

**ISAIAH, PART 1 (JUDGMENT – BUT HOPE)
PROGRAM 37 (#911082)
WEEK 8 (#911317)
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SERIES: Isaiah, Part 1 (Judgment – But Hope)

TITLE: Program 37– His Powerful Purpose

TUESDAY

OPEN

Is the Middle East, to you, like a bowl mixed with confusion? As you look at it do you think, “What on earth is going on?” You know what? You need to understand what on earth is going on. And you need to understand who in heaven has purposed what is going on here on earth, because once you do that, Beloved, you will have a confidence that will take you through the days ahead.

PART ONE

God has purposed, God has planned; this, Beloved, is the theme of our study this week as we look at Isaiah 19 all the way through Isaiah 23. We need to remember one thing, no matter what’s being mixed up in that mixing bowl of all those Arab nations and Israel, in the Middle East, God has purposed. He has planned what is going to come out of all that mix-up. And you know what? His plan; His purpose will not be thwarted. As He has planned because He is God, so it is going to come to pass. (See Isaiah 14:24) Now in

Isaiah 19 as He speaks and gives us the oracles of the nations, we have come to His oracle about Egypt. And we saw that when He begins this oracle, He talks about the civil unrest that He causes. (See Isaiah 19:2) He talks about the demoralization of the spirit of the Egyptians. In other words, they are just whipped. They are just, in a sense, flat out on the table. They can't even lift their heads, they're so demoralized. (See Isaiah 19:3) It says they are confused. It says, **"...I will confound their strategy...."** In verse 3 it says, **"...So that they will resort to idols and ghosts of the dead and to mediums and spiritists."** (Isaiah 19:3) They want to contact the dead because the living don't have any answers. They're going to their idols and they don't have any answers. And then, this is what God says He will do. Now in our last lesson I told you that one of the things that I do is, I mark every reference to "God." I color it with a yellow pencil, in yellow. And by the way, if you have not downloaded the study guide on Isaiah, you need to do it today. It's absolutely free, just go to <preceptsforlife.com>; <preceptsforlife.com>, and you can download it as our gift to you, because we want you to know God. We want you to be able to discover truth for yourself. Well He says, **"Moreover..."**, verse 4, **"...I will deliver the Egyptians into the hand[s] of a cruel master, and a mighty king..."**, now that "mighty" could be translated "fierce." **"...‘Will rule over them,’ declares the Lord God of hosts."** (Isaiah 19:4) Now this rendering is really the "Lord God Almighty." This is a rendering of God's name that shows that there is no one greater than Him. There is none above Him, and He is the Lord God Almighty, He is the Lord of Hosts, He's in charge of the armies of heaven, the inhabitants of the earth. He's over this nation, that nation; He's over all the angelic forces and all the human armies. And it says, **"The waters from the sea will dry up, and the river will be parched and dry."** (Isaiah 19:5) Now remember in our last lesson that the Nile, the Nile Delta was what made Egypt so wealthy, and so able to be self-sustained. **"The canals will emit a stench, the streams of Egypt will thin**

out and dry up....” (Isaiah 19:6) Now watch “dry,” mark it. And I just underlined it with a pencil, and “parched.” And it says, “**...the reeds and [the] rushes will rot away.**” (Isaiah 19:6) Why? There’s no nourishment for them. “**The bulrushes by the Nile, by the edge of the Nile and all the sown fields by the Nile will become dry, be driven away, and be no more. ...The fishermen will lament, and all those who cast a line into the Nile will mourn, and those who spread nets on the waters will pine away. Moreover, the manufacturers of linen....**” Now it takes water for them to grow that flax. “**...Made from combed flax and the weavers of white cloth will be utterly dejected.**” (Isaiah 19:7-9) I’ve the most beautiful piece of white cloth from Egypt, just fine white cotton. When you go shopping you see sheets and it says “100% Egyptian cotton.” Says, “**...the pillars of Egypt will be crushed; [and] all the hired laborers will be grieved in soul...,**” (Isaiah 19:10) And so as you look at this, what do you have? You have drought. And you have that drought and you have that impacting the economy, and so Egypt is going down. Who is causing it? It is God. It says, “**The princes of Zoan are mere fools; the advice of Pharaoh’s wisest advisers [have] become stupid. How can...men say to Pharaoh, ‘[I’m] a son of the wise, a son of ancient kings?’**” (Isaiah 19:11) “**Well then, where are your wise men? Please let them tell you, and let them understand what the LORD of hosts has purposed [for] Egypt.**” (Isaiah 19:12) He says, “Okay. You can’t find wise men, can you? You don’t know any men that really know and grasp and understand what’s going on.” You know David in Samuel and in Chronicles, it talks about David’s valiant men, and in Chronicles it tell us that there were “**...the sons of Issachar...who understood the times...,**” and who knew what to do. (1 Chronicles 12:32) Egypt has no sons like that. And it goes on to say, “**The princes of Zoan have acted foolishly....**” (Isaiah 19:13) Doesn’t it upset you when a congressman or a senator or a ruler of your country does something foolish—does something stupid that he never should have done?

This is the way they're behaving. It says, **"...The princes of Memphis are deluded; those who are the cornerstone of her tribes...."** (Isaiah 19:13) Here are people that are the cornerstones. A cornerstone holds everything together, and here they are and they are stupid. In other words, the land is just an absolute wreck; an absolute wreck. There is internal conflict, civil unrest, there is this threat of a king that is coming who is going to be fierce, the economy is falling apart, there is drought and there is no wisdom among the leaders. When you look at countries and you look at their prosperity, or you look at their defeat, or you look at what's happening in these countries that are ruled by guerrillas that are just fierce, and warriors and hot because of a religious view or because of some tribal thing, it destroys the country; it destroys the country. We need wise leaders. This is why you and I need to pray as God says in 1 Timothy for all those in authority, **"[and] for kings and all [those] in authority...that we [might] lead [peaceable and godly lives]."** (1 Timothy 2:2) Leaders are critical. Good leaders are critical. It says, **"The Lord has mixed within her [within Egypt] a spirit of distortion; they have led Egypt astray in all that it does...."** (Isaiah 19:14) In other words, Egypt should be going this way, and these leaders have led it in the wrong way. They have led them astray because there's a spirit of distortion there. Says, **"...as a drunken man staggers in his vomit."** (Isaiah 19:14) And when a drunken man staggers in his vomit, he easily slips, he easily falls. It says, **"There will be no work for Egypt which its head or tail, its palm branch or bulrush, may do."** (Isaiah 19:15) In other words, everything's falling apart. They're sitting in all these lines, unemployment lines, so to speak. There's nothing to do. This is the state of Egypt. Who has caused it? Who has caused it? Well let's go back and let's look at verse 12: **"Well then, where are your wise men? Please let them tell you, and let them understand what the LORD of hosts has purposed against Egypt."** (Isaiah 19:12) I have underlined in a squiggly, purple line: "has purposed;" "what the LORD has purposed." This is what I

want you to get this week. This is what I want you to understand: God has a purpose. God has a plan, and no one can thwart His plan or His purpose. Well let's see what we learn about God. Let's not draw a judgment against God yet. Let's see what it says. Now verse 16, in verse 16-25 you're going to have six "In that days," and you wanna mark them in a distinctive way because He's saying, "Okay, when these things are going on, when this is the state of Egypt, when you have a cruel master over you," and all of this. **"In that day the Egyptians will become like women, and they will tremble and be in dread because of the waving of the hand of the LORD of hosts...."** (Isaiah 19:16) That is a powerful hand that God waves. Remember, we saw in chapter 19 and verse 1: **"...The LORD is riding on a swift cloud and is about to come to Egypt...."** (Isaiah 19:1) Now He has His **"...waving of the hand...."** (Isaiah 19:16) And it says "they are trembling. And they are" **"...in dread because of the waving of the hand of the LORD...which He is going to wave over them. The land of Judah will become a terror to Egypt; everyone to whom it is mentioned will be in dread of it, because of the purpose of the LORD of hosts which He is purposing against them."** (Isaiah 19:16-17) In other words, as I told you in the former program, they're going to be sitting there in Egypt, and they're going to be ringing their hands because they're in dread. They don't even want to mention Israel; it brings chills. And that terror that Israel is to Egypt is: **"...because of the purpose of the LORD of hosts which He is purposing against them."** (Isaiah 19:17) So what you see is, up to this point, God is against Egypt. Now remember, Egypt was against His people. Remember Egypt turned against His people. Remember Egypt had them in bondage for 400 years with slave—cruel taskmasters, and they were oppressed and afflicted until finally they cried out to God. But is this the end of Egypt? Oh, oh! Wait until you see what God says about Egypt. We'll talk about it in just a moment.

PART TWO

Welcome back, Diligent Student of God. Let's get back to Isaiah chapter 19 where we're looking at Egypt. Now we've seen what God has done to Egypt, and it isn't good. Egypt is just, I mean, it is a wreck as a nation, and now God is going to give us six, "In that days." In the first "In that day," he tells how God is going to wave His hand over Egypt and how Egypt is going to be in terror over the land of Judah. (See Isaiah 19:16) But that is not the end of it all. It all looks bad up until now. But now watch what happens. This is the beauty of observing the text. This is the beauty of you studying ahead of me, of you downloading your free study guide. Verse 18: **"In that day five cities in the land of Egypt will be speaking the language of Canaan...."** (Isaiah 19:18) It does not say the languages of Canaan; it says the language of Canaan. It says, **"...And swearing..."**, hang on, I mean, hang on! **"...Swearing allegiance to the LORD of hosts; one will be called the City of Destruction."** (Isaiah 19:18) Now we really don't know what that city of destruction is, except it was very interesting to me. Because as I was teaching this—I teach in Chattanooga, Tennessee every Tuesday, and I take you through a book of the Bible and as I was teaching Isaiah, there's a man there from Lebanon. He's Arabic, and he was telling me that when Egypt, when Egypt was taken by the Arabs, when they moved in and took over the dominion, so to speak, of of Egypt, they named Cairo (Cairo means the City of Destruction). I mean, it's the capitol of Egypt. It's the city of Egypt. And what he's saying (lets say that's what it is). He's saying, **"In that day...."**, when Egypt is just brought," so to speak, "to a heap of ruins. **"In that day five cities...."**, five cities are going to, **"...[swear] allegiance to the LORD of hosts; one will be called the City of Destruction."** (Isaiah 19:18) In that day they're going to speak the language of Canaan, not the language of Egypt which primarily is Arabic. But it is the language of Canaan. What is the language of Canaan today? Canaan is Israel. It's Hebrew. Now he goes on to say, now watch, **"In that day there will be an**

altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar to the LORD near its border.” (Isaiah 19:19) In other words, you will be able to find an altar to “Jehovah.” As you come over the border, there will be a pillar there to the Lord even as the tribes of Israel erected when one tribe, when Manasseh stayed on one side of the Jordan, and Ephraim and the other—the half tribe of Manasseh— etc. stayed on one side of the Jordan. They erected a pillar so that their sons would remember that they were Jews too. It’s a monument to God. Now listen, “...**For they will cry to the LORD because of oppressors, and He will send them a Savior and a Champion, and he will deliver them. Thus the LORD will make Himself known to Egypt, and the Egyptians will know the LORD in that day. They will even worship with sacrifice and offering, and will make a vow to the LORD and perform it.**” (Isaiah 19:20-21) They will not only say what they’re going to do, they will do it. That’s more than a lot of Christians do today. It says, and this is the key verse. This is the jewel, the gem of this chapter: “**The LORD will strike Egypt...**” we’ve seen that, “...**striking but healing; so [that] they will return to the LORD, and He will respond to them and...heal them.**” (Isaiah 19:22) What is God going to do? He’s going to strike Egypt, but then He’s going to raise up a Savior. He’s going to raise up a Champion, and the land that He struck, He is going to heal. And He’s going to heal them, “...**so [that] they will return to the LORD....**” (Isaiah 19:22) It’s absolutely incredible; absolutely incredible. And when you look at this mighty king that is going to rule over them and you go to Daniel 11. In Daniel 11:36, from that portion on to the end of Daniel, none of that has been fulfilled yet. Daniel 11 was fulfilled to the letter. They can look at history and say, “That’s the king. That’s the king. This is what happened. This is who he went against.” But when they come to 36, they can’t do it. It’s still future, but when you read this you find “...[a] **king [who] will do as he pleases...**” who exalts himself. (Daniel 11:36) In verse 40 it says, “**At the end time the king of the South will collide with**

him...,” the king of the South was Egypt, “...and the king of the North will storm against him with chariots...,” that’s Syria. “...[And] horsemen and...many ships; and he will enter countries, [and] overflow them and pass through. He will also enter the Beautiful Land...,” that’s Israel. “...And many countries will [fail]; but these will be rescued out of his hand....” Listen carefully, “...Edom, Moab and the foremost...sons of Ammon,” that’s Jordan. “Then he will stretch out his hand...,” just as He’s done “...against other countries, and the land of Egypt will not escape. But he...,” this wicked king, this fierce king, “...will gain control over the hidden treasure of gold and silver and over all the precious things of Egypt; and Libyans and Ethiopians will follow at his heels.” (Daniel 11:40-43) Could that be the cruel master that He’s talking about back here? Yes, it may have been an Assyrian king, but maybe, maybe what he’s talking about is all future, and it seems future, and I’ll tell you why. Listen to the next “In that day,” verse 23: “In that day...,” Isaiah 19:23, “...there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrians will come into Egypt and the Egyptians into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians.” (Isaiah 19:23) Worship whom? “In that day...,” verse 24, “...Israel will be the third party with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, whom the Lord of hosts has blessed, saying, ‘Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance.’” (Isaiah 19:24-25) Wh-what do you find? I believe Isaiah chapter 19 is taking us to the end of time. I believe he’s taking us to the last days, to the time of the indignation. If you will, go back and read Daniel 11 in verse 36 on and all the way into chapter 12. I believe he’s saying, I’m going to smite Egypt and I’m going to bring Egypt down in all these ways. Forget everything, I’m causing a drought, and I’m going to bring you to nothing that I might bring you to healing.” What is God’s message for you and for me? What is His example here? And that is: that if He smites us, if He deals with us, if life is difficult, and life is hard,

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and life is confusing, we need to look beyond that to God. The God who purposes, the God who plans and no one can thwart. The God who stretches out His hands and no one can stop Him. That's who we need to look to, Precious One. And we need to remember that if He strikes us, it's for healing us so that we might return to the Lord, or so that we might know Him more intimately or in a greater depth. That's what it's all about. And what He's saying is, "I am God. Here are these two enemies. Israel in between, Egypt to the south, Assyria to the northeast and they're coming against them, but there is a day coming when I, God, have purposed that Assyria and Egypt and Israel will be together. Awesome! This is God, your God, I pray.