Sermon delivered by Dr. MacRae in Bible Presbyterian Church of Collingswood, N.J., on Sunday morning, August 26, 1956 and broadcast over Radio Station WVCH, 740 on the dial.

000510

Him effectively and everyone who is really must endeavor to serve Him effectively, then it is important not only that we will some day have that wonderful privilege of seeing Him face to face, but that we see Him now. That we have a vision of God. In this chapter we have an account of Isaiah's call to serve the Lord. And as I look through the chapter. I find in it five visions which Isaiah had. Five visions which are necessary to effective Christian service. And I would like to look with you this morning at these five visions which we find in this 6th Chapter of Isaiah.

"In the year that King Uzziah died I saw also the Lord" mitking Did you ever stop to wonder why it is that Isaiah begins this wonderful chapter with the statement that King Uzziah had died in that year. Is it merely to give a date to it, or does it have an important bearing on the chapter? I think the latter is the case. Uzziah lived longer than any other king who ever reigned in the land of Judah. Uzziah reigned for 52 years. He began his reign as a young man who seemed devoted to his service of the Lord and it looked as if he would be one of the greatest kings the land had ever had. And then as God blessed Uzziah and Uzziah went forward in accomplishing many things, he became concerted and carried away with his pride, and determined that he would do things he had no right to do. And so we read in the Book of Chronicles how one day Uzziah went into the temple and decided that he would take over the work of the priest and he himself would offer the incense, showing that he was superior to the church of God and to the work of God. And we read that as he started to do that, that a priest looked at him and pointed to him. and ordered him out of the temple. And when he looked at the part of his body to which they were pointing, he found that leprosy had even then broken out on his body, and he rushed in dismay from the temple and for the many remaining years of his kingship he was shut up in his home as a leper and his son, and then still later his grandson, reigned. And poor old Uzziah remained there for this long, long life of misery. Remained there in his house, by himself, and everyone knew that God had removed Rim from the kingship because he had turned away, after such a wonderful start.

I suppose that people, to quite an extent, had forgotten about King Uzziah. And then one day the word was given out, "Uzziah has died," and everybody remembered about him and thought over the events of his life. And how clearly that must have been in Isaiah's mind. What a disappointment. A man who started to go on to serve God so effectively and then suddenly it comes to nothing because he was carried away by his human pride. And Isaiah turns his eyes away from the human who seems to give such promise and then fails so miserably, and turns them to the one who never fails, to the God whom we must all see if our lives are to be worthwhile. "In the year that king Uzziah died I saw the Lord." How wonderful it is that we can turn our eyes away from