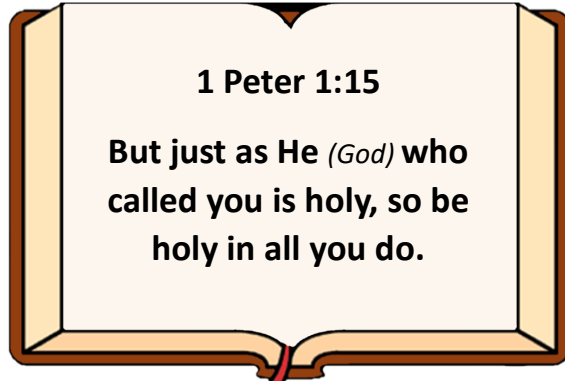


Weekly Memory Verse



Who is holy? _____

Fill in the blank.

...so be _____ in all you do.

Isaiah Prophecies to a Sinful Nation



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Lesson Link

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Uzziah became king when he was sixteen years old and reigned over Judah for fifty-two years. While Uzziah was still young, Zechariah the priest taught him to obey God's Word and to trust God for help. Uzziah learned how to live God's holy way. As a result, Uzziah led the people in following God's Way, doing what was right and pleasing to God.

If Uzziah put God first and prayed for help, God gave him success in everything he did.

But Uzziah didn't keep his way holy. Uzziah became proud of his power and what he had accomplished. Uzziah stopped trusting God for help and wisdom.

Uzziah's pride led him to disobey God's Word. He totally ignored God's laws for worship in the temple—the very place that represented God's presence among the people.

One day King Uzziah pushed his way into the Holy Place of the temple where only the priests were allowed to go. He took a censor filled with incense and started to burn it on the altar. The priests tried to stop Uzziah. Instead of stopping and asking for God's forgiveness for acting in such an unholy way, Uzziah became very angry and began yelling at the priests. He must have thought he had the right to do this since he was the king.

King Uzziah didn't have the right to enter the Holy Place. God's holy laws applied to everyone, including the king. He had sinned against God. As Uzziah stood there in front of the priests, white spots of leprosy broke out on his forehead. Because of his leprosy, he was never allowed to go into the temple again. He had the disease for the rest of his life and had to live alone in a separate house. His son, Jotham, governed the people and then became king when Uzziah died.

It took leprosy to let Uzziah know that God hated his pride and that being king did not give him the right to disobey God. The people needed to be reminded of God's holiness and that God meant what He said. Uzziah's leprosy taught them a lesson they would never forget.

One day, during the year that King Uzziah died, the prophet Isaiah went into the temple to worship God. Isaiah began preaching when he was fifteen years old and continued to serve God until he died at the age of eighty-five.

Circle the correct answer.

The king also sinned against God by going into the temple to
(*pray, burn the incense, offer the sacrifice*).

Isaiah had a wonderful vision; he saw God sitting on a very high throne. He saw angelic beings called seraphim above the throne calling to one another, saying, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty. His glory fills the whole earth."

As Isaiah stood there in the presence of God, he felt very afraid. He said, "I deserve to die for I have sinned." Isaiah knew he was a sinner and didn't deserve to be in God's presence.

Then one of the seraphim took a burning coal from the altar and touched Isaiah's lips with it and said, "Look, this hot coal has touched your lips; your sin is forgiven, and you are clean."

Suddenly Isaiah heard God's voice asking, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"

Without hesitation Isaiah answered, "Here I am. Send me."

Then God said, "Go and give my message to the people, even though they won't listen to you."

Even though this was a hard assignment, Isaiah obeyed God. He faithfully preached God's message, saying, "Turn back to God or you will be punished and taken captive by your enemies."

God gave Isaiah prophecies to write, messages about things that were going to happen in the future. Some of these prophecies were about Jesus who was born 700 years later.

Isaiah 7:14 – Jesus is coming into the world as a baby.

Isaiah 9:6b; 61:1 – Jesus is going to live a holy life.

Isaiah 53:3-6 – Jesus is going to suffer and die for us.

Isaiah 9:7 – Jesus will return to earth as King.

Isaiah's prophecies about Jesus showed God's plan for making us holy—pure and clean from sin—through the suffering and death of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. They make us realize how holy God is and how terrible sin is. The New Testament part of our Bible tells us exactly how it all came about. God's Word is very clear that we must understand that Jesus' suffering and death was for us and receive Him as our Savior to have eternal life and the forgiveness of sins. When we do this, God makes us holy in His sight. Then His Word tells us how to become holy in all we do.

Circle the correct answer.

Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would be punished for (*his, our*) sin.