

Everyday FAITH Family Page

I Spy Salvation's Story

Law/Gospel

Our stubborn unrepentance leads to God's continued and deepening discipline. **God disciplines us not for our ultimate destruction but so we will rise again in new life in Christ, the "holy seed" of the stump.**

Bible Words

Here I am! Send me.
Isaiah 6:8

The Big Picture

Isaiah prophesied to Israel from the death of King Uzziah in 740 BC until the reign of Hezekiah in the early 600s BC.

Fun Facts

Two of Isaiah's children had prophetic names.

- Isaiah's oldest son was named Shear-jashub, which means "a remnant shall return." This showed that a portion of Israel would survive the exile and return to the Lord.
- Isaiah had another son named Maher-shalal-hash-baz, which means "The spoil speeds, the prey hastens!" This foretold the defeat of parts of Israel by their enemies, the Assyrians.

The Case of the Burning Coal: Isaiah Sees the Lord

Isaiah 6:1–13

After years of prosperity in the Promised Land, the Israelites turned away from the Lord. Even though God rescued them from Egypt, helped them defeat their enemies, and made them a strong nation, the people trusted in idols and in wicked, selfish kings.

This angered God, and He called a man named Isaiah to share His Word with the people. God gave Isaiah heavenly visions with messages.

During his first vision, Isaiah felt afraid because he knew he was a sinful person who had seen the face of God and therefore deserved death. Still, he faithfully answered God's call to be a prophet, saying, "Here I am! Send me" (Isaiah 6:8). God mercifully sent a seraph, an angel with six wings, to touch a coal to Isaiah's lips and cleanse him.

The task God gave Isaiah was not easy. He had to tell the people God would send destruction to Israel because they disobeyed God. Their enemies would defeat them and take them into exile because they failed to turn away from idolatry. God did not do this just to punish the people, but to provoke repentance and turn their hearts back to Him.

Called Messengers

Though some of God's actions in this narrative might seem harsh, we also see His mercy. When the seraph touched the coal to Isaiah's lips, his sins were forgiven. God told Isaiah to prophesy destruction, but He also offered the hope of a "holy seed" (v. 13) that would spring up and bring new life to the people.

This seed is Jesus, the promised Messiah, who leads God's people to forgiveness and mercy. Through His Word and Sacraments, God offers us forgiveness. We are called to serve as messengers, telling how God reveals Himself to us through His Word.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, help us to trust in Your mercy and to gladly answer when You call us to serve as Your messengers. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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