

DEFINING MOMENTS

Opening: Lizard (instead of blizzard) Warning Northern State Parkway

Comment that went viral ... “While the rest of the East Coast prepares for the first big snowstorm of the season, Long Island has bigger concerns – involving a lizard, apparently.”

Text: **Isaiah 6: 1 – 8**

Introduction: Isaiah considered the *greatest* poet/prophet

The role of a prophet was to speak for God to the people

Usually confrontational – prophets were usually not popular – but there were exceptions: Samuel, John the Baptist, Jesus

Whenever you see prophets in the movies how are they portrayed? A Crazy disheveled crackpot standing on a street corner holding signs that reads: *The End is near!* Nut jobs

This is not who Isaiah was ... he was probably raised in the house an aristocrat, married to a prophetess – Isaiah had two sons.

- He served in the office of prophet for over sixty years
- At he was first very popular but that changed – when told the people about God’s warning of judgment things got ugly.

The book of Isaiah is sometimes called the 5th Gospel because there are so many references to the coming Messiah.

Isaiah’s name means, *God Saves*

The book of Isaiah is sometimes called the Mini Bible

- The Bible has 66 books – Isaiah has 66 chapters

The scholarship debate of the 3 authors of Isaiah ... vs. Jesus reference to the Prophet Isaiah

- Chapters 1-39 ... judgments – captivity - doom
- Chapters 40 – 66 are loaded with words of God’s encouragement and deliverance

★ **Millions** maybe billions of people have heard the voice of God speak to their heart need from chapters 40 – 66

Here's a small sampling:

[Isaiah 40:31](#) But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. [NIV](#)

[Isaiah 53:5](#)

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. [NIV](#)

[Isaiah 41:10](#)

“Don’t be afraid, for I am with you. Don’t be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.” NLT

[Isaiah 26:3](#) You will keep *him* in perfect peace, *Whose mind is stayed on You*, because he trusts in You. NKJ

[Isaiah 43:1](#) But now, O Jacob, listen to the LORD who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says, “Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.” NLT

[Isaiah 43:2](#) “When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. ³ For I am the LORD, your God...” NLT

[Isaiah 54:17](#)

No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and this is their vindication from me," declares the LORD." [NIV](#)

Read Isaiah 6: 1-6

It was in the year King Uzziah died that I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. ² Attending him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³ They were calling out to each other,

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Heaven’s Armies!
The whole earth is filled with his glory!”

⁴ Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke.⁵ Then I said, “It’s all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the LORD of Heaven’s

Armies.”⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷ He touched my lips with it and said, “See, this coal has touched your lips. Now your guilt is removed, and your sins are forgiven.”⁸ Then I heard the Lord asking, “Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?” I said, “Here I am. Send me.”

Eugene Peterson writes: “The more Hours we spend pondering the words of Isaiah, the more the word “holy” changes in our understanding. If “holy” was ever a pious, pastel-tinted word in our vocabularies. Isaiah-preaching quickly turns it into something blazing. Holiness is the most attractive quality, the most intense experience we ever get of sheer life-authentic, first hand living, not life looked at and enjoyed from a distance. We find ourselves in on the operations of God himself, not talking about them or reading about them. Holiness is a furnace that transforms the men and women who enter it. “Holy, Holy, Holy” is not needlepoint. It is the banner of a revolution, the revolution.

Isaiah had ... a life changing moment – a moment that would define who he was and would be

Everyone is eventually presented with such a moment ... but choice a person makes in that moment makes all the difference!

A Life defining moment usually involves:

- A decision or choice that will change the trajectory of your life
- An element of fear or danger
- Courage to face not run
- When God is at the center of such a moment ... it requires personal surrender to Him

Maybe you’ve already experienced that moment and you haven’t realized it – Maybe you’re about to!

David defining moment –wasn’t his decision to take on nine foot Goliath the giant with an attitude?

See [1 Samuel 16:12, 13](#)

...GOD said, “Up on your feet! Anoint him! This is the one.” ¹³ Samuel took his flask of oil and anointed him, with his brothers standing around watching. The Spirit of GOD entered David like a rush of wind, God vitally empowering him for the rest of his life. (The Message)

Isaiah’s Vision of God reduced him to mush when he encountered Almighty God – he saw himself for the first time as he really was – a man with a foul mouth who lived among people with foul mouths... he was sure he was going to die

Isaiah response to God’s appeal still impacts our lives today!

⇒ At the age of 19 Fred Fisher decided against the wishes and objections of his family to marry Violet Rosenthal. Fred and Violet were only 19 years old their birthdays just two days apart. It wasn't their age that Fred's family was concerned about it was Violet's physical problems. She was a survivor of Infantile Paralysis (Polio)

Fred's family told him he was crazy, that Violet would always be sickly and unable to care for children. He faced a life altering decision.

They were married February 2, 1947. Violet gave birth to and raised four children, including Jenny Lynn Fisher, who you know as Jennifer Mercurio. They were married for 67 years until Violet lost her husband to kidney failure last January.

"We are all faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations."

Charles R. Swindoll

We all face them don't we? Maybe you're facing one right now.

Maybe God has already put that question to you but you haven't answered.

Maybe you are hearing that question put to you from Him today for the first time.

God's question fell on Isaiah's ears ... "Who Shall I send and who will go for us?"

He's still asking the same question – it's a call He puts on our lives – It begins by accepting His son Jesus the Christ

That's a moment of surrender and a moment of new direction

Answer Him not with your mouth but your heart ... "Here am I Lord, use me."