



ISAIAH

THE STORY BENEATH THE STORY

Origin Story

[Uzziah] did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done. He set himself to seek God in the days of Zechariah, who instructed him in the fear of God, and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him prosper.

2 Chronicles 26:4ff

*But when he was strong, he grew proud,
to his destruction.*

2 Chronicles 26:16



May 23rd

Photo credit, Tendi Sherpa

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David Bentley Hart

...prayer is the art of seeing reality as it truly is; and, if one has not yet acquired the ability to see God in all things, one should not imagine that one will be able to see God in himself.



Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Earth's crammed with heaven,
And every common bush afire
with God,
But only he who sees takes off
his shoes;
The rest sit round and pluck
blackberries

And the foundations of the thresholds
shook at the voice of him who called, and
the house was filled with smoke. And I
said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a
man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the
midst of a people of unclean lips; for my
eyes have seen the King, the LORD of
hosts!

vv.4, 5



W.H. Auden

... for the first time in my life I
felt myself in the presence of
personal sanctity.



John Donne
(d. 1631)

O, MY black soul, now thou art
summoned
By sickness, Death's herald and
champion;
Thou'rt like a pilgrim, which
abroad hath done
Treason, and [dares] not turn to
whence he's fled. . . .

"Oh, my black soul," Sonnet 4

No good work was unsullied by pride, no repentance
unaccompanied by expectations of future sin, no love
free from selfishness

Onsi A. Kamel

Then one of the seraphim flew to me,
having in his hand a burning coal that he
had taken with tongs from the altar. And
he touched my mouth and said: "Behold,
this has touched your lips; your guilt is
taken away, and your sin atoned for."

vv. 6-7

Go, and say to this people:
"Keep on hearing, but do not
understand;
keep on seeing, but do not
perceive. . . ."

v. 9

Make the heart of this people dull,
and their ears heavy,
and blind their eyes;
lest they see with their eyes,
and hear with their ears,
and understand with their hearts,
and turn and be healed."

v. 10

"The Virgin of the Rocks"
Da Vinci, c. 1486



His was not an uncertain mercy; his was not a grace of parts, which one hoped would become a whole; his was not a salvation to be attained, as though it were not already also a present possession. At that moment, the joy of my salvation poured into my soul. I wept and showed forth God's praise.

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