



THE CHURCH'S CALLING

Read **ISAIAH 6:1-10**, "In the year King Uzziah died I saw the LORD..."

Uzziah reigned for 42 years (around 783–742) and his reign marked the height of Judah's power. Judah expanded westward and the nation prospered. Jerusalem's walls were reconstructed, towers were added, and engines of war were mounted at strategic points. Uzziah was a powerful King and greatly escalated Israel's power until he assumed a religious position that was not his to take. When he became angry with the priests God brought leprosy on him. He lived in isolation and was a leper until his death.

This was a difficult time for Judah. And yet, in that backdrop, Isaiah saw the glory of the LORD and received his calling as a prophet!

This is a difficult time in America's history with much at stake (including Israel and the lives of the unborn!) But it's also the time to receive our assignment — to rise to the occasion, not in violent reaction but in responsible prayer (2 Chronicles 7:14)! God is still the God of all the earth (Psalm 24:1).

We must understand that it really does not matter what kind of government is in charge. After all, the Church is thriving in China under a brutal Communist regime. God's Kingdom is not affected in any way. It's still business as usual. However, it's the Church, God's people, who must adjust and "step up to the plate."

God has given the Church a great and victorious calling IF we will obey Him and do what He is telling us to do. Here are what I believe God is saying to His Church...

1. He is not the God *of* disappointments but the **All-Powerful God *in* every difficult circumstance.**
 - A. Even in times of great personal and national disappointments, God shows up. It is in those times that He prepares us for an entirely new season as He did with Isaiah.
 - Even though we may be affected by the direction of our country, we, too, must see the Lord as Isaiah did. When events happen beyond our control we must flee to His Presence.
2. Like Isaiah, God has called His people with a very important task: that of **representing Him with hope** when the entire world is being shaken.
 - A. 1 Peter 2:9 *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*
 - Peter quotes this from Exodus 19:3-6.
3. Jesus said that **we are the light of the world!** We have the Light of God's glory upon us if we are walking in submission to His Word. We are a guiding light for those in the darkness of fear, anger, disillusionment, etc.
 - A. Matthew 5:14-16 *YOU are the light of the world... Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*
 - B. Isaiah 60:2 *For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you.*
4. **Our task is clearly defined** by 2 Chronicles 7:14-15 (healing of the Church) and 1 Peter 2:9 (a prophetic light).