

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

רִאָם אָוֹ לִכְיָהִנְמִידָה	אָשָׁר	בְּאָמֵן	בְּעֵינֵי	בְּעֵינֵי	בְּעֵינֵי	בְּעֵינֵי	בְּעֵינֵי
Then said	I Woe	H0	H3588	is me! for I am undone	H3588	because I am a man	
H559	H188			H1820		H376	
of unclean	lips	H595		in the midst	of a people	of unclean	lips
H2931	H8193			H8432	H5971	H2931	H8193
and I dwell		H3588	H853	the King	the LORD	of hosts	have seen
H3427				H4428	H3068	H6635	H7200
עֵינִי							
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.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org