



Many preachers avoid classic passages trying to be “original,” different, creative. Isaiah 6 is one of those classic passages that became classic for good reason. “In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.”

Many Bible students believe that King Uzziah was a relative, maybe a cousin, to the prophet Isaiah. Others believe Uzziah and Isaiah were close friends. At the least, Isaiah has lost a good, good king in a very difficult time in Judah’s history. The Assyrians from Nineveh are threatening both the Northern Kingdom (Israel — 10 tribes) and the Southern Kingdom (Judah — 2 tribes). The Northern Kingdom would fall to Assyria about thirty-six years later.

This past November, Becky and I visited Pine Mountain, GA, and drove to the Little White House, in Warm Springs, GA, where our 32nd President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, died on

Still on the Throne

April 12, 1945. The 75th anniversary of his death was this past Sunday.

Some senior citizens remember the trauma when word came that our long-time, war-time President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, had died. World War II was still raging. FDR had been re-elected President for an unprecedented fourth term (yes — he was serving in his 13th year as President). One of his re-election slogans had been, “Don’t change horses in the middle of the stream.” In Isaiah 6:1, Judah is “changing horses in the middle of the stream.” Isaiah, with many others, is not only grieving and brokenhearted, he is also fearful and anxious of what will follow without the stability of King Uzziah.

The earthly throne in Judah is empty, but God reminds Isaiah that THE THRONE, the Heavenly Throne, is not empty. Uzziah has vacated his throne, but God never vacates His Throne. King Uzziah had died, but there is a KING who never dies — he cannot die. Our Lord God and King is STILL on the Throne.

He is all-powerful-omnipotent. He is all-wise-omniscient. He is all-present-no beginning, no end. He is immutable. Only Jehovah God has these absolute attributes. He is in control. He is sovereign. Has it ever occurred to you that nothing has ever occurred to God? He is still on the throne.

He is Holy (Isaiah 6:3) — his primary moral attribute. He always does

the right thing — righteous and just. He is loving (another moral attribute), but He is LOVE (1 John 4:8,16). He loves us — He loves the world (John 3:16). He loves your loved ones even more than you do. Nothing is beyond his control. He loves us, we can trust him — even during this Corona Crisis.

My belief in Single Predestination (Romans 8:28-32) is such a comfort in crisis. God has a plan for his children. Nothing can happen to a child of God without His permission (read Job). In the words of the song, “Anything that is over our heads is under His feet.” We can be “still,” because He is still on the Throne. With Isaiah, we need to look up when things are down. Keep looking up — God is still on the Throne.

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TRUTH IS NOT RELATIVE.

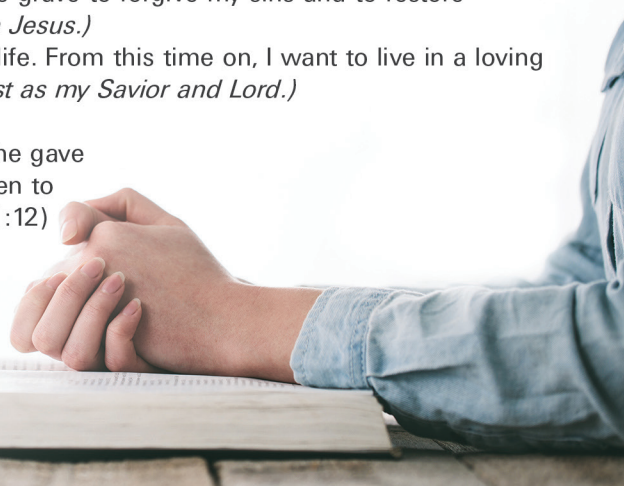
FIND IT IN THE ONE WHO IS THE WAY, TRUTH, AND LIFE.

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. *(I have sinned.)*
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. *(I repent.)*
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. *(I believe in Jesus.)*
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

“But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name.” (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



BRIEFS

APPEALS COURT SIDES WITH ABORTION BAN

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — An April 7 decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in New Orleans upheld an executive order by Texas Governor Greg Abbott that includes abortion as a nonessential medical procedure suspended during the present COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. Planned Parenthood, the country’s No. 1 abortion provider, decried the ruling. “This is unconscionable,” said Alexis McGill Johnson, acting president. “Abortion is essential, it’s time-sensitive, and it cannot wait for a pandemic to pass.” Mississippi’s only abortion clinic, Jackson Women’s Health Organization in Jackson, is defying a similar executive order from Governor Tate Reeves.

FORMER COAST PASTOR TAPPED FOR NEW ROLE

CARY, N.C. (BP) — Chuck Register, former senior pastor of First Church, Gulfport, and executive leader for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina’s (BSCNC) Church Planting and Missions Partnerships group for the past 11 years, was named BSCNC associate executive-director treasurer April 7 by the convention’s executive committee meeting by teleconference due to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. He will retain his present duties after he assumes his new role. Register was pastor of the Gulfport beachfront church when it was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and led the subsequent campaign to rebuild the church farther inland.