Introduction
Isaiah 1-5 describes how far Israel had fallen away from God in their sin.
But scattered throughout chapters 1-5, God gives us a picture of what Israel will be in the future.

- Isaiah 2:1-5 – There will be a day when the mountain of the Lord’s temple will be raised up as chief among the mountains; a day when people will come to worship and hear the Word of God; a day when wars and conflicts will end.
- Isaiah 4:2-6 – there will be a day when the Branch of the Lord, the Messiah, will be beautiful and glorious and those who live in Zion will be holy to the Lord.

Isaiah must have wondered how? How could sinful Israel become servant Israel?
The answer is found in chapter 6.

“Sinful Israel will become servant Israel when the experience of Isaiah becomes the experience of the nation.” John Oswalt

I. We need a personal encounter with the living God. Verses 1-4
Isaiah’s call came in the year that King Uzziah died.
Isaiah saw the true King who reigns over men and nations.
Isaiah saw the angels who surround God. Seraphs means burning ones.
They call out “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty. The whole earth is full of his glory.”
John 12:41 says that “Isaiah saw Jesus’ glory and spoke about him.”
All the earth was filled with his glory.
It is a work of the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to see the living God.
What people need more than anything else is a personal encounter with the living God.

II. Cleansing from sin. Verses 5-7
The vision of the Lord that Isaiah saw produced sheer terror in him.
“Woe to me! I am ruined.”
Isaiah was immediately aware of his sin and he identified with the sin of his people.

God himself provides the cleansing.

One of the seraphs took a live burning coal from the altar.

- The Bronze Altar was the place where the sacrifice of blood was made for our sin.
- The Incense Altar was where intercession was made for our sin.
- Both picture what Christ did for us.

The angel touches Isaiah’s lips and his sin and guilt is atoned for.

Only God can make us clean.

The gift of salvation was offered to all in Isaiah 1:18-20, but Israel rejected it.

III. Answering God’s call. Verses 8-18

“Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”

Isaiah willingly and freely responds to God’s call.

In calling the prophets like Isaiah and Jeremiah, there is a sense of predestination.

“Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you. Before you were born, I set you apart. I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.” Jeremiah 1:5

Yet it is a call to be freely answered. “Here am I. Send me!”

Isaiah’s ministry would not be easy. It was a ministry of judgment, but there was also grace.

Verses 8-9 are quoted in all four gospels and twice in Romans.

Chapters 7-12 that follow describe the hardening of Israel and the coming of the Messiah.

Conclusion

It is God who reveals himself to man. Verses 1-4

It is God who cleanses our hearts. Verses 5-7.

It is God who calls us to join in his work. Verses 8-13.

Our part is to respond to his call and obey.

Where is God calling you to serve?

Will you answer his call?