

**ISAIAH, PART 1 (JUDGMENT – BUT HOPE)**  
**PROGRAM 35 (#911080)**  
**WEEK 7 (#911316)**  
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**SERIES: Isaiah, Part 1 (Judgment – But Hope)**

**TITLE: Program 35 – Men And The Maker**

**FRIDAY**

**OPEN**

As you go about your day, who do you think about? Who do you consider? Who do you live for? Do you look to the Holy One of Israel? Do you regard God as your Maker? Do you realize that you have breath? That you have life simply because God has put breath in your nostrils? Do you realize that he created you for His pleasure? Whose pleasure are you living for, Beloved?

**PART ONE**

This week as we've been looking at Isaiah chapter 14:28 all the way through chapter 16, our theme for the week has been the sorrow that God feels—a righteous God feels over the needless sorrow of man. Needless, because if man would regard God, if man would look to Zion, and look to all the promises that God has of the Messiah who is going to sit on the throne. (See Matthew 25:31) If we would look to the future and live in the light of the fact that we belong to God, that He is our Maker, and that we are to regard Him, we would not go through the needless sorrow that we have to go

through as peoples, as nations. God is speaking to the nations. He has spoken to Philistia. (See Isaiah 14:29-31) We see that as part of what is the present-day PLO. God has spoken to Moab, present-day Jordan. (See Isaiah 15:1) Now God, in chapter 17, is going to speak to Damascus. So we're going to go north to that city of Damascus. Damascus, that is of Aram. Remember that it was Aram and it was the king of Israel that was coming down and threatening King Ahaz; threatening to destroy them. But God had said to them: "Don't you worry about them, because I'm going to take care of them. They are firebrands and they are not going to touch you." (See Isaiah 7:4) At that point, Ahaz was told, **"...If [you] will not believe... [you will] not be established."** (Isaiah 7:9, KJV) And he didn't believe. He was a Jew. He was of the house of David and he didn't believe his God and God had to judge him. Now Ahaz has died. Isaiah chapter 14, verse 28, the oracle that comes to Philistia when King Ahaz dies. So we have moved from that oracle to the oracle concerning Moab. We have looked at Jordan. We have seen that God is going to have to judge Jordan, and we have looked at modern day Jordan as well as ancient Jordan. Now we're going to look at Damascus. Look at what he says in chapter 17: **"The oracle concerning Damascus...."** (Isaiah 17:1) An oracle was like a burden. It was a word from God that was heavy on the prophet's heart. **"Behold, Damascus is about to be removed from being a city and will become a fallen ruin. The cities of Aroer...,** I can't pronounce it very well, **"...are forsaken; they will be for flocks to lie down in, and there will be no one to frighten them. The fortified city will disappear from Ephraim...,**" from the northern kingdom, **"...and sovereignty from Damascus and the remnant of Aram; they will be like the glory of the sons of Israel,' declares the LORD...."** (Isaiah 17:1-3) Now listen, "the glory of the sons of Israel" is bad, because it goes on to say in verse 4: **"Now in that day the glory of Jacob will fade...."** (Isaiah 17:4) And what he's saying is, "The glory of Damascus is going to fade (Damascus of Aram) and the glory of Ephraim is going to fade," why? Because God is going to have to judge them. Whether

you are the people of God or you are a people that know about God, but don't know God and don't embrace God, you are accountable to God, Beloved. And, and as you listen to these words I want you to know that God is speaking to you. And God is speaking to you and He's saying, "It causes me sorrow to bring you sorrow. It causes me sorrow to have to judge you. And I want you to know that if you will come to Me, **'...weeping may endure for a night, but joy [will come] in the morning.'** (Psalms 30:5, **KJV**) But if you do not come to Me, weeping, now listen carefully, will endure forever. Why? Because there is a righteous God in heaven, and if you do not bow the knee to Him, then you will suffer the consequences. Well what I want to do is, I want to give you a little historical background about Damascus. It is the oldest, continually inhabited city in the world. It was a minor town until the rise of the Arameans. Now the Arameans were a semi-nomadic people from the Arabian Peninsula who migrated into the region that is currently occupied by the Syrians. In other words, we're talking about the area of Syria. So when you think "Damascus," Damascus still exists now. It's come and it's gone, but it exists now and it is in the nation of Syria. The city became the city of Aramean power. It was known as Aram of Damascus. In 1918, after the fall of the Ottoman Empire; now remember, in 1917 we have World War I. And we have the fall of the Ottoman Empire, because they aligned themselves with ah Germany. Well when the Ottoman Empire fell, France came in and took control of present-day Syria. And so what you have is, you have— now in 1946, they gained independence from France. And in 1967 and the Six Day War, when they came in and Jordan lost control of the Old City. Well also what happens is, you have Syria coming down in that conflict. It was an Arab-Israeli conflict, so it was the Arab world coming against the Jews, why? The PLO and others had said, "Drive them into the sea." But God says, "No." Because they're His people. But when they came down and they attacked Israel, listen, they lost the Golan Heights. Until that time, you had Jews having to live in bunkers. The children couldn't play in the sunshine, why? Because Syria was constantly

shelling from the Golan Heights down on the people. You control the Golan Heights; you control the Sea of Galilee. You control the Sea of Galilee; you control the water supply for Israel. And so they lost it in that conflict, and now it was ruled by Bashar Assad, a dictator who sponsors terrorism. When you think of Syria, now, think also of Iran, because Syria is under the influence of Iran militarily and financially. And what is Iran saying? Iran is saying, “We need to wipe Israel off the map. So you have Syria having an influence in Lebanon. You have Syria being influenced by Iran, and what you have is, you have a country that is the destination point of men and women and children that are coming in from southeast Asia and from Africa, and being sold into servitude and sexual exploitation. It’s a horrible place, and it’s all because they have turned their back on God. But they cannot get away with it. Listen, you can’t rear your head against God and get away with it. Let’s go back to Isaiah chapter 17 and listen to what he says. He talks about the glory of Jacob fading. He talks about how God is going to have to deal with Jacob. And you see in chapter 17, in verses 4 through 11, **“...In that day...,”** when this judgment comes, **“...the glory of Jacob will fade...the fatness of his flesh will become lean. It will [even be] like [a] reaper gathering the standing grain, as his arm harvests the ears, or it will be like one gleaning ears of grain in the valley of Rephaim. Yet [the] gleanings...,”** listen carefully, **“...will be left in it like the shaking of an olive tree, two or three olives on the topmost bough, four or five on the branches of a fruitful tree, declares the LORD ...God of Israel. (Isaiah 17:4-6)** God is going to judge the northern kingdom. This is what he’s talking about, and He’s going to judge them just like He’s going to judge Damascus, why? Because both of those were coming down against the house of David, and they cannot get away with it. And so it says, **“In that day...,”** He says, “I’m going to judge, there’s just gonna be a remnant left. That’s all—just two or three olives. Just a little bit in the field. It says, **“In that day man will have regard for his Maker and his eyes will look to the Holy One of Israel.” (Isaiah 17:7)** Why are they going to turn in that

direction? Because they have faced the judgment of God. Because they have been chastened by God. But it says, **“He...,”** man, at this time when he looks to the Holy One of Israel, **“...He will not have regard for the altars, the work[s] of his hands, nor will he look to that which his fingers have made, even the Asherim and [the] incense stands.”** (Isaiah 17:8) What is he saying? These people have gone into idolatry. God’s people have gone into idolatry, and you know what? It’s true of the church too. Do you know how it’s described in Colossians? **“Greed is idolatry.”** (See Colossians 3:5) And there is a lot of appeal on Christian television to Christians to be wealthy, to be rich, to drive, to live in houses like this, to accumulate things. O Precious One, be very careful what you listen to. Know the Word of God. Study His precepts for life, and bring everything I teach and everything anyone else teaches up against the Word of God. But know this, he’s saying [man’s going to no longer have regard for the works of his hands] because that’s not what’s important. (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 17:8) Accumulating wealth, driving good cars and living in big houses is not what God is all about. What is He about? We’ll talk about it in a minute.

## **PART TWO**

As God brings His oracle to Damascus in Isaiah chapter 17, He also has a word for Israel. **“...In that day the glory of Jacob [is going to] fade....”** (Isaiah 17:4) He’s talking to the northern kingdom because they have rebelled against God, because they have come down against the house of David that God has established forever in Zion. And so Damascus can’t get away with it, and neither can God’s people. And you and I need to remember that **“...judgment...begin[s] at the house of God....”** (1 Peter 4:17, KJV) So this is what He says in verse nine of chapter 17: **“In that day their strong cities will be like forsaken places in the forest, or like branches which they abandoned before the sons of Israel; and the land will be a desolation.”** (Isaiah 17:9) Now watch: **“For...,”** this is why the

land is going to be a desolation. This is why many times our life is a desolation. It is just havoc, because we have done the same thing. **“...You have forgotten the God of your salvation...you have not remembered the rock of your refuge....” (Isaiah 17:10)** “You have run other places to other things instead of to Me.” And this is what He said and that’s why I asked you the question, “Are you regarding God, your Maker?” Are you remembering and looking to the Holy One of Israel in every situation of life? Or do you go days, and forget Him, days and you’re not in the Word of God, and you just want your ears tickled, and you want to hear about wealth and health and happiness and all of that, but not about holiness and righteousness and sacrifice, and laying down your life for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ. He says you, **“...have not remembered the rock of your refuge. Therefore you plant delightful plants and set them with vine slips of a strange god. In the day that you plant [them] you carefully fence it in, and in the morning you bring your seed to blossom; but the harvest will be a heap in [the] day of [sickness] and incurable pain. (Isaiah 17:10-11)** Hoy! “Alas....” Hoy! H-o-y is the Hebrew word. **“Alas, the uproar of many peoples who roar like the roaring of the seas, and the rumbling of nations....” (Isaiah 17:12)** It says, **“The nations rumble...like the rumbling of many waters, but He will rebuke them and they will flee...away, and [will] be chased like [the] chaff in the mountains before the wind, or like [the whirring] dust before a gale. At evening time, behold, there is terror! Before morning they are no more....” (Isaiah 17:13-14)** In evening, terror comes on them and in the morning, where are they? They’re floating in the rivers. Their bodies have been massacred because of judgment; because they have forgotten God. And this is the nations. He says, **“...Such will be the portion of those who plunder us and the lot of those who pillage us.” (Isaiah 17:14)** And he’s talking about what is going to happen to the nations that come against Israel; that come against Israel to plunder them; that come against Israel to pillage Israel, because [God has founded Zion, and that’s where the afflicted are to go].

(PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 14:32) And that is the afflicted of any nation. But the nation that comes against Israel, listen, God will deal with them, and this is His Word. This is why Damascus is ruined. (See Isaiah 17:1) And then He says in chapter 18, **“Alas, oh land of whirring wings which lies beyond the rivers of Cush, which sends envoys by the sea, even in papyrus vessels on the surface of the waters. Go, swift messengers, to a nation tall and smooth, to a people feared far and wide, a powerful and oppressive nation whose land the rivers divide.”** (Isaiah 18:2) I want you to remember that. **“All you inhabitants of the world and dwellers on earth, as soon as a standard is raised on the mountains, you will see it ...as soon as the trumpet is blown, you will hear it. For thus the LORD has told me, ‘I will look from My dwelling place quietly like [the] dazzling heat in the sunshine, like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest.’ For before the harvest, as soon as the bud blossoms and the flower becomes a ripening grape, then He will cut [it]....”** (Isaiah 18:3-5) He will take His trimming shears. Yes, the nations intend to do that, but He’s going to trim them as soon as they come to fruit. It says, **“...then he will cut off the sprigs with pruning knives and remove and cut away the spreading branches. They will be left together for mountain birds of prey, and...the beasts of the earth; and the birds of prey will spend the summer feeding on them, and all the beasts of the earth will spend harvest time on them.”** (Isaiah 18:5-6) In other words, He’s gonna take these people, He’s going to cut them down and the animals are going to eat their flesh just like they would eat a harvest. He says, **“At that time....,”** listen carefully, **“...a gift of homage will be brought to the LORD of hosts....”** (Isaiah 18:7) Remember the daughters of Zion bringing a tribute lamb to Zion? Now it says, **“...a gift of homage will be brought to the LORD of hosts from a people tall and smooth...from a people [that are] feared far and wide, [from] a powerful and oppressive nation, whose land the rivers divide....”** (Isaiah 18:7) What is He talking about? He’s talking about Sudan. He’s talking about Ethiopia. He’s talking about that

land to the east of Egypt. He's talking about the land where they, where the rivers divide. What rivers are they? They come right off the Nile, they're the Gihon and they're the Pishon, and they divide. And it says, **"...To the place of the name of the Lord of hosts, even Mount Zion."** (Isaiah 18:7) We started with Mt. Zion. We started with the fact that He established Mt. Zion. We saw that that's where the afflicted are to be taken care of and find refuge. (See Isaiah 14:32) We saw the daughters of Moab going to Mt. Zion. Now we see these people "smooth and tall," finally paying homage to the Lord. How would you react if you read a prophecy of Isaiah and found God speaking to you? "In 1992, a lay pastor in Sudan was reading this portion of Isaiah, and as he read it he was stunned. He realized that Cush was associated with Sudan; that millions of noisy birds flock and breed along the Nile River. Even today their sound can be deafening, like 'whirring wings.'" That's what it says in chapter 18. "He realized that his people (the Dinkas) are tall and smooth skinned. Many of the women are over six feet tall. He also recognized the reference to their aggressiveness and their determination; their fierceness in battle and their strange-sounding language. He understood the reference to a nation divided by rivers, just as the prophecy described. He was amazed. Cush is in Sudan. 'This is about us!' With fervor and conviction he began preaching what He discovered: that God had a plan for his people and that someday his nation would honor God. They would bring homage to God. His proud, stubborn people listened and so began a great revival among the Dinkas." Precious One, God has spoken to us this week. God has spoken to us about our Rock, our Refuge, about Zion, about the fact that you and I are to regard our Maker; that we are to look to our Maker; that we are to honor the Lord of Hosts; that we are to seek Him in all of our ways. Yes **"...weeping may endure for a night, but joy [comes] in the morning."** (Psalms 30:5, KJV) O Beloved, don't live in a way that brings God sorrow. Live in a way that brings Him joy. Live according to the Word.