

## July 13 Answers

- 1) In the year that Uzziah died, Isaiah had a vision of “the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up” (Isa 6:1b). The king of Judah was **dead**, but the King of kings was **alive** and well, seated in glory on His heavenly throne! God is sovereign over all, yet He desires to dwell in the midst of His people: “The train of his robe **filled** the temple” (Isa 6:1c). God’s holiness made Isaiah aware of his sinful state, and he responded in humility and repentance. God took away his iniquity and atoned for his sin, and then He asked “Who will go for us?” Isaiah said eagerly, “Here I am! Send me,” and God gave him a message and a mission. Isaiah’s mission for God was not a joyous one, for his attempts to bring about repentance were destined to **fail** (cf. Isa 6:8–10). This reveals a fascinating yet disturbing aspect of preaching the truth: when we shine the light on a hardened heart, it does not melt—instead, it grows **harder**. In this way, Isaiah’s ministry prefigured the ministry of **Jesus**, who preached the Kingdom of God many years later. John said, “Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him...For again Isaiah [6:10] said, ‘He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them’” (John 12:37, 39b–40). When Uzziah’s grandson **Ahaz** came to the throne, he had no difficulty leading Judah to worship other gods (cf. 2 Kgs 15:35; 2 Chr 27:2). God moved **Syria** and **Israel** against Judah to discipline Ahaz, but rather than trusting God, Ahaz turned to **Assyria**. Ahaz said, “I will not put the Lord to the test” (Isa 7:12), but his **actions** told quite a different tale (cf. 2 Kgs 16:8). God told Ahaz that he would give him a **sign** that Syria and Israel would not conquer Judah. Instead, it would be Assyria, whom Ahaz had trusted, that would harm them. The sign? “Behold, the **virgin** shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name **Immanuel**” (Isa 7:14). Matthew later said that this OT prophecy was “**filled** up” by Jesus (Matt 1:21–23). He is the full embodiment of the wonderful news: “God is with us!”