

# HOW LONG, O LORD?



FIRST MELISSA

Last week...

**How long**, O Lord? Will You forget me forever? **How long** will You hide Your face from me? **How long** shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart all the day? **How long** will my enemy be exalted over me?

Psalm 13:1-3



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# During a pandemic...

- People want to be **sent** back to work
- Children are ready to be **sent** to school

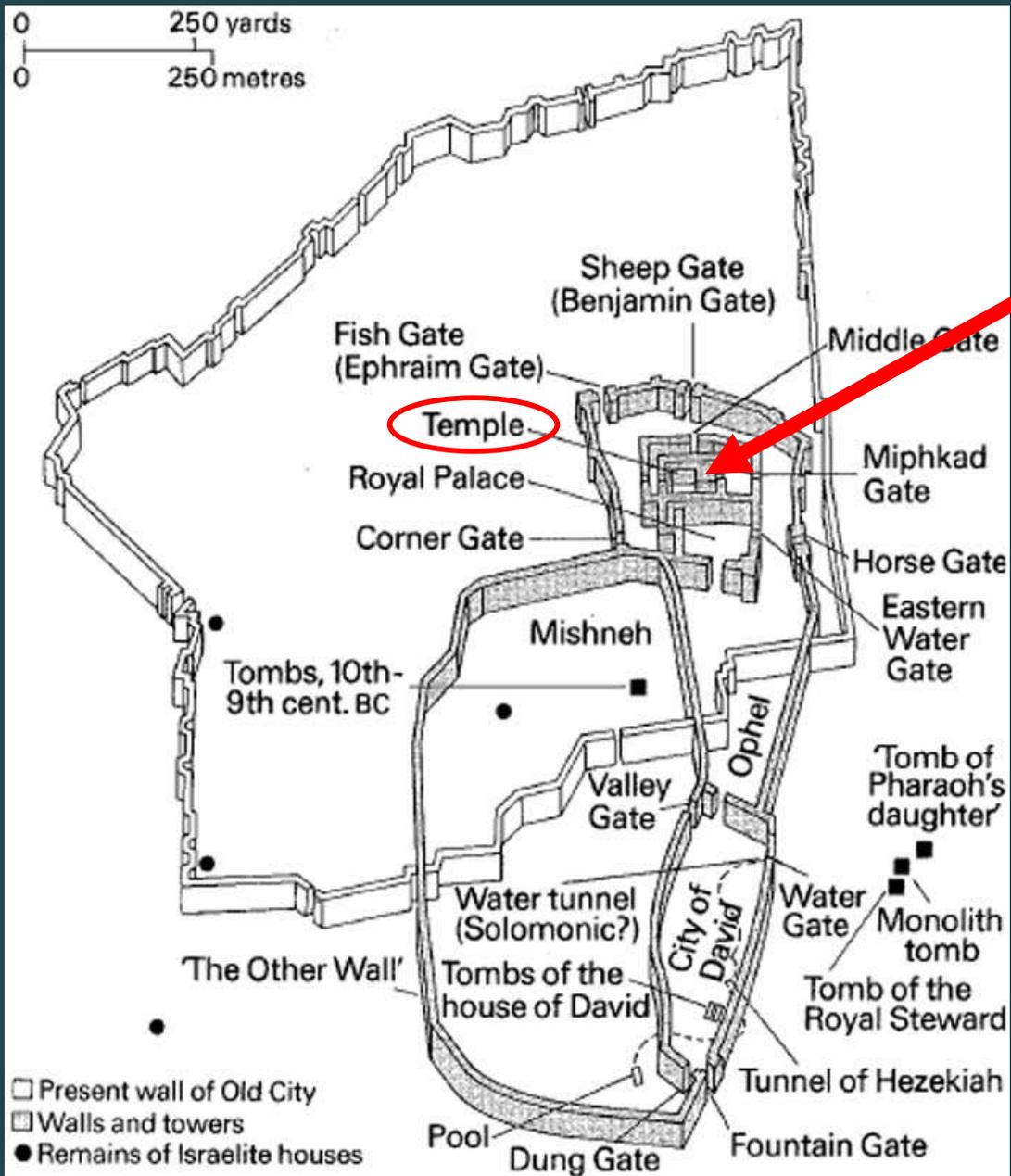
But... Who wants to be **sent** on a mission by God?



# Isaiah 6



FIRST MELISSA



King  
Solomon's  
Temple

Jerusalem in  
the period  
from Solomon  
to Hezekiah

# King Solomon's Temple



## Kings of Israel (North)

**Jeroboam I:** Led secession of Israel

**Nadab:** Son of Jeroboam I

**Baasha:** Overthrew Nadab

**Elah:** Son of Baasha

**Zimri:** Overthrew Elah

**Omri:** Overthrew Zimri

**Ahab:** Son of Omri; husband of Jezebel

**Ahaziah:** Son of Ahab

**Jehoram (Joram):** Son of Ahab

**Jehu:** Overthrew Jehoram

**Jehoahaz (Joahaz):** Son of Jehu

**Jehoash (Joash):** Son of Jehoahaz

**Jeroboam II:** Son of Jehoash

**Zechariah:** Son of Jeroboam II

**Shallum:** Overthrew Zechariah

**Menahem:** Overthrew Shallum

**Pekahiah:** Son of Menahem

**Pekah:** Overthrew Pekahiah

**Hoshea:** Overthrew Pekah; kingdom overthrown by Assyrians under Sargon II

## Kings of Judah (South)

**Rehoboam:** Son of Solomon; first king

**Abijah (Abijam; Abia):** Son of Rehoboam

**Asa:** Probably son of Abijah

**Jehoshaphat:** Son of Asa

**Jehoram (Joram):** Son of Jehoshaphat; husband of Athaliah

**Ahaziah:** Son of Jehoram and Athaliah

**Athaliah:** Daughter of King Ahab of Israel and Jezebel; wife of Jehoram; only queen to rule over Judah

**Joash (Jehoash):** Son of Ahaziah

**Amaziah:** Son of Joash

**Uzziah (Azariah):** Son of Amaziah

**Jotham:** Regent, later King; son of Uzziah

**Ahaz:** Son of Jotham

**Hezekiah:** Son of Ahaz; husband of Hephzi-Bah

**Manasseh:** Son of Hezekiah and Hephzi-Bah

**Amon:** Son of Manasseh

**Josiah (Josias):** Son of Amon

**Jehoahaz (Joahaz):** Son of Josiah

**Jehoiakim:** Son of Josiah

**Jehoiachin:** Son of Jehoiakim

**Zedekiah:** Son of Josiah; kingdom overthrown by Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar

Good

Bad

Mixture of good & bad

Uzziah reigned 52 years as King of Judah.

He died of leprosy in 739 BC (see 2 Chronicles 26:16–23), the same year Isaiah began his prophetic ministry.

Isaiah writes...

In the year of King Uzziah's death

[ca. 739 BC] I saw the Lord [אֲדֹנָי Adonai]

sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted,

with the train of His robe filling the

temple. Isaiah 6:1

אֲדֹנָי

Adonai

Lord

NOT Yahweh יְהוָה



FIRST MELISSA

Seraphim [angels, meaning “fiery ones”] stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. Isaiah 6:2

Seraphim (singular noun is Seraph שֶׁרָפָה), angelic beings who were hovering above the Lord, are referred to in the Scriptures only here. “Seraphs” is from śārap , which means “to burn,” possibly suggesting that they were ardent in their zeal for the Lord. - Matthew Henry’s Commentary



# Titles for Angels in the Bible

- They are called "Sons of God," Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7.
- They are called "servants of God," Job 4:18; Ps. 103:21.
- They are called "Holy ones," Job 15:15; Dan. 4:13, 17.
- They are called "Watchers," Dan. 4:13, 17.
- They are called "Thrones, Dominions, Principalities, Powers, and Might," Eph. 1:21; Col. 1:16.
- Other names applied to them, are "Cherubim," "Seraphim," and "Hosts," as when God is called the "Lord of Hosts."



# What is the role of angels?

- They perform God's commands. They are God's messengers.
- They are brought into contact with men by these commands. They are represented as present at the Creation, at the giving of the Law, at the birth of Christ, after the temptation in the wilderness, during the agony in Gethsemane, and at Christ's resurrection and ascension.
- They feel a deep interest in man and become the medium of messages to him. They rejoice over his repentance and are made the means of comfort, protection and guidance.
  - "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to do service for the sake of them who shall inherit salvation." Hebrews 1:14
  - They are also made the messengers of God's vengeance to execute his wrath upon the sinful, 2 Sam. 24:16, 17; 2 Kings 19:35; 1 Chron. 21:15, 16; 2 Chron. 32:21; Acts 12:23.



And one (angel) called out to another and said, “Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts (יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת), the whole earth is full of His glory.” Isaiah 6:3

יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת

Yahweh Sabaoth

Lord of Hosts

\*Appearing over 250 times in the Old Testament, this name can be translated as “The Lord of Armies.” It captivates His sovereignty over all spiritual and physical armies. He is the Lord of Hosts and gives charge to the multitude of heavenly beings to face the adversaries. The King of the universe is fighting on our behalf- the victory is already ours.

<http://discoveringthejewishjesus.com/yahweh-sabaoth/>



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- The threefold repetition of the word holy suggests supreme or complete holiness... “holiest.”
- Repeating a word three times for emphasis is common in the Tanakh/Old Testament.
  - “O land, land, land, hear the word of the Lord!” Jeremiah 22:29
  - “A ruin, a ruin, a ruin, I will make it. This also will be no more until He comes whose right it is, and I will give it to Him.” Ezekiel 21:27



And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. Isaiah 6:4

As the seraphim cried out, Isaiah saw the temple shake and then it was filled with smoke. The thresholds (cf. Amos 9:1) were large foundation stones on which the doorposts stood. The shaking (cf. Ex. 19:18) suggested the awesome presence and power of God. The smoke was probably the cloud of glory which Isaiah's ancestors had seen in the wilderness (Ex. 13:21; 16:10) and which the priests in Solomon's day had viewed in the dedicated temple (1 Kings 8:10–13).

- Matthew Henry's Commentary



FIRST MELISSA

Then I said, “Woe is me, for I am ruined!  
Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live  
among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes  
have seen the King (מֶלֶךְ Melech), the Lord of  
hosts (יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת Yahweh Sabaoth).” Isaiah 6:5

\*When I meet the King, I recognize my sin and His holiness.

\*The prophet’s unclean lips symbolized his attitudes and  
actions as well as his words, for a person’s words reflect his  
thinking and relate to his actions.



## The number of the angels is unknown, but that it is very great is shown by the following passages:

- “A river of fire was flowing and coming out from before Him; **thousands upon thousands** were attending Him, and **myriads upon myriads** were standing before Him; the court sat, and the books were opened. Daniel 7: 10
- Jesus said, “Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than **twelve legions** of angels?” Matthew 26:53

\*A legion was a military unit of at least 6,000 soldiers

- “But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to **myriads** of angels.” Hebrews 12:22



**Am I ready to be  
sent on a mission?**



**FIRST MELISSA**

Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. He touched my mouth with it and said, “Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven.” Isaiah 6:6-7

\*Do my sinful words demonstrate my sinful heart?

\*Do I need to repent before the holy God today?

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9



# Are you ready to be sent?

Isaiah could not remove his own guilt, the atonement is made possible by the altar—the place of sacrifice—and the purification is specifically applied to the point of Isaiah’s sin—his lips—making Isaiah acceptable as a minister of God’s words.



Standing in the Lord's presence, Isaiah is made painfully aware of his sin, and he is broken about it in the same way as were Job and Peter when they were confronted with the presence of the Lord.

**God was preparing Isaiah for his cleansing and commission.**

- Job said... "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; but now my eye sees You; therefore I retract, and I repent in dust and ashes." Job 42:5-6
- But when Simon Peter saw that, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!" Luke 5:8



Then I heard the voice of the Lord

(אֲדֹנָי Adonai), saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” [see Genesis 1:26]

Then I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

Isaiah 6:8

\*Can I hear the voice of the Lord (Adonai)?

\*Am I willing to go when the Lord calls?

\*Am I willing to represent my Lord to my world?



# Whom shall I send?

Paul the Apostle wrote, “I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service,”  
1 Timothy 1:12

“Those that would assist others in their correspondence with God must not themselves be strangers to it; for how can we expect that God should speak by us if we never heard Him speaking to us, or that we should be accepted as the mouth of others to God if we never spoke to Him heartily for ourselves?”

– Matthew Henry’s Commentary



FIRST MELISSA

He said, “Go, and tell this people: ‘Keep on listening, but do not perceive; keep on looking, but do not understand.’ Render the hearts of this people insensitive, their ears dull, and their eyes dim, otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and return and be healed.” Isaiah 6:9-10

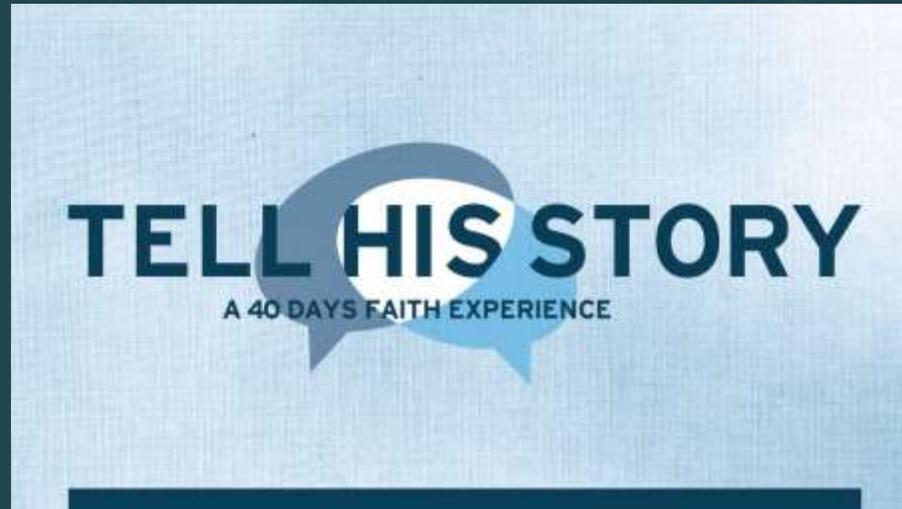
The decree of hardening quoted in full or in part at least six times in the New Testament (see Matthew 13:14–15; Acts 28:26–27.) – New Bible Commentary



FIRST MELISSA

# What should we do after meeting the King?

- Surrender – “Here I am”
- Serve – “Go”
- Speak – “Tell”



FIRST MELISSA

Isaiah wrote...

Then I said, “Lord, how long?”

Isaiah 6:11a

In other words...

“Shall it always be thus? Must I and other prophets always labor in vain among them, and will things never be better?”



And He answered, “Until cities are devastated and without inhabitant, houses are without people and the land is utterly desolate, the Lord (אֲדֹנָי Adonai) has removed men far away, and the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land.” Isaiah 6:11b-12

\*Babylonian Exile of Judah began in year 586 BC, 153 years after this vision of Isaiah

\* The struggles and pain are not over yet



The Lord said...

“Yet there will be a tenth portion in it, and it will again be subject to burning, like a terebinth or an oak whose stump remains when it is felled. The holy seed is its stump.”

Isaiah 6:13

\*Isaiah, perhaps discouraged by such a negative response and terrible results, was then assured by the Lord that not all was lost. **A remnant would be left.** God compared that remnant to stumps of terebinth and oak trees. From this stump or holy seed of a believing remnant would come others who would believe. Though Judah’s population would be almost totally wiped out or exiled, God promised to preserve a small number of believers in the land.



FIRST MELISSA

**What about us?**

**What about now?**



**FIRST MELISSA**

# What about us? What about now?

In the middle of a pandemic, as the world fears a disease and an economic collapse, the Lord is looking for willing people to send on a mission. The world needs a **vaccine** and the world needs **economic recovery**, but most of all, the world needs **revival**.



# What about us? What about now?

This mission involves:

- Beholding the majesty of the Lord [Adonai אֲדֹנָי]
- Declaring the glory of the Lord
- Humbly confessing sin before the Lord
- Receiving the forgiveness of the Lord
- Hearing the call of the Lord
- Willingly obeying the call of the Lord
- Remaining faithful to the Lord even in hard times
- Calling people to repent and come to the Lord
- Believing in the goodness of the Lord



FIRST MELISSA

# What happened to Isaiah?

For the rest of his life, Isaiah served the God who had forgiven and saved him.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/here-am-I-send-me.html>

# What will happen to us?



FIRST MELISSA

# How Long, O Lord?

Last week's answer...

**Until the sheep is ready to  
come back to the Shepherd**

This week's answer...

**Until God's messengers have  
been prepared and sent on  
mission**



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