

Quarter Two: Allusions, Images, Symbols: How to Study Bible Prophecy

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Lesson 7—Foundations for Prophecy

Sunday: Here I Am, Send Me

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- **Last Week: “Understanding Sacrifice”**
 - Jesus, our substitutionary Sacrifice
 - Type & Antitype: the sacrifice of animals pointing forward to Jesus, as the Lamb of God
- **This Week: “Foundations for Prophecy”**
 - **Lesson 1: Principles of Bible study**
 - #1: Study the Bible with an open, receptive heart
 - #2a: humanity can never fully grasp the mind of the Infinite;
 - #2b: we can, however, understand the plan of salvation: prophecy illustrates the plan of salvation
 - #3: Study the Bible in context and compare Scripture with Scripture
 - #4: Allow the Bible to define its own terms
 - **Lesson 2:** studying Genesis helps to understand Revelation
 - Foundation to understanding the prophecies of Revelation is found in Genesis
 - **Lesson 3: Marriage & the church**
 - Marriage illustrations & better understanding how God thinks about His people, His bride & church
 - **Lesson 4: the nations, part 1**
 - Human nations & kings & how they work against God
 - OT – Israel failed in their mission to represent God / offer salvation to the world
 - NT – Christian Church failed in their mission – compromise crept into the church, union with state (true believers persecuted)
 - God’s purpose for His church – be a light to the world
 - **Lesson 5: the nations, part 2**
 - In spite of chaos in the world, God is in control
 - Worked out through the rise & fall of nations
 - Dan 2 & 7; Rev 13
 - At the back of the book, God wins
 - **Lesson 6: Understanding Sacrifice**
 - Jesus, our substitutionary Sacrifice
 - Type and antitype: the sacrifice of animals pointing forward to Jesus, as the Lamb of God
 - **Lesson 7: Foundations for Prophecy**
 - Move further into the vision of the throne room of God
 - Explore how the human race relates to a holy God
 - How the sacrifice of Christ restores us & brings us closer to the throne

- God's plans to restore us so we can reveal His glory
- Become a race of forgiven & redeemed sinners
- Discover the character of God on display throughout the entire universe
- This week, all about **comparisons**:
 - Sunday: comparison of call of Isaiah & launching of Jesus' public ministry
 - Monday: comparison of cherubim outside the Garden of Eden & Shekinah glory in the tabernacle
 - Tuesday: comparison of throne room scenes from Eze 1, Isa 6 & Rev 4
 - Wed: comparison between camp of Israel & New Jerusalem
 - Thurs: comparison of Lucifer's fall & the elevation of 144k in Rev 14

Memory Text: "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?' Then I said, 'Here am I! Send me'" (Isa 6:8, NKJV)

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** Here I Am, Send Me (Jill)
 - Isa 6 – comparison between the seraphim's cleansing ministry for the prophet, Isaiah & John the Baptist preparation of the people for the coming of Jesus
- 2. **Monday:** The Two Cherubim (Daniel)
 - Gen 3 – comparison of cherubim outside the Garden of Eden & Shekinah glory with the tabernacle
- 3. **Tuesday:** Like Burning Coals of Fire (James)
 - Comparison of throne room scenes from Eze 1, Isa 6 & Rev 4 & the cherubim
- 4. **Wednesday:** God Among His People (John D)
 - Comparison between camp of Israel & New Jerusalem; 4 dominant tribes in the Israelites & comparison to cherubim
- 5. **Thursday:** The Fall of Lucifer (SQ)
 - Eze 28 & Isa 14 – comparison of Lucifer's fall & the elevation of the 144,000 in Rev 14

Sunday: Here I Am, Send Me

Isa 6:5 – 8; Rev 8:3, 4; John 5:35

- Comparison between call of Isaiah & launching of Jesus' public ministry
- Before comparison, discussion of Isaiah's call
 - Vision of throne room / sanctuary scene in heaven (compare with Eze 1 & Rev 4)
 - Isa 6:1- 3 – "...I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. (2) Above it stood **seraphim**, each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. (3) And one cried to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory!'"

- Seraphim = Heb, lit, “burning ones”
 - Heavenly beings with 6 wings, surrounding the throne
 - Cried “holy, holy, holy”
 - Rev 4 – throne room scene (Rev 5 – AD 31, entrance of Jesus)
 - Vs 8 - 4 living creatures with 6 wings
 - Surround the throne room of God
- Isaiah saw who God really is
 - His majesty and holiness
 - The perfection of His character
 - His power & greatness
- By contrast, he saw himself
- Isaiah’s unworthiness & unrighteousness (sin)
 - Isa 6:5 – “So I said, ‘Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people with unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.’”
 - Isaiah recognized his sinfulness
 - Isa 64:6 – all our righteousness is as filthy rags
 - Isaiah repented & confessed his sin
 - Acknowledged his sin
 - I have sin (unclean lips) and my people have sin
- Isaiah’s cleansing
 - Isa 6:6, 7 – “Then one of the **seraphim** flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. (7) And he touched my mouth with it, and said: ‘Behold this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged.’”
 - Repentance precedes cleansing – recognized & repented of sin
 - Then was cleansed
 - Ps 51:10 – “Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”
 - Purge me = lit, “un-sin me”
 - Hyssop = a plant used in cleansing rituals; a bunch of hyssop was dipped into blood & applied.
 - 1 John 1:7 – “The blood of Jesus cleanses from all sin”
 - Seraphim = lit, “burning ones”
 - Seraphim brought the cleansing to Isaiah
- Isaiah’s sending forth
 - Isa 6:8 – “And I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?’ Then I said, ‘Here am I! Send me.’”
 - Cleansing precedes sending forth
 - Isaiah could not be sent forth without that cleansing by the coal from the seraphim’s (the burning ones)
 - He couldn’t effectively serve without having been changed / transformed

Comparison between call of Isaiah & launching of Jesus' public ministry

- (careful to not create parallels where they don't exist – the comparison only goes so far)
- **1. Heavenly Involvement**
 - Isaiah's call:
 - Isaiah saw a vision into the throne room of God
 - Launching of Jesus' ministry:
 - At His baptism, Heaven opened
 - God's voice (this is My beloved Son)
 - And Holy Spirit descending
- **2. Others involved in preparation for mission**
 - Isaiah's call:
 - Seraphim (lit, "burning ones") brought cleansing
 - Launching of Jesus' ministry:
 - John the Baptist (the "burning & shining lamp")
 - John 5 (the 4-fold witness of Jesus)
 - Jesus speaking to the "Jews" (= religious leaders who opposed Jesus)
 - Vs 33 - 36 – "You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. (34) Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved. (35) He was the **burning** and **shining** lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light. (36) But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent me."
 - John was himself a sinner, in need of salvation; yet his ministry pointed forward to the One who brought grace & salvation
 - 1. Witness of John (testified of Jesus)
 - 2. Witness of "the works" = the miracles of Jesus
 - 3. Witness of the Father Himself
 - 4. Witness of the Scriptures
 - John the Baptist had part in preparation for Jesus' mission
 - Matt 3:1 – 3 – "In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, (2) and saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!' (3) For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight.'"
 - Jesus didn't need cleansing like Isaiah did – but John the Baptist still prepared the way for Jesus' ministry
- **3. Both involved repentance**
 - Isaiah's call:
 - Isaiah recognized his sin in the presence of a holy God
 - Launching of Jesus' ministry:
 - John the Baptist preached the baptism of repentance – call for repentance

- **4. Both involved purification**
 - Isaiah's call:
 - Isaiah was purified by the coals from the altar
 - Launching of Jesus' ministry:
 - Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist
 - Jesus was perfect
 - John 1:29 – John the Baptist speaking, “Behold the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world!”
 - Jesus was baptized as a symbol for us
 - Symbol of washing away of sins
 - Dying to old life & rising to newness with Christ
- **5. Both involved sending forth**
 - Isaiah's call:
 - Here am I! Send me
 - Launching of Jesus' ministry
 - Jesus went into wilderness for battle with Satan
 - Then began preaching, teaching, healing ministry

Comparison between call of Isaiah & launching of Jesus' ministry

- 1. Heavenly involvement
- 2. Others involved in preparation for mission
- 3. Both involved repentance
- 4. Both involved purification
- 5. Both involved sending forth

Lesson 8: “In the Psalms: Part 1”