

ISAIAH, PART 2 (COMFORT FOR HIS PEOPLE)

PROGRAM 5 (#911120)

WEEK 1 (#911324)

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SERIES: Isaiah, Part 2 (Comfort For His People)

TITLE: Program 5 – Overcoming Fear

FRIDAY

OPEN

Fear will immobilize you. It will paralyze you. It will discombobulate you. What do I mean by discombobulate? I mean you won't be able to get your act together because you are so full of fear. So what is God's message for you today? He's saying to you, "Do not fear. I'm God. I'm God. And because I am God, if you know Me, you do not need to fear." We'll look at it today.

PART ONE

What is God's message to us today, Precious One, as we bring this week to a close? It is: Do not fear. Do not fear. You're My servant. You're My child. I've chosen you. Do not fear. (See Isaiah 41:10) Fear is so, as I said, immobilizing, so paralyzing, so discombobulizing. It just throws us into a tizzy. And it makes us unable to act and move and make decisions the way we should. You know, as I read Isaiah chapter 41, verse 10 which says, **"Do**

not fear, for I am with you; do not [look anxiously] about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.” (Isaiah 41:10) “I’m gonna take care of you.” I came to know Christ at the age of 29. By then I was married. I was divorced. I had shaken my fist in the face of God. I went out and became what I thought I would never become—an immoral woman. I was looking for someone who would love me unconditionally. And consequently, with the lack of the Word of God in my life, a religion but without a relationship, with the lack of the knowledge of who God was, I thought I had to find him. And so I went to find him, and as I went to find him I found myself compromising myself more and more and more. Compromising my standards, compromising my morals, etc. until I became an immoral woman. I was divorced from my husband because he was bipolar. And two ministers had advised us to divorce. On July 16th, 1963, I fell on my knees and I became a child of God. My life was radically transformed. I got into the Word of God. I began reading it, not just the New Testament, but the Old Testament. Soon after this, my husband committed suicide. God took me through that suicide of my husband because I had told God I would go back and marry him, because now that I belonged to God I wanted to be righteous. I wanted to do what God said was right. I loved God, and I wanted to be obedient to Him. Well as a result of all this, I found myself as a woman without even the possibility of marrying my husband. A woman whose lifestyle had changed and there were no Christian men on the horizon except one and he didn’t feel like marrying me. And then on top of this, I had been in an automobile accident, and I had been having a lot of pain. I’d worn a collar around my neck. And I had to have a cervical fusion. Well I worked at Johns Hopkins on a research team— they were doing anterior cervical fusions. They were new. And I went into surgery. I’m leaving my two boys with my brother and my sister-in-law to watch over them. I’m going into the hospital. Mom and Dad are far away. And I am

frightened. I am frightened. And as I'm reading the Old Testament, I come across Isaiah 41:10. Isaiah 41:10, **"Do not fear...I am with you...."** (Isaiah 41:10) What I did was I took that verse, I wrote it down on a 3x5 card, and I clutched it all the way into surgery believing God, believing that He was with me, believing that even if He paralyzed me as a result of that surgery, that I could trust Him. I knew that He was with me. Do you know that? Understanding God's love, **"...perfect love casts out fear..." (1 John 4:18) because** the Bible says fear has torment. The Bible tells us in 2 Timothy chapter 1, verse 7 that [God has not given us the spirit of fear, but He's given us power, He's given us love, He's given us a sound mind—a mind under control]. (PARAPHRASE, 2 Timothy 1:7) What do you do when you're afraid? Well God wants Israel to understand, "Listen you're gonna go through this Babylonian captivity" as we've been studying all week. "You need to know though, that I am with you. You need to get your strength. You need to get your comfort from Me. You need to exchange your strength for Mine by hoping in Me, by waiting for Me." ["Those that wait upon the Lord will renew their strength. They will mount up with wings of eagles," etc. "They will gain new strength."] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 40:31) And so this is what He's saying. Now as God talks in 41 to the coastlands, He turns and He talks in contrast to His people. And I want you to know that God has a different message for His people than He has for the world. His message for the world is: "I am God. You are a sinner, and if you want to have a relationship with Me, I have made it possible because I have caused My Son to leave heaven, to be born of a virgin, (See Isaiah 7:14) to be born without sin. I have caused My Son, who knew no sin, to be made sin for you. When He hung on the cross, I took all your sins all the sins of the whole world and Jesus who knew no sin was made to be sin for you. (See 2 Corinthians 5:21) He died. He was buried. But the third day He rose again from the dead. Why? Because His shedding of His blood, His sacrifice for your sin fully satisfied My righteousness. And so I was able to raise Him

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from the dead, never to die again. He will always be the Son of Man, the Son of God, God incarnate in the flesh. He's with Me now. He's coming again. And when He comes again, He's coming as the King in Glory to rule over the heavens and the earth. I am God. And, world, I want you to know that if you want to come to Me, if you want to become My child, you have to come to Me through Jesus. [He is the way. He is the truth. He is the life]." And listen to me, God says, ["No one, no human being comes to the Father except through Him.] (PARAPHRASE, John 14:6) There is only one way to heaven be you Jew or Gentile and that's through believing that Jesus is the Messiah, the Promised One—that He's the Son of God. So if you want to come to Me, you come to Me that way. And just know this, these are the descendants of Abraham who was My friend.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 41:8) These are My people, and although they have lived in disobedience, although they have rebelled, although many of them have rejected Jesus right now, their rejection has been the world's salvation. And someday Israel will be saved, those that are living, those that go through the war against Jerusalem and survived it, those that are looking for Me, they will live. And they will live with Me forever. I want you to know, Israel, that as you get ready to go through these things, you're not to fear." Watch what He says, "Do not fear. I am with you." (See Isaiah 41:10) "Who am I? I," as we saw in the last program, ["I am the Everlasting God. I am the LORD. I am the Creator of the heavens and the earth.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 40:28) ["I am the first and I am the last."] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 41:4) "I'm God. I am He." He says, **"...do not anxiously look about you...."** (Isaiah 41:10) You don't need to panic in your fear. **"...[I'm] with you...I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you...,"** now listen, **"...with My righteous right hand."** (Isaiah 41:10) Where is Jesus right— sitting right now? [He's sitting at the right hand of God, waiting for the enemies of God to become the footstool of God.] (PARAPHRASE, Psalms 110:1) He says, **"Behold, all those who are angered at you...."**

(Isaiah 41:11) You, who? You Jacob. You Israel, My servant.” All those who are antisemitics, all those who want to drive Israel into the sea, all those who are saying: “You Jew!” The other night I was watching a great PBS special on baseball. And they had the black team, and they had the white team. And my heart broke at what this nation did to our black brothers and sisters. But you couldn’t put them down, they had their ball teams. But then they talked about Hank Greenberg, the first Jew that played as, in baseball and excelled, or was known as a Jew. And when he came out the first time, they yelled at him. They hissed him. They booed him until finally he knocked one right out of the park. And then they had to stand to their feet. He says, listen, “**...all those who are angered at you will be shamed and dishonored; those who contend with you....**” This means the PLO. This means Syria. This means Egypt, if Egypt contends. This means Iran. All of those, “**...will be as nothing and will perish. You will seek those who quarrel with you, but [you’ll] not find them....**” (Isaiah 41:11-12) Hey come on, those of you that are quarreling. Where did they go? God took care of them. God took care of them. He says, “**...Those who war with you will be as nothing and non-existent,**” (Isaiah 41:12) those who war with you. Who warred with the Jews? Hitler. And Germany that followed him blindly, that would not stand up. Who? Those in Iran. Those in the PLO. Listen to what He says. He says, “**...Those who war with you will be as nothing and non-existent. For I am the LORD your God, who upholds your right hand, who says to you...,**” what? “**... ‘Do not fear, I will help you.’ ...you worm....**” (Isaiah 41:12-14) Whoops! He calls Israel a worm! Why? We’ll look at it in just a minute.

PART TWO

Can you imagine calling your servant a worm? I mean, can you imagine doing that? That’s what God calls Jacob! That’s what God calls Israel! You say, “Well I agree with Him. They are worms. Ah, listen, watch the worm

turn. Watch the worm turn. Why does He use this word “worm?” When you think of worm, you think of absolute impotence. I mean, they don’t have an appendage that you and I can see to fight anybody with. They are just crawling along, able to be crushed. They just cannot do anything to defend themselves. They don’t even bite! They don’t even sting! And watch what He says to them, I love it! He says in verse 13, **“...I am the LORD your God, who upholds your right hand, who says to you, “Do not fear, I will help you.””** (Isaiah 41:13) Now ever since He’s called them His servant, watch what He has done in verse 10, **“Do not fear...I am with you....”** (Isaiah 41:10) Now we come to verse 13, **“...Do not fear, I will help you.”** (Isaiah 41:13) “I’m not only with you; I’m going to help you.” Now watch what He says in verse 14, **“Do not fear, you worm, Jacob, you men of Israel; I will help you,’ declares the LORD, ‘and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.’”** (Isaiah 41:14) Now the footnote in the New Inductive Study Bible tells us that one of the ways to translate this is this: **“Do not fear, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel; I will help you,’ declares the LORD, ‘even your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.’”** (Isaiah 41:14) Now “the Holy One of Israel” has been used since chapter 1. It is a term that is used very rarely; very, very rarely in any other Old Testament book. But in Isaiah it’s predominant until you get to the second part. But what He’s reminding them here, of who He is. And He’s saying, “I am the Redeemer. I’m your Redeemer. I’m the One that is able to take you and rescue you. I am the One that is able to buy you out of the slave market and set you free. I am the Redeemer.” So He says, **“...you worm, Jacob....”** (Isaiah 41:14) “You just, you just, you little impotent thing slithering along the ground.” Watch what He says, **“Behold, I have made you....,”** you worm Jacob, **“...a new, sharp threshing sledge with double edges; you will thresh the mountains and pulverize them, and will make the hills like chaff. You will winnow them, and the wind will carry them away, and the storm will scatter them; but you will rejoice in the**

LORD....” He says, **“...You will glory in the Holy One of Israel.”**
(Isaiah 41:15-16) This is your fate. The worm is going to turn. The worm that is impotent is the one that is going to thresh the mountains all of the world is going to come out to Jerusalem. All the world is going to honor Israel. He says, **“The afflicted and [the] needy are seeking water, but there is none....,”** verse 17. **“...And their tongue is parched with thirst; I, the LORD, will answer them Myself, as the God of Israel I will not forsake them.”** (Isaiah 41:17) “You don’t need to fear. I’m your God. I am with you. I’m able to take the worm and turn him.” **“I will open rivers on...bare heights....”** (Isaiah 41:18) Here you are seeking water. Where do you usually find water? You find water down in the valleys. He says, “[I’m going to bring water out of] **the bare heights....,**” He says, uh **“...springs in the midst of...valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water and the dry land fountains of water. I will put the cedar in the wilderness....”** (Isaiah 41:18-19) “Hey, I’m taking this beautiful tree, the cedar, and I’m gonna grow it in the wilderness.” **“...The acacia and the myrtle and the olive tree; I will place the juniper in the desert together with the box tree and the cypress, that they may see and recognize, and consider and gain insight as well, that the hand of the LORD has done this, and the Holy One of Israel has created it.”** (Isaiah 41:19-20) “I want them to see that I have done this.” **“‘Present your case,’ the LORD says. ‘Bring [forth] your strong arguments....’”** He says, **“The King of Jacob says....,”** now watch this carefully. **“Let them bring forth and declare to us what is going to take place....”** (Isaiah 41:21-22) Now what had happened is Israel had gotten their set of idols. They really didn’t trust in God. They really didn’t think that God could do what He said, so they accumulated these idols. He says, “Okay, bring ’em. Bring your idols.” He says, **“Let them bring forth and declare to [Me] what is going to take place....”** “Let your gods tell you what is the future.” **“...As for the former events, declare what they were....”** Let them tell you what I’ve already done, or what’s

already happened. He says, “...**That we may consider...and know their outcome....**” (Isaiah 41:22) “So tell Me what you’ve done. Tell Me what’s gonna happen so that we can consider the outcome.” Mmmm— They’re standing there. They have mouths, but they can’t speak. It says, “...**Or announce to us what is coming.**” (Isaiah 41:22) This is very important to rest of the book of Isaiah. He says, “**Declare the things that are going to come afterwards, that we may know...you are gods....**” (Isaiah 41:23) Now when you started reading this, and you got to verse 22 and it says, “**Let them bring forth and declare to us what is going to take place....**” (Isaiah 41:22) You don’t quite understand it. When you don’t understand something and you’re studying the Bible, keep reading because as you keep reading, Beloved, God will, many times, explain it to you. So He just explained it in verse 23, “...**that we may know...you are gods; indeed, do good or evil, that we may anxiously look about us and fear together.**” (Isaiah 41:23) “Do something, and so we’ll fear you because you’ve done something.” He says, “**Behold, you [you idol]....**” (Isaiah 41:24) Now remember if you got your free study guide, if you went to preceptsforlife.com and you downloaded it, you’re putting a big “I” over every reference to idols. So you would have, “**Behold, you....**” with the big “I,” “...**are of no account, and your work amounts to nothing; he who chooses you [idol] is an abomination.**” (Isaiah 41:24) He says, “**“I have aroused one from the north, and he has come; from the rising of the sun he will call on My name...he will come upon rulers as upon mortar, even as the potter treads [the] clay.’ Who has declared this from the beginning, that we might know? Or from former times, that we might say, ‘He is right!’”** (Isaiah 41:25-26) He says, “Do you see what I have told you? I am going to arouse one from the north.” He says, at the beginning of 41, “I’m gonna arouse one from the east.” (See Isaiah 41:2) “I’m God. I’m telling you ahead of time what I’m going to do.” He says, “...**Surely there was no one who declared...there was no one who**

proclaimed...there was no one who heard your words. Formerly I said to Zion, ‘Behold, here they are,’ and to Jerusalem, ‘I will give [you] a messenger of good news.’ But when I look, there [was] no one...there [was] no counselor among them who, if I ask, can give an answer.

Behold, all of them are false; [these idols] their works are worthless, their molten images are wind and emptiness.” (Isaiah 41:26-29) “And that’s what you’re trusting in. No wonder you’re afraid. If you would trust in Me, you would not be afraid.” **“Do not fear, for I am with you....” (Isaiah 41:10)** Who is He? He’s the One that has the nations in His hand. He’s the One that knows the idols are nothing. He’s the One that declared former things before they happened. He’s the One that’s going to declare new things. He’s gonna prove Himself that He is God. So if He’s God, and He’s with you, you don’t have to fear. Remember that. Live in the light of it.