



Being Called
or Being Sent



Isaiah 6:1-8

Being Called
or Being Sent

Isaiah 6:1

In the year of King Uzziah's death, I saw the Lord sitting on a high and exalted throne, the edges of his robe filling the temple.

Being Called
or Being Sent

Isaiah 6:2

Winged creatures were stationed around him. Each had six wings: with two they veiled their faces, with two their feet, and with two they flew about.

Being Called
or Being Sent

Isaiah 6:3

They shouted to each other,
saying: “Holy, holy, holy is
the Lord of heavenly forces!
All the earth is filled with
God’s glory!”

Being Called
or Being Sent

The background of the entire slide is a close-up, high-contrast image of fire and smoke. Bright orange and yellow flames are visible, with thick, dark smoke rising from them. The overall effect is one of intense heat and destruction.

Isaiah 6:4

The doorframe shook at the sound of their shouting, and the house was filled with smoke.

Being Called
or Being Sent

Isaiah 6:5

I said, "Mourn for me; I'm ruined! I'm a man with unclean lips, and I live among a people with unclean lips. Yet I've seen the king, the Lord of heavenly forces!"

Being Called
or Being Sent

Isaiah 6:6

Then one of the winged creatures flew to me, holding a glowing coal that he had taken from the altar with tongs.

Being Called
or Being Sent

Isaiah 6:7

He touched my mouth
and said, "See, this has
touched your lips. Your
guilt has departed, and
your sin is removed."

Being Called
or Being Sent

Isaiah 6:8

Then I heard the Lord's voice saying, "Whom should I send, and who will go for us?" I said, "I'm here; send me."

Being Called
or Being Sent



Being Called or Being Sent

A composite image featuring a graduation cap with a red tassel, an American flag, and a cemetery background. The graduation cap is black with a red tassel, and the American flag is visible in the background. The text "Graduation Sunday" is overlaid on the top right, and "Memorial Day Observance" is overlaid on the bottom left.

Graduation Sunday

Memorial Day Observance



*This is my one of my
favorite books of the Bible.*

*Being Called
or Being Sent*



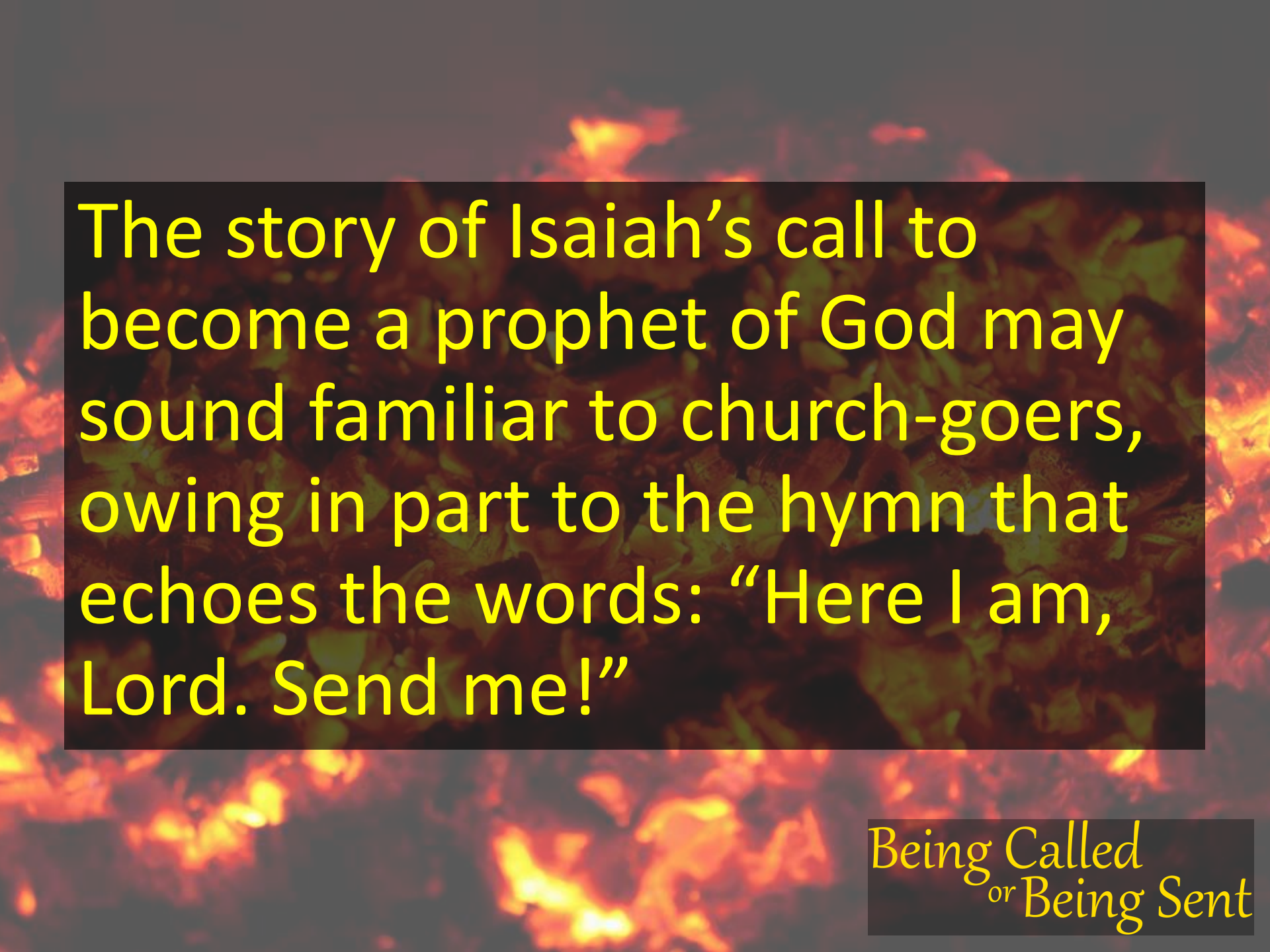
Isaiah 6:1-8

Being Called
or Being Sent



The Prophet Isaiah

Being Called
or Being Sent



The story of Isaiah's call to become a prophet of God may sound familiar to church-goers, owing in part to the hymn that echoes the words: "Here I am, Lord. Send me!"

Being Called
or Being Sent

Since today's reading ends with these words, we may imagine that it was an easy decision for Isaiah to answer God's call to become one of God's prophets. It was anything but easy for Isaiah.

Being Called
or Being Sent

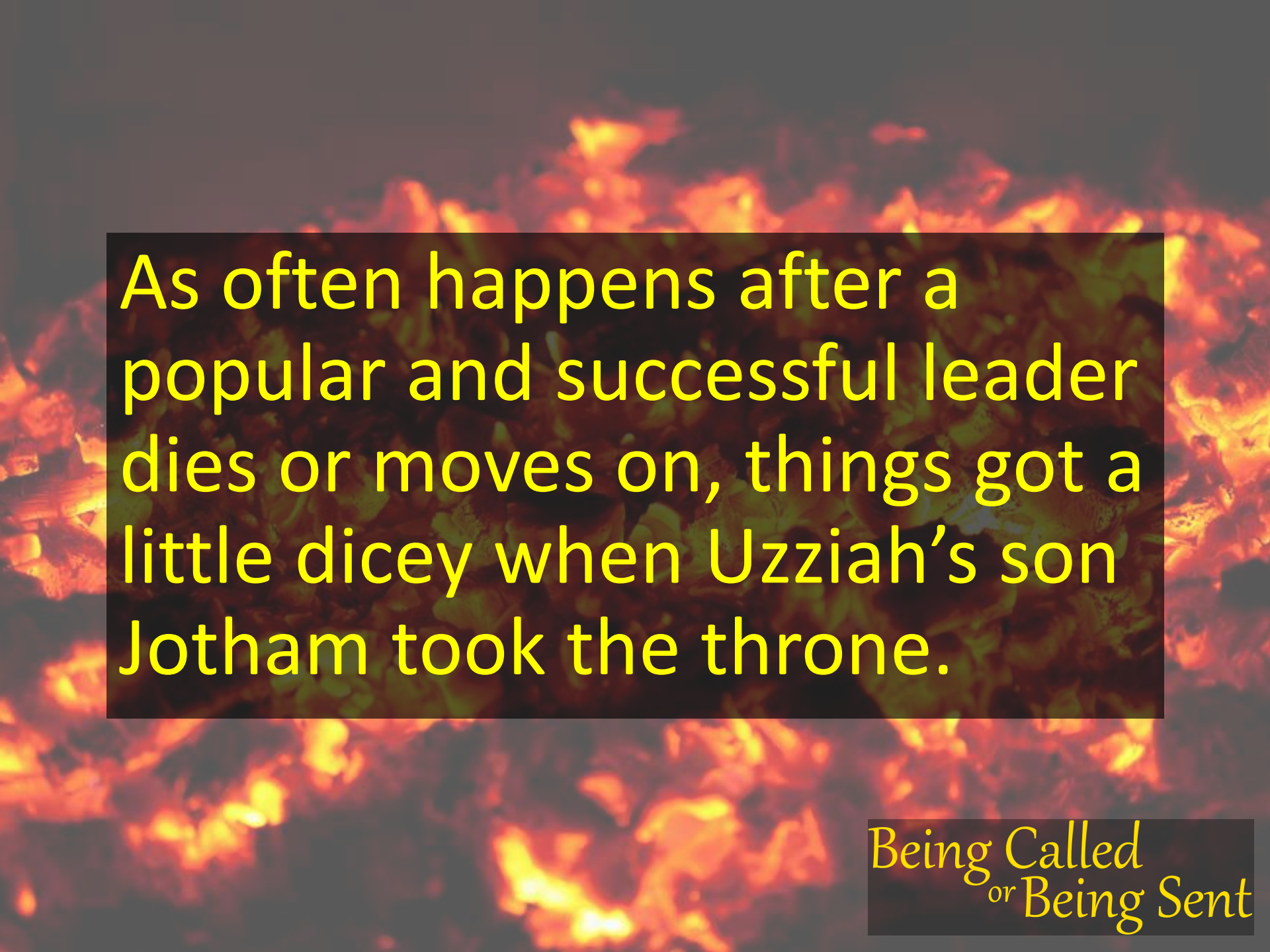


Understanding the Context

Being Called
or Being Sent

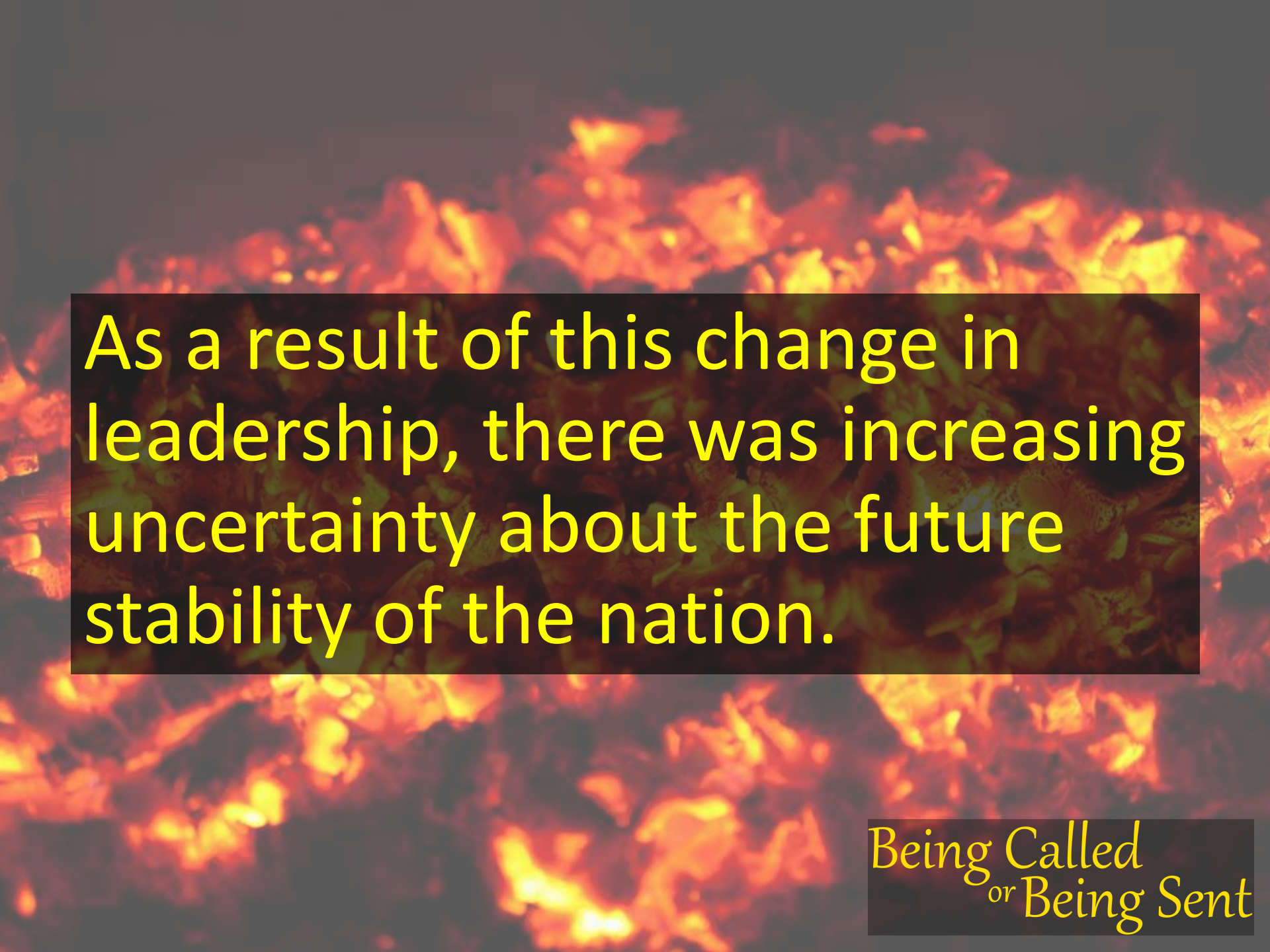
The time after King Uzziah died, roughly 735 B.C.E., was a period of difficult transition for the nation of Judah. King Uzziah had enjoyed a mostly successful fifty-two year reign.

Being Called
or Being Sent



As often happens after a popular and successful leader dies or moves on, things got a little dicey when Uzziah's son Jotham took the throne.

Being Called
or Being Sent

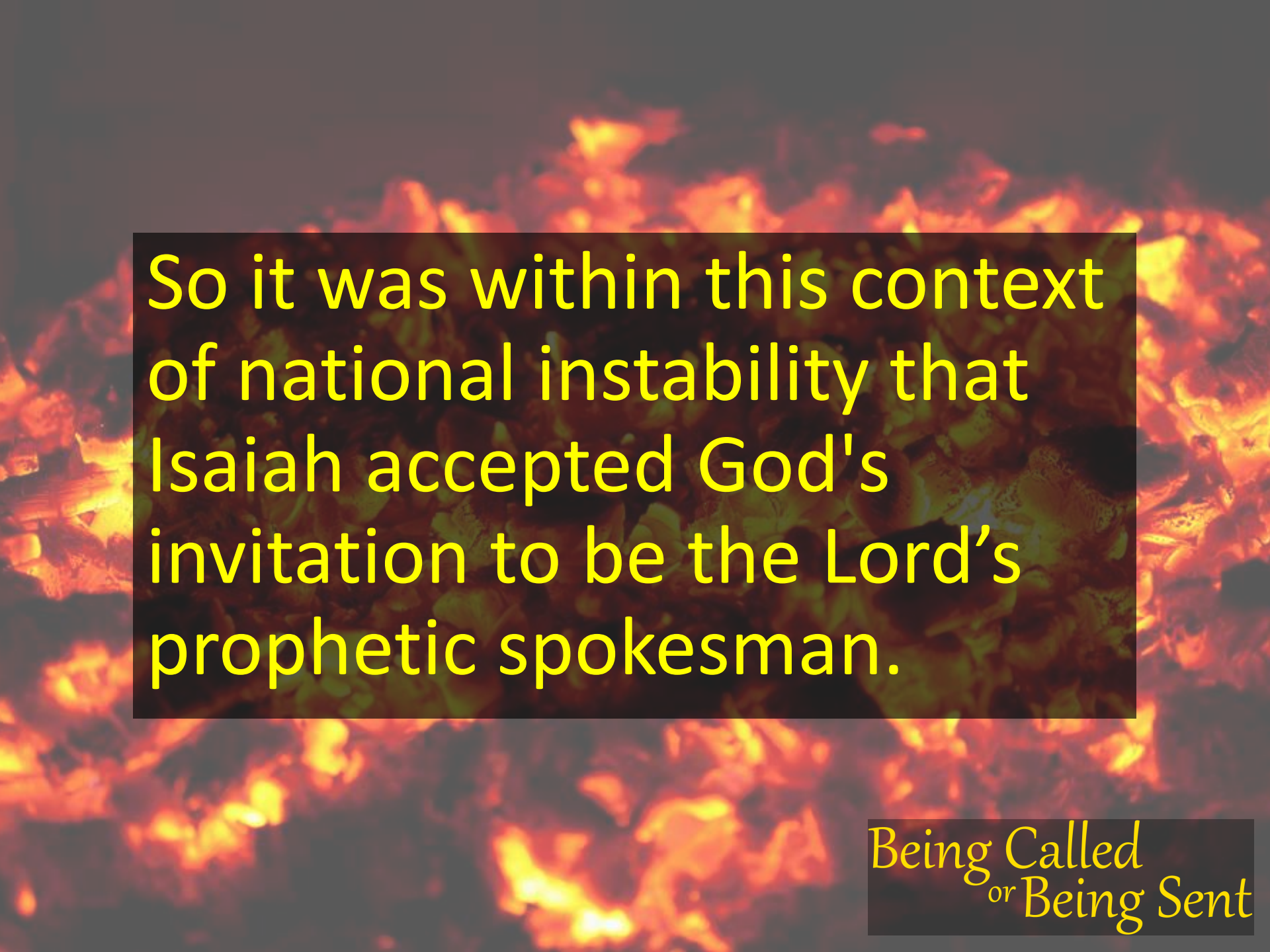


As a result of this change in leadership, there was increasing uncertainty about the future stability of the nation.

Being Called
or Being Sent

There was a lack of confidence in new leadership, but there was also growing concern over consolidation of power in surrounding lands under Assyria's king, Tiglath-pileser III, who came to power in 745.

Being Called
or Being Sent



So it was within this context of national instability that Isaiah accepted God's invitation to be the Lord's prophetic spokesman.

Being Called
or Being Sent



Understanding the Calling of Isaiah

Being Called
or Being Sent

These are difficult circumstances. To suggest that when the Lord called Isaiah to serve as a prophet, he heroically responded without any hesitation would not be fair to the narrative of Isaiah or us.

Being Called
or Being Sent

But Isaiah didn't have an easy time accepting this call or carrying it out. Even though in the end Isaiah agrees to speak on behalf of the Lord, he starts out with some hesitation.

Being Called
or Being Sent

He says, sort of like Moses,
“Woe is me! Pick someone
else! I’m not worthy! I am
lost. I am a man of unclean
lips, and I live among a people
of unclean lips” (Isaiah 6:4).

Being Called
or Being Sent



So in his initial response, at least,
he's not all that confident that
he's the right man for the job.

Being Called
or Being Sent



Isaiah's Backstory

Being Called
or Being Sent

Isaiah 6:5

I said, "Mourn for me; I'm ruined! I'm a man with unclean lips, and I live among a people with unclean lips. Yet I've seen the king, the Lord of heavenly forces!"

Being Called
or Being Sent

Isaiah 6:6

Then one of the winged creatures flew to me, holding a glowing coal that he had taken from the altar with tongs.

Being Called
or Being Sent



Isaiah's Hesitance

Being Called
or Being Sent



God's Response to Isaiah

Being Called
or Being Sent

Isaiah 6:7

He touched my mouth
and said, "See, this has
touched your lips. Your
guilt has departed, and
your sin is removed."

Being Called
or Being Sent

Isaiah 6:8

Then I heard the Lord's voice saying, "Whom should I send, and who will go for us?" I said, "I'm here; send me."

Being Called
or Being Sent



So What?

Being Called
or Being Sent




When God calls us, how
will we respond?

Being Called
or Being Sent



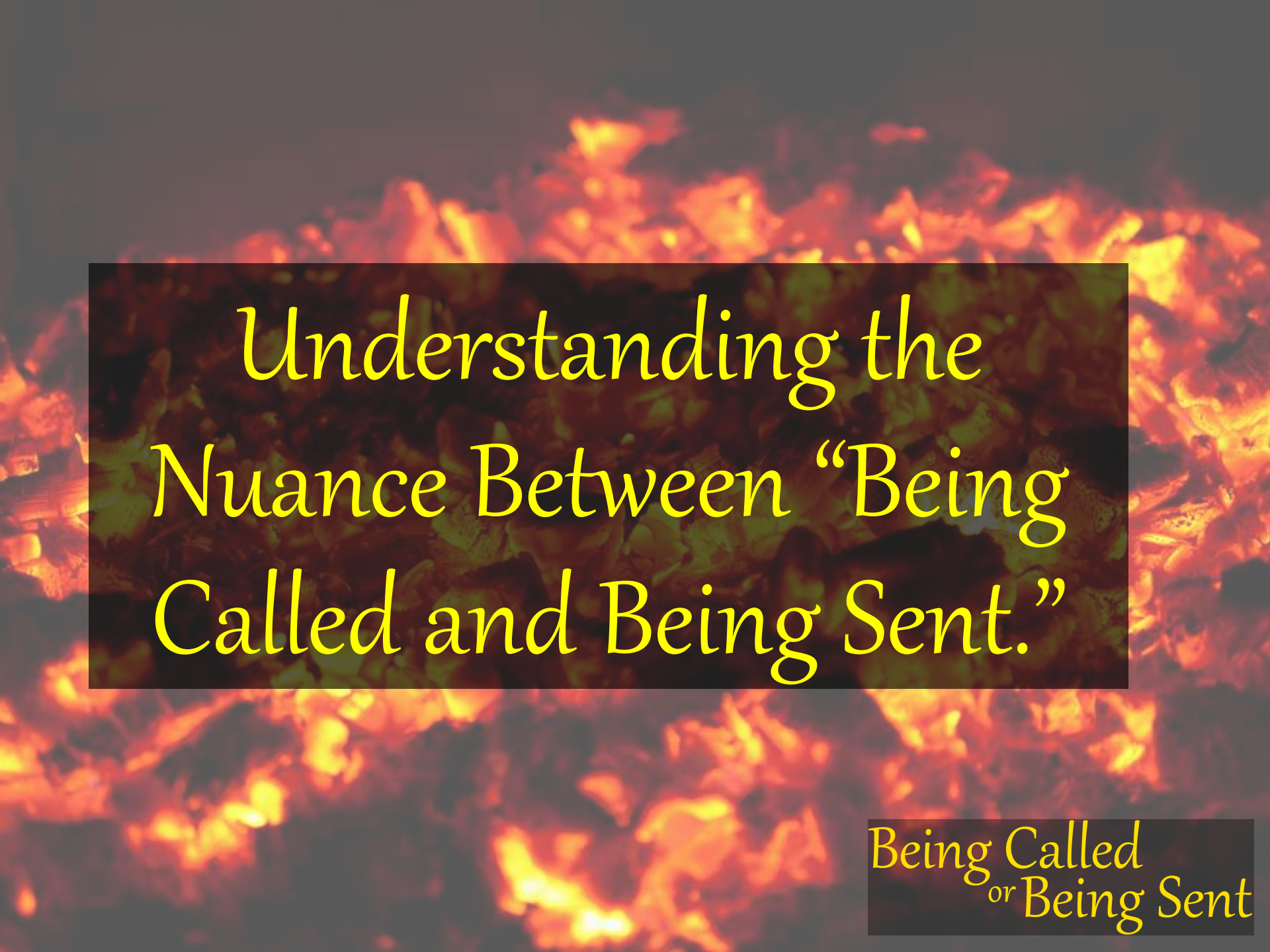
If God calls us, God will
prepare us.

Being Called
or Being Sent



When God prepares us, God will send us. Not when we say we are ready, when God says it is time to go.

Being Called
or Being Sent



Understanding the Nuance Between “Being Called and Being Sent.”

Being Called
or Being Sent



Understanding this in the
United Methodist Tradition.

Being Called
or Being Sent



It's a “Both...And”

Being Called
or Being Sent




Next Week...

*Being Called
or Being Sent*



Extraordinary Power



*And all of God's
people said, "Amen."*

*Being Called
or Being Sent*