

ISAIAH, PART 2 (COMFORT FOR HIS PEOPLE)
PROGRAM 18 (#911133)
WEEK 4 (#911327)
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SERIES: Isaiah, Part 2 (Comfort For His People)

TITLE: Program 18 – You’re Free...Now What?

WEDNESDAY

OPEN

Have you ever met someone that really does not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and yet, they have a fear, a respect for God, a reverence that, in a sense, puts you to shame because you don’t have that reverence, you don’t have that fear? And yet you’re looking at someone that doesn’t know Jesus and they respect God more than you. Shame on you! We’ll talk about it today.

PART ONE

When you get to Isaiah 48 what you find out is, here is the house of Jacob, here is God’s covenant people and yet they are obstinate. They have an iron neck. They have a bronze forehead and they are just being flippant towards God. And God is saying to them, “Listen Jacob. Listen to Me. Listen to Me; because you’re gonna be in big trouble if you don’t.” There is nothing worse than a pompous Christian who calls on God, and yet really doesn’t have the fruit of the Spirit in their lives, the love and the joy and the peace and the

gentleness and the self control and the kindness and the goodness. They don't have it. And you look at them and you see people that don't know God, that are much nicer than they are, that are far more patient than they are. So as we come to Isaiah chapter 48 remember, what's our theme? It's "Listen." Listen to Me, pay attention to Me. Listen to My words. Don't walk away with your fingers in your ears. You're gonna regret it if you do. So God has a message for us, Precious One. Now Isaiah chapter 48, verse 12 where I left off. **"Listen to Me, O Jacob, even Israel whom I called; I am He, I am the first [and] I am [also] the last. Surely My hand founded the earth, and My right hand spread out the heavens; when I call to them [to the heavens] they stand together."** It says, **"Assemble, all of you, and listen...!" (Isaiah 48:12-14)** Now one of the things that we tell you to do, if you study along with us, if you download the free study guide, go to preceptsforlife.com and you can get the information and we tell you to mark the word, "listen". I mark it with a green ear, not that I think that there should be green in your ear, but all the things that have to do with the Word of God I do in purple and green because it's royal, comes straight from heaven, and green makes you grow. I think of growth. And He's saying, **"Listen...."** Verse 12: **"Listen to Me, O Jacob, even Israel...."** (Isaiah 48:12) Verse 14, **"Assemble, all of you, and listen! Who among them has declared these things...?"** Who in the heavens has declared these things? **"...The LORD loves him; he will carry out His good pleasure on Babylon...."** (Isaiah 48:14) Now you're thinking, who is this "him"? Well you have to remember that He started talking about Cyrus. He started talking about Cyrus in Isaiah chapter 44 and he's first mentioned in verse 28, but you really start in verse 24. He says this, **"Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer...the one who formed you from the womb, 'I, the LORD, am the maker of all things, stretching out the heavens by Myself...spreading out the earth all alone [all alone].'"** (Isaiah 44:24) What is He letting him know? I'm the Creator. I've been here since the beginning. I'm the first and I'm the last and I'm gonna be here after you are

long gone, although you're gonna live for all eternity. I'm the first and I'm the last and I want you to know that I'm the Creator. Listen to Me! Listen to Me! And then He says, **"...The LORD loves him; he will carry out His good pleasure on Babylon, and His arm will be against the Chaldeans."** (Isaiah 48:14) Now unfortunately in the New American Standard they capitalize "His arm will be against the Chaldeans." They kind of interpreted who the "His" is. But if you look at this, this is Cyrus. The prophecy about Cyrus is continuing. And what He's showing us is this. Now I marked it all in orange. Look at verse 15. **"I, even I...."** God is speaking, **"...have spoken; indeed I have called him...."** "Him" whom? Cyrus. **"...I have brought him, and He will make his ways successful."** He's going to succeed. Now how is he going to succeed? And they capitalized "He" again. But how is he going to succeed? He's going to succeed because he listens to God. He's going to succeed because he reveres God, because he fears God, because he trusts God, and he's not a Jew. He's not of the house of Jacob. He is not of the house of Israel. He is a Persian. He is part of the Medo-Persian Empire that conquers Babylon. He's the one that's going to say to Israel, "You may return to your land. You may rebuild your temple. God has laid this on my heart. I've listened to Him and you can go back home." So as He says all of this He's talking about Cyrus, and He's showing us: Look this guy listened to God. This guy is blessed by God. And then He says this, **"Come near to Me..."**, this is so important. **"...Listen to this..."** I'm not saying "This is so important, listen to this." I'm reading the Scripture. **"Come near to Me, listen to this...."** So it's another green ear, and then I color it yellow because God is speaking. **"...From the first I have not spoken in secret, from the time it took place, I was there...."** He's the first and the last. **"...And now the Lord GOD has sent Me, and His Spirit."** (Isaiah 48:16) What? And you look in puzzlement upon that verse and you say, "Wait a minute. Wait a minute." **"...The Lord GOD has sent Me, and His Spirit."** (Isaiah 48:16) The Lord sent me. His Spirit sent me. Who's the "Me"? Who's the "Me" that has not spoken in secret? Who's the

“Me” from the time that it took place, I was there? Oh, could it be the Trinity in this verse? Could it be the Lord God, God the Father, His Spirit, and Jesus; Jesus who has always been? Next to that I might write John, chapter 1, verses 1 and 2, and let’s go there, John chapter 1, verses 1 and 2. **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. [And] all things came into being through Him...,”** through the Word, **“...and apart from Him...,”** apart from the Word, **“...nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him...,”** in the Word, **“...was life, and the life...,”** now listen very carefully, **“...was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.”(John 1:1-5)** But the Light was there and who’s the Light? The one that was in the beginning. The one that was there before it took place, or when time took place. So, you go back to Genesis chapter 1, and you have **“In the beginning God...,”** Elohim, plural ending, **“...created the heavens and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1)** **“And the earth was without form and void; and...the Spirit of God moved [over] the face of the [deep.] (Genesis 1:2, KJV)** And then you have, **“Let there be...,”** what? Among other things, **“...Let there be light...” (Genesis 1:3, KJV)** Okay, so who was there from the beginning? Jesus. In Genesis 1, verse 26 it says, **“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image....’” (Genesis 1:26)** So this is a prophecy about Jesus Christ. This is a prophecy about the fact that there is a Trinity, there is a Triune Being, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit that are active in creation and in salvation. So look, listen to me. If you’re not listening to this who are you not listening to? You’re not listening to Jesus. You’re not listening to God the Father. You’re not listening to the Spirit. And here is someone like Cyrus who wasn’t even born and raised as a Hebrew, as an Israelite and he is listening to God and he is fearing God. O Precious One, don’t be put to shame by people that have more respect and more reverence for God than you have. Now verse 17, **“Thus says the LORD....”** Now I mark every **“Thus says the LORD”** like an open Bible. When I come to **“truth”** I mark it

the same way. I draw it in purple and then I color it green. So if you mark it, you're gonna see it marked several times in this chapter, and you want to see. **"Thus says the LORD...."** Listen to him. **"Thus says the LORD...."** Now who is the LORD? **"...Your Redeemer...."** How's He going to redeem you? He's going to redeem you through the blood of the Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. **"...Your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel, 'I am the LORD your God, who teaches you to profit....'"** I'm the One that's instructing you. I want you to profit. Are you listening to Me? Are you listening to Me? **"...Who leads you in the way that you should go."** (Isaiah 48:17) I'm the One that wants to order your life. I'm the One that wants to say, "Hey, walk this way." **"If only, you had paid attention to My commandments...!"** (Isaiah 48:18) If only you had listened! Remember we began this week, and I told you the illustration of a mother that said "Don't go. Don't drive. You're tired, rest." And the daughter didn't listen. If only she had listened to her mother she wouldn't have been paralyzed. She wouldn't have fallen asleep at the wheel of the car and had a head-on collision that paralyzed her for life. He's saying, **"If only you had paid attention to My commandments...!"** (Isaiah 48:14) And what's worse is when you find people that really aren't yet born again and they fear God. You look at Benjamin Franklin; he feared God. He called the United States of America to their knees when they were trying to come up with the Constitution. Hey, listen, listen up! We'll talk about it in just a minute after you listen to this announcement.

PART TWO

There is a benefit, Beloved, to listening to God. There's a benefit for you to study the Word of God the way we're studying it, inductively, going to the Word of God our self, looking at it book by book, chapter by chapter, verse by verse so you discover truth for yourself, so that you know that you're hearing God. When you pick up the Bible, Precious One, you are picking up

the very words of God. God has spoken, and He wants you to know His Book. And there's a benefit to this. Listen to Isaiah 48, verse 18 where I left off. **"If only you had paid attention to My commandments! Then your well-being would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea."** (Isaiah 48:18) I mean the waves, those wonderful waves just keep coming in and coming in and coming in. Your righteousness would have been like that. **"Your descendants would have been like the sand...your offspring like its grains; their name would never be cut off or destroyed from My presence."** (Isaiah 48:19) Do you realize what would have happened if you would have paid attention to Me? But what's going to happen? They're going to be cut off. They're going to be destroyed by Babylon. Why? Because they would not listen. So now He's giving them a word and He's saying, **"Go forth from Babylon! Flee from the Chaldeans! Declare with the sound of joyful shouting, proclaim this, send it out to the end of the earth; say, 'The LORD has redeemed His servant Jacob.'"** (Isaiah 48:20) Make this proclamation as you go out from Babylon, as you flee from the Chaldeans. **"They did not thirst when He led them through the deserts...."** And He's going back and He's talking about the exodus when they came out of Egypt. **"...He made the water flow out of the rock for them...."** (Isaiah 48:21) Remember Moses struck the rock and the water came out. (See Exodus 17:6) Remember the second time he was supposed to speak to the rock. He struck the rock but the water still came out. Moses got it, but Israel got the water. **"...He split the rock and the water gushed forth."** (Isaiah 48:21) Now 1 Corinthians tells us, **"...And...they [all] drank [from the same] spiritual Rock [which they followed] and that Rock was [Jesus.]"** 1 Corinthians 10:4, KJV) He was there all the time. He's been there from the beginning. "The Lord God, and His Spirit, and I" were there. And so He's saying, "Flee from Babylon." Then He makes this statement. It's very interesting. He's gonna say it again in chapter 57, verse 21. **"There is no peace for the wicked...."** (Isaiah 48:22) You can be wicked and not listen or you can be righteous and listen

and obey and do what I'm telling you to do. You can do it, but you've got to listen up. You've got to pay attention. O Precious One, are you listening to God? Are you doing what God says, and sometimes it doesn't seem very logical to do what God says. Now I mean God doesn't ask you to do woo woo things, normally. But so many times what we think is, "Surely He doesn't expect me to do this and this in this culture. Everybody else is living a different way. Surely He doesn't expect me to be so opposite from the world." Oh yes, He does. He does. You're just not listening. Now what is He saying to them? He's saying, [Flee from Babylon!] (PARAPHRASE Isaiah 48:20) **"Go forth from Babylon! Flee from the Chaldeans...!"** Now when are they to do this? Well they are to do it when Cyrus takes his power and he says "Return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple." (See Isaiah 44:28) They're to flee from Babylon. But they think, "You know, this isn't logical." And when the time comes many of them will not leave Babylon. Why? Because He told them, "When you're in Babylon build a house, settle down. You're gonna be a while. You're gonna be there 70 years total, captivity. And so pray for the prosperity of Babylon and all of that because you're gonna be there. But when I tell you to leave I mean leave. When you hear **"Go...from Babylon...!"** when you hear **"...Flee from the Chaldeans...!"** (Isaiah 48:20) you're to shout! You're to be excited! You're to go. Why? Because God is sending you home." I remember when God told me that I was to go to the mission field. I literally put a newspaper ad and I said "I'm called to go to the mission field and everything in the house is for sale." And I mean we sold it right and left. And one of my friends was trying to say, Oh no, no, put it in storage. And I said, "But I can't because the Bible says, **'...where your treasure is, there your heart [is] also.'** (Matthew 6:21) And so if I put it in storage my heart's gonna be in storage and I can't do that." I just went to the mission field. When He tells you to move, you move. You listen to God. And this is what He's saying. And those that do not listen, those that say, "No, I'm not going to do it." Well, you know what? That's wickedness and you know what? There's not gonna be any peace

cause you didn't do what God told you to do. There's going to be a nagging at you. There's going to be a gnawing at you. Now I would like to camp there, but we've got a lot to cover before the end of this week. So now in chapter 49 what is He saying? **"Listen to Me, O islands...."** (Isaiah 49:1) He's had Babylon listening. He's had Jacob listening. Now He's telling the islands to listen. He's saying **"...Pay attention you peoples from afar...."** Now He's speaking to people that do not know God. Now He's speaking to people that are outside the commandments, outside the covenants, outside the promises of God, because they're Gentiles. And He's saying, [Listen, Gentiles] **"...The LORD called me from the womb; from the body of My mother He named Me. He has made My mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of His hand He has concealed Me...He has also made Me a select arrow, He has hidden Me in His quiver. He said to Me, 'You are My Servant, Israel, in Whom I will show My glory.'" He says, "But I said, 'I have toiled in vain, I have spent My strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely the justice due...Me is with the LORD, and My reward [is] with God."** (Isaiah 49:1-4) Now here He's speaking to the islands, but He's telling the islands to listen to this One. He's telling the islands to listen to God's servant Israel. He's telling them to pay attention to Israel in whom He's going to show His glory. In other words He's saying, "Listen to these people because they know the true God. Listen to these people. They're the ones that have the commandments. Listen to these people. They are not a nation that is walking in darkness. Listen to them." Now Israel says, "But you know, I've toiled in vain. They're not gonna listen. They're not going to pay attention. And yet, the reward that's due me is with my God." So what is it saying here? They didn't listen, but I've been faithful. Now did Israel do their job? We'll talk about that tomorrow. The question today is: Are you listening? Are you doing your job? Are you living according to every word that comes out of the mouth of God?