

New Vision for a New Year

Text : **Isaiah 6: 1-13**

S#1.

A. As humans, we tend to cling to the familiar.

1. The older we are the more we lament all the many changes since we were young.
2. Some get caught up in the past thinking all was better “back in the day.”

B. More often than not, we carry that attitude over into the church.

S#2.

1. Nashville has more churches per capita than any city in the world.
 - a. Every imaginable denomination is represented.
 - b. Still 78 churches of Christ in the city limits alone and double that in the suburbs.
2. Our brethren have some of the biggest most beautiful church buildings in the country.
 - a. Sadly, many of those big beautiful buildings have more empty pews than full ones.
 - b. The singing is as dry and lifeless as the sermons ... habitual rituals.

B. This lesson will focus on the prophet Isiah’s new vision for God’s people. S#3.

1. The book of Isiah is unusual, e.g., it is written in sections that are not chronological.
2. Also, the call of the prophet is in the first chapter of most books of prophecy.
 - a. The call of Isaiah is in the 6th chapter.
 - b. The first 5 chapters set the stage for the prophecies.

I. Chapters 1 thru 5 are an introduction to the book Isaiah’s prophecy’s.

S#4.

A. Chapter 1

1. Vs. 1 ... sets the time period for the prophecies.
2. Vs. 2-9 ... God lays out the charge against Israel ... even the animals know more
Isa. 1: 2 – Sons I have reared and brought up, but they have revolted S#5.
against Me. 3 An ox knows its owner, and a donkey its
master’s manger, but Israel does not know,
3. God compares them to those they consider the worst of the worst.
Isa. 1: 10 – Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom: S#6.
Give ear to the instruction of our God, you people of Gomorrah.
4. Vs. 11-15 ... Their worship was unacceptable to God.
 - a. They were going through the rituals, but their hearts were not in them.
 - b. **Isa. 1: 14 – I hate your new moon festivals and your appointed feasts,** S#7.
They have become a burden to Me; I am weary of bearing them. 15 So
when you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide My eyes from you;

5. Vs. **16-20** ... Their only hope is to repent ... They choose between two futures,
6. Vs. **21-23** ... Justice is being perverted.
7. Vs. **24-31** ... All-inclusive judgment is coming.

B. Chapter 2

1. Vs. **1-11** ... God pictures the glory of the Messianic reign ... Abrahamic promise.
Isa. 2: 2 – Now it will come about that in the last days the mountain of the house of the Lord will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it. **S#8.**
2. Vs. **12-22** ... A day of reckoning is come that will be comprehensive.

C. Chapter 3

1. Vs. **1-11** ... Judgment is described ... they'll be insecure due to unqualified leaders.
Isa. 3: 12 – O My people! Their oppressors are children, and women rule over them. O My people! Those who guide you lead you astray and confuse the direction of your paths. (*prayer - not born gentile, slave or woman*) **S#9.**
2. Vs. **12-4:1** ... Judgment will engulf everyone, even the women.
Isa. 4: 1 – For seven women will take hold of one man in that day, saying, "We will eat our own bread and wear our own clothes, only let us be called by your name; take away our reproach!" **S#10.**

D. Chapter 4 ... There is hope for Israel's return to God.

E. Chapter 5 ... Israel is presented in a parable about a vineyard.

1. God blessed Israel abundantly, but it did not produce good fruit for Him.
3. God will remove His protection and supply.

II. Isaiah 6: 1-8 ... Isaiah's vision for Israel and for the church.

S#11.

A. Remember : Israel was the northern kingdom. Judah is judged later.

B. Vs. 1 ... The prophecy comes at the end of king Uzziah's reign.

1. Uzziah was a good king for most of his 52 year reign.
2. He went into the temple and was struck with leprosy for his last few years.

C. Vs. 1b ... This vision took place in the temple

1. **Isa. 6: 1** – In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. **S#12.**
2. Those who want to approach God need to be where he is ... **in His church.**
3. We need to be part of the church's life. *Christ is the head of His church.*

- * 3. Be part of God's family here ... not wander in search of entertainment.

D. Vs. 2 ... Our view of God must be high and holly

1. **Isa. 6: 2** – Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. **3** And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory." S#13.
2. No matter what our life is God is the same ... high and holy.
3. Our life must be characterized by praising God.
4. Seeing God makes us want to be holy.

Rev. 1:17 – When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed S#14. His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last,

 - a. We will not see a vision of God as John saw him.
 - b. BUT ,, we see God every time we open His revealed word.

E. Vs. 4 ... The prophet saw the power of God and was in awe.

1. **Isa. 6: 4** – And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. S#15.
2. When Thomas understood that Jesus was risen he worshipped.

John 20: 27 – Then He said to Thomas, " Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing." **28** Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" **29** Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed." S#16.
3. The blessing of Jesus is for those of us who read of Him and respond with worship.
- 4 Does God's message move you ? (**We have to move to go forward.**)

F. Vs. 5 ... In the presence of a holy God, the prophet realized his sinfulness.

1. **Isa. 6: 5** – Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts." S#17.
2. Comparing himself to God, it was easy for the prophet to see his sinfulness.
 - a. We compare ourselves to others, it is easy to imagine a favorable comparison.
 - b. Isaiah realized that he had become like those around him. "live among a people"
3. "Woe is me, for I am ruined! " Realizing his sin caused the prophet distress.

Psa. 51: 3 – For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me.

4. We must be open and watchful to recognize our sin :
 - a. **I John 1: 8** – If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and **S#18.**
the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins. He is faithful and
righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
 - b. We must study the scriptures with an attitude of discovery.

G. Vs. 6-7 ... Repentance is not without pain.

1. **Isa. 6: 6** – Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his **S#19.**
hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. **7** He touched my
mouth with it and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your
iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven."
2. Treatment for injuries and disease are often painful.
 - a. Repentance often requires giving up things we want or things we enjoy.
 - b. Facing the consequences of sin is most often unpleasant.
3. Repentance requires us to put ourselves on the altar.

Rom. 12: 1 – Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, **S#20.**
to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable
to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.
4. The Apostle describes the Christian life as living crucified.

Gal. 2: 20 – I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, **S#21.**
but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh
I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
5. It's only after one has been sacrificed (*crucified*) that he receives the promised peace.

Phil. 4:7 – And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, **S#22.**
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

III. Isaiah 6: 1-13 ... Isaiah's vision included a call to service.

S#23.

A. Vs. 8 ... We must be willing to hear the call of God.

1. **Isa. 6: 8** – Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, **S#24.**
and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"
2. We all have a tendency to be distracted and blinded by this world.
 - a. Family
 - b. Occupations
 - c. Personal goals

B. Vs. 9 ... We must develop the willingness to reach out to unreceptive people.

1. **Isa. 6: 9** – He said, "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on listening, but do not perceive; Keep on looking, but do not understand.' **10** " Render the hearts of this people insensitive, Their ears dull, and their eyes dim, otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and return and be healed." S#25.
 2. You have a purpose on the earth ...God has a work for every one of His servants.
 3. He called us **SO THAT** we would proclaim God to a nation that does not care.
I Pet. 2: 9 – but you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, S#26.
a people for God's own possession, **SO THAT** you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; **10** for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.
 4. In the same way Israel was called out of Egypt and made a nation, **YOU** were also.
 - *5. We cannot proclaim a message louder than the example we set.
 - *6. **Vs. 10 ... You can't save anyone ...** your job is just to proclaim and to exemplify.
- C. Vs. 11-12 ... We must persist until the end. (*Old age is not an excuse to quit.*)**
1. **Isa. 6: 11** – Then I said, "Lord, how long?" And He answered. "Until cities are devastated and without inhabitant, Houses are without people And the land is utterly desolate, **12** The Lord has removed men far away, And the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land." S#27.
 2. This must be where Winston Churchill got his famous speech :
Never, never, never, never give up.
 3. The people are going to be lead off into captivity, **Isaiah** was to keep on keeping on.
 4. As we are proclaiming it may seem like no one is listening, **but** we must keep on.
 5. Our success is **NOT** measured in numbers, but in our faithfully proclaiming.
 - a. There are many “ear tickers” drawing large crowds into “mega-churches.”
 - b. Fish will follow any shiny object. (*caught many on the tab from a soda can*)
 - c. *There have always been those who seek what gives instant gratification.*
- D. Vs. 13 ... God has always dealt with remnants.**
1. **Isa. 6: 13** – Yet there will be a tenth portion in it, and it will again be subject to burning, like a terebinth or an oak whose stump remains when it is felled. The holy seed is its stump. S#28.
 2. God has always refined the many to find the faithful few.
 - a. We recently looked at the story of Gideon.
 - b. God saved humanity by only 8 people on the arc built by Noah,

3. Jesus taught that only the remnant

a. **Matt. 7:13** – Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. **14** "For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

S#29.

b. **Rom. 11** ... the Apostle refers to the remnant being saved in this era.

4. ***This congregation is small, but God can do great things with it.***

CONCLUSION :

A. As we launch out into a new year, let us do so with a new vision.

S#30.

1. We serve a holy God who dwells in a holy temple ... **YOU.**
2. Our view of God must be high and holy.
3. Having that high and holy God in our midst should challenge us to holiness.
4. The quest for a life of holiness will lead us into a life of repentance.
5. We must be willing to reach out to the lost.
6. For will respond, but we must not give up the quest to save.
7. There will be a remnant saved.

B. Are we functioning as a righteous remnant.

INVITATION :

God is willing to receive you if you will come to Him.

S#31.

Jesus came more than half way.

S#32. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :

Isaiah 1: 1-5

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

2 Listen, O heavens, and hear, O earth; For the Lord speaks, Sons I have reared and brought up, But they have revolted against Me. 3 "An ox knows its owner, And a donkey its master's manger, But Israel does not know, My people do not understand."

4 Alas, sinful nation, People weighed down with iniquity, Offspring of evildoers, Sons who act corruptly! They have abandoned the Lord, They have despised the Holy One of Israel, They have turned away from Him.

5 Where will you be stricken again, As you continue in your rebellion? The whole head is sick And the whole heart is faint.

Isaiah 6: 1-13

1 In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. 2 Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called out 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 trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. 5 Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among 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 with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. 7 He touched my mouth with it and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven."

8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!" 9 He said, "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on listening, but do not perceive; Keep on looking, but do not understand.'

10 Render the hearts of this people insensitive, Their ears dull, And their eyes dim, Otherwise they might see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, Understand with their hearts, And return and be healed."

11 Then I said, "Lord, how long?" And He answered, "Until cities are devastated and without inhabitant, Houses are without people And the land is utterly desolate, 12 "The Lord has removed men far away, And the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land. 13 "Yet there will be a tenth portion in it, And it will again be subject to burning, Like a terebinth or an oak Whose stump remains when it is felled. The holy seed is its stump."