

Isaiah chapter 6

Have you been a commission ceremony before? Commission styles are different depending on the type of mission. If you watch Mission Impossible, the opening is usually just an audio or a video commission and self-destructed afterward. In reality, a military commission ceremony for example is different from a commission in a typical company. A typical company might assign a project to an individual or group, and commissioned it in a conference room, whereas military commission can be very formal taking place in a large audience. Today, we study Isaiah's commission from God.

1) Seeing God (Isa. 6:1-5)

Before God commission you, God's presence is needed and that is what Isaiah described in the first several verses of chapter 6. The angels were there also. Let's look at the response of the angels and Isaiah.

- a. Angels- Seraphim angels each has 6 wings; two wings covered the faces, two covered their feet and two were flying. They were calling "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." Wings covering their faces because they are too lowly to see God directly. Wings covering their feet because this lower part of the body (the "humble area") are covered so that nothing possibly deficient is seen in the LORD's presence. The two flying wings are used to serve God. This gives a good balance of humility and willingness to serve God. "Holy, holy, holy" is to declare God's holiness in the highest possible degree (common in Hebrew language that the highest degree is expressed 3 times). Praise and declare God's attribute is very important.
- b. Isaiah – He expressed in verse 5 "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty." Isaiah see himself unclean in comparison to angels and of course far from Holiness of God. Isaiah knew himself that he is sinful that he is not worthy to call out "Holy, holy, holy." Isaiah was a godly and humble person, and was humbled further during the presence of angels and God. He praised and declared God's attribute of almighty and the authority of the ultimate King and Lord.
- c. You – what is your response? God is presence always (Eph. 4:6). Do you have a humble heart? (read James 4:6 & 4:10; 2 Cor. 12:9-10) Do you always be holy and give praises to God?

2) Preparation and willingness to be used by God (Isa. 6:5-8)

- a. Preparation

Isa. 6:6-7 described the seraphim used a live coal to cleanse Isaiah. God can not accept unholiness. Cleansing is part of preparation for one to see God and be used by God. Cleansing sometimes can be difficult like burning coal to your body. Thus, preparation is often a step before one can be commissioned to serve God.

b. Calling and response

Isa. 6:8 stated the Lord was saying “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”, and Isaiah said “Here am I, Send me!”. Willingness to be used by God is critical for serving Him. God does not need you to do His work since He is the almighty, but God is pleased to use you when you are willing. God can still make His plan works just like the example of Jonah.

3) The Commission (Isa. 6:9-13)

God told Isaiah to tell the Israelites His message starting from Isa. 6:9. God’s assignment can be long and might not make sense to the receiver. However, every commission by God carries His authority with it, and His power is with the messenger. Matt. 28:16-20 is the great commission in NT where it shows God’s authority and His presence with His disciples. That applies to all of us today. It is your and my commission. God is with us when we share the Good News with others; make disciples, baptize and teach them.

Commission by God is not always like the one Isaiah received. The Holy Spirit is with us today and God can call us to a mission through various ways but often through prayer. Mission team members got confirmation through the Holy Spirit. Commission ceremony is still practiced at churches. I was commissioned at church every time I went to a mission trip. The mission team had trainings (preparations) weeks before the actual mission. The ceremony often involves pastors and elders to pray over the mission team members before departure. Pastor and church members’ prayers supported the team. These ceremonies do not seem to be as special as the one in Isaiah, but God’s authority and presence with His almighty power is in everyone of His mission.

In conclusion, you need to be humble and willing to learn. Study God’s words and prepare yourself. Have a willing heart to be called on anytime for specific missions.