



### Advent Reflection for Thursday, December 7, 2023

For the podcast click [here](#) to listen.

---

#### Isaiah 6:1-12

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty, and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said,  
“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said, “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said, “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” Then 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!” And he said, “Go and say to this people:  
‘Keep listening, but do not comprehend;  
keep looking, but do not understand.’  
Make the mind of this people dull,  
and stop their ears,

and shut their eyes,  
so that they may not look with their eyes  
and listen with their ears  
and comprehend with their minds  
and turn and be healed.”  
Then I said, “How long, O Lord?” And he said,  
“Until cities lie waste  
without inhabitant,  
and houses without people,  
and the land is utterly desolate;  
until the Lord sends everyone far away,  
and vast is the emptiness in the midst of the land.

---

### **Today's Reflection is by Luke Saghir**

People need to reach rock bottom before they are able to make any progress. If someone is teetering right above rock bottom, they will never truly see how dire their situation is, living in a constant state of metaphorical and physical filth. Sometimes, as depressing as it may be to see, you need to let someone hit rock bottom. Watch as their life gets broken apart. Once this happens and they come to terms with where they are in life, they may be able to dig their way out of the hole that they were in, and you can help them. I believe this is exactly what God is wanting Isaiah to do. He is telling Isaiah to go make people numb to their thoughts, make it so they cannot repent for their sins, and maybe then they'll start listening. God wants to let their cities crumble so then they may see what happens.

As someone who has gone through many great ups, and greater downs, this passage clicked almost immediately after reading it. The personal belief I have about someone needing to hit rock bottom is one that I've expressed before, only to get shut down. I personally believe that in a society nowadays where not much is real and not much is clear, the idea of hitting rock bottom is not only petrifying (which it should be) but also mystical in a sense. A lot of the time when someone is at their lowest, they won't even realize it until undeniable proof is shoved in their face - and even then they may be in denial. God doesn't want our cities to “lie waste without inhabitants.” but if that's what it takes, then so be it. This will ultimately make us stronger in the long run, but first we have to hit rock bottom. In a sense, God is keeping it real, he's giving us tough love, which is becoming rarer by the day, but sometimes it's the most useful.

---



Luke Saghir is a 17 year old born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. He loves baseball, making art, and spending time with friends and family.