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Isaiah in the Temple

Definitions in **bold letters** are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
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or Roget's Thesaurus – **July 9, 2017**

Isaiah 6:1-8

Introduction: This chapter Isaiah 6:1-13 contains a very sublime (awakening or expressing the emotion of AWE, ADORATION; majestic) description of the manifestation of **Yahweh** to **Isaiah**, and of a solemn commission to him to declare his **purposes** to the **Jews**. It has been supposed by many to be a solemn “inauguration” to the prophetic office, and to have been the “first” of his prophecies. But this supposition is NOT to be considered as just. It is evident Isaiah 1:1 that **he prophesied “before”** the **death of Uzziah**, and there is reason to suppose that the order of “time” is observed in the previous chapters; see the Introduction, Section 2. The most probable supposition of the occasion of this prophecy, is this, that the people were extremely guilty; that they were **strongly indisposed** (NOT in the mood, **UNWILLING**) **to LISTEN** to the message of the prophet, and that he was, therefore, favored with this extraordinary commission in order to give his message more **SUCCESS** and **higher authority** in the **minds** of the **people**. It is a new commission to make his message as **impressive as possible** - as if it came direct **from the lips** of the **Almighty**. The Jews say, that for this pretension that he had SEEN Yahweh, he was SAWN ASUNDER by “Manasseh.” And to this fact Paul has been supposed to refer in Hebrews 11:37, where he says of those who had been eminent (remarkable) in FAITH, ‘they were sawn asunder;’ see the Introduction, Section 2.

This VISION is expressed in the language appropriate to Eastern monarchs (kings). God is represented as sitting on a **“throne,”** and attended by ministers, here called **seraphim**. His throne is elevated, and the posture of sitting denotes DIGNITY and MAJESTY. The language of the description is taken from the temple. The image is that of God sitting in the most holy place. **Surrounding him** are **seen** the **seraphim**, and the **cloud filling the temple**. Isaiah is represented as without the temple, near the altar. The great altar of sacrifice stood directly in front of the temple, so that if the doors of the temple had been open, and the veil separating the holy from the most holy place had been withdrawn, he would have had a distinct view of the mercy-seat. That veil between is supposed to be withdrawn, and he is permitted directly to contemplate the sacred and solemn manifestation made in the immediate dwelling-place of God

I. The vision, Isaiah 6:1-4. **Yahweh is seen upon a throne**, clad in the manner of an ancient monarch, with a robe and a train which filled the whole temple. He sits as a KING, and is adorned in the robes of royalty...

II. The “effect on the prophet,” Isaiah 6:5-7. He was overcome with a sense of his unworthiness, and felt that he could NOT live. He had seen Yahweh, and he felt that he was a ruined man...

III. The “commission of the prophet,” Isaiah 6:8-13.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/isaiah-6.html>)

Numbers 12:6, And he said, Hear now my words: **IF** there be a **prophet** among you, I the Lord will make myself **known** unto him in a **VISION**, and will speak unto him in a **dream**.

Thought 1. Today, in revealing a position of ministry as a prophet/prophetess, these words still explain why a person in the body of Christ is being given dreams and visions as God sees fit. It's a sure sign of this ministry that should be accepted and embraced.

Isaiah 6:1, *In the year that king **Uzziah died** I SAW also **the Lord** sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his **train (hem [end of a robe])** filled the temple.*

NOTE: King Uzziah of Judah had a long and distinguished reign, described in 2 Chron. 26 and in 2 Kings 15:1-7 (Uzziah is called Azariah in 2 Kings 15).

i. Uzziah began his reign when he was only **16 years old**, and he reigned **52 years**. OVERALL, he was a **good king**, and 2 Kings 15:3 says, *he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done.* 2 Chronicles 28:5 says, *He sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God; and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him prosper.*

ii. Uzziah also led Israel in military victories over the Philistines and other neighboring nations, and he was a strong king. Uzziah was a energetic builder, planner, and general. 2 Chronicles 26:8 says, **His fame spread as far as the entrance of Egypt, for he strengthened himself exceedingly.**

iii. But Uzziah's life ended tragically. 2 Chronicles 26:16 says, *But when he was strong, his **heart was LIFTED UP**, to his destruction, for **he transgressed** against the LORD his God by entering the temple of the LORD to **burn incense** on the **ALTAR** of incense.* In response, **God struck Uzziah with leprosy**, and he was an isolated leper **until his death.** (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/guz/isaiah-6.html>)

2 Chronicles 26:16-21, *But when he (king Uzziah) was strong, his **heart was lifted up** to his destruction: for **he transgressed against** the Lord... and went into the temple of the Lord to **burn incense** upon the **altar** of incense. And Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him fourscore priests of the Lord, that were valiant men: And they **withstood** Uzziah the king... ...Then Uzziah was wroth, and had a **censer** in his hand to burn incense: and while he was **wroth** with the priests, the **leprosy** even rose up in his forehead before the priests in the house of the Lord, from beside the incense altar. And **Uzziah** the king was a **LEPER** unto the day of his **death**, and DWELT in a **several (hospital)** house, being a leper; for he was CUT OFF from the house of the Lord: and Jotham his son was over the king's house, judging the people of the land.*

Thought 1. Some Christians think that Uzziah HAD to die before Isaiah could see the Lord. But, this is NOT the case. When it comes to visions: and SEEING the Lord, he can cause anyone to see what he chooses, regardless of the circumstances! An example to prove this truth is Saul on the Damascus road, who had a VISION of Jesus.

As it is, Isaiah chose those words because he was dating the vision by using the death of Uzziah as a point of reference. An example of this truth is I've heard people say, "I was doing such-and such when I heard the news about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy." And I'm sure that some say, "In the year President Kennedy died, I got saved".

The Lord also reveals other things in visions. He used a vision to teach Peter the truth that Gentiles could also be WASHED CLEAN by his Holy Spirit. Acts 10:9-16

The next point of interest is did Isaiah have an **"OPEN VISION"** while he was AWAKE with his EYES wide OPEN? or did he have a dream, known as a "night vision?"

Numbers 24:3-4 ...**Balaam** the son of Beor hath said ...the man whose **eyes are OPEN** hath said: He hath said, which heard the words of God, which SAW the **vision** of the Almighty, falling into a **TRANCE** (an ECSTASY), but having his **eyes OPEN**...

ECSTASY, a mental state, usually caused by an intense religious experience; of **exaltation** (brief duration of a sense of UNITY with God) or domination by an EMOTION such as extreme HAPPINESS, love, etc. [to include **WEEPING**

and/or **LAUGHING** or rapturous delight manifested either openly unrestrained or in a very deep CALM, during which self-control and sometimes consciousness are LOST or inattention of the MIND to present objects or surroundings

Daniel 2:19, Then was the secret **revealed** unto Daniel in a **NIGHT VISION**.

Isaiah 6:2-3, Above it **stood** the **seraphims (seraph [angel of the HIGHEST order])**: each one had SIX WINGS; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And ONE cried unto another, and said, **Holy, holy, holy, IS the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his GLORY**.

NOTE: The seraphim used four of their wings to express **their HUMILITY**, and used two of their wings to express their **WILLINGNESS** and **ability** to **serve God**. This is the proper balance.

i. "Thus they have four wings for **adoration** and two for **active energy**; four to conceal themselves, and two with which to occupy themselves in service; and we may learn from them that we shall SERVE God best when we are most **DEEPLY reverend** and **HUMBLED** in his presence. **Veneration** (respect mingled with some degree of AWE) must be in larger proportion than vigor, adoration must exceed activity. As Mary at Jesus' feet was preferred to Martha and her much serving, so must sacred **reverence** take the first place, and energetic service follow in due course." (Spurgeon)

(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/guz/isaiah-6.html>)

Isaiah 6:4, And the **POSTS** of the door **moved** at the **voice** of him that **cried**, and the **house** was **FILLED** with **smoke (VAPOR)**.

NOTE: This smoke reminds us of the pillar of cloud that represented the **presence** of God (Exodus 13:21-22), the smoke on Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:18), and the **CLOUD** of God's **Shekinah glory** that filled the temple (1 Kings 8:10-12). A **CLOUD** of **glory** often marks the presence of the LORD.

(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/guz/isaiah-6.html>)

1 Kings 8:10-11 ...it came to pass, when the **priests** were come out of the **holy place**, that the **CLOUD filled** the house of the LORD, So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the **cloud**: for the **glory** of the Lord had **filled** the house...

Isaiah 6:5, Then said I, **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 **mine eyes have SEEN the King**, the **Lord of hosts**.

NOTE: The consternation (amazement) that the prophet was put into by the vision which he saw of the glory of God (Isaiah 6:5): Then said I, Woe is me! I should have said, "**Blessed art thou**, who hast been thus highly favoured, highly honoured, and dignified, for a time, with the privilege of those glorious beings that always behold the face of our Father. Blessed were those eyes which saw the Lord sitting on his throne, and those ears which heard the angels' praises." And, one would think, he should have said, "Happy am I, for ever happy nothing now shall trouble me, nothing make me blush or tremble " but, on the contrary, he cries out, "Woe is me! for I am undone. Alas for me! I am a gone man I shall surely die (Judges 13:22; Judges 6:22) I am silenced I am struck dumb, struck dead." Thus Daniel, when he heard the words of the angel, **became dumb**, and there was **no strength, no breath, left in him**, Daniel 10:15,17.

(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/mhm/isaiah-6.html>)

Thought 1. To SEE and THINK on God's **Power, Authority, Sacredness: holiness** and that which is **Sublime** (extraordinary), as did Isaiah, will stir/produce reverence (the fear) of the Lord in that person's heart (MIND). And if they need to, they'll depart from iniquity!

Proverbs 16:6, By **mercy** and **truth** iniquity is purged: and by the **fear** (**REVERENCE** of the Lord men DEPART FROM EVIL.

Reverence, profound (deep) RESPECT and esteem (high value) mingled with FEAR and affection (LOVE), as for a holy being or place.

The FEAR acceptable to God, is a filial [CHILD in relation to his parents] fear, an **AWFUL** reverence of the divine nature, proceeding from a JUST esteem [high value] of his PERFECTIONS [infinite power, holiness, justice, benevolence and wisdom], which **produces IN us** an inclination (LEANING of the MIND or WILL) TO his service and an UNWILLINGNESS to offend him.

AWFUL, inspiring awe (DREAD, **1.** Great fear, or apprehension of evil or danger. It expresses more than fear, and less than terror or fright. It is an uneasiness or alarm excited by expected pain, loss or other evil. We speak of the *dread* of evil; the **dread of the divine displeasure**. It differs from terror also in being less sudden or more continued. **2.** FEAR united with RESPECT.)

1 Kings 18:36-39 ... it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet came near, and SAID, Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it **be known** this day that thou art God in Israel, AND that I am **thy servant**, and that I have done ALL these things **at thy word**. Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God ...that thou hast **turned their heart back again**. Then the **fire** of the Lord fell, and **consumed** the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when ALL the people **SAW** it, they **fell** on their **faces**: and they said, The **Lord (Jehovah** [Yahweh]), he is the God; the Lord (Yahweh), he is the God.

Thought 2. Now, BOTH God: Yahweh and Elijah have REVERENCE!

Isaiah 6:6-7, Then **flew** one of the **seraphims** unto me, having a live **coal** in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from **off the altar**: And he laid it upon my **mouth**, and said, **Lo**, this hath **touched thy lips**; and **thine iniquity** is **taken away**, and **thy SIN purged**.

NOTE: These angelic beings, surrounding the throne of God, ministered to Isaiah. One flew to Isaiah with a live coal - which means the coal was still HOT and burning. It was so hot that even an angel had to use the tongs from the altar.

b. The altar: This must be heaven's version of the **altar** of **incense** that was set before the **holy of holies** in the tabernacle of God (Exodus 30:1-10). We know that the earthly tabernacle God instructed Moses to build was made after the **pattern** of a heavenly reality (Exodus 25:9).

i. The *throne* is for God; that is where He rules and reigns. The altar is for us; that is where we find cleansing and purging from sin. We should never confuse the two!

ii. "The fire was *taken from the altar*, to intimate that it was **divine** or **heavenly**; for the law forbade any **strange fire** to be brought to it...." (Calvin)

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/guz/isaiah-6.html>)

Thought 1. The righteousness we have as Christians is OF (from) the Lord (Yahweh), and NOT of ourselves. We must understand this truth so that we'll SEE ourselves IN Christ as God sees us. In reality, we are NOT filthy, but CLEAN by the WASHING of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 10:15, And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God **hath CLEANSED**, that call NOT thou **common (unclean** [filthy].).

Ephesians 5:8 ...ye **WERE** sometimes **darkness**, but NOW are ye **light** IN the Lord...

1 John 1:5, This then is the **message** which we have heard of him, and declare

unto you, that **God is LIGHT**, and **IN him** is **NO darkness at all**.

Thought 2. Now, since we are **IN him**, being light; and knowing in fact that there is **NO darkness IN him**, this tells us that we have **NONE** of the old nature of the devil: death: darkness that we inherited by birth from Adam. Our spiritual rebirth did away with **ALL** of the filth of the flesh: old nature and imparted unto us the nature of God: **LIFE** and **LIGHT**! So, **IN Jesus**, we have only God's nature.

Ezekiel 36:25-27, Then will I **sprinkle CLEAN water** upon you... ye shall be **clean**: from **ALL your filthiness**, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. And I will put MY spirit within you, and cause you to **walk** in my **statutes**, and ye shall keep my judgments, and **DO** them.

Hebrews 10:14, For by **ONE offering** he hath **perfected (finish)** for ever them that **ARE sanctified (make HOLY [PURE, CLEAN: unsoiled, spotless].)**

Romans 10:1-4, Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be **SAVED**. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but **NOT** according to **knowledge**. For they being ignorant of **God's righteousness**, and going about to establish their **OWN righteousness**, have **NOT** submitted themselves unto the RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD.

For Christ is the **end (goal)** of the law for **righteousness** to every one that **believeth**.

Thought 3. Romans 10 is saying since we have faith in Jesus and are now a part of HIS body, we're **NOT** as "filthy rags" because we are **IN** the righteousness of God.

Isaiah 6:8, Also I **heard** the **VOICE** of the Lord, saying, **Whom shall I send, and who will GO for us?** Then said I, **Here am I; SEND me.**

NOTE: then said I, here [am] I, send me: for he who before thought himself undone, and unworthy to be employed in the service of God, now having a discovery and application of pardoning grace, freely offers himself to God: this shows the true nature and effect of an application of pardon; it gives a man freedom and boldness in the presence of God, and stimulates to a ready and cheerful obedience to his will, and engages him with the utmost alacrity (cheerful readiness) in his service; so far is the doctrine of free and full pardon by the blood of Christ from being a licentious (unrestrained by law or morality) doctrine. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/geb/isaiah-6.html>)

Thought 1. Today, after a person is born again, they should be **FILLED** by the Spirit to be witnesses. The first apostles and disciples had this experience before they went to preach.

Acts 1:8 ... But ye shall **receive power (FORCE, miraculous power, strength.)**, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me...

Acts 9:17, And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, **Brother Saul**, (*He was born again on the Damascus road*) the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and **be FILLED with the Holy Ghost**.

Acts 26:16-19, But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have **appeared** unto thee for this **PURPOSE**, to **make** thee a **minister** and a **witness** both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now **I SEND thee**, To open their eyes, and to turn them from **darkness to light**, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Whereupon, O king Agrippa, **I was NOT disobedient** unto the heavenly **VISION...**