

I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me." (Isaiah 6:8)

Ancient Lord, just as you called your prophets of old to go forth and proclaim your power and might to the world, so you call us to stand tall and share the truth of your Word. Thank you for putting your word into our hearts and on our lips. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, that we would boldly and confidently speak the truth, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Introduction

When Isaiah was called to serve as a prophet, he was given a vision of the throne room of God and the angelic beings who worshiped there. Isaiah knew himself unworthy to the task. But an angel purified his lips with fire so that he could speak, and the Lord sent Isaiah out with the Word of God!

Read: Isaiah 6:1-12

On reading these verses, what are some of your initial impressions and questions? What stands out to you?

The Biblical Context

When we hear the word "prophecy," what often comes to mind are predictions of the future. But the prophets were not simply fortune tellers, nor were they people who simply made guesses about things to come.

Prophets were messengers who spoke the direct message of God. Sometimes this message had to do with future events — like the bad results of the people's bad actions. But prophecy is also a call to action. Too often people take their faith in God for granted. The prophets help us realize that the Lord is real and that God is acting in our lives every day!

Though Isaiah himself lived in pre-exilic times, God gave him messages that speak directly to the periods *before, during, and after* the Exile to Babylon.

Discussion Questions

1. The Lord gave the prophet Isaiah a vision of God's heavenly throne room. What kind of things did Isaiah see there? How is this similar to what is described in Revelation 4:2-8?
2. What were the words to the song the angels sang? Have you ever sung these same words in worship? What do these words mean?
3. In verses 4-5, what did Isaiah say about himself? What do you think caused him to say this? In the same way, why do we confess our sins when we come to worship?
4. In verse 7, what did the burning coal do for Isaiah? In our lives, when and where does God forgive our sins? Who does God send to let us know this?
5. What was the main task that God sent Isaiah to do? In what way does God use us to do the same thing, especially for those who do not believe?
6. From what you see in verses 9-10, do you think that Isaiah's ministry would be well received? Why would God send him to do something that might never appear to have any positive results?
7. When in your life have you said to God, "Here I am. Send me!"? Can you give an example? How did it turn out?
8. What most inspires you to serve God? What new thing do you hear God calling you to do in your life of faith? What help or resources might you need to do it?