

THINE INIQUITY IS TAKEN AWAY . . . THY SIN PURGED

TEXT: *Isaiah 6:7b: Thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.*

INTRODUCTION: These words are spoken to Isaiah. In the middle of a service, God sent an angel to tell Isaiah he is clean. Don't allow yourself to get this information second hand. You must know for yourself that you are right with God.

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Here are some details of what happened.

Isaiah was troubled when he went to the House of God.

"In the year that king Uzziah died" are the mournful words that opened this 6th chapter of Isaiah.

- He was fearful because of the severe earthquakes they had experienced. Many references to this catastrophe are in his writings.
- He was depressed. He was feeling downcast and depressed, but he went to the temple anyway. His king, who had been so energetic and a wise leader — a builder of cities and a great leader in time of war — had become full of pride, wanting to be not only king, but also high priest. He went into the House of God to offer incense which **no one** except the sons of Aaron were consecrated by God to do. God's judgment fell upon him, and he was afflicted with leprosy. He was cast out of the temple, and died a slow, terrible death.
- Isaiah had lived for 20 years under Uzziah's reign.
- He felt insecure now that the monarch had died and the throne was empty



APPLICATION:

Have you ever gone to church when you were in a bad mood? Isaiah did — and got a blessing. John Wesley went unwillingly to Aldersgate the night he received his great heart-warming experience. Don't let a time of depression keep you out of God's house!

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Isaiah was already a prophet of the Lord, a child of God. God does not call and use unconverted men in His service. This sets forth the fact that this purifying experience was **after** his conversion. God is not minimizing in the least his salvation experience. When did Isaiah have this new, second blessing experience with the Lord?

2 Corinthians 1:15: And in this confidence I was minded to come unto you before, that ye might have a second benefit.

Isaiah saw God

- Majesty, glory, purity, and righteousness
 1. The King whose reign would never end
 2. The King unchanging, wise, and good
 3. The King truly worthy of full allegiance

In **Isaiah 6:3** the seraphim cry out.

Isaiah 6:3: And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory.

• True preaching must declare scriptural holiness, the purity of God.

Who are the seraphim? We know their theme is Holiness of the Lord. True preaching must declare scriptural holiness, the purity of God. Any preaching not backed up by the purity of life and character lacks the glory and power of the Spirit. It was this insight that caused Isaiah to see his need of the same. We are to be an example.

APPLICATION:

When you enter a sanctuary, the first thing you should do is become aware of God's Presence. Think steadfastly on Him and His Holiness. All those fighting against holiness, please take note: God is thrice holy as stated in **1 Peter 1:15-16**.

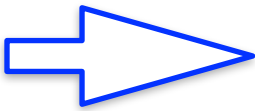
1 Peter 1:15-16:

15 But as He which hath called you is Holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I AM Holy.

We are robbing God of glory in living a shabby, carnal, spotty, blemished life.

ILLUSTRATION:



**Before the service begins, talk to God;
During the service, let Him talk to you; and
After the service, talk of Him to others.**

Our services were always preceded by prayer. The men would go to one prayer room while the ladies to another to pray through in order to bring down the supernatural power of God.

Isaiah saw this supernatural manifestation in Heaven. The posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried. The house was filled with smoke. This is holy smoke — not stinking, tobacco smoke. There is a spiritual message for us. We are to be spiritual pillars in the house of God. We will move and shake under the mighty power of the Spirit baptism.

**We are to be
spiritual pillars in
the house of God.**

Hebrews 12:25-27:

25 See that ye refuse not Him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused Him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from Him that speaketh from heaven:

26 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now He hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.

27 And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

Revelation 3:12: Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of My God.

Isaiah saw himself.

Isaiah was a good citizen, a worshipper of the living God, and yet — in the sight of God — he was defiled. He had a loose tongue. He might have been a gossip, a backbiter, or a talebearer. There are at least 55 sins of the tongue mentioned in the Bible. The tongue can commit more sins than any other member of our body.

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Examples:

We see in **Exodus 3:6** that Moses felt like this as he hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.

Exodus 3:6: Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.

Luke 5:8: Peter said to the Lord, Depart from me for I am a sinful man, O LORD.

Isaiah 6:5a: Isaiah said: Woe is me! I am undone because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips:

He did not excuse himself because everybody is doing it.

What produced the necessity of purification?

I also saw my Lord. This vision made him see the need of being sanctified, holy.



Holy of Holies

He was taken in the Spirit behind the second veil into the Holy of Holies. This is the place where only the High Priest could enter. Having never been a priest, nor ever having had the special consecration requirements been performed on him, he felt unfit, a misfit there in the Divine Presence. So will we, and call on the Lord for cleansing.

2 Corinthians 7:1: Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

We are to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord.

As long as we see ourselves or one another, we may never realize our desperate need of holiness. We have to break away and see Jesus in order to see our own lack, then seek for cleansing and heart purity, and get it. Then we will be a blessing to one another and to the Lord Jesus Christ.

APPLICATION:

As we try to pray or praise, do words we have said haunt us and remind us we have sinned with our tongue? If so, we can understand Isaiah's cry and make it our own!



Isaiah's Confession

- It comes from heavenly insight. I have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts.
- **“Woe is me. I am undone.”** We see what is wrong with others more than what is wrong with ourselves. We are critical of them, we find fault, complain, gripe, bellyache, tell filthy jokes and smutty stories, engage in foolish and silly talk, and see no harm in it. Isaiah cries, **“I am undone. Woe is me!”** It is not the cry of an unsaved man — an unredeemed soul — but of a carnal heart seeking for holiness.

So it is with each of us until God opens our eyes to see ourselves. Then we really tell it like it is . . . WOE IS ME, I AM UNDONE.

2 Corinthians 13:5: Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

Many who are unskillful in the Word of Righteousness fail to rightly divide the Word here on the necessity of sanctification. When we clearly see carnality and its detrimental effects on us, we will cry for help, too. A carnal heart is enmity with God.

Romans 8:6-7:

⁶ For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

Then Isaiah confesses that he dwells with unclean lipped people, too. How many of us can say the same. He saw the people's need of holiness, also. So many preachers and saints shun away from showing the House of Israel their transgressions.

Isaiah 59:1-2:

¹ Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

² But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear.

1. The Universalists teach that God is too good to punish sinners.
2. The Unitarians teach that we're too good — or not bad enough — to be punished.
3. Plymouth Brethren teach that all our carnal and sinful nature is covered by the white mantle of the finished work of Jesus. So God can't see our faults, failures, flesh, and the old (carnal) man. Nonsense!
4. Swedenborgenism teaches that sin is only like sour sap on the grapevine. It will eventually mellow into goodness by the autumn of life. Hog wash! They are so dainty in their great swelling words of vanity. They need to read:

~~PUNISHMENT~~

Romans 16:18: For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

2 Peter 3:2: That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour.

Jude 1:16: These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

Ephesians 5:6: Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

These cults also had better read:

1 Corinthians 5:6-7:

⁶ Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

⁷ Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

1 Corinthians 6:6-11:

⁶ But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers.

⁷ Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another.

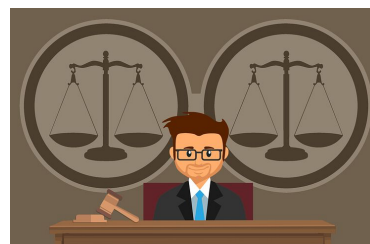
Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?

⁸ Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren.

⁹ Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the Kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

¹⁰ Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the Kingdom of God.

¹¹ And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.



2 Corinthians 7:1: Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Ephesians 5:3-5:

³ But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

⁴ Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

⁵ For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and of God.

Colossians 3:5-6:

⁵ Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

⁶ For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience.

Hebrews 12:14: Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

1 Peter 2:11: Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.

1 John 3:3: And ever man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure.

Then, there is another crowd whom I call Heartless Holiness that go in the opposite direction. They denounce and condemn even a struggling babe in Christ who is not professing to be holy sanctified. Their eyes shed no tears over the slain of the daughter of My people. Daniel's prayer in Daniel 9:21 is parallel with that of Isaiah who confessed his sin as well as his people's to the Lord, and not to man.



Daniel 9:20: And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God;

The inward depravity of our carnal heart manifests itself in all persons alike. The tongue is rash. It cuts, slays, is uncharitable, and unkind. It flows with criticism, sarcasm, and cuts to ribbons those who oppose or cross us. It wounds like a sword. Seeing Jesus caused Isaiah to wash himself. That is why our testimony is powerless. We blame our sterile lives on the defects of others, and they cast the same back in our faces. Then the church has a bust up with division and strife due to an uncrucified heart. We need a baptism of Holy Fire.

We need a baptism of Holy Fire.

Isaiah Was Cleansed.

The time of Isaiah's purification was in the year that Uzziah died.

King Uzziah is a type of a self king — one who is in the driver's seat, a carnal Christian, intoxicated with pride. The Real King is not on the throne of his hearts. When king Uzziah died, then the obstruction to seeing the Lord was removed. Isaiah was already a prophet of the Lord, a saved man when he began his work for the Lord. God does not call sinners into His service, or backsliders. This sets before us the fact that the new experience which Isaiah received from the Lord of purification is the purifying Baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire.

Matthew 3:11: I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and with fire.

God — the Controller of the universe — took notice of one penitent backslider.

1. One of the seraphim was sent to minister unto him.

Isaiah 6:6-7:

⁶ Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: ⁷ And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.

2. Fire is symbolic of both the wrath and the love of God, as well as destroying evil and purifying the good. Fire is symbolic of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.



Acts 2:3: And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

APPLICATION:

When we see sin in our lives, we need to call on God Who has power to pardon, then purify us.

Isaiah was in closer communion with God than before.

- Before, he could neither see nor hear from Heaven. Now, he sees and hears His voice.
- He is aware that God calls for a special person to do a special task.
- When God cleanses, then He fills the vessel full with His glory.

Isaiah 6:8a: Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?

Isaiah 30:21: And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it,

That touch of holy fire affected his hearing also. He heard the Lord's voice now. The ear wax was melted by this holy fire. He now can tune in to Heaven and hear God speak plainly.

John 10:27a: My sheep hear My voice.

How many go on guessing the voice of God, or satan, or man. He hears plainly, "*Whom shall I send? Who will go for Us?*" Yes, **Us** - plural. The Same "Us" that is said in



the beginning, ***“Let Us make man in Our Image, after Our Likeness.”***
Genesis 1:26

APPLICATION:

When we come to a state of sanctification, God has work for us. We cannot just be good — we have to be good for something. God chooses to use fire-purged vessels for His great Kingdom work.

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Consecration

Isaiah offers his life as a living sacrifice unto God. Romans 12:1

Romans 12:1: I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Isaiah 6:8b: Here I am; send me.

1. He knew that faith without works was dead and wanted to demonstrate his living faith.
2. He volunteered before he knew what the work would be.
 - a. But he knew God had a job for him.
 - b. He believed God would direct and empower him.

In chapter 1, Isaiah saw the land filled with carnality and human corruption due to sin, but he was touched by the holy fire of God and became a flaming evangelist.

Hebrews 1:7: Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire.

Ministers purged by God’s fire can change that unholy condition in the church and in the world. ***“Here I am”*** is Isaiah’s prompt, willing, unreserved, personal, and unquestioning response. It may be hard for us to distinguish between the partial,

half-hearted, lukewarm services of our church members, and the wholly-sanctified, fire-baptized members until we meet up with one really on fire for God. Then we will see and know the difference.

There is always a reservation when asked to serve as teacher, usher, deacon, elder, nursery worker, parking lot attendant, caretaker, etc. We question, argue, and try to get out of doing and giving ourselves. We hesitate, and we have a feeling we are being forced into something. We will look around and see what others are doing, trying to pass the buck, or wanting others to do it or help us. This does not characterize a Spirit-filled believer.



“Here I am, send me.” This proves Isaiah’s lips were not only touched by the sacred fire, but also that the Divine touched his heart, ears, eyes, will, and temperament. His love for souls is manifest. He is obedient to God with no alibis. For us to pass God’s inspection, for Him to give us the divine call, all these parts of our whole being need to be touched, changed, and sanctified.

Have you done the following?

See if you have gone through the steps this passage from Isaiah lists:

1. Come to the house of God, even though you may be burdened with worries and sin
2. Be aware of God’s Presence
3. Be aware of your sins
4. Accept cleansing and a new nature from God
5. Be in close communion with God – hear His Word
6. Consecrate your life to His Will for you

CONCLUSION:

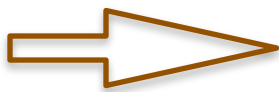
To some it will be to preach, to some it will be to teach. To some it will be to get in the thick of the fight like Joshua with the Amalakites. To some it will be to stand

and pray like Moses, to some it will be to sustain others, just as Hur and Aaron supported Moses. To others, it will be to work with the missionary board, others in the nursery, still others in Junior church.



To Isaiah, it was to tell that the time of revival and renewal was at an end – that desolation was at hand.

God be praised that we can still talk of revival and can still tell men and women that they have an opportunity to accept Jesus as Saviour.



Don't stop in your relationship with God until you are able to consecrate yourself completely to His Will for you.

As for me, God has called me to preach the Gospel. I am here to shepherd the Lord's sheep and also to bring the lost sheep back into the fold. Also, it is a high honor God has bestowed on me to be His ambassador beseeching for lost souls to be reconciled to God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

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