

August 21st: Series in OT: Isaiah : 6:1-8

The book of Isaiah.....wonderful books in the OT

It contains info that directly relates to Israel, Judah, and other....at that time and reveals deep insights about the nature of God

But it also says so much about the coming Messiah.....
Prophecies that we recognise as.....fulfilled in Jesus abound

At Christmas we read from c7 about the virgin.....9→for unto us a child...
Then at Easter we read from 53He was pierced.....

Jesus quoted Isaiah 61 about Himself.....in the Synagogue Nazareth
...and in Mark 9:48 he quoted 66:24 as a reference to hell and final judgment

The book is in two obvious sections.....Capters 1—39.....then 40 onwards
And this has led some to suggest two writers

Some scholars look at chapters 40 onwards....with its predictions about the rise of the Babylonian empire.....and the emergence of Cyrus as the Lord's instrument....150
And say that's impossible.....**It must** have been writtenafter

But there are many things that strongly suggested one Author inspired by God
.....making statements that only God could be resp for
Proving yet again the supernatural nature...of this book the Bible:::
Which we rightly call→ THE WORD OF GOD

As I looked at this book.....I found that some see it as a Minature Bible
Even as the Old Testament has 39 books.....So the first section.....has 39chapters

The content of these chaptersis rather like the content of the OT
A little history.....But mainly its about a Holy God.....wanting so much to be reconciled
But because of their continued sin, idolatry, rebellion.....must visit with judgment

The second section of Isaiah has 27 books.....and the content undertakes major change
From judgment....the emphasis now moves towards God comforting His people:::40:1
Towards God rescuing His people.....Opening up the wells of Salvation

And in so doing it points to the 27 books of the NT...focus is on God's act of deliverance

To make the connection between this second...and the NT...even more remarkable

We note in Isaiah 40 the reference to John the Baptist....
And that's where the NT book of Mark begins ➔ Mark 1:2....

In chapter 53 of Isaiah.....suffering servant passage.....we are taken to the cross
And the final chapter of Isaiahchapter 66....with its talk of glory for Jerusalem
...a gathering of the Nations to her.....and final new heavens and new earth
is so much like the final book.....

As I have looked at this book during the week.....I have been lead to focus
On the human being behind the book.....rather than its contents
And especially on the experience he had in chpt 6.....and how that undergirded

Isaiah it seemswas a man of standing and education in Jerusalem
Legend has it that he was related to the royal line

He was obviously a dedicated and strongly religious person
And it was this....that sent him into the Temple on the occasion....read about in chpt 6

For Isaiah.....still at this time a young man=====It was to be a day never forget
The day he saw a vision of God.....that changed his whole life

It all happened in the year.....A phrase that gives the background.....
Uzziah had been a highly successful king
He had extended the borders of Judah.....and made the Nation strong and prosperous

For most of his long reign he was a godly.....

Then in 2Chronicles 26:16 we read this.....

To Isaiah such an act put the whole nation at risk.....The place where Holy God..

Chose to meet with His people.....had been desecrated

And altho 80 courageous priests hadThe people had not really cared

They had continued.....2Chron 27.....their corrupt practices

And perhaps it seemed to Isaiah.....that God did not really care about the sin either

Then Isaiahin that very same place where Uzziah had foolishly courted God's wrath
Saw the Lord in all his Majesty...Power and Holiness

So great was Almighty God....that just the train of His robe.....filled the whole Temple
So powerful was He.....that just the voice of His awesome Angelic servants
caused a minor earthquake that shook.....

And all these powerful beings could proclaim.....was the holiness of the King
The Lord Almighty

Think for a moment how you would react to such a vision

Every sin you had ever committed....or contemplated.....would spring to mind
And stick to you like lumps of dirt

Your first impulse would be to run...but you would realise that there was no place....
God's holiness....like a gigantic spotlightwould illuminate your corruption
And the wrath of God would raise up.....like a giant wave.....

Surely you too would cry out as Isaiah did-→*Woe to me . I am ruined....or as the Message puts it:--*

Doom! It's Doomsday! I'm as good as dead! Every word I've ever spoken is tainted—blasphemous even! And the people I live with talk the same way, using words that corrupt and desecrate. And here I've looked God in the face! The King! God-of-the-Angel-Armies!

Isaiah expected the worst.....and received the wonderful gift of cleansing...forgiveness
His guilt was taken from him.....His sins were wiped out.....

He was made new....**Chosen** to stand pure and blameless...before God

Can you imagine how he would have felt

Rescued from the edge of hell itself.....Cleansed....Purified....Holy

And then.....absolutely amazed to hear God declaring a need...that God had
....v8.....

Isaiah does not hesitate.....He wants to be sent by God.....He wants to do whatever..
So he says.....Here am I, send me

For a breathless moment....we can sense that response hanging in the air
will God choose a mere man....Even a cleansed and forgiven.....when He has Angels

YES.....And from that time on Isaiah faithfully served.....

Over the reign of 3 more kings....Through tough and often perilous times
Never wavering from the message that Holy Almighty God

And is it not with Isaiah...that each person here.....who has been rescued....by blood
Should stand this morning ??????????

We should be saying.....Lord use me to do the work that still needs to be done
Make me a Christ figure to someone this week.....

Whether they respond or not....use me to be your messenger....in word or in act

Take this moment to bow before Almighty God.....Feel anew the wrath He has saved u
And ask Him to use you this week.....for you are willing to be used

