

ISAIAH THE LORD SAVES

CHECK-IN

Before you dig into the passage

Ask your group to share how they have applied the teaching from last week. How have you recognised God's grace towards you in the past week? How have you responded to his grace? How have you repented of your own "stink-fruit" and how has the gospel brought you hope of bearing good fruit for God's glory?

READ

Isaiah 6:1-8

As the text is central to the discussion, read the week's text together. Consider using a few different translations.

OBSERVE

Make text-based observations (What?)

Guide your group to make observations from the text. Focus on elements like words, grammar, structure, tone, literary devices, genre, etc.

1. What contrast do you notice in verse 1? (*See 2 Chronicles 26 for the account of King Uzziah.*)
2. This narrative engages the senses:
 - a. What did Isaiah see? How does he describe the divine King and the scene before him?
 - b. What and who did he hear? What is said about the Lord?
 - c. What did he smell?
 - d. What could he feel?

3. What features of the seraphim does Isaiah emphasise? What effect does this have?
4. How does Isaiah respond to his vision of “the King, the LORD of hosts” and why? What causes him to say this about himself? (*Note also, this is the first time Isaiah speaks in the book!*)
5. How does God (through one of the seraphim) respond to Isaiah’s confession?
7. How does Isaiah respond to the Lord’s question in verse 8? Discuss also what he does *not* say. (*Compare Isaiah’s response to Moses and Jeremiah in Exodus 3:11, 4:1, 10 and Jeremiah 1:6.*)

INTERPRET

What does the passage mean (So what?)?

Based on the observations, what did the text mean to its original audience? What is God saying?

1. What do the size and reach of the royal robe, the position of the throne, and the seraphim testify about God (*See also Isaiah 2:11, 17*)?
2. What emotions does Isaiah’s account of the scene before him evoke?
3. What does the three-fold repetition in verse 3 (“Holy, holy, holy...”) imply about God? What does it mean that God is holy? (*Note also that this is the only time in the Old Testament an adjective is repeated three times.*)
4. What does it mean for Isaiah’s relationship with God that God is holy and he is a man of “unclean lips”?
5. What does it mean that Isaiah’s guilt is taken away and his sin atoned for? (v. 7)
 - a. Why is the removal of guilt and atonement for sin necessary?
 - b. What made this atonement possible? What is the burning coal symbolic of? (*See Leviticus 1:4*)
 - c. What is the effect of atonement?
6. Why is it significant that the coal touches Isaiah’s lips? What does this reveal about God?

APPLY

What should we do and why (Now what?)?

In light of the meaning of the text in its context, what principles apply to us today?

1. What prevents you from seeing God as “holy, holy, holy”? What can you do daily to behold his glory more? What effect will this have on your life?
2. Read Isaiah 3:8 and 6:5 again. What significance do you attach to your speech? Do you view your words as an explanation of your own “uncleanness” before God?
 - a. What does God say regarding our speech? Read Isaiah 59:2-3, 13; Romans 3:8, 13-14; Psalm 120: 3-4, Proverbs 6:16-19; Matthew 12:36-37; Ephesians 4:29; James 3:2-8; 1 Peter 3:9-10.
 - b. In what ways does your speech fall short of what God requires? Consider both the words you speak and those you write/email/text/post.
 - c. What change in this area are you trusting the Lord for and what steps of obedience will you take?
3. How does Isaiah 6:1-8 point forward to Jesus? (*See Romans 3:22-25, and Hebrews 10.*)
 - a. If you are in Christ through repentance and faith, what does this mean for you and your relationship with God?
 - i. What is your honest response to God’s call for you to serve him - is it “Here I am! Send me.”? Why or why not?
 - b. If you have not trusted in Jesus for your salvation, how could this passage encourage you towards repentance and faith?
4. Does your confession of sin tend to be more general than particular? How does Isaiah’s encounter encourage you to be more honest and specific with God?

PRAYER

Lead your group in a prayer of adoration, declaring God’s majesty and holiness together.