

**ISAIAH, PART 1 (JUDGMENT – BUT HOPE)
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SERIES: Isaiah, Part 1 (Judgment – But Hope)

TITLE: Program 12 – Becoming God-Conscious

TUESDAY

OPEN

Do you know what it's like to walk in the pleasure of God? Do you know what it's like to have that glorious glorious sense that God is pleased with you and that you are so wrapped up in Him that nothing else matters? And whatever comes your way you know you can handle it, because walking in the presence of God is experiencing the power of God. We'll talk about it today.

PART ONE

There was a time in the history of Israel when they really sensed the manifest presence of God. They watched God go before them. They watched God protect them. But now something's changed in Israel's history. Now they're living in the prosperous days of Uzziah. Now they have turned away from God in their prosperity and in their pride and they've lifted themselves up. They have forgotten about holiness. They're having parties and they're drinking and drink has so overcome them that many of them are waking and

the first thing in the morning, what they need is a good ol' drink. And what they want at night is another drink and another drink and another drink as they party. The women are caught up in themselves. They walk around projecting their sexuality, showing their good looking clothes and the tinkling of the bracelets on their hands and on their feet and they walk with mincing steps. (See Isaiah 3:16) It's sad really. This is a people who live in the presence of God. His Shekinah glory is there over the temple. They can see the cloud by day. They can see the pillar of fire by night. And yet they are against the Lord. They're against the Lord by their actions. They're against the Lord by their words. Listen to what Isaiah chapter 3 says. He says in verse 8, **"For Jerusalem has stumbled...Judah has fallen, because their speech and their actions are against the LORD, to rebel against His glorious presence. The expression [on] their faces bears witness against them...they display their sin like Sodom; they do not even conceal it. Woe to them! For they have brought...,**" listen carefully, **"...evil [upon] themselves. Say to the righteous...it will go well with them, for they will eat the fruit of their actions. [But] woe to the wicked! It will go badly [for] him, for what he deserves will be done to him."** (Isaiah 3:8-11) Not all in Jerusalem were rebelling against God. There was a righteous remnant. There was a group that feared God. There was a group that looked to that temple mount and saw that cloud by day, saw that pillar of fire by night and knew that in Him they lived and moved and had their being. And yet, they were caught up in the midst of what it says in Philippians chapter 2, **"...a crooked and perverse generation...."** (Philippians 2:15) So God is going to do something. God is going to remove from them His manifest presence. This will be the first time in their history since they left the land of Egypt. I want us to look at several Scriptures, Precious One. They're listed in your study guide. And by the way, if you want to know how you can get your free study guide. You can go to preceptsforlife.com, preceptsforlife.com and there you can download

that free study guide and study along with me. All right, now let's look at some Scriptures. Exodus chapter 13 is where I want you to begin. And what I want you to see is that these people had experienced the manifest presence of God. In Exodus chapter 13 in verse 21 we read, **“The LORD was going before them in a pillar of cloud by day to lead them on the way, and in a pillar of fire by night to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day, not the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.” (Exodus 13:21-22)** In other words, as they journeyed through that wilderness, as they left Egypt, the land where they had been in bondage, after they left the dominion of Pharaoh where they had been slaves, now they are following God and they know that it is God. And they know that His manifest presence is with them. And wherever they go, here is the One who delivered them from the power of all Egypt and drowned Pharaoh and his Egyptian army in the sea. Here is this God going before them, and He does not leave them. And you say, “Well, what's the parallel?” The parallel is, you don't have a pillar of cloud; you don't have a pillar of fire; you have the very Spirit of God living inside of you. Every single Christian, every single believer has been immersed, identified with, united with the Holy Spirit of God. You are sealed by the Spirit of God until the day of your redemption. Hebrews says, **“...[He] will never leave [you] nor forsake [you]. So that [you can] boldly say, the Lord is my helper...I will not fear what man [will] do unto me.”** (Hebrews 13:5-6) You say, “Well then, why sweat it? I can live any way I want and know that God is with me.” Oh no. If that's your attitude I wonder if God has ever revealed Himself to you as He really is, and if you've ever really believed. Because if you are a true child of God there is a hunger, there is a thirst for righteousness. Remember among these children of Israel there were those that were righteous. So now watch. I want you to go from there to Exodus chapter 40. Now what happens in Exodus chapter 40 is, they build the tabernacle. And when they finish building the tabernacle, when

they get all the furniture and everything ready, chapter 40 tells you how it is all put into place. And as you read chapter 40 it says in verse, ah in chapter 40, in verse 17, **“Now in the first month of the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected.”** And it says in verse 19, **“He spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent on top of it, just as the Lord had commanded Moses.”** (Exodus 40:17, 19) That is a key repeated phrase from this point on to the end of the chapter. “Moses did just as the Lord commanded him.” And he’s erecting this tabernacle. Now watch what it says in verse 29, **“[And] he set the altar of burnt offering....”** I want you to remember that for when we get into Isaiah 6. **“...Before the doorway of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting, and offered on it the burnt offering and the meal offering, just as the Lord had commanded Moses.”** (Exodus 40:29) They erected, they offer the sacrifice. The coals on the altar of burnt offering are burning up the sacrifice. And then you come down to verse 34, **“Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.”** (Exodus 40:34) The glory of the Lord was ever present in that tabernacle. And he goes on to say this, **“Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it....”** The cloud, I want you to remember that. **“...And the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.”** (Exodus 40:35) God was there in His manifest presence. **“Throughout all their journeys [wherever] the cloud was taken up [off of] the tabernacle, the sons of Israel would set out; but if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out until the day when it was taken up.”** (Exodus 40:36-37) They stopped. They rested. But then when they saw the cloud move, then it was time to get up. And when they got up then they began to follow God. It was the presence of God with them. Now look at verse 38. **“For throughout all their journeys, the cloud of the Lord was on the tabernacle by day, and there was fire in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel.”** (Exodus 40:38) 1 Kings chapter 8, and this is very important, and you’ll see

and appreciate it even more when we get to Isaiah chapter 6. But in 1 Kings chapter 8, in verse 10, Solomon has built the temple now. They have made the sacrifices. And it says, “[And] **it happened that when the priests came from the holy place, the cloud filled the house of the LORD, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house....**” (1 Kings 8:10-11) The glory of the Lord filled the house. They could not stand. God’s presence was there. But then something happens and His presence is taken away. Why? Because He’s a holy God, because He’s a righteous God, because His holiness and His righteousness demand that sin be judged. If you want to know and see God in His holiness, then you have to see Him in His judgment, because what He shows you, Precious One, is that “I will not abide, I will not manifest Myself in the presence of all this sin.” We’ll look at it in just a minute, and you don’t want to miss it.

PART TWO

What an awesome book you and I are studying! When we look at Isaiah, you and I can get a glimpse of what it is to walk and experience the presence of the Lord; to know His blessing on our life. Sometimes God shows us these things by showing the awfulness of not experiencing His blessing.

Remember I told you in the first part of the program that God was going to remove His presence. How do you see that in Isaiah? You only see that in Isaiah by looking at Isaiah chapter 4 and following what he is saying about the cloud of His presence. Let’s look at it, because in the middle of all of this, when he’s talking about judgment, what we have is God taking us to the future, taking us to the last of the last days and sharing with us in Isaiah chapter 4. **“In that day the Branch of the LORD will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth will be the pride and the adornment of the survivors of Israel. It will come about that he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy....”** (Isaiah 4:2-3)

Remember we saw that there was a group of righteous people. There was a group who did not rebel against His glorious presence. And now these are the ones. He's saying "There is a faithful remnant." And he says, "[They] **will be called holy—everyone who [was] recorded for life in Jerusalem. When the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and purged the bloodshed of Jerusalem from her midst, by the spirit of judgment and the spirit of burning, then...,**" now watch the phrase. You want to mark it. This is what we teach you to do as you get your study guide is mark the references to time, so put a green clock over it. **"Then the LORD will create over the whole area of Mount Zion and...her assemblies a cloud by day [and] even smoke, and the brightness of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory will be a canopy."** (Isaiah 4:3-5) Do you appreciate that much more now? What have we done? We've connected the dots. And you see the importance of studying God's Word and getting truth precept upon precept upon precept so that you build. It's a progressive revelation. And what you see here is "then" the LORD is going to bring back the cloud, "then" the LORD is going to bring back the fire. And there's going to be a canopy over all the glory of the LORD. The glory of the LORD is His Shekinah glory; His glory in the cloud, His glory in the fire. Well you say, "I thought it stayed with them. It stayed with them since they left Egypt." That's right. But if we jump over to Ezekiel, and I want you to go to Ezekiel chapter 10, if we jump over to Ezekiel what we see is, we see following Isaiah's time and before they are taken into captivity, the cloud leaves; the fire leaves. Now Ezekiel "Yehezquel" is the way that you pronounce it if you're in Israel, but Ezekiel is a man who is part of the priesthood. He's part of the tribe of Levi. He is to do temple service. But what happens under the second siege of Jerusalem, 10,000 people are taken captive and Ezekiel is among them. He never gets to carry out his temple service. It must have been a great disappointment. And yet God gives him revelations. God gives him insight. God lets him see a temple that is yet to

come and what's going to happen in it. And God does that because here is a man who is righteous. Going into captivity what God has done is God has spared him from His hammer, His rod of judgment that He's going to bring down on the city of Jerusalem and on the kingdom of Judah because of their rebellion against God; the hammer of the Babylonians. Babylon today is modern-day Iraq. Okay, so in chapter 10 it says, **"Then I looked, and behold...the expanse that was over the heads of the cherubim something like...sapphire [and] stone, in appearance resembling a throne, appeared above them. And He spoke to the man clothed in linen and said, 'Enter between the whirling wheels under the cherubim...fill your hands with coals of fire from between the cherubim and scatter them over the city....'"** Scatter them over Jerusalem. It's a judgment from God. **"...And he entered in my sight. Now the cherubim were standing on the right side of the temple when the man entered, and the cloud...filled the inner court...."** The cloud was supposed to be over the Holy of Holies. But the cloud is moving. Watch what it says. **"Then the glory of the LORD [the cloud] went up from the cherub to the threshold of the temple, and the temple was filled with the cloud and the court...with the brightness of the glory of the LORD. Moreover, the sound[s] of the wings of the cherubim was heard as far as the outer court...."** (Ezekiel 10:1-5) [With the brightness,] **"...and the court was filled with the brightness of the glory of the LORD."** (Ezekiel 10:4) Now go to verse 18. And this is what it says, **"Then the glory of the LORD departed from the threshold of the temple and stood over the cherubim."** (Ezekiel 10:18) And in verse 19 it says, **"When the cherubim departed, they lifted their wings...rose...from the earth in my sight with the wheels beside them; and they stood...at the entrance of the east gate of the LORD's house...."** (Ezekiel 10:19) The glory of the LORD is leaving the temple for the first time. Look at chapter 11, verse 22. **"Then the cherubim lifted up their wings with the wheels beside them, and the glory of the [Lord]**

hovered over them. [And] the glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city and stood over the mountain which is east of the city.” (Ezekiel 11:22-23) That is the Mount of Olives. That’s the direction of the east. That’s where the Eastern Gate looked to the Mount of Olives. This is where the glory of the Lord departed. And do you know that that glory stayed away and will not return until Jesus comes again to reign as King of kings? In Ezekiel chapter 43 we read about the return of the glory of the Lord, **“Then he led me to the gate, the gate facing toward the east; and behold, the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the way of the east. And His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory. And it was like the appearance of the vision which I saw...when He came to destroy the city. And the visions were like the vision which I saw [over] the river...and I fell on my face. And the glory of the LORD came into the house by the way of the gate facing toward the east.” (Ezekiel 43:1-4)** The manifest presence of God was returning. Precious One, it was returning because sin was taken care of and the King was coming to reign again in all His glory. And what about you? The glory of the Lord has appeared in you, His manifest presence. We’ll talk about it in our next program.