

ISAIAH CH. 6

LET THE REDEEMED OF THE LORD SAY SO. Psalm 107:2

Isaiah 6:6-7: Then one of the seraphim flew to me, with a burning coal in his hand which he had taken from the altar with tongs. And he touched my mouth with it and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away, and your sin is forgiven.

- This week's lesson: Isaiah ch. 6 (with a little help from Psalm 107)
- Isaiah's Vision
 - V.1, The "wholly otherness" of God, or His holiness.
 - V. 2-4a, The response of heaven itself, worship.
 - V. 4b, Isaiah's response, "I am lost!"
 - V. 6-7, Heaven's response to Isaiah, redemption.
 - V. 8, The next step, the calling.
 - V. 9-13, The message, the enigma of rejection.
- In the last half of this chapter Isaiah is talking about an event of national cleansing regarding Israel and Judah. The particular application for us, though, has less to do with a national event and much more to do with our individual personal purification.
 - PURO: lit. "To burn" as with fire, pyro-_____.
- Isaiah's redemption, v. 1-7, compared to the national cleansing of v. 9-13.
 - The burning coal and the desolation of the cities.
 - The remainder, even the tenth part remaining will be burned again. In other words complete purification.
- Now, Psalm 107.
 - The command "let the redeemed of the Lord say so" is similar to the calling of Isaiah after his cleansing; yet the call here is to the many as opposed to the one.
 - The judgmental message of Isaiah 6:9-13 regards primarily the ensconced mindset of Israel: privileged, elite, special, etc.
 - While the redemptive message of Psalm 107 all those who have lost hope:
 - V.7: wanderers. Delivered out of their distress while they were strays in the wilderness.
 - V. 10-11, Rebels, prisoners in misery and chains.

- V. 17-20, Fools, delivered from their own self-induced sickness.
- V. 23-28, Shipwrecked, from the failures of their own ambitions and goals.
- **Discards and Rejects.**
 - Jesus: the stone that was rejected. Ps. 118: 22, Matt. 21:42.
 - As Jesus was a reject from his own, so he desperately loves the rejects from this world. Is. 53:3, 25:4.
 - Reversing the order. Ps. 107:33-43.

MONDAY MORNING, and the world goes on its way as if everyone seeks his own personal survival or satisfaction above all else. It seems that the important lessons of life are largely ignored inasmuch as the vast majority of people reject the notion that they are not in charge. Individuals seek to establish their own self-importance regardless of how momentary, while the conventions of civilization such as government and popular journalism attempt to reduce or negate the impact of the individual while still serving a few elite individuals.

The expertise of fools abounds, as the uneducated luminaries of celebrity declare themselves experts of opinion. They act in the childish belief that they, by virtue of a single "talent," are suddenly the sages of wisdom, the new bearers of mystical secrets. They babble their opinions to the eager masses of adoring idol worshippers: the wisdom of God is being passed over for the smooth seduction of pop culture. All the sage truth of the Proverbs and the redemptive forgiveness of a sacrificial God are ignored, and the "new gods" declare war on the eternal truth and its messenger.

The gospel of redemption is actively being rejected by the aimless angry and the ambitious masses. The sound of "Crucify Him" still echoes through the canyons of history, and is again repeated by the pretenders to the throne. Pharisees are still negotiating with God that He should somehow suit their vision of things, and the world soundly insists that God change or be condemned.

Yet the judgment of all is in God's hands, and I must wonder, and even be terrified that His patience is at an end, and His anger is straining to be unleashed.

Today, though, love restrains impatience, even God's . . . albeit with very old ropes.

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