

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

TITLE: Program 29 – Life After Death

THURSDAY

OPEN

Do the dead live? What do I mean by that? I mean, when this heart stops beating, when breath ceases to come into the body to be inhaled and exhaled, when everything is quiet in the body, do the dead still live? Do they know anything? Is that the end of it all? O Beloved, we have the answers in God's Word and we'll get them today.

PART ONE

Do the dead live? Will they ever see the light of day again? Will there be a morning? Will there be an evening? What happens when we die? It is so exciting as you study the Word of God, as you delve into the text, as you begin to discover truth for yourself, to see the tidbits of truth, the jewels, the treasures, the insights that we get into life and into life after death as we go through the Word of God. It is an amazing place to find these truths that give us understanding into life after death. As we study this oracle that God has given, this burden that He has regarding Babylon. Now remember, in Isaiah

chapter 13 and 14, what we have is one oracle. It's not the last time we're going to hear about Babylon. But it is the oracle that tells us of the destruction of Babylon; the destruction of Babylon and the fate of the king of Babylon. We have looked at Isaiah 13. We have looked at it in connection with Revelation chapter 17 and 18. We have drawn a timeline. We have a piece of paper with our proverbial straight line on it. We have a cloud coming down and we have a throne at the foot of that cloud on planet earth, showing that Christ has come to take His reign. To reign in Mt. Zion as it even says in Isaiah chapter 2. We see now that this is not the end of time, but there is more to come. There is more to come, for Israel. We know that this Day of the Lord is a day that not only comes on the earth, but it comes on Israel also. We know from Zechariah chapter 14 that all the nations gather together against Jerusalem, and they go up, and they in essence, rape the city. They rape the houses. They rape the wives. They steal from them and it's a terrible, terrible time. But then we read about the Lord coming in Zechariah chapter 14. And we read how He rules as king over all the earth. But in Isaiah chapter 13, he talks to us about the destruction of Babylon during the Day of the Lord, when God judges the whole earth, we know what happens to Israel after that. Isaiah chapter 14; this is where I would like you to open your Bible and let's look and see what he has to say to us, because this is very important. You say, "But I wanna know about those people that are dead, are they gonna live again?" Well the answer's right here in Isaiah chapter 14. So Isaiah chapter 14, verse 1: **"When the Lord will have compassion on Jacob...."** (Isaiah 14:1) Now remember, Jacob is another name for Israel. It says, **"...and again choose Israel, and settle them in their own land, then strangers will join them and attach themselves to the house of Jacob."** (Isaiah 14:1) Now let's just stop with that one verse. So many times what happens is, we read a verse and we just keep reading and we don't stop and think. We don't stop and digest: "What've we just read? What has God said to us?" We read a bunch of

words and we move on, but the thing that inductive Bible study does is, it causes you to slow down and to observe the text—to discover “What does the word say? What is God saying?” Remember, these are the words of God. They’re not the words of man. This is not a book of human wisdom. It is not a book of history recorded simply by mortal “...**man, whose breath is in his nostrils**” (Isaiah 2:22, KJV) No, these are the very words of God that God has caused man as He has superintended him to write them down. [Holy men of God have spoken as they have been moved by the Spirit of God.] (PARAPHRASE, 2 Peter 1:21) The scripture is not of man’s own devising. He didn’t say, “Oh, I think I’ll sit down and write a book. I’ll call it Isaiah, and this is what I’ll do in it.” No, the Holy Spirit moved upon them. So the Scripture is not of man’s own devising, but holy men of God moved by the Spirit spoke as from God. They spoke, they wrote down the words. That’s what 2 Peter chapter 1 tells us, and that’s what you and I are seeing now. So let’s stop and observe the text. This is why this program, exists to teach you how to discover truth for yourself: To teach you the Word of God precept upon precept. Because “...[through His] **precepts** [you] **get understanding and...**[you] **hate every false way.** (Psalms 119:104) Through His precepts you learn how to walk and how to live and how to relate to God and to man. How to be the wife, the mother, the son, the daughter, the employee, the employer, you learn all of that in the Word of God. But you learn most of all how to honor God. Well you honor Him by looking at His every word. So one of the things you want to do is, you want to draw a green circle over every reference for “time.” Now remember, when the Bible was written, it was not written in chapters and verses. Those came later so that you and I could find our way, and say, “Oh, look at this verse,” and we could tell you where it is. So he says, “**When the Lord will have compassion on Jacob and again choose Israel....**” (Isaiah 14:1) He has just finished telling us about the destruction of Babylon. He has told us about how Babylon will not be inhabited anymore, it’s a total wasteland as a

result of God's judgment. But then he tells us that [God is going to have compassion on Jacob and He is again going to choose Israel, and when He does, and He settles them in His own land—in their own "land."] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 14:1) So double underline it. The Land of Canaan does not belong to the PLO, and I'm not being mean. It belongs to the children of Israel because it belongs to God. And God tells us it is His land and He gives it to whomever He wishes. And so you have marked "when," you have marked "again." They are time phrases. That's what the green circle's a symbol of. You have marked "them." **"...Strangers will join them...."** then strangers will join Jacob or Israel, the Israelites, **"...and attach themselves to the house of Jacob."** (Isaiah 14:1) So he's saying, when this happens, it says: **"The peoples will take them along...."** The peoples will come and take along the Israelites, **"...and bring them to their place...."** (Isaiah 14:2) He's going to get them and they're going to bring them home. What is their place? It's their own land. It's the Land of Canaan, or Canaan, the Land of Israel. It says, **"...And bring them to their place, and the house of Israel will possess them as an inheritance...."** (Isaiah 14:2) These people from the other nations, Israel is now going to own. It's going to be an inheritance. I know that we don't like the days of slavery, but it gives us an illustration that when one family member died, many times in their will they bequeath to their family members certain slaves. And so what he's saying here is, **"...Israel [is going to] possess [these people] as an inheritance...."** where? **"...In the land of the Lord...."** In the land of the Lord—it's the Lord's land. **"...As male servants and female servants...."** (Isaiah 14:2) In other words, the world is now going to serve Israel. You may not like that. You may have hated the Jews. That hatred is from the enemy. You have believed a lie. But if you have done that and you have hated the Jews, you can know this: That someday the people that took them captive are going to become their servants. It says, **"...And they will take [the Jews will take] their captors captive and will rule over their**

oppressors.” (Isaiah 14:2) In other words, Israel, who became the tail because of their disobedience, is going to become the head because God has dealt with sin and there is a faithful remnant. Now watch what he says and remember “remnant” is a very important word, and we have started marking it in Isaiah, in that segment of chapter 6 all the way through chapter 12. All right, and it says in verse 3: **“And it will be in the day...,”** “in the day”—time phrase again. Put a circle over day. Put a little squiggly green line over “in the time,” or however you want to mark it, just get a green circle and a squiggly line. **“And it will be in the day when the LORD gives you rest from your pain and turmoil and harsh service [he says] in which you have been enslaved, that you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon, and say....” (Isaiah 14:3-4)** Now what has he just told us? Well on your chart, go beyond Jesus’ coming and setting up His kingdom and extend the line. Because this is the day of Israel’s rest. The Bible numbers it as, literally, a thousand years. It does it six times in seven verses in Revelation chapter 20, verses 1 through 7. So when Christ returns, then He will again bring Jacob back into his own land. (See Isaiah 14:1) The peoples of the world will bring those Jews back. Those Jews that once served them are now going to be served by their captors. (See Isaiah 14:2) And he is saying that He is giving them rest. And in that day of rest, it says, in that day, **“... you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon...,”** **(Isaiah 14:4)** and it is that dirge, Beloved, that answers the question: Can the dead live? And that’s what we’re going to look at next.

PART TWO

Will the dead live? That’s our question. That’s what we opened up this program with, and what do they know? What happens to you when you die? Well as they **“...take up this taunt against the king of Babylon...,”** we find out what happens when they die. **(Isaiah 14:4)** It’s so neat, I love it! Because here, like in no other scripture in the Old Testament do we really

see in great depth, what the dead are doing once they die. So let's open our Bibles again to Isaiah chapter 14. And it says in verse 4: "[Then] **you will take up this taunt against...**" or this proverb against, **"...the king of Babylon, and say, 'How the oppressor has ceased....'"** (Isaiah 14:4) Now the "oppressor" is a synonym for the king of Babylon. **"...How fury has ceased!"** (Isaiah 14:4) This oppression has stopped. This fury has ceased. **"The Lord has broken the staff..."**, that's what they rule with, so to speak, the staff **"...of the wicked..."** (Isaiah 14:5) So you have just found out that this king of Babylon is wicked. That he is an oppressor and that he-ee is a man of fury. It says, **"The Lord has broken the staff of the wicked, the scepter of rulers which used to strike the peoples in fury with unceasing strokes...."** (Isaiah 14:5-6) Now what did we learn this week about Babylon? Well we read Revelation chapter 17. We saw that Babylon was filled with the blood of the martyrs, with the blood of saints and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. (See Revelation 17:4-6) In other words, this is where people have been martyred. This is where they have been tortured. This is where they have died. And you think, "And they got away with it, those evil people." Oh no! Oh no! They got away with it for a time. But listen, don't ever forget it. **"...Be [ye] sure, your sin[s] will find you out."** (Numbers 32:23) God will not let sin go unjudged. He can't, because He's God, because He's righteous, because He's holy, because He's the Sovereign ruler of all the universe. So it says, **"...The Lord has broken the staff of the wicked, the scepter[s] of rulers which used to strike [past tense] the peoples in fury with unceasing strokes, which subdued the nations in anger with unrestrained persecution."** (Isaiah 14:5-6) You wanna get the full description here: unrestrained persecution. I mean, the things that we have discussed, as we went into Iraq, and as we took prisoners captive, and what did we do to them? And, and how did we acquire information from them? Listen. This country, this king of Babylon, nothing could restrain him in his persecution. I mean, Saddam Hussein, who was so

mean and so cruel, here is another man that is more mean and more cruel. It says, **“The whole earth is at rest and is quiet....” (Isaiah 14:7)** So what you need to do is, “the whole earth,” double underline it, and he’s telling you the condition on planet Earth. Go back now, to your chart and look at the chart that you have drawn, and know this: that after the Lord comes, after Babylon is taken care of, then the whole earth is at rest. And this is why they’re taking up this taunt song about the king of Babylon. It says, **“The whole earth is at rest and is quiet; they break forth into shouts of joy.” (Isaiah 14:7)** If you look at Revelation, it says, **“...Fallen, fallen...Babylon the great [is fallen]...!” (Revelation 18:2)** And there’s rejoicing in heaven. And so then you go on and you read here, it says, **“Even the cypress trees rejoice over you...,”** you who? You, king of Babylon, **“...and the cedars of Lebanon, saying, ‘Since you were [brought] low, no tree cutter comes up against us.’” (Isaiah 14:8)** Why? Because when he came into a land, or when he would come in, whatever he want, he took. So he takes down the trees to build his ramps, or to do whatever he wants for his own pleasure. And it says, **“Sheol...,”** and this is your key. **“Sheol from beneath is excited over you to meet you when you come....” (Isaiah 14:9)** Oh? Oh, oh! You’re coming where? You’re coming to the bowels of the earth. You are coming to “Sheol.” Sheol was known as the grave—the place of the departed. Okay, so was it a grave that you dug out and it was so many feet long and so many feet wide, and they dropped the coffin into it? Oh no. You go beyond that lower in your soul. Not with you body, but in your soul. And watch what it says, and you want to mark “Sheol.” I put a big, red “S” over. **“Sheol from beneath is excited over you...,”** over you who? King of Babylon, **“...to meet you [king of Babylon] when you come; it [Sheol] arouses for you...,”** now listen very carefully, **“...the spirits of the dead, all...,”** and I circled “all,” **“...the leaders of the earth; it raises all the kings of the nations from their [throne].” (Isaiah 14:9)** In other words, this is what’s happening: he has descended into Sheol, the taunt of the king of

Babylon who has died. Now he's gone down to Sheol, he's gone down to the nether world, he's gone down to the place of the departed and they're saying, "Hey! Get up! Get up! Wake up! There's another king here." And then the leaders come out, and then, listen to what it says, and **"They will...respond and say to you, 'Even you have been made weak as we, you have become like us. Your pomp and the music of your harps have been brought down to Sheol; maggots are spread out as your bed beneath you and worms are your covering. How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, you who have weakened the nations! But you said in your heart. "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God...I will sit on the mount of [the] assembly in the recesses of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, [mark it again] to the recesses of the pit. [And] those who see you will gaze at you, they will ponder...you, saying, 'Is this the man [that] made the earth [to] tremble....'" (Isaiah 14:10-16)** What have you just learned? You've just learned that Sheol is a real place. You've learned that it is beneath. You have learned that people are there and aware of one another, that they recognize one another, that they talk to one another, that, in other words, there is life after death. What kind of a life? Here, it's not very good. And we'll talk about it later. We'll talk about it tomorrow. But I just want you to know when the old ticker stops, when you stop filling the lungs, "Ya ain't over." You continue to exist and the question is, "Will it be in heaven, or will it be in Hades?" And that we're going to explore tomorrow. Just know this: that every human being is going to last forever, either in Hades, the Lake of Fire where the worm dies not, or in heaven, in that glorious presence of God.