



Pastor Doug Wilson • BETHANY - A PLACE OF NEW BEGINNINGS
March 20, 2022 • Twenty-Sixth in a series of messages on FINDING A LIFE VERSE

“a prophet, in the biblical tradition, is someone with uncommon access to matters of God’s will and purpose that usually remain hidden to other people.”

— WALTER BRUEGGEMANN’s definition, found in his *Reverberations of Faith: A Theological Handbook of Old Testament Themes* (2002, Westminster John Knox Press) 159-162 — as quoted by WILLIAM H. WILLIMON, “Pastors Who Are Preachers Who Are Prophets” in DAVE BLAND & DAVID FLEER (eds.), *Preaching the Eighth Century Prophets* (2004, ACU Press)

“Though there is much variety in their speaking, prophetic pronouncements tend to be shaped by *three typical prophetic moves*:

- *Judgment that indicts Israel for disobedience to God’s covenant and punishment that fits the crime.* Grief.
- *Call to repentance and return to covenantal obedience.* Change.
- *Promise of the gift of new life and open future that comes from a gracious and merciful God.* Hope.”

WILLIAM H. WILLIMON, “Pastors Who Are Preachers Who Are Prophets”

ISAIAH 6:1-10 (TNIV)

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw **THE LORD** seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. ²Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. ³And they were calling to one another:

“Holy, holy, holy is **THE LORD ALMIGHTY;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”**

⁴At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

⁵“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen **THE KING, THE LORD ALMIGHTY.**”

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”

⁸Then I heard **the voice of THE LORD** saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”

And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

⁹He said, “Go and tell this people:

“‘Be ever hearing, but never understanding;
be ever seeing, but never perceiving.’

¹⁰*Make the heart of this people calloused;
make their ears dull
and close their eyes.
Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their hearts,
and turn and be healed.*

1. When we least expect Him, God _____ ! (v. 1)

2. He is _____ we might have expected. (vv. 2-4)

3. When we see Him as _____ is, we see ourselves as _____ are. (v. 5)

ISAIAH 57:15-19 (TNIV)

¹⁵For this is what **THE HIGH AND EXALTED ONE** says—
HE WHO LIVES FOREVER, WHOSE NAME IS HOLY:

**“I live in a high and holy place,
but *also* with those who are contrite and lowly in spirit,
to revive the spirit of the lowly
and to revive the heart of the contrite.**

¹⁶ I will not accuse them **forever**,
nor will I **always** be angry,
for then they would faint away because of me—
the very people I have created.
¹⁷ I was enraged by their sinful greed;
I punished them, and hid my face in anger,
yet they kept on in their willful ways.
¹⁸ I have seen their ways, but I will **heal** them;
I will **guide** them and **restore comfort** to them,
¹⁹ **creating praise** on the lips of the mourners in Israel.

Peace, peace, to those far and near,”
says **THE LORD**. “And I will **heal** them.”

**4. When He comes, He transforms our _____...
and our _____. (vv. 6-7)**

ISAIAH 66:1-2 (TNIV)

¹This is what the LORD says:

“Heaven is my throne,
and the earth is my footstool.
Where is the house you will build for me?
Where will my resting place be?
²Has not my hand made all these things,
and so they came into being?”
declares **THE LORD**.
“These are the ones I look on with favor:
those who are **humble** and **contrite in spirit**,
and **who tremble at my word**.

**5. When we’ve been _____ by God, He puts
us to _____ for His glory. (vv. 8-10)**