

Isaiah 6:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

Analysis

Isaiah's immediate response to God's holiness is 'Woe is me! for I am undone.' The Hebrew 'damah' (undone/destroyed) indicates not mere embarrassment but recognition of deserved judgment. He confesses being a man of 'unclean lips' dwelling among an unclean people—acknowledging both personal and corporate sin. Seeing God's holiness exposes human sinfulness. Only after conviction of sin can cleansing and commissioning follow (verse 6-8).

Historical Context

Isaiah had been prophesying Judah's sin, but encountering God's holiness revealed his own unworthiness. This pattern appears throughout Scripture—Job, Peter, John all respond similarly when confronting divine glory.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. When did you last experience genuine conviction of sin before God's holiness?

2. How does Isaiah's response challenge superficial views of sin as minor mistakes?

Interlinear Text

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|---------------|--------------|-------|--------------|------------------------|------------|--------------------|-----------|
| וְאָמַר | אָוִי | לִי | כִּי | נִדְמָה יֵתִי | כִּי | אֲנִי יֵשׁ | |
| Then said | I Woe | H0 | H3588 | is me! for I am undone | H3588 | because I am a man | |
| H559 | H188 | | | H1820 | | H376 | |
| טִמְאָה | שְׂפַתַּי | אֲנִי | וּבְתוֹךְ | עַם | טִמְאָה | שְׂפַתַּי | |
| of unclean | lips | H595 | in the midst | of a people | of unclean | lips | |
| H2931 | H8193 | | H8432 | H5971 | H2931 | H8193 | |
| אֲנֹכִי | וַיֵּשׁ בִּי | אֶת | הַמֶּלֶךְ | יְהוָה | צָבָא וְ | כֹּא וְ | |
| H595 | and I dwell | H3588 | H853 | the King | the LORD | of hosts | have seen |
| | H3427 | | H4428 | H3068 | H6635 | H7200 | |
| עֵינָי: | | | | | | | |
| for mine eyes | | | | | | | |
| H5869 | | | | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 1:6 (References Lord): Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child.

Exodus 6:30 (References Lord): And Moses said before the LORD, Behold, I am of uncircumcised lips, and how shall Pharaoh hearken unto me?

Exodus 4:10 (References Lord): And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.

Isaiah 29:13 (References Lord): Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:

Exodus 6:12 (References Lord): And Moses spake before the LORD, saying, Behold, the children of Israel have not hearkened unto me; how then shall Pharaoh hear me, who am of uncircumcised lips?

Ezekiel 33:31 (Parallel theme): And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness.

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