

# VINTAGE BIBLE COLLEGE

“EQUIPPING FOR SPIRIT-FILLED MINISTRY”

## News & Update

Summer 2010



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### How Long, Lord? (Isaiah 6:1-11)

by Curtis Wood

King Uzziah was crowned as king of Judah at age 16 after the death of his father, Amaziah. He served for 52 years and is regarded as one of Judah's most successful kings, presiding over one of the most prosperous periods of Judah's history. Early on, he was also regarded as one of Judah's most godly kings; however, later in life he became somewhat arrogant and willful. His most notorious mistake was attempting to enter the holy place and burn incense on the altar of incense -- a rite specifically reserved for the priesthood. Azariah, the high priest, along with 80 other priests attempted to stop Uzziah from entering the temple; however, when he persisted to enter the holy place, he was struck with leprosy. Tragically, he never recovered and lived the remainder of his life in isolation, depending upon his son to help carry out his kingly duties.

Unfortunately, Uzziah's life seems to parallel Judah's spiritual life, as he started out humble and spiritual and ended up arrogant and ultimately bankrupt, buried in a segregated field.

***“We must have a clear vision of Christ, lest we become weary and succumb to the temptation to become offended”***

Chapter 6 of Isaiah addresses the sense of panic and trepidation in Judah after Uzziah's death. The looming question on everyone's mind seems to be, "what will we do now that Uzziah is gone... what's going to happen?" In the midst of great material prosperity, their hearts had become cold and insensitive toward God and they were distracted with self-interest. And in the midst of the confusion, God used Isaiah's vision of God (Isa. 6:1-11) to remind Judah that, although Uzziah had died, God was still on the throne, and the people must redirect their trust and allegiance toward Him.

It was during this time that Isaiah was commissioned to preach to the spiritually insensitive people. He was informed up-front that, although he was to preach and prophesy to the people, they had deaf ears and would not listen (Isa. 6:9-11). This prompted Isaiah

to ask his notorious question, "How long shall I speak Lord?" and God's answer is short and direct... "Until!" God informed Isaiah that he was to prophesy until the coming captivity (Isa. 6:11).

Although Isaiah did not live long enough to witness the actual Babylonian invasion of Judah, he did witness Sennacherib's attack and conquering of forty-six Judean cities. He prophesied and warned Judah, yet their ears were spiritually deaf and they were unwilling to heed his message. Isaiah was persecuted and rejected for his ministry and eventually executed by King Manassah.

Like Isaiah, we have been called to minister in very challenging times. The spiritual condition of our world seems dark and increasingly hostile to faith; however, we must resolve ourselves to share good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ and continue to speak the truth in love. Jesus warned His disciples that they were being sent forth as sheep in the midst of wolves (Mat. 10:16-39). He

*Please see "How Long, Lord?" on page 2*

### Be our guest & visit a class during Friend's Weeks (July 19-22 & Aug. 30-Sept. 2)

	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Saturday
8:00 am				Introductory English (Jul 24, Aug 21, Sep 11)
12 noon		CE and Church Growth	Biblical Prin of Leadership I	
4:45 pm	Life of Christ II	Historical Books (Josh/Judg/Ruth)	Tabernacle & Priesthood (Typology)	
6:00 pm	A Study of James Sociology/Adv Sociology	Marriage & Family II The Pastoral Epistles (Timothy & Titus)	Speech & Communication Couns in Times of Crisis	
7:30 pm	Contemporary Issues The Pentateuch	A Study of Romans Dynamics of Discipleship Training	Old Testament Survey Biblical Phil of Ministry	

## Will you help us?

Without doubt, these are challenging economic times and most ministries are reporting lower than average contributions. We too have experienced the crunch as some who have supported the ministry freely have reduced their frequency of support or the size of their contributions. Please know that we need your support today.

Vintage Bible College has remained committed to providing quality, affordable education. Our commitment to equip men and women for Spirit-filled ministry has not wavered and we strive to keep tuition affordable so that those who otherwise may not be able to enroll can afford to do so.

We also have remained committed not to burden our friends with constant fundraising appeals, thus some may assume that Vintage Bible College is fully underwritten by some large entity. This is not the case. Vintage Bible College is supported by gifts of love from our friends. We pray and trust God and He speaks to individuals to help.

Thank you for partnering with Vintage Bible College and believing in this labor of love. Please pray daily for the ministry and, as God leads, consider helping with your financial support. We appreciate your gift in any amount. May God bless you for your gifts of love and continued partnership with us.

### *How Long, Lord?* from page 1

emphasized that we were to take up our cross and follow Him, that if we were ashamed of Him, he would be ashamed of us, and that if we surrender ourselves to Him, we would inherit life eternal.

Like Isaiah, we must have a clear vision of Christ, lest we become weary and succumb to the temptation to become offended with the gospel and discouraged in our ministry and service to this generation. The Scriptures are filled with examples of strong men of God who became temporarily offended with God due to unmet personal expectations. For example, Elijah became discouraged and weary after realizing that his ministry had not persuaded Israel to forsake idolatry (1 Kings 19:4). David became discouraged while recovering the ark after Uzzah was slain (2 Sam. 6:10). Jesus' disciples were offended at His word and many left Him (John 6:61-66). John the Baptist became temporarily disillusioned after he was imprisoned (Mat. 11:3-6). We must count the cost of discipleship, realize the price of carrying out His purpose for our lives, and refuse to be disheartened when the journey seems difficult and long. Jesus is Lord, the gospel is the power of God unto salvation, and we must not be weary in well-doing, knowing that we will reap in due season... if we do not lose heart (Galatians 6:9)!

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