



How many of you have ever been truly in awe of someone? Some of you have the experience of having met someone famous. Maybe it was an actor or an athlete or maybe you got to go to a concert and sit up close. Who was it?

[Teaching point: insert your own story of being in awe of someone famous.]

I had an experience one time where I knew someone who was able to get me on the sideline of the Dallas Cowboys game before the game started. I was standing there amazed at all I was seeing, but then I looked up and about 20 yards away was the biggest human I had ever seen. He was one of the offensive lineman and from 20 yards away, I was looking UP at him. I’m not a small human being, but I knew in a second this guy had a very different T shirt size than me.

I was struck. I was frozen in time. I was completely caught up in who this person was, not in myself. Think about that. We don’t experience that very often. We don’t have many moments when our entire experience is wrapped up in someone else and not ourselves. But when you do notice, you notice it looking back. I had nothing. In that moment, it was all about him and his ginormous size. I felt unworthy in his presence. Think about that. How many times can you say that about your life? When have you experienced a moment that was completely and totally not about you, but about someone else and all of his or her glory?

The Old Testament prophet, Isaiah, had that experience during his life. Let’s look at Isaiah 6. Let me tell you a little bit about Isaiah while you turn to Isaiah 6. He was a prophet of God to the people of Israel. He wasn’t anyone special, but he was called by God to do what God told him to do. Oh, and he hung out with kings, not because he was awesome, but because that’s where God put him. Isaiah 6.

I want to take a minute and share where we are in the timeline of the Bible. God created a nation and gave them a home. Israel. Part of the country, Israel, rebelled against God, and God sent them away in exile to a different country. The other part, Judah stayed with God a little longer and then they rebelled too, and the same thing happened to them. Isaiah was a prophet to

Judah and he let them know the bad things that were going to happen to them if they didn’t stay faithful to God. Isaiah 6. Here we go.

Isaiah 6:1 (NASB) *In the year of King Uzziah’s death*

Let’s stop there. There’s a couple of things to look for in this short phrase. One, this tells us a general time, but it’s way more significant than that.

It also gives us a little more information about the state of the nation. King Uzziah was the king of Judah for 52 years. That’s a long time; a really long time. When a guy rules for a long time, he was usually well liked and he usually knew what he was doing. For most of His reign, Uzziah tried to keep God’s law. Nobody tried to get him off the throne because they trusted him. God kept him on the throne because Uzziah did right before Him. Uzziah was a good king and the people of Judah supported him.

But now Uzziah was dead and what could come?

Potentially, the next event for the nation might be chaos. It might be a collapse in government. Things were going to change, no matter what. The people have been living comfortably with a good king, but in this moment Isaiah and the people had no idea what would happen next.

We have a pretty stable government in our country, but we’ve seen some instability and cause for concern. Has anyone felt like there was some uncertainty recently or maybe at some point during COVID lockdowns? We’ve learned over the last couple of years it only takes a few of things to throw the whole system out of whack. One or two things change and then there’s lots of instability. We don’t know what’s coming next. We start to stress out and everything is different. This is exactly what Judah was dealing with at the time. There was a lot of uncertainty about what’s next.

But what did Isaiah see? Look at the rest of verse 1: *I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.*

What did Isaiah see in the time of chaos? He saw something that was unchanging. He saw the Lord. Wow.

In the year of change and of potential pending difficulty, God revealed Himself to Isaiah. We’ve heard the phrase, “God is still on His throne,”

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