



OASIS

Older Adults Still In Service

TWO KINGS, TWO REALITIES

Isaiah 6:1-8 has often been used to encourage people to be open to and respond to the call of God on their lives. The passage does contain God's call to Isaiah, whether an initial call or a change in the direction of his ministry. I am going to go in a different direction with this text.

There are two kings mentioned in this passage of scripture. The first is Uzziah. He became Judah's king at the age of 16 and reigned for 52 years. He was one of the truly godly kings. First Chronicles 26:5 says, As long as he sought the Lord, God gave him success. He was able to defeat Judah's enemies on various fronts. He fortified Jerusalem, equipped his army with the necessary equipment both for offensive and defensive encounters. There was only one negative regarding his reign. He went into the temple and attempted to offer incense. As a result, Uzziah was struck with leprosy for the rest of his life. The last 11 years of his reign, he served as co-regent with his son Jotham.

The passage in Isaiah begins with the death of one king. Sometime in that year, Isaiah went into the temple, Why? We are not told. It may have been to seek God for the safety of Judah. Anytime there was a change in leadership, there was always a chance of rebellion, revolt, or outside attacks upon the land. Isaiah was not prepared for the encounter he had in the temple. There he met the other King - the King on which I want to focus.

This second King, Yahweh, is the Great King. Judah's king was either dead or dying, but this King is an eternal King. John, in Revelation, describes Him as the One who is and who was, and who is to come [1:4]. Paul, in his first letter to Timothy, described Him as *the King eternal*. Earthly kings come and go, but this King will always be there.

Yahweh is an enthroned King [Is. 6:1]. The first thing Isaiah said about this King was that He was *sitting on a throne*. Isaiah may have been concerned about the future of Judah with the death of Uzziah, but he saw that there was another King in the land—Judah was secure with Him on the throne.

Yahweh is an exalted King. Isaiah described Him as *high and lifted up*. Whether that phrase refers to the throne or the one seated there, the meaning is the same. There is no king higher than this King.

Yahweh is an elegant king. Isaiah said the train or hem of His robe filled the temple. This refers to His incomparable splendor. Isaiah also noted the retinue that surrounded this King. He was not surrounded by highly trained, well equipped soldiers, but by six-winged seraphs: angelic beings of great rank.

Yahweh is an encountered King. Isaiah did not go to the temple expecting to see God, but that is what happened. Over and over in the scriptures, God appeared to people. He chose the time, place, method, and recipients of His self-revelation.

Of the kings mentioned in Isaiah 6:1-8, one king was weak, dying, and may have already died. The other King is very much alive and active in the affairs of this life. Whatever situation you are facing, remember that God is still on the throne. He still rules the universe. He still knows everything that is happening. He is still concerned with every aspect of your life.

Pastor Larry Gunther • larry@northview.life • 701.232.0003

Thank you!!!!

I want to say a big THANK YOU for the surprise birthday party at OASIS on Sunday. Thank you for the cake, ice cream, toppings, cards and gifts. May God richly bless each one of you for your generosity and kind words.

Pastor Larry

You Are So Blessed

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who will not survive the week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 20 million people around the world.

If you attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are more blessed than almost three billion people in the world.

If you have food in your refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, or spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If your parents are still married and alive, you are very rare, especially in the United States.

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful, you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.

If you can hold someone's hand, hug them or even touch them on the shoulder, you are blessed because you can offer God's healing touch.

If you can read this message, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read anything at all.

You are so blessed in ways you may never even know.

UPCOMING EVENT . . .

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18th

4:00 PM

OASIS INDOOR PICNIC

Northview Event Center

(formerly the Student Ministries Center).

There will be a potluck meal, games, and fellowship.

August Birthdays

2 *Pastor Larry*
4 *Daphne Graf*
5 *Vivian Schlafer*
12 *JoAnn DesChene*
20 *Kenny Gruer*

September Birthdays

2 *Donna Kramer*
5 *Ardy Weiss*
7 *Marlys Miller*
9 *Sharon Dawson*
11 *Brenda Frisk*
15 *Tom Kramer*
19 *Bud Bergquist*
23 *Jackie Addison*



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