true encounter with the holiness and glory of God exposes human sin, leads to cleansing and forgiveness, produces willing surrender to God’s call, and enables faithful service even in the face of rejection, because God remains sovereign and preserves a holy remnant through judgment.

Isaiah 6 in One Sentence

Isaiah sees the Lord high and exalted, confesses his uncleanness, receives divine cleansing, willingly answers God’s call to preach to a resistant people, and learns that even through severe judgment God will preserve a holy seed and continue His redemptive purpose.