

Understanding the Isaiah 6 Holy Seed

A. Introduction

1. God's call for Israel is to arise as the first holy nation that will partner with Yeshua to govern the nations during the Millennial Kingdom.
2. Israel will be the inaugural nation and inaugural government that will rule and reign with Jesus over the nations of the earth (Ex. 19:5–6; Deut. 7:6–7; 26:18–19; 28:1–2,9,10,13). The glory of God as prophesied in Habakkuk 2:14 will be manifested in Jerusalem and from there, it will spread to the nations of the earth.
3. Israel as the holy seed will arise out of the refining work that God will bring her through to the fullness of God's call for her.

B. A Biblical Understanding of the Holy Seed

1. In the Bible, the word "seed" refers to "descendant" or "descendants", and the word "holy" means "to be set apart for God".
 - a. The seed of Abraham refers to the descendants of Abraham, both physical and spiritual. It can either refer to Christ Himself, the Jewish people, or the people of God who are in Christ.
 - b. The term "holy seed" refers to the physical descendants of Abraham (through Isaac and Jacob) who are set apart for God for His highest purpose and glory — God has set apart Israel from all other nations as a holy nation to partner with Him to fulfil His kingdom's purpose (Ex. 19:5–6; Deut. 7:6).
2. The two places where the phrase "holy seed" is used in the Bible are found in Isaiah 6:13 and Ezra 9:2. Both Scriptures use this term to reference the Jewish people or nation of Israel.
3. Isaiah 6 is the primary passage that gives understanding regarding the holy seed, which is the remnant of Israel that the Lord will raise up who will become His holy nation in the Millennial Kingdom.
 - a. The first section, which is verses 1 to 8, speaks of God's commission for Isaiah to preach His message regarding the destiny of Israel, to Israel.
 - b. The second section, which is verses 9 to 13, speaks of the prophetic message that God has entrusted Isaiah to preach, which is the message of the holy seed.

Understanding the Isaiah 6 Holy Seed

4. This message is part of God's good and glorious plan where ultimately, He is raising up Israel as the first holy nation to partner with Yeshua in the Millennial Kingdom.
 - a. Unfortunately, Israel has been disobedient and rebellious and has refused to obey the Lord or walk with Him throughout most of her history.
 - b. Nonetheless, God is faithful to His covenant — He will not forsake or cast away His people (Rom. 11:1–2).
 - i. His calling for Israel is irrevocable and He has a plan for Israel's salvation and fullness (Rom. 11:12,15,26,29).
 - ii. He cannot and will not write her off because He is zealous for her to enter into her fullness (Zech. 1:14; 8:2).
 - c. Out of His zeal for her, God will bring Israel through His fire to refine and prepare her so that she can become that holy seed and arise to the fullness that He has for her. She has to be purified as a seed so that the fruit that comes forth from her will be holy unto the Lord.
 - d. Through His refining work, there will ultimately be left a remnant who will respond in repentance and wholeheartedness to God, and they will call upon the name of Yeshua and be saved (Zech. 13:8–9; Rom. 11:26).
 - e. When Israel rightly understands God's purposes and plan, it will give her strength, comfort, and hope amidst the increasing persecution and tribulation that she will face.
5. God requires Israel to possess certain qualities to become the holy seed — holiness, loyal love, gratitude, humility, and love for the Gentile nations expressed through a servant's heart towards them.
6. For Israel to become the holy seed, He also has to remove every wickedness and hindrance from within her — sin, rebellion, pride, and a heart of contempt towards the Gentile nations. This is accomplished through the refining process.
7. It is crucial for the Gentile Church to understand this message for two reasons:
 - a. We need to understand so that we will continually stand with and pray for Israel until the holy seed arises.
 - b. God is raising up Isaiah 40 voices from among the Gentiles who have understanding to bring comfort to Israel in her greatest time of need.

C. Outline of Isaiah 6:9–13

1. Isaiah 6:9–10 reveals the nature of this message and the effect it can have on hearers — some will embrace it while others will resist it.

Understanding the Isaiah 6 Holy Seed

2. In verses 9 and 10, Isaiah was commissioned to preach to Israel. God spoke of how their hearts were hardened which resulted in rejection of the message.
 - a. The anointed message of God is a double-edged sword and can give rise to both positive and negative effects.
 - b. For those who hear and embrace, this message inspires us and empowers our hearts with life and love, because we will know the heart of God.
 - c. For those who reject the message, their hearts would be further dulled and hardened.
 3. Verses 11 to 13 are about the message of the holy seed, where Israel has to go through a process of refining before the holy seed finally arises.
 4. In Isaiah 6:11, Isaiah asked God “*how long*” the message should be preached to Israel. God replied by describing what would happen to Israel from the time of Isaiah until Jesus’ return.
 - a. *“Until the cities are laid waste and without inhabitant...The land is utterly desolate.*
 - i. God is describing what will happen to Israel through history from 722 BC onwards.
 - ii. Israel has to go through several rounds of discipline and chastisement because of her persistent sin and disobedience.
 - iii. This process will continue until she comes forth with the right character, perspective, attitude and understanding of her call. Only then can she be entrusted with the inaugural government of the Millennial Kingdom.
 - iv. Through Isaiah, God is instructing His messengers today to keep on preaching this message until the end when Israel arises as the holy seed.
 - b. At the End of the Age, many Jewish people will ask the question, “*How long?*” as they go through God’s refining and disciplining work. This is where the Isaiah 40 voices will arise to speak comfort and direct Israel to the hope of her glorious calling.
 5. Isaiah 6:12 — *“YHWH has removed men far away, and the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land.”* — This speaks of the diaspora and dispersion of Jewish people from their land.
 6. Isaiah 6:13 is the key verse which speaks of how amidst the different waves of God’s judgement of Israel throughout her history, He has always preserved a remnant that will return to the land. There will be one final round of chastisement of the greatest intensity, unto the arising of the holy seed.
-

Understanding the Isaiah 6 Holy Seed

- a. The Lord is urging us not to focus on the chastisement, but to go beyond the negativeness and offensiveness of the message. We are to focus on the unique miracle that God is doing to bring forth that glorious holy seed.
- b. *“Yet a tenth will be in it”* — Because of His faithfulness towards her, He will preserve a remnant of Israel.
- c. *“They will return and be for consuming”* — Israel will return to the land. Yet because of her repeated rebellion against the Lord, she will have to undergo His divine discipline again.
- d. *“As the terebinth tree or as an oak, whose stump remains when it is cut down. So the holy seed shall be its stump.”*
 - i. The terebinth and oak trees speak of strength and stability. They are able to regrow even if the trees are cut down to their stumps.
 - ii. This is God’s assurance that He is faithful to Israel amidst the chastisement, discipline, and persecution that she will face. He will restore and preserve her so that she will eventually arise as the holy seed and holy nation that can be used for God’s purposes.

D. God’s Call for Israel To Be a Holy Nation

1. After men rebelled against God at the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11, the Lord started afresh. He sovereignly chose Abraham and his descendants, through the line of Isaac and Jacob, as His inheritance and chosen people. Jacob’s name was changed to Israel and his descendants became the nation of Israel.
2. God’s call for Israel is to be a holy nation set apart for Himself (Ex. 19:5–6; Deut. 7:6–7; Lev. 19:2; 20:26). His plan is for Israel to be a shining example and model of what it means to be a holy nation — a light for all the other nations to follow.
3. She was and is meant to walk in holiness, righteousness, and carry the glory of the Lord in the midst of the perversion and idolatry of surrounding nations (Isa. 60:1–3).
4. As the Lord is a holy God, His people must be holy to be near Him, to dwell with Him and to walk with Him. This is why He calls Israel and His people to be holy as He is holy (Lev. 19:2; 20:26).
5. God’s call for Israel is an integral part of His covenant with her. In Exodus 19:5–6, the Lord’s promise to Israel is that if she obeys Him and keeps His covenant, she will be His special treasure above all people and be His holy nation.
 - a. Hence Israel stepping into her call as a holy nation is conditional upon her obedience to the Lord.
 - i. As a holy nation, she is to obey all of God’s commandments. There are blessings for Israel if she obeys and curses if she does not (Deut. 28 – 29).

Understanding the Isaiah 6 Holy Seed

- ii. Israel is to fear the Lord, walk in all His ways, love and serve Him wholeheartedly, and keep all of His commandments (Deut. 10:12–13).
- b. God desires her to walk in holiness without mixture. She is to love the Lord wholeheartedly and not worship any idols (Ex. 20:3; Deut. 6:4–5).

E. Understanding God's Refining Work Over Israel

1. Israel is currently living in disobedience, sin, pride and rebellion against God. She also harbours bitterness toward the Gentile nations because of past events that have happened in history.
2. She has become one of the world's most "progressive" and liberal nations that challenges and redefines God's values and truths.
3. While there have been times in history when Israel walked with God, the nation has demonstrated an overall persistent stubbornness and lack of faithfulness to the Lord throughout her history.
4. Jeremiah 30:10–11 expresses God's corrective measures for Israel's rebellion. He assures Israel that He will save and restore her, but that she will have to undergo His refining process first.
5. This process includes discipline through:
 - a. The Assyrian Empire (Isa. 10:5–6) in 722 BC;
 - b. The Babylonian Empire in 586 BC, where Jewish people were exiled to Babylon for 70 years;
 - c. The Roman Empire in AD 70, which led to the destruction of Jerusalem, the temple, and the diaspora of the Jewish people;
 - d. Nazi Germany during World War II.
6. God is creating the optimal environment for the holy seed to arise. One of the ways He does so is by using Israel's enemies to discipline her until she turns to Him.
 - a. God will allow Israel to face another level of His refining and disciplining work at the End of the Age, whereby two-thirds of Jewish people will be killed under the reign of the Antichrist (Zech. 13:8–9).
 - b. Through this final refinement, a completely holy remnant will remain and the holy seed of Israel will finally emerge.
 - c. The remaining one-third of the Jewish people will call upon the name of Yeshua and be saved. They will arise as the first holy nation to partner with Yeshua to govern the nations.

Understanding the Isaiah 6 Holy Seed

7. There is a need for the people of God to understand the “severe mercies” of God.
 - a. One question many might ask as they see His judgements over her is: “*Why is God’s refining of Israel so severe? Why does Israel have to go through these judgements?*”
 - i. The refining is intense because God is zealous for Israel’s fullness (Zech. 1:14; 8:2). He is a faithful covenantal God who is relentless about Israel stepping into her fullness.
 - ii. The intensity of the refining is also because of Israel’s high calling, as well as her hardened, dull, and resistant heart.
 - iii. The Lord will not relent until Israel arises to the fullness of His destiny and purpose for her, which will be fulfilled at the End of the age.
 - b. We tend to see God’s judgements and discipline as severe. In reality, they are not harsh but are appropriate.
 - i. In fact, God’s judgements are from His heart of mercy towards His people.
 - ii. When we encounter God’s heart of mercy, we will begin to perceive, understand, and agree with His heart.
 - iii. God sits as the Refiner and Purifier of silver. He cares deeply for Israel and never takes His eyes off her throughout the entire process of refining (Mal. 3:3).
 - iv. He knows exactly how much refining is needed and for how long, in order for Israel to emerge as gold and silver that has been purified in fire.
 - v. At His right and perfect timing when the qualities and character He is looking for are formed in her, He will pluck her out of the fire.
 - c. If we see through a Biblical lens and understand His heart, our perspective of God’s judgements will change. We will see that God’s judgements are merciful and that He acts out of His mercy as He desires us to repent and turn back to Him.
 - i. God will use the least severe means of judgement to remove everything that hinders love, so as to bring forth the deepest level of wholehearted love in the greatest number of people without violating their free will.
 - ii. When we see that His judgements are appropriate, right, and merciful, we will fully agree, fully align, and fully embrace all that He does (Rev. 19:2).

F. God’s Requirements of Israel as the Holy Seed

God requires Israel to walk in holiness, loyal love, gratitude, humility, and love for the Gentile nations expressed through a servant’s heart towards them. He will use His refining process to produce these qualities in Israel.

Understanding the Isaiah 6 Holy Seed

1. Firstly, His refining will bring forth holiness.
 - a. God demands holiness in His people. To be holy is to be set apart for God and from the world.
 - b. God desires her to be a “*kingdom of priests and a holy nation*” unto the Lord (Ex. 19:6; Lev. 19:2; 20:26).
 - c. For Israel to be the holy seed unto a holy nation, she has to walk in holiness without mixture, sin or compromise. Only then will she be able to partner with Him to bring forth the glory and love of God to the nations.
2. Secondly, His refining will produce in Israel humility before God and love for the Gentile nations expressed through a servant’s heart towards them.
 - a. 1 Peter 3:3–4 reveals that Yeshua is looking for the spirit of meekness and humility in His people. God calls this character trait precious in His sight. Jesus’ exhortation in Matthew 20:25–28 tells us that the key to greatness in His kingdom comes from embracing the heart of a servant.
 - b. When the Lord set Israel apart as a nation for Himself, He desired her to walk in humility and meekness, because Yeshua Himself is the humble servant King. This is how Jesus will rule and reign over the earth in the Millennial Kingdom, in “*truth, humility, and righteousness*” (Ps. 45:4), and His call is for Israel to rule with Him in like manner.
 - c. God desires to remove every ounce of pride and hardness from the hearts of His people.
 - i. He will resist and oppose the proud (Prov. 3:34; Jas. 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:5);
 - ii. He will take out their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh (Ezek. 36:26).
 - d. Throughout Biblical history, God held back His judgement and delivered Israel from her enemies whenever she humbled herself in repentance. This cycle was seen repeatedly during the period of the kings of Judah and Israel.
 - i. His heart is revealed in 2 Chronicles 7:14, “*If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*”.
 - ii. God promises blessings and restoration if Israel chooses to humble herself.
 - e. Ultimately, when Israel finally fully embraces humility, she will constantly depend and lean on the Lord. Humility will eventually produce gratitude towards God and love for the nations.

Understanding the Isaiah 6 Holy Seed

- f. In the Millennial Kingdom, she will be leading the Gentile nations with great humility and love, just like her Messiah Yeshua.
3. Thirdly, God's refining work will produce loyal love within their hearts.
 - a. To walk in loyal love to God is to have a steadfast allegiance and unwavering devotion to the Lord that is not dependent on outward circumstances or inward emotions, but is rooted in wholehearted love (Ps. 78:7–8).
 - b. In Deuteronomy 30:15–20, God promises life and blessings to those who seek to love Him, be loyal to Him, and walk out all His ways and commandments.
 - c. God also warned that if they turn their hearts to other gods, they are choosing for themselves death and curses.
 - d. God is constantly looking for ones whose hearts are loyal to Him. To those who lean on Him, He will show Himself strong — He will defend His people and show forth His strength (2 Chron. 16:9).
 - e. Amidst the increasing persecutions that Israel will face, a remnant will arise with loyal love, and they will step into the fullness of God's destiny for their nation.
 4. Lastly, Israel will arise as a nation full of gratitude and thankfulness towards God.
 - a. Throughout Israel's history, she generally lacked gratitude towards God and had a heart that often complained and grumbled (Ex. 14:11–12; 15:24; 16:1–12; 17:1–7). As a result, God judged them (Num. 11:1–2; 11:33; 12:1–2,9–16; 14; 16; 21:4–9).
 - b. God hates complaining, murmuring, and grumbling because it is an accusation against Him that His plans are not good or perfect.
 - c. God requires that we always respond with a heart of gratitude because it is an acknowledgement of His goodness and grace.
 - d. Gratitude is immensely powerful as it frees our heart from every emotion that is rooted in self.
 - e. John Piper states, "*Gratitude is what we experience when we perceive that what we have received is an underserved gift of God's grace.*"
 - i. When Israel walks in gratitude and thankfulness, they will no longer complain or believe that their own plans or ways are better than the Lord's.
 - ii. They will arise to walk with a heart of thankfulness and gratitude as they see the privilege of the high call and invitation that God has given them to become the holy nation that partners with Him in the Millennial Kingdom.

Understanding the Isaiah 6 Holy Seed

G. Conclusion

1. Through God's refining, Israel will eventually walk in holiness, loyal love, gratitude, humility and love for the Gentile nations expressed through a servant's heart towards them. She will possess the character and maturity to carry God's glory.
2. As we transition into the Millennial Kingdom, Israel will arise as the holy seed and be the first nation that is completely holy unto the Lord.
3. She will partner with Yeshua to disciple the nations and the glory of YHWH will fill the earth as the waters cover the sea (Hab. 2:14; Isa. 60:1–3).

Understanding the Isaiah 6 Holy Seed

H. PRAYER POINTERS

1. Pray for God to prepare and strengthen the Messianic Jewish believers so that they can be part of the holy seed that arises at the End of the Age (Col. 1:9–11).
 - a. For them to be filled with the knowledge of His will and His destiny for the nation of Israel to arise as the holy seed.
 - b. For the strengthening of their hearts at the place of confidence in His perfect leadership and sure mercies over them (Phil. 1:10).
 - c. For God to endue them with the spirit of power, love, and a sound mind (2 Tim. 1:7).
2. For God to raise up the Isaiah 40 voices to comfort Israel with the message of the holy seed (1 Cor. 1:4–8).
 - a. For God to prepare the voices by cleansing their hearts from impure motives and the fear of men (v8).
 - b. For boldness for the messengers to preach the pure message that is undiluted (v4–6).
 - c. For God to bring them through the Isaiah 6 encounter that will empower them to preach the message of the holy seed (v5).
3. Pray for God to refine, prepare, and strengthen Israel to arise as the holy seed at the End of the Age (Col. 4:12 / 1 Thes. 3:10,13).
 - a. For God to come as the Spirit of judgement and Spirit of burning (Isa. 4:4).
 - b. For God to protect and preserve Israel even as He allows her to be refined through nations that come against her.
 - c. For the people of Israel to experience and encounter the Lord as YHWH Chesed, the God of mercy so that their confidence will be established in Him.
 - d. For God to produce holiness, humility, loyal love, and a heart of gratitude in Israel so as to carry God's glory unto the nations.