

The Nature of God Isaiah's Vision

At the time when **King Jeroboam II** was enjoying his long and prosperous reign in Israel, **King Uzziah** was on the throne of Judah. He, too, had a long and **prosperous** reign, and for most of his life, he loved and obeyed God. When he died, the people wondered what would happen next in Judah.

Young **Isaiah** was a nobleman who shared these feelings. One day, when he was at the temple, thinking and praying about the future of his country, he had a wonderful vision of God. Describing it afterward, he said:

'I saw God, sitting on his throne, high above all. His royal robe filled the temple. Creatures of flame stood around him, shielding their faces with their wings from the brightness of God's glory. They kept calling to each other, "Holy! Holy! Holy! The Lord Almighty is holy! His glory fills the whole world."

'As the sound of their voices pulsed through the temple, the whole building seemed to **shiver** and **shake**. Billowing smoke filled the whole place. I was terrified. God was so great and good, and I felt **wretched** and **ashamed**. I called out:

"What will become of me? I have seen God, the holy one—and I am sinful. I belong to a wicked nation."

'Then one of the fiery creatures flew towards me. He had picked up a live coal with tongs from the altar, and he touched my lips with it.

"You are made clean," he said, "and your sin is forgiven."

'Then God spoke: "Who can I send?" he asked. "Who will be my messenger?"

'At once I answered, "I'll go—send me!"

God gave Isaiah his message but warned him in advance that the people would be **hard-hearted**. They would not listen to him or tell God they were sorry. But Isaiah was still willing to be God's prophet.



Date: _____

1. 'He, too, had a long and **prosperous** reign.' What is the meaning of the word **prosperous** as used in the sentence. [1]

- (a) healthy (b) lively (c) quiet (d) successful

2. What is the name of the young nobleman? [1]

3. What did one of the creatures put on the nobleman's man lips? [1]

4. In the nobleman's vision, where did he see God? [1]

5. What are TWO things God warned the nobleman about the people? [2]

6. Write **T** if the statements are true. Write **F** if the statements are false. [4]

_____ Billowing smoke filled the whole place

_____ The creatures said nothing to each other.

_____ Isaiah did not want to be a prophet.

_____ The creatures said that 'The Lord Almighty is holy.'