

**ISAIAH, PART 1 (JUDGMENT – BUT HOPE)
PROGRAM 4 (#911049)
WEEK 1 (#911310)
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SERIES: Isaiah, Part 1 (Judgment – But Hope)

TITLE: Program 4 – In The Last Days...

THURSDAY

OPEN

On September the 11th, in the year 2001, two commercial airlines were commandeered by terrorists; terrorists that flew those airplanes into the Twin Towers and caused them to come crumbling to the ground. People wanted to know, “Is this the end? Is this the apocalypse? Is this the Revelation? Is this the end of the world?” O Beloved, we’re going to look at those last days today, so that you can understand what it will be like.

PART ONE

The storm comes up, the sky gets dark, the wind begins to blow ferociously, and we think, “What on earth is happening?” Why? Because I think that deep inside of us we know that there is a power beyond ourselves. Isaiah is going to take the children of God, the sons of Israel that He has reared up, that have revolted against Him, and He is going to give them an opportunity to repent, to have a change of mind, to remember that He is God. And one of the ways that He is going to do that is, He’s going to tell them about their

future. He is going to warn them that there is a day of judgment coming. Well, in Isaiah, God is speaking to His people. And what He's saying to His people is so like what He would say to us today. As a matter of fact, this is why this is recorded for us, so that we can look at this and see, "Oh, what are You saying to Israel." Because [the things that were written beforehand (Romans tells us this), were written for our instruction, for our learning, upon whom the ages is come.] (PARAPHRASE, 1 Corinthians 10:11) So that we might learn from them, so that we might know our God, so that we might understand Him and understand He is a righteous God. He is the Holy One of Israel. He is "Jehovah," "Yahweh," "the self-contained God," needing nothing and yet creating man for His pleasure and wanting man to be His child and to live and dwell with Him forever. We're studying the book of Isaiah. We're in the first chapter. It's going to take us 14 weeks to go through this book. I'm going to go through the first 39 chapters of this book. And we've written a study guide, a study guide to help you study what we call inductively. By inductive, we mean that you go straight to the Word of God, you open the Word of God. You learn how to observe the text, how to interpret it, how to discover what it says, and what it means. And then how to apply it to your life, how to change your thinking so it lines up with the Word of God, and how to walk in a way that is pleasing to God, that He might bless you and not judge you. How you can come to Him and have life, and how you can have forgiveness of sins even if you have come to know Him, and you have blown it. He says, **"Come now, and let us reason together...."** (Isaiah 1:18) Well I want us to go to the end of Isaiah chapter 1. I just couldn't finish it in the last lesson. But I want us to see in verse 27, the promise that He has for Zion. He is saying, well, let's go back to verse 24 and let me put you into context. **"Therefore the Lord GOD of hosts, The Mighty One of Israel, declares 'Ah, I will be relieved of My adversaries...[I will] avenge Myself on My foes.'"** (Isaiah 1:24) In other words, "There is going to come a time when I've had it. There's going to

come a time when the cup of iniquity is full. It's full, and it's running over. And I am going to move. [And I'm going to relieve Myself of My adversaries. I'm gonna take care of My foes.]" (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 1:24) He says, **"I will...turn My hand against you...."** (Isaiah 1:25) Against you, who? Against you Judah, against you Jerusalem, against you who are My sons who have rebelled against Me, against you and your holy city. (See Isaiah 1:2, 21) He says, **"I will...turn My hand against you, ...I will smelt away your dross as with lye...I will remove all your alloy."** (Isaiah 1:25) In other words, I'm going to separate you. I'm going to sort you. I'm going to get rid of the dross. I'm going to purify you. He says, "Then," and you want to mark this with, like a clock. I put a green circle around it. It's a time phrase. It shows you a sequence of events, and you want to mark it. **"Then I will restore your judges as at...first....,"** He says, **"...And your counselors as at the beginning; after that....,"** after I do this, **"...you will be called the city of righteousness, a faithful city."** (Isaiah 1:26) In other words, there is a day coming in Israel when Jerusalem will be a faithful city again, when there won't be a number of Jews living there who profess to be God's chosen people and say they have a right to the land, but they're not living righteously. They're not obeying the Word of God and God knows. And my Jewish friends know that I love them, and that I stand with Israel because God stands with Israel, because He's not through with Israel. But I can't love them blindly. And I can't pat them on the back when they're living in a lack of faith, when they're not really believing God, when they're trying to solve their problems their own way. But He says, **"[There is a day coming when you] will be called the city of righteousness, a faithful city. Zion will be redeemed with justice and her repentant ones with righteousness."** (Isaiah 1:26-27) In other words, "I'm not going to redeem you and just let you get away with it, and let you continue in your sin. I'm a just God. I'm the Holy One of Israel." Now remember in Isaiah chapter 1, verse 4, He describes Himself as the **"...Holy One of Israel...."**

(Isaiah 1:4) That term is used for God 27 times in the book of Isaiah. It is only used 5 other times in the Word of God. Once in Kings describing the same period of time, and then in Jeremiah, who comes later and has the same message, and then in the Psalms. (See 2 Kings 19:22; Psalm 71:22 & 78:41 & 89:18; Jeremiah 50:29 & 51:5) So, it is a term that is peculiar to the book of Isaiah that finds its identification there. “I am the Holy One of Israel.” And so, He tells us that, **“Zion will be redeemed with justice...,”** because a holy God must act justly, **“...and her repentant ones with righteousness.” (Isaiah 1:27)** Now, one of the ways that I mark “repentant,” and any time we see “return,” I just draw a red line underneath the word and then circle over to the top, and I put an arrow right there. And in the middle is the word repentant because repentance means that “I have seen the error of my ways. I have agreed with God and I have returned.” And Jesus said, [“Unless you repent, unless you have a change of mind about Me and about you, you’re a sinner and I’m the Christ, I’m the Son of God, then you will perish in your sins.”] (PARAPHRASE, Luke 13:3) So, He goes on to say, **“...her repentant ones with righteousness. But...,”** listen carefully, He’s a God of justice, **“...transgressors and sinners will be crushed together, and those who forsake the LORD...,”** listen carefully, **“...will come to an end.” (Isaiah 1:27-28)** There will be an end. It will be worse than 9/11. It will be more horrifying. It will be more alarming. It will cause, as we will see, the people to tremble because He is coming. And it says, **“...But transgressors and sinners will be crushed together, and those who forsake the LORD will come to an end.” (Isaiah 1:28)** You say, “I don’t believe that, that’s not my God.” I want to tell you something, if you don’t believe it, it is not your God. But He is God. And if you don’t believe it, you’re the one in error. You are not your authority. God is your authority. Acknowledge Him or not, He is your authority. Walk the way you want to walk, go ahead, do your own thing. Walk and go where you want to go, but know this, Precious One, there is a God in heaven. He says,

“Surely you will be ashamed of the oaks which you have desired....”

(Isaiah 1:29) This is where they would go and they would take the trees and they would worship them. And sometimes they would trim them and phallic symbols and sexual symbols and things like that because they were a part of their making of their idols. He says, **“...You will be embarrassed at the gardens which you have chosen.” (Isaiah 1:29)** You went and you planted these gardens. And people are doing it today. They’re setting up their own little shrines. They’re getting in tune with the spiritual part of themselves. The one that they’re getting in tune with is the devil, who is a liar, who is a destroyer. (See John 8:44; 1 Peter 5:8) You say, “You are very narrow-minded aren’t you?” I’m very biblical. God is very narrow-minded. He’s very narrow-minded. There is one body of truth, and it’s the Word of God. And anything that proclaims to be truth, if it does not line up with this, it is not truth. And so this is what He says, **“...You will be like an oak whose leaf fades away or as a garden that has no water.” (Isaiah 1:30)** In Psalm 135, verse 18, it says, [we become like what we worship.] (PARAPHRASE, Psalm 135:18) Let me ask you a question. What are you like? Tell me what you’re like. Tell me what you believe. Tell me the way you live, and I’ll know who your God is, who it is that you are bowing to, who it is that you are worshiping. O Beloved, there’s only one. We’ll talk about it when we come back. And we’ll talk about that day that is coming: the last days.

PART TWO

Thank you, Beloved. Thank you for listening. Thank you for studying. Thank you for wanting to know truth. We believe that in these last days that it is absolutely critical for people to come face to face with the Word of God; discover truth for themselves. That if you’ll go to the Word of God and take these principles of study, you’ll discover truth for yourself. **“And you will know the truth, and the truth will [set] you free.” (John 8:32)** The homework that you’re doing, it’s worth the time. Studying the Word of God

is the most important thing that you can do because [the Word of God lives and abides forever.] (PARAPHRASE, 1 Peter 1:23, KJV) “[It’s] **a lamp unto [your] feet...a light unto [your] path.**” (Psalm 119:105, KJV) What happens when He says, [“You’re gonna be ashamed of the oaks. You’re gonna become like that oak without leaves. You are going to be like a garden that has no water, shriveled up dried and drooping over, no life in you.”] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 1:29-30) He says, “**The strong man will become tinder....**” (Isaiah 1:31) You in all of your strength, you’re going to be set on fire, you’re going to be burned up. He says, “**...His work also a spark....**” (Isaiah 1:31) In other words, everything that you’ve accomplished, all of the sudden there’s a match to it. And it’s gone. It’s a spark. It’s a fire. It’s destroyed and nothing is left but ashes. “**...Thus they shall both burn together....**,” the man and his works that do not repent, that do not submit to God. He says, “**...and there will be none to quench them.**” (Isaiah 1:31) There is a fire coming, a terrible, terrible, terrible fire. We were talking about 9/11. You know the stories, maybe you saw the movie. Maybe you were one of those that was there, and you know the awfulness and the horror of it. But there is a worse terror coming. Well in Isaiah chapter 1, He speaks. And He calls the heavens and the earth to hear what He is saying because of these sons that have revolted. (See Isaiah 1:2) But now another message comes, and it’s Isaiah chapter 2. It says, “**The word which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. Now it will come about that in the last days the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it. And many peoples will come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house....’**” come, come let’s go up to the house, “**...of the God of Jacob; that He....**,” listen carefully, “**“...may teach us concerning His ways...that we may walk in His paths.’** For the law will go forth from Zion and the Word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

And He will judge between the nations...,” it says, **“...and [He] will render decisions for many peoples; and they will hammer their swords into plowshares...,**” it says, **“...and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again...,**” listen carefully **“...[never again] will they learn war.” (Isaiah 2:1-4)** Do you realize what He has just told you? He has told you that there is a day coming when never again will there be a war, never again. Never again will we lose our sons and our daughters on the battlefield of this world. Never again will be these terrorist attacks. Never again will the Towers come crumbling down. Why? Because the King is here, because God has assumed the throne, this is what He’s saying. Now there’s an exhortation that follows that in verse 5. **“Come house of Jacob, and let us walk in the light of the LORD.” (Isaiah 2:5)** And God’s invitation to you today is, “Come and walk in the light of the Lord.” Now you’re going to see this phrase in the book of Isaiah more than once. You’re going to see in the last days. And what Isaiah is going to do is take you from his time, to the last days. Let’s say that this is the book of Isaiah. In the midst of this long line, draw it on a piece of paper and you’ll see it. And as you look at it, know that this is the time of Isaiah. If you have a study guide, you have a chart there. And then come all the way over and draw on that line a cross. This is when the last days begin. Hebrews chapter 1, verse 2, says [that God has spoken to us in these last days through His Son.] (PARAPHRASE, Hebrews 1:2) Those last days begin with a coming of Jesus Christ, and they end with the second coming of Jesus Christ. And so, the last days go from the cross to the coming of the Lord when He comes to reign and to rule upon the earth. And when that happens, this is what’s going to happen: all the nations of this earth are going to come up to Jerusalem. Zion, that holy city, is going to be established. It is the city of God. It is the earthly place where He is going to reign. And they are going to come up for two purposes. They’re going to come up to learn about God, to be taught about His ways because they know

that there's no other way to live. And they're going to come because Jerusalem will not only be the epicenter, the focus, the central part of knowledge and truth, but it will be the source of peace. So what is your precept for life today? What is your take-away value, so that when the program is over and you step back into the world and you're hearing what the world is saying and you're listening to the news, what is your precept for life? Your precept for life is this. Continue to be faithful. Continue to order your life, your time, so that you are giving adequate time to knowing God. This is a big Book. There's 66 books in here, like there's 66 chapters in Isaiah. How many books does God expect you to know? Well I guess if He gave you 66, He expects you to know them. So you need to be about the Lord's business. You need to know that the epicenter of your life is to be knowing God. Daniel 11:32b speaking of a time of calamity, a time of terrorism that was coming down from the north and in the form of Antiochus Epiphanes, etc. In that time of terrorism, the statement was made. **“...but the people who know their God will [be able to stand firm] and take action.” (Daniel 11:32)** They will be able to be strong and to do exploits. God's calling for you, your precept for life is to know Him, to come to Him and say, [“Teach me concerning Your ways that I may walk in Your paths.”] (Paraphrase, Psalm 25:4) It's not just knowledge. It's not just an education. It's not a form, it's not a ritual, it is a relationship. You know Him, so you can walk in His ways.