

Up to this point in the book of Isaiah we have seen the nation of Israel depicted as corrupt and rebellious, a nation who defy God's instruction, and we are left asking, "How will they ever become the promised clean, obedient Israel from whom all the nations will learn?" In chapter 6 we see God's greatness, his call and his grace.

Read Isaiah 6 and compare

There are a number of passages below which provide possible parallels or background to Isaiah 6. In each case, compare the passage with Isaiah 6 and list the connections and parallels between them:

- Exodus 3 (especially v1-6)
- Psalm 47
- 1 Kings 22:1-28 (especially v19-20)
- Numbers 16:42-50
- Exodus 32 (especially v9-14)

The greatness of God – Isaiah 6:1-4

"In the year that king Uzziah died" is a significant statement, now that powerful king Uzziah is gone the Assyrian threat to Israel is a very real. But for Isaiah, his vision of God helped him to get things in perspective, yes the king was dead, but who is the king in this world anyway? "My eyes have seen the King, the Lord almighty!" (v5)

- Consider and look at the way God is described here – ie. just the hem of his robe *filled* the temple!!
- Look at others in the Bible that had visions of God ... Job (42:4-6), Daniel (10:7-19), Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:1-9), John (Rev. 1:9-18). What were there reactions to as they saw God in visions? Are they similar to that of Isaiah?

The call of God – Isaiah 6:5-9a

Isaiah hadn't set out to be a prophet, by the time that King Uzziah died (740BC), Isaiah may have been established as a scribe in the royal palace in Jerusalem. It was a respectable career, but God have other plans for his servant!

- Describe step by step and in your own words, how Isaiah is sent out by God in verses 1-9a.
- Consider the statement "It is foolish for us to think that we can somehow serve God until we have come to an end of ourselves." Do you think that's true? Give your reasons.
- Isaiah acknowledged, repented, trusted, listened and obeyed. Which of these do you struggle with most? How can you work on this?
- As Isaiah realised just who God is, he realised how inadequate he was (v5). Yet he was willing to be God's spokesman (v8). In what ways has God called you / or do you feel he is calling you, to serve him? How did / does that make you feel? Discuss.

Isaiah was in awe at having his sins forgiven by such a holy and great God, and because of that all he wanted to do was serve God faithfully, is that our experience?

The grace of God – Isaiah 6:9b-13

Isaiah's is called to preach message of judgement to a nation of hardened hearts, notice how Isaiah is not called to be successful but to be faithful.

- Consider; what is difficult about verses 9-10? Why is it difficult? (See Matt 13:14-15; Mark 4:12)
- The last sentence gives a ray of hope, what is Isaiah referring to when he says "the holy seed"?

Prayer Points

- Student work – Bible Studies (at South Park Church Sunday evenings), 'adopt a student', etc
- Nov 18 – General Church Meeting – and the ongoing work of the church.