

Commissioned by the Lord for this Hour

Houses of Light Church • January 18, 2025 • Pastor Netz Gomez & Ilse Marquez

Focus: 21 Days of Consecration

What have the last 19 days of the year been like for you? In what ways have you encountered the Lord and been marked by His presence? What do you think He is calling you to do?

As a community, we have dedicated the last 21 days to fasting, prayer, and meditating on the Word. Specifically, we have been looking at Isaiah 6, where the prophet Isaiah has a divine encounter with the Lord and is transformed and commissioned as a result.

Let's review what happened:

1. In a critical moment for the nation of Israel (the death of king Uzziah), the prophet Isaiah has a vision of the throne room in heaven where the Lord is exalted (v. 1-2).
2. Witnessing this glorious reality and experiencing God's holiness brings conviction to the prophet. He realizes just how broken he and his people are — they all have unclean lips (v. 5). He repents by acknowledging his condition before the Lord.
3. One of the seraphim's (translation: "burning one" or "being of fire") interrupts his moment of worship to God to purify the prophet's lips using a burning coal from the altar (v. 6-7).
4. Once Isaiah's lips are cleansed, he can hear a question coming from the throne: "Who will I send? Who will go for us?" The Lord starts out speaking in singular terms and then moves to plural, seeming to refer to Himself (the Trinity) or even the heavenly host around Him (v. 8).
5. The grace of God towards Isaiah made it possible for him to not be consumed but rather cleansed in this moment. In his newly cleansed state he is able to offer himself as a volunteer to be sent, saying: "Here am I! Send me!" In this passage we see there is a balance between God's divine sovereignty and human free will: God was going to send someone, but that someone needed to be willing to go.

Isaiah's Commission

Isaiah 6:9-10 - *"And he said, 'Go, and say to this people: "'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.' Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.'"*

A. Isaiah was sent back to the people he lived with to speak the Word of God, and that is what God wants to do with us. He will send us back to our family, church, and community. It's important to highlight that before Isaiah spoke a word of lament over his people, he had already lamented over himself. When he recognized his own condition he said: "Woe to me, I am dead!" — He could show mercy even as he was entrusted with a message that was hard to hear:

1. **Isaiah 5:8** - *"Woe to those who join house to house, who add field to field, until there is no more room, and you are made to dwell alone in the midst of the land."* - A warning against greed and self-centeredness.
2. **Isaiah 5:11-12** - *"Woe to those who rise early in the morning, that they may run after strong drink, who tarry late into the evening as wine inflames them! They have lyre and harp, tambourine and flute and wine at their feasts, but they do not regard the deeds of the Lord, or see the work of his hands."* - A warning against vanity and the lack of the fear of the Lord.
3. **Isaiah 5:18** - *"Woe to those who draw iniquity with cords of falsehood, who draw sin as with cart ropes..."* - Warning against those who cling to doing the wrong thing.

4. **Isaiah 5:20** - *“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!”* - A warning against those who change objective values by basing what they believe is good on themselves (humanism).
 5. **Isaiah 5:21** - *“Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and shrewd in their own sight!”* - A warning against pride.
 6. **Isaiah 5:22-23** - *“Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine, and valiant men in mixing strong drink, who acquit the guilty for a bribe, and deprive the innocent of his right!”* - A warning against shamelessness.
- B.** Isaiah ought to have told people to listen to the revelations he was bringing on God’s behalf, but the Lord told him what would happen when he spoke: the people would not understand what he was saying. Isaiah’s proclamation would not lead the people to repent, instead, they would harden their hearts against his message. The same thing happened to Jesus and Paul and they cited exactly this passage:
- Matthew 13:14-15** - *“Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: ‘“You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.” For this people’s heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.’”*
- Acts 28:26-27** - *“Go to this people, and say, “You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.” For this people’s heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed; lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.”*
- C.** Many times, the message of salvation (or any word from the Lord) can appear offensive to some people, to the point that instead of softening, they harden even more. The apostle John cited this same verse when he referenced the Jewish people’s unwillingness to believe in Jesus: **John 12:37-41** - *“Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, 38 so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?” Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said, “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them.”*
- D.** Chapters 5 and 7 in the book of Isaiah are examples of the wrong response to the word of God. Similar to what happened when Moses went to Pharaoh — the Lord told Moses that Pharaoh would harden his heart (Exodus 3:19). From God’s point of view, he had raised up Pharaoh to demonstrate His sovereignty and power as He set the people of Israel free. Nevertheless, from a human point of view, Pharaoh had the freedom to choose to submit to God or resist Him. Pharaoh’s freedom was real: he really could’ve chosen to submit to God but he did not want to so God made him responsible for his choice.
- E.** In both Moses and Isaiah’s cases, God was not discounting the possibility of repentance from the beginning. He was allowing His prophet to see what would happen before it did — from the beginning, Isaiah knew what would come from his ministry. As judge, God gave the people over to the hardness of their heart (Exodus 10:1, Romans 1:18-32, Hebrews 6:4-6), something He continues to do to this day to those who are simply unwilling to hear Him.
- F.** So what was the result of Isaiah’s ministry? He would never be able to give great numbers to show how many people turned to the Lord from his message. He couldn’t go off of likability, popularity, or

fame. His success was simply in being faithful to what the Lord asked Him to do, even if no one ever responded to his message.

Until When?

- A.** The news that his people were going to harden their hearts was disappointing for Isaiah, so he asked the Lord how long he needed to keep preaching (v. 9) and how long the people would not respond (v. 10). The Lord did not give him a timeline, but let him understand that he would continue to preach until His judgement fully manifested over the people (because of their lack of response). The consequence for hardheartedness that the Lord established in the covenant He made with Moses culminated in total military defeat and exile from the promised land (Leviticus 18:25-27; Deuteronomy 28).
- B.** There was hope. One tenth of the nation would survive. The Lord would take His tithe from among the people even though the land would face judgement. The existence of this "piece of cut down tree" would be evidence that God was not finished with Israel. This happened when a small number of exiles under the leadership of Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah returned to the land and reestablished the nation. (Another dimension of fulfillment is that which refers to the remnant that will remain on earth at the end of the Great Tribulation.)

Our Calling

- A.** During this season we have seen how the Lord shows Himself to us, allows us to see our condition, heals us, and if we accept, He commissions us for a task that could appear difficult: "go and speak to those who will not hear because I still want to give them a chance."
- B.** God is commissioning us to pray, sing, live, and speak His word even though we know many people will resist or harden. Our responsibility is to speak, not to convert them. We remember that we always need to start with ourselves, acknowledging our own conviction in order to speak to them with compassion and clarity.
- C.** As we finish our 21 days of consecration, the Daniel fast, and our devotional, we declare this year dedicated to the Lord, in which we will be that land that produces fruit, that is, the results that God wants from us because by His grace we will keep our hearts as fertile soil. We pray that what we have received will be retained and will take us further in our walk with God as families and church in this hour that we have been called to live before the return of Jesus.

Reflection Questions:

- 1. After witnessing God's grace in your life, are you willing to respond to His calling? (why or why not?)**
- 2. How do you think this year could be better as you seek the Lord more intentionally?**
- 3. Share a word or testimony of what you've received during these 21 days with your friendship group!**

Announcements:

- 1.** The new semester of School of Discipleship and Affirming Your Steps starts on January 27th! Sign up today in service or online at housesoflight.church.
- 2.** Our service is turning 1 next week! We have a special celebration in store for you, make sure you come and bring a friend or two! Thank you so much for being part of our community!
- 3.** Houses of Light turns 25 this year! Join us for our anniversary celebration on February 2nd!