

## When God comes down - Isaiah 64.

### Introduction

#### 1. Who was Isaiah?

- The introduction to the book tells us he was the son of someone named Amoz.
- The Jewish tradition - Amoz was a brother to King Amaziah.
- This would make Isaiah the cousin of Amaziah's son, King Uzziah.

His ministry extended across the reigns of four kings as it says in the first verse: *“The vision concerning Judah and Jerusalem that Isaiah son of Amoz saw during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah” (1:1).*

- “Isaiah” = “The Salvation Of Jehovah”

- Incredible Opportunities! He Used These Not to Further His Own Power, But to Further God's Work! - God Gave & Used Isaiah's Relationships to Proclaim His Own Message!

- He Had Important Abilities: - Educated - He Was A Writer - Isaiah, Of Course (2 **Chronicles 26:22** - *“Now the rest of the acts of Uzziah, first and last, did Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, write.”*) –

- He Was a Poet - Many Beautiful, Poetic Passages In Isaiah –

He Was A Speaker - Before Great Crowds & Great Kings!  
- God Gave & Used Isaiah's Abilities To Proclaim His Own Message!

Tradition - Martyred by King Manasseh of Judah, Who Was His Son-In-Law, By Being Cut With A Saw After Being Put In A Log –  
Possibly Mentioned In **Hebrews 11:37** - *“They were sawn asunder.”*

The Socio-Political Climate of Isaiah's life time.

a) **The Divided Kingdom – Isaiah's life and ministry were lived in the midst of the Divided Kingdom.**

After the death of Solomon.

- The Kingdom was divided into north and south. The ten tribes of the North wanted Jeroboam to be king but the two southern tribes wanted Rehoboam as their king.

The Northern tribes became known as Israel with Samaria as their capital, while the Southern tribes were known as Judah and had Jerusalem as their capital.

Israel was consistently ruled by wicked kings right up until their destruction.

Judah was more fortunate that they had some good kings and often had times where the nation of Judah pleased the Lord

From the time of Uzziah to the reign of Hezekiah, kings of Judah, Isaiah preached his message.

This message dates from 740 BC to 687 BC, about 700 years before Jesus would be born.

Isaiah does speak judgment to Judah and Jerusalem in chapters 1-39 and mingles it with words of hope.

Then he speaks of comfort for his people in chapters 40 to 66 mingling it at times with words of correction.

Isaiah's message largely focuses on God's plan of salvation.

It has been called the 'Romans' of the OT. Isaiah has been referred to as the Evangelist of the OT.

Isaiah has two parts first 39 chapters deal with the judgment and second 27 chapters deal with the forgiveness and grace of god.

In the first section Chapter 6 is the main chapter – the throne of god.

In the second section chapter 53 is the main chapter – the lamb who stand before the shearers.

In revelation 5 we see the lamb **Who** was slain sitting on the throne.

The influence of Isaiah on the New Testament is huge.

The book of Isaiah is quoted 66 times from Matthew to 1 Peter.

In the early part of Isaiah the prophet foretells of the birth of the Messiah and gives precise details about how and where he would be born.

Isaiah wrote, “**Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel**” (7:14).

**Chapter 9** foretells of the Messiah being born in Galilee of the Gentiles, a location unheard of in those times.

It tells of the amazing and never-ending reign of this great deliverer.

And chapter 11 assures us that this Messiah will be born of the house of David, a direct descendant.

When Jesus is handed the scroll to read (LUKE.4.18) in the synagogue of his hometown of Nazareth, he reads these words: “**The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor...**” (61:1).

When this happened it was as though he had received it, not just from human hands, but from the hands of God.

By reading it as he did he assumed the role of the Servant whom Isaiah had described and all that this meant. It was the beginning of his journey to the cross.

The sacrifice and death of Jesus is portrayed in essence if not in detail in the prophecy of Isaiah. “*He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth...*” (53:7)

**Here in chapter 64 Isaiah is praying a prayer for the intervention of god.**

**I. To come down is a prayer of intervention V. 1-5A**

A. A prayer of intervention is the hope of power

- Prophet Isaiah hungering for the Living God to break forth into the midst of His people again.
- They had felt powerless long enough.
- They are sick and tired of the powerless religion

**2 Timothy 3.5** *having a form of godliness but denying its power ...*

- Knowledge will not quench the thirst
- Picture of a food will not satisfy our hunger ....

**Illustration:** *A man stayed in hotel while he was leaving got the bill for a huge amount He asked why ? the manager said he smelled all the food .. He took the money and showed him and said you got it You charged the money for smelling the food I will show my money now u saw it you got it ...*

**Mathew 7.28** *When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, <sup>29</sup>because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.*

**1Thess. 1.4-5.** *For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake.*

**1Cori.2.2-5** <sup>1</sup>*When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>2</sup>For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. <sup>4</sup>My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, <sup>5</sup>so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.*

**B. A prayer of intervention is a remembrance of the past**

- Do you know why Isaiah could pray like this?

**Verses 3 and 4:** *“For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.”*

- What Isaiah is saying is that God, you used to do this stuff!
- We have memorized what you did to Pharaoh and his army.
- You worked no differently with Joshua and YOUR people entered the Promised Land.
- We know how you used King David to wipe out all of YOUR enemies. “Oh Lord, you used to act in mighty power over all YOUR enemies, won’t you come down and do it again?”
- Scripture provides endless examples of how the presence of the Lord empowers his people to live for him.

**Moses.**

*Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. - **Exodus 33:15***

**The only thing that sets us apart from nonbelievers is**

**God's presence "with us," leading us, guiding us,**

**working his will in and through us.**

- When his presence is in our midst no one can destroy us. But without him we are helpless, reduced to nothing.

### **Abraham**

God's presence was so evident in Abraham's life, even the heathen around him recognized the difference between their lives and his:

*At that time Abimelech and Phicol the commander of his forces said to Abraham, "God is with you in everything you do. (Genesis 21:22).*

This heathen king said, "There's something different about you, Abraham.

### **Joshua**

God is with you wherever you go." - God promised Joshua that no enemy could stand against him when his presence was with him: *No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. <sup>6</sup> "Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. (Joshua 1:5-6).*

When God's Spirit is present with us, we can be strong and courageous because we trust his promise to go with us in all our ways. –

**God told Gideon,** *When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior." (Judges 6:12, 14).*

God told Isaiah of a special promise he makes to those he loves - Isaiah 43:1-5.

*But now, this is what the LORD says— he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.<sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.*

<sup>3</sup> *For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;  
I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush <sup>[a]</sup> and Seba in your stead. <sup>4</sup> Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give men in exchange for you,  
and people in exchange for your life. <sup>5</sup> Do not be afraid, for I am with you;  
I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west.*

**Acts 4.13** *When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.*

**The continual pursuit of God's presence will lead you into a revelation of Christ's glory.**

God wants to open our eyes to “*the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints*” (**Ephesians 1:18**).

Christ has been given to us as our inheritance. “<sup>9</sup>*For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,*” (Colossians 2:9,

It is all revealed in Christ. Jesus is the full revelation of his love, grace, mercy and tender kindness. As you continually reflect on this revelation and commune with him, you will become more and more like Jesus.

Isaiah had personally seen the lord in his power and might  
Isaiah 6

## II. To come down is a prayer of confession V. 5B-7

### A. A prayer of confession is ownership!

1. One of the great truths of scripture is that God honors those who confess their sin!

Isaiah knew this first hand!

Isaiah 6 had met the Lord in the Temple.

Isaiah 5. 6 Woes\_ Compare 7 woes in Mathew 23

V.5 covetousness or unrighteousness

V.11. indulging in sensual pleasures – indiscipline

v.18. defiling god’s name

V20 mixing evil with good or not separating evil from good

V.21 those who are arrogant – think they know everything  
V22-23 receiving bribe

But when he saw the holiness of god he says Isaiah 6.5,  
“*Woe to me! 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*”

This was a display of power, for which Isaiah was looking. When Isaiah saw the Lord, he had one response, “I must take ownership of my own sin.

It is necessary for the prophet who sees the sins of others to see his own sin.

Vision of god  
Vision of self  
Vision of grace  
Vision of service  
Vision of fruit

### B. A prayer of confession is helplessness!

## III. TO COME DOWN IS PRAYER OF FAITH V. 8-9

A. A prayer of faith speaks the truth vv. 8

B. A prayer of faith is a passionate petition

1. The pleading of COME DOWN in power and awe for the nations to see is now a passionate petition for a personal response.

Three requests were made:

1. Don’t be angry. 2. Don’t remember. 3. Oh, look upon us, we pray (don’t disown us, we are yours)!

Isaiah's message is for us, for our churches today. The first thing the church needs is: The Presence of God

Isaiah senses the emptiness, the lack of spiritual power, the empty spirituality of God's people.

#### **IV What would be the sign of God's visit?**

##### 1. The very mountains would quake.

There is a shaking when God comes with power. He shakes up our lives and churches.

- When God gave the law at Sinai the earth quaked.
- When Christ returns the Bible says that the stars are going to be shaken out of the heavens.
- When Jesus stands to judge the earth, mountains will be leveled.
- Here Isaiah says mountains are shaken at His presence.
- Hebrews says that 'Now God has promised 'Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.

Mountains of impossibilities – Zach.4.6-7

Mountains of pride – 2 Cori.10.3-5

Mountains of unbelief- Mathew 17.21

*The HS is a divine bulldozer* - Martin Lloyd John

John Bevere in his book 'The Bait of Satan wrote' Churches as well as individuals experience seasons of shaking in their lives. These are God ordained times whereby God will sift anything out of our lives that is contrary to the character of Christ. Satan means it for our destruction; God intends it for our construction.'

##### **2. There was trembling before a holy God.**

**Daniel 10:10.** *Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands.*

**Revelation 1.17** when I saw Him I fell at His feet as though dead:

That is trembling before a holy God because prayer reveals who God really is and how sinful we really are.

Are you going to stand before a holy God and say I had other priorities – other than prayer?  
I shake to think about that.

**FEARING GOD = reverential trust with a hatred of evil.**

- The more we get to know God the more we will fear Him.
- We won't be *afraid* of God, but we will *reverence* Him.

*Psalm 34:11*, David says, "*Come you children listen to me, and I'll teach you the fear of the Lord.*"

**Psalms 111.10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.**

Those who do not fear God can only communicate *knowledge*, not *wisdom*.

Knowledge makes a man *proud* -

*1 Corinthians 8:1. We all know that we all possess knowledge .Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.*

But wisdom makes a man *mature* and teaches him how to apply his knowledge to the problems of daily life.

Only men with *wisdom* can build the church of Jesus Christ.

The fear of the Lord is the ABC of the Christian life.

**In Proverbs 24:3,4**, we're told that a house is built by *wisdom* and that by *knowledge* its rooms are filled with many precious things.

Notice the contrast here between *wisdom* and *knowledge*.

Divine love is the greatest thing in the world.

But Divine love is always guided by *Divine wisdom*.

Love without wisdom is dangerous.

*Knowledge* can be likened to the petrol in the tank of a bus, and *Wisdom* to the driver of the bus.

You certainly need *knowledge* to lead your flock forward.

But you need *wisdom* to decide *which way* you're going to lead them.

*Wisdom is fundamental*. It is possible for you to get 100% in Bible-knowledge and zero for wisdom!

That would be like a student getting 100% in Physical Training and zero in mathematics.

We saw that *knowledge* fills the rooms. Knowledge is like the furniture – chairs, tables and beds - that we put into our rooms. So if you have *knowledge without wisdom*, you'd be

like a man who puts out all his expensive furniture on an empty plot of ground!

Many expensive tables and sofas are there. The only thing missing is *the house!* You can well imagine that such a man will be the laughing stock of everyone around him.

### 3. The Cleansing of God

In fact Isaiah said was infected with sin. Were imperfect because of sin.

- **The problem with Isaiah's people is they thought they were fine.**
- They had what Isaiah called 'prized robes of righteousness.'
- In other words they thought they were pure in God's eyes. God said they were filthy rags.
- The filthy rags were worn by lepers trying to bring healing to their disease by covering their sores with contaminated rags.
- **He uses two word pictures.**
- **First he says were swept away like falling and rotting leaves.**
  
- **Secondly they are like filthy rags.** This is not a pretty picture.

**Revelation 3.14-19** <sup>14</sup>"To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

*These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation.* <sup>15</sup>*I know your deeds,*

*that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!* <sup>16</sup>*So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.* <sup>17</sup>*You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.* <sup>18</sup>*I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.* <sup>19</sup>*Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent.* <sup>20</sup>*Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.* <sup>21</sup>*To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.* <sup>22</sup>*He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."*

What is going to make us right with God?

Repentance and prayer.

Isaiah said if there was no repentance the people would be swept away.

*'And a highway will be there, it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that way; wicked fools will not journey on it (Is. 35:8).*

Henry Blackaby in his book 'The man God uses' wrote 'God desires that your life and my life be that highway, the road over which others may be drawn to Christ, the road over which God may bring revival to this land. All the prayers, sacrifices and pleadings with God will not bring revival to our land until we take seriously our holiness.'

Blackaby further writes 'It is unthinkable to say 'Father thank you for laying the sin of the world on your Son.....but please don't talk to me about sin in my life. I just want to have the joy of following you.'"

Isaiah 29:13 (NIV) The Lord says: *"These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men."*

#### 4. A submission to God

Isaiah then prays and acknowledges God's sovereignty in his life.  
V.8 "And yet, O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay and you are the Potter. We are all formed by your hand."

He says first God you are our Father.

O God you have not changed. O God you are the same yesterday, today and forever.

O God you are the Potter.

O God you're in charge, not the people, and we seek your ways and purposes.

We recognize that we are just clay in your hands. You are the potter.

He cries out Mold me  
Clay has no form before it is processed.  
The shape of the vessel is in the potter's mind.  
The potter only knows what this going to be

#### Jeremiah.18.3-6, Romans 9.19-21

- I am not here to play games. I am here for eternity purposes.
- Your not here just to get fed – you're here to worship the King of Kings.

When the people of God followed the Lord He brought spiritual blessings and encouragement in their lives.

Isaiah said when God opens up the heavens "the consuming fire of your glory would burn down the forests and boil the oceans dry.'

- The Holy Spirit is Fire--John the Baptist said, one will come after me who will "baptize you in the Holy Spirit and fire".
- The Holy Spirit's ministry is equated to fire in the Bible. Paul said we can quench the fire of the Holy Spirit.
- When revival comes the Holy Spirit blazes upon God's people, for He is the presence of God in the Church. He renews passion for Christ and people.
- He makes worship come alive, and He empowers witness.
- Blaze Spirit Blaze set our hearts on fire.
- Holy Spirit revives us again.

## 5. Seeking the mercy of God.

V.9 The last part of Isaiah's prayer was *'O God have mercy on us. Do not stay angry with us. Please forgive our sins. Remember us O God, we are your people.*

Isaiah 63:9. *In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel of his presence saved them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.*

**Our only hope is the mercy of god.**