

HTPC Adult Sunday School
The Prophetic Call Narratives – Week 3
Isaiah

I. Historical Setting

A. Isaiah 1:1

The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

B. The Reign of Uzziah in Judah

1. Uzziah's Rise

1 And all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king instead of his father Amaziah. 2 He built Eloth and restored it to Judah, after the king slept with his fathers. 3 Uzziah was sixteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty-two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jecoliah of Jerusalem. 4 And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done. 5 He set himself to seek God in the days of Zechariah, who instructed him in the fear of God, and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him prosper. (2 Chronicles 26:1-5)

2. Uzziah's Fall

16 But when he was strong, he grew proud, to his destruction. For he was unfaithful to the LORD his God and entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense. 17 But Azariah the priest went in after him, with eighty priests of the LORD who were men of valor, 18 and they withstood King Uzziah and said to him, "It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron, who are consecrated to burn incense. Go out of the sanctuary, for you have done wrong, and it will bring you no honor from the LORD God." 19 Then Uzziah was angry. Now he had a censer in his hand to burn incense, and when he became angry with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead in the presence of the priests in the house of the LORD, by the altar of incense. 20 And Azariah the chief priest and all the priests looked at him, and behold, he was leprous in his forehead! And they rushed him out quickly, and he himself hurried to go out, because the LORD had struck him. 21 And King Uzziah was a leper to the day of his death, and being a leper lived in a separate house, for he was excluded from the house of the LORD. And Jotham his son was over the king's household, governing the people of the land.

22 Now the rest of the acts of Uzziah, from first to last, Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz wrote. 23 And Uzziah slept with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the burial field that belonged to the kings, for they said, "He is a leper." And Jotham his son reigned in his place. (2 Chronicles 26:16-23)

II. Theological Concerns

A. The Holiness of God

2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for the LORD has spoken: "Children have I reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against me. 3 The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's crib, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand." 4 Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, offspring of evildoers, children who deal corruptly! They have forsaken the LORD, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they are utterly estranged. (Isaiah 1:2-4)

B. The Proud and Lofty

*12 For the LORD of hosts has a day against all that is proud and lofty, against all that is lifted up—and it shall be brought low; ... 20 In that day mankind will cast away their idols of silver and their idols of gold, which they made for themselves to worship, to the moles and to the bats, 21 to enter the caverns of the rocks and the clefts of the cliffs, **from before the terror of the LORD, and from the splendor of his majesty**, when he rises to terrify the earth. 22 Stop regarding man in whose nostrils is breath, for of what account is he? (Isaiah 2:12, 20-22)*

C. The Vineyard of the LORD

1 Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. 2 He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. (Isaiah 5:1-2)

III. The Call of Isaiah – Isaiah 6:1-8

1 *In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple.* 2 *Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.* 3 *And one called to another and said:*

*“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!”*

4 *And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.* 5 *And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”*

6 *Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar.* 7 *And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”*

8 *And 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.”*

- Notice that the LORD calls Isaiah [i]n the year that King Uzziah died. Why is that contextual marker important and how might it inform our reading of the ensuing passage?

- Three Distinct “Notes” of a “Religious Chord”¹

- The _____ of God

- The _____ between God’s holiness and the _____ of the creature.

- _____ unto the service of the LORD.

¹ Vos, *Redemptive History and Biblical Interpretation* (P&R, 1980), 275-6.

- Holiness and Glory

“Owing to this heightened sense of divinity, as specifically distinct from all other being, the idea of God obtains in the prophesies of Isaiah a peculiar ascendancy and pervasiveness. **God becomes the one supreme reality from whom everything else derives its significance.**

The thought of Jehovah expands until it fills all the recesses of creation, and there is no place left for any other being except as a medium for reflecting the divine glory.”²

- Isaiah and Amos—The Vindictory Justice of God

IV. Implications and Assignment

Next Week: Read and be prepared to discuss Geerhardus Vos sermon on Isaiah 57:15 (handout).

² Ibid.