

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

Phil O. Waldo
Lead Pastor



1224 Hancock Drive
Boone, Iowa 50036

Phone: 515 432-3329

Website: www.booneopenbible.com
E-mail: office@booneopenbible.com
pastor@booneopenbible.com

SERMON TITLE	Close Encounters of the God Kind – Isaiah’s Story
---------------------	---

SERIES	
---------------	--

DATE	3/26/2023
-------------	-----------

KEY SCRIPTURE	Isaiah 6:1-8
----------------------	--------------

SYNOPSIS	Isaiah’s God-encounter brought conviction, cleansing, and commissioning.
-----------------	--

HIGHLIGHTS	
-------------------	--



☞ Close Encounters of the God Kind – Isaiah’s Story

Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3 And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." 4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. 5 "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty." 6 Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for." 8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

v. 1 In the year that King Uzziah died. There’s more about King Uzziah in 2 Chronicles 26. He became king at the age of 16 and was predominantly a good king. He followed God, becoming famous and powerful as a result. He reigned 52 years, but near the end, pride took hold, which led to his downfall. He attempted to take on the role of priest in addition to being king, but he was not called to that, so it cost him. He became leprous and lived the rest of his life in seclusion.

It is likely that Uzziah and Isaiah were related – possibly cousins. It is also likely that Uzziah was the only king that Isaiah knew up to this point. So, his death was a significant event in Isaiah’s life, both prophetically and personally. It probably shook him at some level.

Aside from the personal effects of losing a loved one, King Uzziah’s death, especially the way it came about, would lead to a lot of uncertainty. This good king took a dive. Could Isaiah count on anything anymore? What would happen next? Would the whole nation suffer because of Uzziah’s arrogance? Would the nation remain strong? What would the future look like after this?

Sounds kind of familiar, doesn’t it? A lot of uncertainty in recent years. A lot of upheaval. But it ☞ was in this uncertain, **troubling time** that Isaiah had his famous **God-encounter**. I think Isaiah had been serving the Lord, but had not yet fully relied on him. He had strength in his situation and confidence in his king, but now those were shaken, forcing him to look only to God. He ☞ needed to **find his confidence solely in the Lord**.

I saw the Lord. It was in the midst of this shaking and uncertainty that Isaiah had a profound vision. In the natural, Isaiah’s king had fallen and died. His nation was in tenuous times, but God was still on the throne.

No matter how rocky your situation may be, **God is still in control**. Uzziah represented Isaiah’s sense of stability and security, but that was now shaken. He was disappointed and possibly



disillusioned. Perhaps you have experienced something similar. Where have you been finding your security and stability? Is it in the Lord? **He's the only one that will never fail you.**

The Lord was **seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple.** This speaks of the supremacy of God. The throne indicates his authority. Whatever has been the authority and security in your life may have been shaken, but God is still on the throne, unshaken.

The Lord is high and exalted. There may be other things which rule your life, but God is above them all. Your weaknesses must come under his authority. Your temptations must come under his authority. Your persecutors and enemies must come under his authority. **He rules over all.**

The length of his robe also indicates the scope of his authority and power. In those days, a conquering king would cut off the robe of his enemy and add it to his own. Thus, a long robe meant this king was very powerful and victorious. God's robe fills the temple. He is the great King above all kings.

v. 2-4 Then we see the **seraphs, each with six wings.** Two wings covered their faces, indicating their respect and awe of God. Two wings covered their feet, indicating decency and humility. Two wings were for flying, indicating their readiness to serve the Lord. Spurgeon comments about the ratio of wings for humility compared to those for service, suggesting that **our adoration of the Lord must exceed our activity for the Lord.** Mary was commended over Martha because she spent time at the Lord's feet.

Those seraphim called out to each other: **Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty.** This speaks of God's uniqueness. He is set apart from all others. He is not part of the creation; he is over and above it. He is the Creator. He is Almighty God! Their voices were so powerful **the doorposts shook**, but God is infinitely more powerful.

v. 5 Woe to me, I'm unclean, etc. This is the effect of a God-encounter. There is a personal revelation of the darkness within. The light of the Lord exposes our darkness and dirt, which leads to confession and repentance. This is the typical response we see in the Bible: Moses hid; Gideon was afraid; Ezekiel fell facedown; Daniel lost his strength; Peter fell down, confessing, "I am sinful." If your **encounter with God** doesn't **make you want to change**, then something is wrong with your experience.

--Charles Finney... you don't come to the altar with laughter and smiles, but rather with tears and sorrow. You get up from the altar and go with laughter and smiles.

One of the reasons God's presence is so powerful and people react with fear is this: his glory reveals the true nature of our sin! Isaiah 64:6 says, "all our righteous acts are like filthy rags." Even our very best intentions and actions are unworthy of the Lord.

His presence brings Conviction



After I graduated from Dallas Seminary, waiting on my first ministry, I went home to live with my mother. My mom gave me chores. She said, "One of your jobs is to take out the trash, Son." So every week I put out the garbage.

One week I forgot to put out the garbage. Garbage has a way of making itself known. It began to smell. Every day we kept piling more garbage onto it. It even began to spill over, and it was right where you came into the back of the house. Every time we went into the house we would get a whiff of it.

The aroma began to seep into the house and infected the atmosphere. Then it started to infect my mom's relationship with me. Every time she looked at me, it was as if she were saying, "Why don't you take out the garbage?"

The next week, I took out the garbage. The atmosphere cleaned up. Our relationship was better. Everything was okay.

My brothers and sisters, if you don't take out the garbage on a daily basis, it piles up. It begins to stink. It can pollute your relationships and cause you to move further away from people. So if we want to be cleansed by God, we must confess to God and put out the garbage on a daily basis.

v. 6-7 One of the seraphs touched his mouth and said, "your guilt is taken away..." This is God's nature. When you experience his presence and feel conviction which leads to confession of sin, then **God cleanses and forgives** you.

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Psalms 103:12

as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Notice that a Seraph stopped attending God in order to cleanse Isaiah; this shows God's heart for the repentant sinner. He wants to help you get cleaned up! This is good, but you need to know that cleaning can sometimes be painful. You ever pour peroxide on a cut? It hurts, but it can clean out infection and save you from worse problems. That's what God will do. We often think he's hurting us by removing the junk, but he's trying to save us from worse!

Acts 3:19

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

☞ **His presence Cleanses**

v. 8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord. Once we really see the Lord, acknowledge his authority, and confess our sins to him, he cleanses us and then we can hear him much more clearly.



My five-year-old daughter, Barbara, had disobeyed me and had been sent to her room. After a few minutes, I went in to talk with her about what she had done. Teary-eyed, she asked, "Why do we do wrong things, Mommy?"

"Well," I replied, "sometimes the devil tells us to do something wrong and we listen to him. We need to listen to God instead."

To which she sobbed, "But God doesn't talk loud enough!"

This is part of why I keep emphasizing pressing in to God's presence. The closer I am to him, the better I can hear him. God's voice is both gentle and powerful at the same time. It's gentle, so we must get alone with him and listen carefully. But it's also powerful. When he speaks it is full of confidence and with absolute authority.

Whom shall I send? God has a plan and he's looking for partners to carry it out. The last few weeks we have seen how a God-encounter is intended to spill over to others. It's not just about you receiving a blessing from God. It's also about you becoming a blessing to others.

Here am I! Send me! Isaiah surrendered to God's will. He made himself available to the Lord.

--Stormie Omartian... Trust that God has your best interests in mind and be willing to do what he asks of you, even if you don't understand why. Obedience starts with having a heart that says yes to God.

Hebrews 11:8

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going

This mighty man of faith trusted God. He didn't get all the details, but was willing to obey. I think this is a challenge for most people. We want all the information before we are willing to trust and follow. But, God, in his ultimate wisdom, does not often give us all the details. He just tells us to go. He is sending you. We are all called to go into the world, making disciples. He leads the way. Will you follow him?

His presence Commissions

A true God-encounter brings... Conviction; Cleansing; Commissioning

I want to experience the presence and glory of the Lord! Let there be a little more conviction! Let there be a great cleansing! Let us hear the call of God and respond with a resounding, "Yes, Lord. Here am I. Send me."

🔊 *(begin music)* Are there some things in your life that need cleaned up? No, doubt, there are. Take some time to confess to the Lord, allowing him to work his cleansing in you. And then, listen. What is God saying to you? Is he calling? Is he putting someone on your heart to reach out to? Is he directing some changes in your life? Let's spend some time in his presence.