

ISAIAH, PART 1 (JUDGMENT – BUT HOPE)
PROGRAM 16 (#911061)
WEEK 4 (#911313)
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SERIES: Isaiah, Part 1 (Judgment – But Hope)

TITLE: Program 16 – Steadfast And Immovable

MONDAY

OPEN

O Beloved, when you look at Christendom in general, do you see a group of people that you might call God's Special Forces? I mean, these are people who are on fire for God. These are people who believe God, who think nothing is impossible with God, and they live that way. And you know what? You see it in their lives. You see God at work. Wouldn't you like to be part of that group? We'll talk about it today and all this week.

PART ONE

This week, Beloved, we're going to look at Isaiah 7, 8 and the ninth chapter through the seventh verse. And as we do, I want us to look at a special group of people. Isaiah's gonna call them "the remnant." The remnant is those that last. The remnant is what is left over. And as we look at Isaiah chapter 7, he's going to mention that remnant in a very clear way. And as he does, from this point on in the book of Isaiah, we'll pick up this believing remnant. We'll pick up this group of, what I call the Special Forces. And as

we look at it it is my prayer, Precious One, that you will hunger, that you will long to be part of that group; that group of people who have taken Christianity seriously. That group of people who know, **“...without faith [it’s] impossible to please [God]....” (Hebrews 11:6)** It says those **“...who [come] to God must believe...He is...,”** He is what? He is God, **“...and...He is a rewarder of those who seek him.” (Hebrews 11:6)** So this remnant is a group of people that truly seek God. This is a group of people who really believe God. So we’re going to look and pick up this phrase in Isaiah chapter 7, when Isaiah turns to Ahaz, the king of the house of David, and says to him, **“...If you will not believe, you...[will] not last....” (Isaiah 7:9)** You will not be established. And that’s gonna be God’s word to you and to me this week. If we will believe, we will last. If we will believe we will be established. If we will believe we will be used of God. And it’s my prayer, Precious One, that God gets a hold of you and me in this week and that we catch a vision of the fact that God has called us to be more than just pew sitters; more than just going through the little routine of Christianity, but that He has called us to the front lines to be very, very effective for Him. And so what I want us to do is, I want us to get our Bibles. I’m gonna get mine off the table. You get yours, wherever it is, and we’re gonna open our Bibles to Isaiah chapter 7, Isaiah chapter 7. And this is where we begin this week. And in Isaiah chapter 7 it says, **“Now it came about in the days of Ahaz, the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, that Rezin the king of Aram....” (Isaiah 7:1)** Now where is Aram? If you are studying along with me, you have downloaded the study guide and if you haven’t you ought to, it’s free, and you can grow and you’ll have all these tools to help you. And all you need to do is go to PreceptsforLife.com, PreceptsforLife.com, and you can download a free study guide that goes with Isaiah. And I do hope that you are studying ahead of me, so that you are discovering truth for yourself and so that your eyes light up when you see this truth and when you and I sit here and study the

Word of God together. You are so precious. You are so precious, and I am so proud of you. And I know that you want to be part of God's Special Forces, that group of people who are passionate for the kingdom of God and who are willing to go to the front lines for God and do battle and remain **"...steadfast, [and] immovable, [and] always abounding in the work of the Lord...."** (1 Corinthians 15:58) Well all of that to go back to verse one now and we see that Resin was the king of Aram. Now, a modern-day word for Aram is Syria. So you just think, "Okay, north of Israel and a little bit more to the east, what you have is, you have Syria." So there was a king up there by the name of Rezin. And he was threatening Israel, and he was threatening Ahaz. He was threatening the northern kingdom and he was threatening the southern kingdom. And you remember that, and if you look at your map and you find Jerusalem on that, look where the Dead Sea is and then look to the left and you see Jerusalem there. Well right up above there, there's a line and that line is the border between Judah and Israel. And that area is the area where Ephraim settled. Ephraim and Manasseh were two of the sons of Joseph and so they were named, instead of Joseph, they were named among the twelve tribes of Israel. And Ephraim was given, this territory. So Ephraim becomes a name that is synonymous for Israel. Because Ephraim was right there because it was the largest of the tribes. Okay? So now that we're oriented, it says, **"...In the days of Ahaz, the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, that Rezin the king of Aram and Pekah the son of Ramaliel, king of Israel..."** you got it now, the northern kingdom **"...went up to Jerusalem to wage war against it, but could not conquer it...."** (Isaiah 7:1) Now when it says they went up to Jerusalem, what you have to understand is, that to go up to Jerusalem, really they're going south. So how are they going up to Jerusalem? Well Jerusalem is set on Mount Moriah. And so whenever you go to Jerusalem, it's like going up to Jerusalem. Now the other thing that you need to remember is, that Jerusalem is where God has put His name. It's where God

has put His temple. This is where they come to worship God, and when the northern and southern kingdom divided, the northern kingdom abandoned Jerusalem and abandoned the worship of God. And they set up golden calves, and they set up a capital and that capital was Samaria. So what you have is, really, a very interesting situation. You have the king of Aram, Syria— and you have Pekah, the son of Ramaliel, who is of the kingdom of Israel, coming down and camping around “**...Jerusalem to wage war against it....**” (Isaiah 7:1). I mean, it is a scary, scary thing for those who do not listen to God. You know the United States of America has been threatened by all sorts of terror attacks. And what they’re saying is, there are terror attacks that are going to happen in the United States of America again that will be of great magnitude. Am I to shake? Am I to fear? Or can I, in a sense, be part of those special forces that really believe God and therefore do not fear man? Let’s read on and see what happens. “**When it was reported to the house of David, saying, ‘The Arameans have camped in Ephraim,’ his heart and the hearts of his people shook as...trees of the forest shake with the wind....**” (Isaiah 7:2) I mean they heard that they were camping outside. They knew that they could be besieged. And so their hearts, it was like being tossed, a tree in the wind, back and forth, and back and forth, and back and forth; being whipped by that wind. The heart of the king and the hearts of the people. (See Isaiah 7:2) “**Then the Lord said to Isaiah, ‘Go out...to meet Ahaz, you and your son Shear-jashub....’**” (Isaiah 7:3) Now “Shear-jashub” means, and you want to write this down if you don’t have it down, “A remnant shall return.” A remnant shall return. In other words, “I have some people that are going to survive,” and this was the name of Shear-jashub. And so as Isaiah and his son went and he said, “I’d like to introduce you to Shear-jashub.” Then he knew what it meant: a remnant shall return. So let’s go on. And so they met “**...at the end of the conduit of the upper pool, on the highway to the fuller’s field....**”(Isaiah 7:3) They were meeting at the source of water where the gentle waters of

Siloam would come into the city, go inside the wall, where they had their water source. And so this is where they're meeting. It's a very significant place and you'll see why later. **"And....,"** he said, **"...say to him, [take heart] 'Take care and be calm, have no fear...do not be fainthearted because of these two stubs of smoldering firebrands, on account of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and the son of Remaliah. Because Aram, with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah, has planned evil against you, saying, '[Let's] go up [to] Judah and terrorize it, and make for ourselves a breach in its walls and set up the son of Tabeel as king in the midst of it....'"** (Isaiah 7:4-6) We've got a plan. Let's go get this city. Let's get this city and we'll take the son of Tabeel. We'll knock Ahaz off the throne, and we'll put him in there. We will conquer. So their hearts are shaking like the trees in the wind. And what Isaiah is saying, "Be calm. Be calm. Don't listen to their threat. Listen to God." We'll talk about it in just a minute.

PART TWO

If you knew an enemy was out to get you, if you knew that someone in your office or in your organization had plotted against you and they were gonna come in and they were gonna do some maneuvers that would make you lose your job, or take you out of where you had achieved and bring you back down the ladder so that you land splat on the floor, what would you do? Would you be afraid? Would you say, "There's no way I can be helped, they're conspiring against me, and there's nothing I can do"? Oh yes there is, if you're a child of God. You see, there's a sovereign ruler in the universe and that's God. And He wants you in the time of trouble to believe in Him, to cling to Him, to bring the matter to Him, to spread it out and say this is what's happening. Well now God in His grace knows what Ahaz is hearing. He knows what is happening to the people. He knows how their hearts are shaking like the trees in the wind and so God, in His grace, because the

Bible is not complete yet, sends His messenger, Isaiah, along with his son, Shear-jashub: “a remnant will return,” to meet with Ahaz and to say, “Look. I know what’s happened. I know how you have been threatened. But I want you to be calm. I do not want you to fear.” (See Isaiah 7:4) Let’s look at it. Isaiah chapter 7, he says, in verse 4, “**...Take care and be calm. Have no fear and do not be fainthearted....**” (Isaiah 7:4) If you are part of God’s faithful, Special Forces, if you are part of a group of people that truly believe that the Bible is the Word of God, and that [God watches over His Word to perform it.] (PARAPHRASE, Jeremiah 1:12) And that God puts Himself behind those who live by faith, if you’re part of those, then in any given situation that you find yourself in, and right now I’m in a very, very difficult, painful situation. If I would let it, it would demolish me. But I’m not going to let it, because I’m going to believe God. And what God does in times like this, He will send His Word to you. He will bring you into the Word of God in some way. Not some random prophecy, not some word in a sense that is not Biblical, but sounds Biblical but is a revelation of man. He’ll bring you into the solid Word of God, and that’s what He’s doing for Ahaz. And this is what He says in verse 7. He says, “**Thus says the Lord God...,**” when they’re saying they’re going to set up another king. He says, “**...It shall not stand nor shall it come to pass.**” (Isaiah 7:7) This is not going to happen. This is their plan. This is their plot. But I’m telling you, it’s not going to happen. And then He tells him what is going to happen. He says, “**For the head of Aram...,**” Syria, remember, “**...is Damascus...,**” that’s the same as present-day Damascus. “**...and the head of Damascus is Rezin (now within another 65 years)....**” (Isaiah 7:8) And if you’re studying the Bible with us, you know that this is a time phrase, and you need to mark it. Put a little green clock around “years” and then underline “**...(within another 65 years Ephraim...,**” which is the largest tribe of the northern kingdom “**...will be shattered, so that it is no longer a people).**” (Isaiah 7:8) Now this was happening, about 734 B.C., give or take a year. And so what he’s

saying is, in 65 years these things are gonna happen. In another 65 years would make the time 669 B.C., 'cause the calendar goes down. Well what happens in 722 B.C.? The northern kingdom is taken captive by the Assyrians. And then in 669, because there are people left down there, the Assyrians would take out the cream of the crop and then they would bring in peoples from other places that they had captured. They would put them in there, and this is where we get the Samaritans eventually. They crossbreed with the Israelites and so what you have is what you call a “mongrel” kind of race, which was Samaritan, which was a Jew and a Gentile, the product of a Jew and Gentile, so not pure Jewish. And so in 669, another group that was imported by, Ashurbanipal, A-s-h-u-r-b-a-n-i-p-a-l is brought in. (See Ezra 4:10) You see this in Ezra chapter 4, verse 10. And so there's no longer a people. There's no longer this Jewish element. And then He says, **“And the head of Ephraim is Samaria...,”** that's the capital, **“...and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah....” (Isaiah 7:9)** Who is Ahaz? He is the son of David. If he's the son of David, he is of the house of David. If he is of the house of David, then he has the covenant behind him, which we call the Davidic Covenant that promises Ahaz that he will not lose his throne, listen carefully, as long as he believes and obeys. You know when we lose our throne, so to speak, and when we come under the oppression of someone else is, when we do not believe and obey God; when we walk according to our natural gut instinct. And so we come to the phrase, the phrase that is going to be our key repeated phrase all week long. He turns to this king, and this is a word from God, and this is what He says, **“...If you will not believe, you surely [will] not last.” (Isaiah 7:9)** You're not gonna stay on this throne. You're not going to be established if you do not believe. And, Precious One, listen to me very carefully today, if you don't get anything else but this today, just listen carefully. If you will not believe God, you're not gonna last. You're not gonna make it through the situation. You're not going to come out as more than a conqueror. You're gonna be overcome by

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fear. You're going to be overcome by panic. You're gonna be like a tree shaken in the wind. But not only that, you're going to displease God. God says, **"...without faith it is impossible to please Him, ...[those] who [come to Him—] to God must believe that He is...."** (Hebrews 11:6) He is what? He is God. There is no other. You're not to fear man. Stop regarding. Remember we saw, **"...man, whose breath is in his nostrils...."** (Isaiah 2:22, KJV) We are instead to fear, to respect, to trust God. So, Precious One, Precious One, your word for today is this: that if you will not believe you will not last. But if you believe, you'll be unshakeable, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.