

ISAIAH, PART 2 (COMFORT FOR HIS PEOPLE)
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SERIES: Isaiah, Part 2 (Comfort For His People)

TITLE: Program 17 – Tested For Authenticity

TUESDAY

OPEN

Everything was great. And then all of a sudden there's a pain in the chest. You go to pick up something and you can't hold it in your right hand. You get up and all of a sudden your right leg is dragging. You go in to look at the baby and the baby's terribly, terribly ill and you don't know what to do. What do you do in circumstances like that? Do you do the best you can? Or is there someone you can call on to help you? We'll talk about it today.

PART ONE

Welcome, Beloved, to God's precepts for life that are coming out of the book of Isaiah. It is so exciting to teach you a book that was written B.C. and is relevant for now, A.D., a book that now is relevant for the twenty-first century, that has precepts for life that you and I can glean. What I want you to see and understand is that God has a message, but you have a responsibility to that message, to know the message and to listen up— to listen to that message. Now as we look at Isaiah 47, and we started it

yesterday, we're looking at God's Word regarding Babylon. We saw in verse 8 that God said, **"Now, then, hear this, you sensual one...."** (Isaiah 47:8) A sensual one is a person that thinks, "Okay, I am my own governor, everything is about me." And here is Babylon; this power that is going to come and overcome Israel and before it ever happens. God is telling them what's going to happen to them. As we've looked at it we saw that Babylon said in verse 10, **"...I am, and there is no one besides me."** (Isaiah 47:10) ["I'm going to reign as a queen forever."] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 47:7) And God is saying, "Oh no, you're not. Trauma, disaster is going to come on you suddenly." And it can come on any one of us. The question is when that trauma, when that disaster, when that difficult situation happens, where are we going to turn? Now watch what He says in verse 11 of Isaiah 47. **"But evil will come on you which you [do] not know how to charm away...."** (Isaiah 47:11) You can't get rid of this. It says, **"...And disaster will fall on you for which you cannot atone...."** (Isaiah 47:11) "There's no way to take care of this disaster. There's no way to negotiate." **"...And destruction about which you do not know will come on you...."** (Isaiah 47:11) and you want to mark it. Remember we're learning to study God's Word inductively. That means we go to the text and we look at it and we discover the who, the why, the when, the where, and the how. Well this tells us "when." Disaster is going to **"...come on you suddenly."** (Isaiah 47:11) Now it can happen in our lives. I mean, I just got a letter and the woman was 43 and her husband who was 43 also, they were only married ten years, went into cardiac arrest; never expected it. Our friend Dorie Van Stone, her husband went out jogging one day, and in the middle of jogging he went to see Jesus. She never expected it. But she turned to the Lord. My friend who lost her husband of cardiac arrest turned to the Lord. But where do you turn? He says, **"...[It's going to] come on you suddenly. Stand fast now in your spells and in your many sorceries with which you have labored from your youth; perhaps you will be able to profit, perhaps you may cause**

trembling. You are wearied with your many counsels; let now the astrologers, [and] those who prophesy by the stars, [and] those who predict...new moons, stand up and save you from what [is going to] come upon you.” (Isaiah 47:11-13) Let me ask you a question. When disaster comes who’s there for you? When disaster comes where do you run? Do you run to the strong arm of the Lord, the strong arm of the Lord that is able to rescue you, that is able to hold you, that is able to sustain you? Underneath are the everlasting arms who are able to bear you up in His arms. Do you know Him? “Well not very well.” Why don’t you know Him very well? “Well you see I’m just so busy and life is so stressful that I just can’t handle it. And I just come home and I just check out. But Precious One, what are you going to do in the day of calamity? God’s there, but you’ve got to know that He’s there and you’ve got to know who He is. So He says, “Behold.” Have them “**...Stand up and save you from what will come upon you. Behold, they have become like stubble....**” What you have trusted can just burn up, just a a match drop on it and it is burned and it is gone. “**...Fire burns them; they cannot deliver themselves from the power of the flame; there will be no coal to warm by nor a fire to sit before! So have those become to you with whom you have labored, who have trafficked with you from your youth....**” (Isaiah 47:13 -15) I mean, you’ve been worshipping these things from your youth. You missed God because you would not listen. You thought that you could choose your way. You thought that there were many gods. As a matter of fact, you sat around with your friends and you said, “Oh well that’s their way to God and that’s their interpretation of God, and we’re all going to the same place.” That is a lie. You have not listened to God. You have not heard truth. And if you’ve sat there and because of peer pressure, and you’ve known the Lord and you’ve gone along with it, shame on you. Shame on you because you have deluded your friends. You have not told them the truth. Well now Babylon thinks that these sorcerers and these astrologers can deliver. And He says, “They’re

gonna be burned up just like you are.” He says, **“So...each has wandered in his own way...;”** and the bottom line is this: **“... there is none to save you.” (Isaiah 47:15)** Now I want to tell you something. Life can look awfully good. Life can look awfully right. It can look like “Hey, this is it. This is what life is all about. This is the way to live. This is the way to act. This is what you need to accumulate for yourself.” But I want you to know, in a moment it can be gone. What about the football players? The big heroes—the studs that have gone out to win a game, and all of a sudden there is a neck breaking and a body not moving? It changes in just a moment. You’ve heard it. You’ve seen it in so many incidences. Well I want to take you to Revelation. I want to take you to the future. We’re in the twenty-first century now. I think, in fact, I believe we won’t see another century. But look at what God says in Revelation, in Revelation chapter 17 and 18; and remember I told you this yesterday: I told you that Babylon starts in Genesis and it moves all the way through the book of Revelation. And in Revelation chapter 17 in verse 18 you see Him talking about Babylon. It says that, **“The woman was clothed in purple...,”** verse 4 of chapter 17, **“...and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations....”** Gross. And it says, **“...And of the unclean things of her immorality, and on her forehead a name was written, a mystery, ‘Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots....’** I mean, she is the sensual one and she has produced all these harlots and she’s the mother **“...of the abominations of the earth.” (Revelation 17:4-5)** Now Revelation; if you won’t impose somebody else’s teaching into Revelation 17 and 18 you’ll see that he’s talking about a great city. This is present day Iraq by the way. **“The woman whom you saw [was] the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth.” (Revelation 17:18)** I mean, this woman has it made. She has it made. I mean, this is a kingdom that you can’t get any better. It is a kingdom that is very, very wealthy. But watch what it says in verse 7: **“To the degree**

that she glorified herself and lived sensuously, to the same degree give her torment and mourning; for she says in her heart...,” and this is quoting Isaiah, “...I sit as a queen and I am not a widow, and will never see mourning.” (Revelation 18:7) “Nothing’s gonna go bad for me. I’ve got it made.” It says, “For this reason...,” “because you’re saying that.” “...In one day her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned...with fire; for the Lord God who judges her is strong.” (Revelation 18:-8) In verse 10 it says, “...Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour...judgment has come.” (Revelation 18:10) In verse 17, “For in one hour such great wealth has been laid waste....” (Revelation 18:17) Do you remember the great depression? Did you ever read about it? Did you ever study the history of America? Do you remember when in just moments the stock market fell and men lost things? I mean they lost their fortunes and they jumped out of windows. It says, “...in one hour...great wealth has been laid waste!” (Revelation 18:17) In verse 19: “...Woe, woe, the great city...which...had [all the] ships at sea [and] became rich by her wealth, for in one hour she has been laid waste!” (Revelation 18:19) What is God saying to us? God’s saying, “In one hour, in one moment it can all change.” You pick up the cup and you can’t hold it. All of a sudden you’re having a stroke. All of a sudden you can’t talk. All of a sudden you can no longer communicate. But there is a God in heaven and you need to listen to Him because He is there for you. But I want to tell you something, you’re not going to know Him in His fullness and His power if you don’t listen up to Him now, if you don’t study the Word of God. That’s why this program is here, “Precepts for Life.” “Through Thy precepts I get understanding: [and] I hate every false way.” (Psalm 119:104, KJV) We want you to know truth because you “...shall know the truth and the truth shall [set] you free.” (John 8:32, KJV) When you know truth you’re consecrated and you’re ready for

anything that comes. We'll talk about it more right after this important announcement.

PART TWO

Welcome back, Beloved. Now let's go to Isaiah 48. He's spoken to Babylon; now He's going to speak to Jacob. Now who is Jacob? Jacob is the nation of Israel. Remember Jacob's name is changed to Israel. Jacob is God's covenant people, His covenant nation. And what does He tell us? Oh, you're gonna be surprised, unless you've done your homework, which I hope you have— He says, **“Hear this, O house of Jacob, who are named Israel and [those] who came forth from the loins of Judah....” (Isaiah 48:1)** So He's saying, I'm narrowing it down; not just Jacob, not just the whole nation, but I'm talking specifically to those that came from loins of Judah. I'm talking to the southern kingdom right now, **“...who swear by the name of the LORD and invoke the God of Israel....” (Isaiah 48:1)** “Here you are, people that stand there and say, ‘I swear by the Almighty God. I am the people of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. I am an Israelite.’” He says, **“...[You] invoke the God of Israel....”** Now listen, **“...But not in truth nor in righteousness.” (Isaiah 48:1)** You've met them, haven't you? I mean, you've seen them at work. You've met them at parties. You've been in business deals or business meetings, or you've gone to have them repair your car or they've come knocking on your door and they find out that you're a Christian. They connect with you, but uh-uh-uh-uh. They're calling upon God. They're naming the name but not in truth and not in righteousness. They're shysters. They're crooks. They're immoral. They're evil men. They're out to get you. They're out to seduce you. They are dogs who return to their vomit as 2 Peter says. They are pigs that return to their wallowing in the mire. (See 2 Peter 2:22) They're hypocrites. And you look at them and you think uh-uh-uh-uh. Now listen, what is bad here is God is saying this about His covenant people, His covenant people that He allowed

Babylon to judge, His covenant people that He is going to deliver from Babylon. But listen to how He describes them. And as you listen— when you listen to the Word of God, He says, **“Hear this, O house of Jacob....”** (Isaiah 48:1) He means, “I want you to hear so as to really hear, so that you’re going to do something about what I say.” You and I need to have ears to hear what the Spirit is saying to the church. So He goes on to say, **“For they call themselves after the holy city....”** Oh they say, “You know, Jerusalem is our holy city. It is Mount Zion.” And and they **“...lean on the God of Israel; the LORD of hosts is His name,”** (Isaiah 48:2) and they call on His name. He says, **“I declared the former things long ago and they went forth from My mouth, and I proclaimed them. Suddenly I acted, and [it] came to pass.”** (Isaiah 48:3) He says, **“Because I know that you are obstinate, and your neck is [as] iron sinew....”** (Isaiah 48:4) Have you ever seen those ads about the joining the Marines and you look at this guy and he’s decked out in his full dress and he has a neck like that and you can see the sinews in his neck? And I mean he’s a hunk of man. He is power. He is muscle. He is sinew. And He’s saying, “That’s what you’re like. You’re like that. You’re so strong.” And He says, “But.” Now listen how He describes them. He says, **“...I know that you’re obstinate, and your neck is an iron sinew and your forehead [is] bronze, therefore I declared [to] them...long ago....”** (Isaiah 48:4-5) “Because I know you Israel, because I know what you’re like, because I know that you’re calling on Me, but not in truth and righteousness. I know because you have a religion, but not a relationship.” **“Therefore I declared them to you long ago, before they took place I proclaimed them to you....”** (Isaiah 48:5) Now what is He saying? Now what is He saying? He’s saying, “I told you the future. I declared it to you long ago because I wanted you to see.” **“...That you would not say, ‘My idol has done them...my graven image and my molten image have commanded them.’”** (Isaiah 48:5) “I got me this little idol and I put it in my house and it’s because this happened.” And

He says, “Oh no, oh no, I declared it before you ever got your idol.” He says, you say “**...my graven image and my molten image have [helped] them.’ You have heard; look at all this. And you, will you not declare it...?**”

And then He makes a statement, “**...I [will] proclaim to you new things from this time....**” (Isaiah 48:5-6) Now if you downloaded your free study guide you know one of the things we want to mark are time phrases. So you want to put a green circle over “time.” You want to put a green circle and maybe a little hands of a clock if you want to do that so that you know it’s a time phrase. “**...Even hidden things which you have not known.**” (Isaiah 48: 6) He says, “Okay, I told you the past before it happens so you couldn’t say my idol did it. Now I’m going to tell you brand new things; things that you don’t know.” And He says, “**They are created now and not long ago; and before today you have not heard them....**” I’m telling you something brand new “**...so that you will not say, ‘[Oh] I knew [it, I knew it].’**”

(Isaiah 48:7) I mean, haven’t you had someone say that to you? Oh, I knew. I knew that was gonna happen. Oh, I knew you were gonna say that. Oh, I knew that you were gonna do it. They’re saying that, but it’s not true—or maybe they’re supposing it. So God is saying to them, “Hey, I want you to understand that I am God. I want you to understand that your idols are not giving you information. They’re just idols. They can’t even talk. I want you to know that I’m giving it to you. I gave it to you before, and now I’m going to tell you brand new things. And O Beloved, what He is going to tell us is so awesome and so incredible, and you’re going to discover it as you continue studying Isaiah with me. Now this is what He says, “**You have not heard, you have not known. Even from long ago your ear has not been open....**” “Your ear have been closed. You’re not listening. You’re not listening up.” “**...Because I knew that you would deal very treacherously; and you have been called a rebel from birth.**” (Isaiah 48:8) Now this is somebody that’s obstinate. This is somebody that is calling on the name of the Lord, but not in truth and righteousness. This is

someone that has a bronze forehead, a neck like iron sinews and that. And He says, "...[You've] **been...a rebel from birth. (Isaiah 48:8)** **For the sake of My name, I [will] delay My wrath....**" (Isaiah 48:9) "I'm not going to bring My wrath on you right now. This is what I'm telling you, because I want you to understand that I'm God. I want you to understand that in any given situation, no matter what happens, [I'm the Lord. I'm in charge. I create light. I create darkness. I create well-being. I create calamity. I'm the Lord who does all these things. There is no other.]" (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 45:6-7) **"...For My praise I [will] restrain [My wrath] for you...,**" not because you deserve it, **"...in order not to cut you off."** (Isaiah 48:9) I don't want to cut you off. Why? Not because you don't deserve it. He says, **"Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver...."** The fire hasn't gotten that hot yet. **"...I have tested you in the furnace of affliction. For My own sake...My own sake, I will act; for how can My name be profaned? And My glory I will not give to another."** (Isaiah 48:10-11) What is He saying? "I'm gonna delay My judgment not because you don't deserve it, but I'm gonna delay My judgment because I want My glory to be seen. And because you're My people, and if you're My people I'll never leave you nor forsake you." (See Psalm 94:14) Isn't that an awesome note to end on today?