

ISAIAH, PART 1 (JUDGMENT – BUT HOPE)
PROGRAM 26 (#911071)
WEEK 6 (#911315)
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SERIES: Isaiah, Part 1 (Judgment – But Hope)

TITLE: Program 26 – The Oracles To The Nations

MONDAY

OPEN

Have you ever stopped and thought about the future of those who do not believe in the God who is the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David and Jesus? What about those people? If I don't believe in that God does that then make me exempt from the consequences of not believing? We're going to talk about it today. It's a matter of life and death.

PART ONE

Well, my friend, we have come to a new segment in the book of Isaiah. It's a very very important segment. It has to do with the future, a very sure future. And what's going to happen this week is you are going to get a glimpse into what happens to a person after we die. So many times we think, "Okay death is annihilation. That's it. It's over." But Isaiah has something to tell us about what happens after we die. But also this week what we're going to do is we're going to look at the question I gave you and get the answer from the Word of God. Can I, if I do not believe in Jesus Christ, if I am not a Jew, if I

am not a Christian? Let's say I'm a Muslim. Let's say I'm a Hindu. Let's say I'm a Buddhist. If I say I don't believe in the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David and Jesus, if I say I don't believe in Him, then therefore I'm not going to suffer any consequences. It's not going to matter to me. Is that true? It's not true and you and I are going to see as we move into this new segment of Isaiah that God has a message for the whole world, for every human being on the face of this earth, for mortal man who walks the breathe and the scope of the face of the earth. God has a message for them. So many times we think, "Okay, I don't believe. I'm not going to go there. I'm all right, so whatever I hear is coming like Armageddon or whatever, doesn't pertain to me because I don't believe." That's true if God is only a God of the Jew, if God is only the God of the Christian. But if He is the Creator of the heavens and the earth, if He holds the life of man in His hands, the breath of man is put by God into his nostrils, then Precious One, you better listen. You better listen. You say, "But I already believe." Well, you may already believe, but do you know how to talk to those who do not believe? Let's look at Isaiah chapter 13, through chapter 23. And what we have in this segment is we have God's oracles to the nations. As a matter of fact when you open up Isaiah chapter 13 you have come to a new segment, that is marked by the words of the fact that this is an oracle. Isaiah chapter 13, **"The oracle concerning Babylon which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw."** (Isaiah 13:1) And then when you come to Isaiah chapter 14, in verse 28 it says, **"In the year that King Ahaz died this oracle came: 'Do not rejoice, O Philistia, all of you....'"** (Isaiah 14:28-29) And so there is a word to Philistia. When you come to 15 it says, **"The oracle concerning Moab...."** (Isaiah 15:1) And then when you come to chapter 17 it's **"The oracle concerning Damascus...."** (Isaiah 17:1) Now it is very important for you and I to understand as we begin this segment what God is doing. In Isaiah chapter 1 through 5 God has been talking to Judah. God has been talking to Jerusalem about their sin. God has been talking to the whole nation of Israel because

they have rebelled against the God who is their Father, the God who raised them, the God who brought them up. And they have walked their own way. Oh yes, they've stayed religious. They've gone through all the forms and all the rituals, but their heart is far away from God. Among that group there is a faithful remnant. The word "remnant" is not used at that point, but there is a group of people there that are not unrighteous, but are righteous. In the midst of all this rebellion and revolting against God there is an element that really want to know God and really want to walk with God. In Isaiah chapter 6 Isaiah sees the Lord high and lifted up. (See Isaiah 6:1) When Isaiah sees the Lord Isaiah sees his sin. (See Isaiah 6:5) He confesses his sin. His sin is purged. It's taken away. And then he hears the voice of the Lord. And the voice of the Lord is saying, "Who will go, who can we send, who can I send for Us?" (See Isaiah 6:6-8) And Isaiah says, "**...Here am I [Lord]. Send me!**" (Isaiah 6:8) So He tells him, [You're going to go and you're going to speak to these people and tell them, you're hearing, but you're not hearing. You're seeing, but you're not seeing. You are not taking the word that is being delivered to you and acting on it, living in the light of it.] (PARAPHRASE Isaiah 6:9-10) And He says [You are to go with this message until, and this is very important, until there is no one left in the cities.] (PARAPHRASE Isaiah 6:11) So He is talking about a total destruction of Jerusalem, because Isaiah chapter 1 tells us that this is "**The vision [that] Isaiah the son of Amoz...saw during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah....**" (Isaiah 1:1) And so he is bringing this message to the Southern Kingdom. Now in Isaiah chapter 1 through 5 He talks about an enemy of Israel, and that enemy of Israel is Assyria. And he talks about how He is going to deal with Assyria. He also, in chapters 1 to 5, gives them a glimpse of when all the nations in the earth are going to come up to Zion and they are going to worship God. They're going to take their swords and they're going to beat them into plowshares and there they're going to live in peace. (See Isaiah 2:2 & 4) So in Isaiah chapter 6 God tells

Isaiah now you go and you bring this message, and you bring this message until all the cities are uninhabited. (See Isaiah 6:11) And then He's going to do it again to Jerusalem. But remember this: there is a holy seed; there is a remnant. So in chapter 6 we have Isaiah's commission to go and to be faithful and to bring this message even though they, for the most part, are not going to accept it. In Isaiah chapter 7 through Isaiah chapter 12 we move into a period of history. It's the time of Ahaz. Ahaz is the king of the Southern Kingdom, the kingdom of Judah. He is sitting on the throne of David. He is part of the house of David. (See Isaiah 7:1) God made a promise to David. And the promise that God made to David was called a covenant, a Davidic covenant. And He promised David that he would always have an heir to sit on his throne, as long as that king listened to Him and kept His commandments. It was a promise not just for an earthly king, but eventually it was the promise of the Messiah, the Anointed One who would come and who would sit on the throne of David forever, forever and ever. Now Isaiah comes to Ahaz. He delivers him the message because Ahaz is shaking and he's full of fear. And he's full of fear because, Rezin, the king of Aram is sitting outside the gates and also the king of the Northern Kingdom Pekah is sitting outside the gates. And so they're threatening to come against Jerusalem. (See Isaiah 7:1-4) Isaiah's message is this, [Look, those two fire brands are going to be gone. They are just smoke. They are not going to come and they're not going to get you. You are going to be all right. Don't fear them.] Then he makes a statement, [If you will not believe what I'm saying though, you will not be established.] (PARAPHRASE Isaiah 7:9) Well we know that Ahaz does not believe. We know that Ahaz turns, he hires Assyria. Look at the map that you have, look to the northeast of Jerusalem, the northeast of the land of Israel, and you see big old Assyria up there. So he calls for the king of Assyria to come and to help him, but it's going to backfire. Now what is Ahaz doing? He is not believing God. All this time there are three prophecies that are given. We looked at those in the

last week of study. We looked at the prophecy of a virgin will conceive and His name will be Immanuel, God with us. We saw that a child would be born and that the government would be upon His shoulders, that He would sit on the seat of David and that His throne would endure forever. (See Isaiah 9:6-7) So we saw that, okay. And then we also saw that there was a root, a shoot, and a branch from Jesse. In other words, that was going to rule and that eventually all the nations of the earth would resort to that root, to that shoot, to that branch, to Jesus Christ. (See Isaiah 11:10) So that's what we've seen so far in Isaiah. But now what God is doing is He is saying, "Hey, hey I want you to look beyond this. I want you to go farther. I want you to see the future." And He is going to present to them the name of a country, the name of a people, the name of a city that is going to eventually destroy them. It is the name "Babylon." And so as He begins these oracles He is showing Israel, yes, this prophecy from Isaiah concerns Judah and Jerusalem. But it also concerns every other nation in the world according to the way that they relate to Israel, according to the way they relate to Judah and Jerusalem. So all the ranting that you hear from the heads of different countries, for instance, the head of Iran against Israel, God is hearing, and God has a word for them, and God has a word for you. We'll see it when we come back.

PART TWO

Well Beloved, I have brought you up to date now on Isaiah. We have reviewed, and I just want you to know that review is such an important part of the process of learning. If you're going to remember something you need to review, review, review. What you and I are doing is so very very important. You're studying a book of the Bible that is not easy to study. And I'm teaching a book of the Bible that is not easy to teach, unless I'm just going to pick an inspirational message from here and from here. But that's not the purpose of "Precepts for Life." The purpose of "Precepts for Life" is

to teach you to discover truth for yourself so that you know the whole counsel of God, so that you are not, “...**tossed to and fro [by] every wind of doctrine....**” (Ephesians 4:14) and so that you respect God. Because this Book is God’s book. God has spoken. He has given you 66 books in the Bible and He wants you to know and understand those 66 books. So you and I on “Precepts for Life” learn the Bible, a book at a time. Now we’re not going straight through, but I’m teaching you the books that God is laying on my heart for you for this time in history because I believe that they’re so important. And I really want you to understand the book of Isaiah. I want you to understand every book of the Bible. That’s why I want you to go to our website, if you haven’t gone there yet, “preceptsforlife.com”, “preceptsforlife.com” and I want you to go there because we have a gift for you. We have a study guide that is absolutely free that you can download. Now we’re entering a new segment of Isaiah and you just might want to put in the margin of Isaiah chapter 13 “The oracles regarding the nations.” The oracles or the burdens, some translations will say “burdens regarding the nations.” And this is from chapter 13 to 23. It’s ten chapters long. All right now, as you look at this you’ve got to know that God has a message for the world. And you and I are part of the world. And most of us do not live in Israel. Most of us are not citizens of Israel. We are Gentiles. But has God got a message for us? Oh yes He does. Now what He does is when He starts this message His first message is to Babylon. This is the first time that He’s mentioned Babylon in the book of Isaiah, the first time He’s called those words. They know that there’s a place called Babylon. They that there’s a country, a people called the Chaldeans, the Babylonians. They know that they’re over there on the eastern fringes of Assyria, their present enemy and that they are keeping and holding the border of Assyria because the Assyrians are a military machine. I mean a military machine. They go in and they mutilate and they impale and they roast their victims. They take them captive. They take them out of the land. They scattered them around. They

are a fierce people. These are the people that they've been fearing. But now, now God opens His mouth and He gives them an oracle concerning Babylon. What is He going to say? Well listen, if you'll hang in there with me, if you'll study with me all week, if you'll be here day after day, and if you miss a day, if you'll get the CD's of the program, just go to "preceptsforlife.com", and you can order them. But if you will do that you're going to understand what is yet future to you, so, and future to us, but really on the horizon. When you think "Babylon" and if you've downloaded your study guide you have a wonderful map there. When you think "Babylon" you've got to think Iraq, present day Iraq. It's not going to go away. It's going to be a major power when Jesus Christ, the Son of God returns to take control of the whole world. It says, **"The oracle concerning Babylon which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw. Lift up a standard on [a] bare hill...."** (Isaiah 13:1-2) In other words, don't go to a hill that is full of trees. I want you to go to a bare hill, and when you get to that bare hill I want you to lift up a standard, lift up a banner. Now one of the names of God is "Jehovah, Jehovah-Nissi," God our banner. So he says, "Go up there, put that flag up." Do you remember the statue of the raising of the American flag at Iwo Jima? It's like that. So He says, "I want you to do that." And He says, "[I want you to] **wave the hand that they may enter the doors of the noble [ones].**" He says, **"I have commanded...."** God is speaking, **"...My consecrated ones, I have even called My mighty warriors...."** (Isaiah 13:2-3) Now in this chapter, at this point, He's not telling us who these mighty warriors are. He's not telling us who these consecrated ones are. But what He's saying is, "I have a group of people that I am going to use to perform My work." And then He goes on to say, **"My proudly exulting ones...."** These are not humble men that He's going to use, **"...To execute My anger."** (Isaiah 13:3) God is speaking. Now when I come to "the anger of God" I just swirl a red fine point pen and then I color it yellow because yellow is my color for God. So He's got these warriors coming. He says, **"A**

sound of tumult on the mountains, like that of many people! A sound of the uproar of kingdoms, of nations gathered together...!” (Isaiah 13:4)
You can hear the noise. You can hear the clamor. You can hear the swords. You can hear the shouting and it’s a den of all these nations that are gathered together. It says, **“...The Lord of hosts is mustering the army for battle. They are coming from a far country...,”** It says, **“...From the farthest horizons, the Lord and His instruments of indignation....” (Isaiah 13:4-5)** Now remember God is angry and He is going to judge who, Babylon, in His anger. So He is mustering an army against Babylon. Now listen to me very carefully. I’ve got to tell you this now because I want you to remember it for tomorrow. But what He’s talking about is He’s not talking about today. He’s not talking about several years from now when He’s giving this oracle. What He’s doing is He is talking about the future that is yet to come. And you and I are standing here and on one side of us is this prophecy of Babylon and it’s around let’s say, around the year 715 B.C. We’re living now and it is still yet future. And He’s telling you about a battle that is to come, a battle that is going to be against Iraq, against Babylon. And then He says, **“The Lord and His instruments of indignation...,”** now listen carefully, **“...to destroy the whole land. Wail, for the day of the Lord is near! It will come as a destruction from the Almighty.” (Isaiah 13:5-6)** And who will it come on? Everyone on the earth. We’ll talk about it in the days to come.