

A NECESSARY PROGRESSION

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Isaiah 6:1-8

1. Isaiah's long ministry began toward the end of Uzziah's (Azariah) reign as king of Judah and continued through the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah.
2. Jewish tradition teaches that Isaiah was sawn in two during the reign of Manasseh.
Possibly referred to in Hebrews 11:37 which speaks of those who were "sawn in two."
3. It appears that Uzziah's death had a profound impact on Isaiah. (739 BC)
4. Isaiah was from a distinguished family with intimate ties to the king and his court.
5. Uzziah reigned for 52 years.
 - a. Became king at 16 years of age. II Chronicles 26:1
 - b. Did right in God's sight. 26:4
 - c. Continued to seek God. 26:5
 - d. God prospered him and with him the kingdom of Judah. 26:5
 - e. Became the victim of pride. 2 Chron 26:16
"But when he became strong, his heart was so proud that he acted corruptly, and he was unfaithful to the LORD his God, for he entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense."
 - f. He was stricken with leprosy and spent the rest of his life isolated from his family and the temple while his son Jotham assumed the public responsibilities of the king. 26:17-21
 - g. Isaiah was Uzziah's biographer. 26:22
"Now the rest of the acts of Uzziah, first to last, the prophet Isaiah, the son of Amoz has written."
6. Perhaps in his grief Isaiah went to the temple to pray for himself and the nation and in the process had a life-changing encounter with God.
Difficulties often result in spiritual growth.
7. Note the progression that took place in Isaiah's life through his encounter with God.

I. Majesty. 1-4

- A. Isaiah wrote, "I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted...I saw the Seraphim (to burn) calling out to each other, 'Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of Hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory.'"
- B. The great sin of our day is our low view of God.
- C. A proper view of God puts everything else in a proper perspective.
- D. A wrong view of God leads to all kinds of problems.
- E. There are too many Aarons in pulpits today who are willing to fashion a god people are comfortable with.
 1. Ex 32:1-2
Now when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people assembled about Aaron and said to him, "**Come, make us a god who will go before us;** as for this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him."

2. Ex 32:2-6

2 Aaron said to them, "Tear off the gold rings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." 3 Then all the people tore off the gold rings which were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. 4 **He took this from their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool and made it into a molten calf; and they said, "This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt."** 5 Now when Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a feast to the LORD." 6 **So the next day they rose early and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.**

NOTE: Today countless professing Christians will participate in what is referred to as worship and tomorrow they will "rise up to play" and live lives that differ little, if at all, from the non-Christians around them.

3. Ex 32:21-24

21 Then Moses said to Aaron, "What did this people do to you, that you have brought such great sin upon them?" 22 Aaron said, "Do not let the anger of my lord burn; you know the people yourself, that they are prone to evil. 23 "For they said to me, 'Make a god for us who will go before us; for this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.' 24 "I said to them, 'Whoever has any gold, let them tear it off.' So they gave it to me, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf."

4. Ex 32:25

25 Now when Moses saw that the people were out of control — **for Aaron had let them get out of control** to be a derision among their enemies —

F. If we would worship God in truth we must seek to know Him in truth. Heb 11:5-7
"And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is (who He is) and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."

II. Misery. 5

- A. "Woe is me, for I am ruined!" (undone, cut off, finished)
- B. "I am a sinner, and I am surrounded by sinners; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts."
- C. A defective view of God leads to a distorted view of ourselves and others.
- D. A right view of God results in a right view of ourselves.
 - 1. "Blessed are the poor in spirit (who recognize their spiritual poverty), for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:3
 - 2. "Blessed are those who mourn (their spiritual poverty), for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4
- E. A right view of God results in a right view of everyone else.
 - 1. Romans 3:9-18.

"What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; 10 as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; 11 THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; 12 ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE." 13 "THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY

KEEP DECEIVING," "THE POISON OF ASPES IS UNDER THEIR LIPS"; 14 "WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS"; 15 "THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD, 16 DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS, 17 AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN." 18 "THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES." 19 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God; 20 because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin."

2. Romans 3:21-23

"But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

NOTE: Those who have a right view of God have little problem with accepting the doctrine of total depravity, while those who have an inadequate view of God struggle with it.

F. When the Apostle John saw the Lord Jesus in His glorified form he fell at His feet like a dead man. Revelation 1:17

III. Mercy. 6-7

A. Having confessed his sinfulness in the light of God's holiness Isaiah became a recipient of God's mercy.

B. Isaiah's iniquity was taken away and his sin forgiven based upon the yet to be completed work of Christ. Isaiah 53

IV. Ministry. 8

A. With his new view of God, and his new view of himself, and having been a recipient of God's mercy, Isaiah was enabled to hear and respond to God's ongoing call, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?"

B. With a right view of God Isaiah was able to say, "Here am I. Send me!"

C. God said, "Go," and Isaiah went and preached to the people:

1. About the majesty of God.
2. About their sinfulness and the certainty of God's judgment.
3. About God's mercy and how it could be experienced.
4. About the ministry that could be theirs.

D. In the end most rejected Isaiah and his God and brought the judgment of God upon themselves. Isa 65:1-7

"I permitted Myself to be sought by those who did not ask for Me; I permitted Myself to be found by those who did not seek Me. I said, 'Here am I, here am I,' To a nation which did not call on My name. 2 "I have spread out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in the way which is not good, following their own thoughts, 3 a people who continually provoke Me to My face, offering sacrifices in gardens and burning incense on bricks; 4 who sit among graves and spend the night in secret places; who eat swine's flesh, and the broth of unclean meat is in their pots. 5 "Who say, 'Keep to yourself, do not come near me, for I am holier than you!' These are smoke in My nostrils, A fire that burns all the day. 6 "Behold, it is written before Me, I will not keep silent, but I will repay; I will even

repay into their bosom, 7 both their own iniquities and the iniquities of their fathers together," says the Lord. "Because they have burned incense on the mountains and scorned Me on the hills, therefore I will measure their former work into their bosom"

APPLICATION

1. May we learn from Isaiah's example and pray accordingly.
 - a. "Lord, show me Your glory that I might worship You in spirit and in truth."
 - b. "Lord, show me Your glory that I might have a right view of myself and others."
 - c. "Lord show me Your glory that I might hear Your voice and walk in Your ways."
 - d. "Lord show me Your glory that I might teach others."
2. May we seek with all our hearts to know God as He is, and not as He is perceived by others.
3. Where there is not fear of God there will be little understanding of the revelation of God.