

# God Sends

Sept. 13, 2020

Isaiah 6:1-13

It's humbling to know that God uses ordinary people to be His ministers – serving others in the name of Jesus Christ. From famous preachers and evangelists such as Billy Graham, to missionaries such as Lottie Moon, or the faithful pastors most people never hear of, God uses ordinary people to tell of His purposes and grace.



A faithful witness responds to the call of God. In today's passage, Isaiah heard the voice of the Lord, saying, *"Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?"* Captured by the holiness, majesty, and grace of God, Isaiah wholeheartedly said, ***"Here am I! Send me."***

Isaiah shares a dream/vision he had at the time of Judah's king, Uzziah, died. He describes what he saw and declared, *"I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple."* He described the seraphim that cried to each other, *"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!"*

The whole earth is full of His glory! The mountains declare the glory of God. The oceans declare the glory of God! The sun, moon and stars all declare His glory. Ultimately, the Word of God declares His glory. His Word points to the ultimate display of His love for us in the death, resurrection, and ascension of the Lord Jesus. Once we recognize our own sin because we see the Lord for who He is, we are forever changed if we will receive the gift of salvation God offers us through His Son.

Send us, Lord! Send us to declare your glory and your purposes in our communities and in the world today. Help us be faithful witnesses for you! [excerpts from Glenn Metts]

## God's Glory (Isaiah 6:1-4) [Background Isaiah 5]

- Isaiah chapter 5 tells of a vineyard owner (God) who used the very best materials and practices to grow grapes. The grapes (people of Judah) were bountiful but they were bitter.
- Political and social upheaval was in the land at the passing of Judah's long reigning king.
  - King Uzziah had reigned for 50 years. He died in 740 B.C.
  - The northern kingdom (Israel) had already begun to falter and fail at their king's death.
- Seraphims sat above God as Isaiah entered the temple. Six winged creatures that we know little about. They covered their face and feet which showed honor in the presence of royalty.
- Like a choir for God, the Seraphim cried out ***"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts"***
  - The triple statement (holy, holy, holy) is the superlative in the Hebrew language.
    - God is in charge of His army and all those of the world.
- "The whole earth is full of His glory" – or 'the fullness of the earth is His glory'. While we often think of God's glory filling the earth, the earth points to the glory of our creator.
- We often forget the glory and awe-inspiring presence of God.
  - **Do you become complacent about your walk with God when things are going well?**



### God's Forgiveness (Isaiah 6:5-7)

- To see God on His throne brought a sense of great awe – and fear about one's own inadequacy.
- **"Woe is me for I am ruined"**
  - **Ruined** – Isaiah fully expected to die.
  - In contrast to God's holiness, Isaiah was **"a man of unclean lips"** – lips represent what comes out of the heart. In God's presence, our sinful state is revealed.
  - Isaiah knew a holy God and an unclean people cannot live together.
- In response to Isaiah's confession, one of the seraphim flew to Isaiah with a live coal to purify the prophet.
- When applied to Isaiah's lips, the coal purified him for his task. Isaiah would speak for God and with God.
- He would be able to stand in God's presence because of God's action on his behalf.
- We all need God's forgiveness and cleansing. God acted on our behalf and sent Jesus as our atonement for sin. Jesus is the ultimate source of our forgiveness.
- **What events in your life led you to realize your need to be forgiven of sin?**



### God's Call (Isaiah 6:8-10)

- Up until now, Isaiah had only heard the seraphim's thundering worship. Now Isaiah heard the voice of the Lord!
  - **"Who should I send? Who will go for us?"**
    - Isaiah's emotional state had changed from verse 5.
  - **"Here I am; send me."**
    - After confession and forgiveness, the natural response is worship and service. He was eager to serve.
  - Isaiah received his mission. It was not a pleasant one.
    - Tell the people to hear, without understanding.
    - Tell the people to look, without perceiving.
  - He would represent God's words to Judah but they would make no effort to listen or change.
  - There comes a point when sin must be paid for. God cannot allow it to continue indefinitely.
    - Jesus used Isaiah 6:9-10 in His teachings (Matt. 13:14-15; John 12:40) see also Acts 28:26-27
- **What inspires you to share the gospel with others?**



### God's Persistence (Isaiah 6:11-13)

- **"Lord how long?"** – Isaiah was somewhat discouraged at his mission.
  - God's answer was not encouraging, neither was it completely without hope.
    - A remnant would remain, one tenth of the population that would suffer more judgement.
  - From the stump of the felled tree, the seed of life would germinate.
  - Likewise, from a remnant of those remaining, the people of God would be renewed.
- **Have you ever felt without hope? What enabled you to keep trusting God?**

**Biblical Truth: God calls His people to recognize and declare His sovereign purposes.**

***"So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace." Romans 11:5***