

***PRECEPTS FOR LIFE***  
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**SERIES: Isaiah, Part 1 (Judgment – But Hope)**

**TITLE: Program 59 – God’s Compassion For The Repentant**

**THURSDAY**

**OPEN**

Are you a defector? When it comes to God have you turned around and walked away? Have you defected? Do you think, “Yes, I have, and I’m sorry I did. And the consequences are horrible and I wish I could come back”? O Precious One, God’s message to you today, “Hey! You can come back.” God is waiting for you. He wants to be gracious to you. Come back.

**PART ONE**

The subject of our week is an awesome subject. It’s the fact that the Lord is waiting to be gracious to you. The Lord is waiting to be compassionate. The Lord though, is a God of justice, and because He’s a God of justice He must wait for you to long for Him, to wait for Him, to come to Him and say, “God, I want Your will.” Well our theme for this week is Isaiah 30, verse 18. Let me read it to you again. **“Therefore the Lord longs...,”** He “waits” is what the word is in the Hebrew, **“...to be gracious to you, and therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of**

**justice; how blessed are all those who [wait] for Him.” (Isaiah 30:18)**

Now we were talking about waiting for the Lord, and we told you that if you were going to wait for the Lord, number one, you’ve got to know God and you’ve got to know His ways. Number two, if you’re going to wait on God you have to understand that God does have a future, that He does have hope for you. But He, because He’s a God of justice has to deal with sin in your life. Sin cannot be overlooked even though Jesus died on the cross to pay for all your sins, you and I cannot live in sin and have it overlooked. We have to acknowledge that’s sin. We have to confess Him. So the third thing that you do when you’re waiting on God is you seek Him. You seek Him in His Word. You seek Him in prayer and you seek Him through the counsel of others. You say, “But it said, **“Woe [be un]to those [that] go down to Egypt...,”** for help in the time of trouble. **(Isaiah 31:1)** Well that’s what chapter 31 says. You’ve done your homework haven’t you? But chapter 30 says: “[Woe to those who] **make an alliance, but not of My Spirit....”** **(Isaiah 30:1)** So that’s why I said when you seek Him, first you seek Him in His Word. You seek Him in prayer and then God will direct you to others that will help you. If you are thinking, “I have defected from God and there’s no way that God would ever want me. There’s no way that I could ever be used of God.” God has directed you to this program. God has brought you to this program, Beloved of God, because He wants to speak to you and He wants to give you His Word. He wants you to understand His character and His ways that He is a God of justice. He wants you to see that He has a future for you, but He also wants you to listen to the counsel that He wants to give you through this program, through this teaching. So now, after telling them about the future in Isaiah chapter 30, he now comes to verse 27. Listen carefully because he’s going to talk about the judgment of God. And if you’re going to worship God properly you have to worship Him in knowledge. He is worshiped in Spirit and He is worshiped in truth. (See John 4:23) So you have to know what it says about God. So now we’re

going to see a side of God that many people don't want to see and don't want to know. But it is what makes Him God because He's righteous. It says, **"Behold, the name of the LORD comes from a remote place; burning [in] His anger...dense in His smoke; His lips are filled with indignation and His tongue is like a consuming fire; His breath is like an over[whelming] torrent which reaches to the neck, to shake the nations back and forth [as if] in a sieve...to put in the jaws of the peoples the bridle which leads to ruin. You will have songs as in the night [which] keep the festival, and gladness of heart as when one marches to the sound of the flute, to...the mountain of the LORD, to the Rock of Israel."** (Isaiah 30:27-29) This is what he's saying. "You're My people. And because you're My people you're going to go up to the mountain of Israel. And as you go up to the mountain of Israel there's going to be the sound of the flute. There's going to be the tambourines. There's going to be the dancing. There's going to be the celebration. There's going to be the festival." But God's judgment, because He's righteous and just, is going to be poured out. And you notice that it all has to do with His mouth, His breath, His tongue. You think about Revelation chapter 19 when He comes as King of kings, **"...and on His thigh there is written King of kings and Lord of lords."** (Revelation 19:16) [And a sharp two edged sword comes out of His mouth with which He smites the nations.] (PARAPHRASE, Revelation 19:15) And that is the Word of God. So you see Him in His righteousness. You see Him in His holiness. And you see Him in His very fierce anger. It says, **"And the Lord will cause His voice of authority to be heard...."** (Isaiah 30:30) Now remember we have a free study guide for you to download. And one of the words that we have asked you to download is the word "hear" or "listen" and we just draw a green ear. If they're not listening we put a slash through it. If they are listening we just leave the green ear. You say, "Now where do I get that study guide?" You go to <preceptsforlife.com.>; <preceptsforlife.com.>, and you can download your

free study guide on the book of Isaiah and you'll be able then to mark the text, because we want you to discover truth for yourself and we teach you through that study guide a way to observe the text, to find out the who, and the what, and the when and the where and the why and the how. So he's saying, **"...And the descending of His arm [is] to be seen in fierce anger...."** And one of the things we're marking is "anger" here. **"...And in the flame of a consuming fire in cloudburst, downpour and hailstones."** (Isaiah 30:30) So he's talking about God's judgment. Well if you've studied along with us one of the things that you have done is you have read Revelation and you have read Revelation chapter 6 all the way through 19, so you can get an idea of the fierceness of God's judgment as He brings about the coming of the King of kings, which is Jesus Christ the Messiah. So it says, **"...At the voice of the LORD Assyria will be terrified, when He strikes with a rod. And every blow of the rod of punishment, which the LORD will lay on him, [on Assyria] will be with...music of tambourines and lyres; and in battles, brandishing weapons, He will fight them."** (Isaiah 30:31-32) In other words, God is going to deal with the enemy and you and I are going to be able to worship God. And it says, **"For Topheth has long been ready...."** Now Topheth is part of the Valley of Gehenna. And it's the place where the Israelites, when they turn to idolatry, would go and sacrifice their children in the fire. So it says, **"For Topheth has long been ready, indeed...has been prepared for the king. He has made it deep and large...."** It's part of the Valley of Gehenna where they burn the trash. And so there was a constant fire going there and it came to be known, or to stand for, the lake of fire (eternal fire), the judgment of God. It says, **"...A pyre of fire....,"** like a tomb, a place where they would put a body and burn it, **"...with plenty of wood; the breath of the LORD, like a torrent of brimstone, sets it afire."** (Isaiah 30:33) So here is this fire coming out of His mouth and what you see when you look at the coming of the Lord, all the way through what you see is, you see fire. You see the judgment of fire.

When God destroyed the world the first time He did it with a flood. But He put a rainbow promising that He would never judge the earth again with a universal flood. Instead there is going to be fire. We've already seen that in Isaiah if you've been listening. You say, "But I just found you today. And I'm the one that's defected from the Lord. Please, please, tell me what to do." He says, **"Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help and rely on horses, and trust in chariots because they are many and in horsemen because they are very strong, but they do not look to the Holy One...nor seek the LORD!" (Isaiah 31:1)** Now the Holy One of Israel is a term that is really Isaiah's term for God. It's only used two other places outside of the book of Isaiah. And all through this passage, and in 30 and 31 and 32 you find him talking about God. And he talks about Him as the Lord God Almighty. He also talks about Him as the Holy One of Israel. So what is your first lesson here? If you have defected from God, go back to the Word of God and get your wisdom and get your counsel. Don't go running down to Egypt for help. Listen, the world cannot cure your spiritual problems. Only the Word can, only God can. So these people were running to Egypt. Now it's because the Assyrians were coming after them. And so they were going to go down to Egypt. Egypt had horses. Egypt had chariots. Egypt had flat land. Israel did not—the chariots didn't do so well in Israel as they did in Egypt. And it says, **"Yet He is also wise and will bring disaster and does not retract His words...."** What you and I have to understand is God never changes. God never alters. **"[He] is the same yesterday...today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8)** **"...But [He] will arise against the house of evildoers...against the help of the workers of iniquity. Now the Egyptians are men and [they are] not God, and their horses are flesh and not spirit; so the LORD will stretch out His hand, and he who helps will stumble and he who is helped will fall, and all of them will come to an end together." (Isaiah 31:2-3)** God is going to judge the workers of iniquity. But you say, "Am I a worker of iniquity because I've defected from

God?” No, you have done iniquity, but that is not your heart. Just the very fact that you want to return to God, just the very fact that you think, “But I can’t because I have been so terrible;” listen Precious One, just that very fact shows that you’re on the right track. We’ll talk about it in just a minute.

## **PART TWO**

As we return now to Isaiah chapter 31, I want to remind you, Precious One, that we read that “...[God] **does not retract His words...**” (Isaiah 31:2) God has made a covenant with Israel and that covenant with Israel and He made it with David too, is that Israel will have a descendant of David that will sit on the throne. He has made a covenant with Israel that Israel will be His people for all generations. He has made a covenant with the church, a new covenant. It is the covenant that promises us forgiveness of sins and an inheritance that will take us to heaven. So as we look at Isaiah chapter 30, as we talk about those who have defected from the Lord, He wants us to understand that God is very jealous over His people. Now watch what He says. “**For thus says the LORD to me, ‘As the lion or the young lion growls over his prey, against which a band of shepherds is called out, and he will not be terrified at their voice nor disturbed at their noise....’**” In other words, that shepherd is going to protect that sheep. He says, “**...So will the LORD of hosts come down to wage war on Mount Zion and on its hill.**” (Isaiah 31:4) Now He’s not coming down as an adversary against Israel. Yes, He’s going to judge Israel, but He is coming as an adversary to those that are trying to conquer Jerusalem. Just before Jesus Christ returns to the earth, just before His anger and His breath come out and He consumes them in this fire, just before that what’s going to happen is, the nations are going to gather together against Jerusalem. This is in Zechariah chapter 14, as well as in other places. (See Zechariah 14:2-4) And it says, “**Like flying birds so the LORD of hosts will protect Jerusalem. He will protect and deliver it; He will pass over and [He] will rescue it.**” Now

listen to what he says. **“Return to Him from whom you have deeply defected, O sons of Israel.” (Isaiah 31:5-6)** What is he saying? He has been speaking to Israel since the beginning of Isaiah. He has said the same thing, basically, over and over again. “You have sinned. I have to judge you. But listen, you have a future and you have a hope. I am going to bring the Deliverer. I am going to establish and set up My king in Mount Zion. I am going to protect Jerusalem. I am going to protect Zion. Yes, I have to take you to the divine woodshed and I have to chasten you,” (and that’s what He does to those that defect), “but I am not throwing you away. I am not giving you up.” **“Return to [Me O] you [who] have deeply defected...,”** from the Lord. **(Isaiah 31:6)** He’s saying it to the sons of Israel. He’s saying it to you. He’s saying, “Return to Me. Return to Me.” Now we saw in an earlier program in Isaiah chapter 30, verse 15, it says, **“For thus [says] the Lord GOD [God Almighty], the Holy One of Israel...‘In repentance and rest you will be saved....’” (Isaiah 30:15)** That word “repentance” means “in returning” you will be saved. You’ve defected. You’ve done what’s wrong. You’re sorry. You’re grieved, and if you have a genuine, genuine sorrow it leads to repentance. It leads to returning. It leads to coming to God and saying, “I will wait on You. I will wait on You.” And God says, “Oh good, I’ve been waiting for you to wait on Me. Now I can be gracious to you. Now I can be compassionate to you.” So once again chapter 32 is very much like 31. It’s like he doesn’t want them to miss this message. And the message is [Woe to those who make an alliance], chapter 30, [but not of Me.] (PARAPHRASE Isaiah 30:1) Chapter 31 is: **“Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help...,”** in the time of trouble and they’re not looking to Me. **(Isaiah 31:1)** So both chapters are very similar, but it’s another “woe”. And you say, “Well why does he say it again?” Well because they’re not listening. He told Isaiah in Isaiah 6, when Isaiah saw his sin and then God took away his sin, and then Isaiah heard the voice of the Lord saying, **“...Who will go...?”** “Who will I send?” Isaiah says, **“...Here am I. Send**

**Me!” (Isaiah 6:8)** And He says [Go! These people aren’t gonna listen. They aren’t gonna see. But I want you to keep going because there is a day coming when they will listen.] (PARAPHRASE Isaiah 6:8-10) It’s at the end.” God has brought you to Him today. You are listening and He is saying, **“...Return to [Me] from whom you have deeply defected....” (Isaiah 31:6)** It wasn’t from a religion. It wasn’t from a church. It wasn’t from a denomination. It wasn’t from your wife. It wasn’t from your husband. It was from God. It was sin. It may have affected your husband. It may have affected your children. It may have affected your body. It may have been drugs. It may have been pornography. It may have been alcohol. **“...Return to [Me] from whom you have deeply defected....”** He says, **“For in that day...,”** that future day that’s coming, **“...every man will cast away his silver idols and his gold idols, which your sinful hands have made for you as a sin.” (Isaiah 31:6-7)** “You defected because you turned to something else. You defected because you put an idol in My place.” The Bible tells us in Colossians chapter 3, Precious One, idolatry is greed. Greed is idolatry. (See Colossians 3:5) Maybe you’ve defected from God, trying to earn money and trying to come up the corporate ladder or just whatever. And so you haven’t had time for God, time to know Him, time to seek Him and you got in trouble, because if you aren’t spending time with God you are so vulnerable. And so He’s saying this, **“...The Assyrian will fall by a sword not of man....”** Now we’re going to study that in the future because we’re going to come to the historical part of Isaiah. And it says, **“...And a sword not of man will devour him....” (Isaiah 31:8)** God goes in and wipes out the Assyrian camp all by Himself. That’s our God. **“...So he will not escape the sword, and his young men will become forced laborers. His rock will pass away because of panic, and his princes will be terrified at the standard...,”** at the flagpole, at the banner, because “Jehovah Nissi.” the Lord is our banner. He says, **“...Declares the Lord, whose fire is in Zion and whose furnace is in Jerusalem.” (Isaiah 31:8-9)**



And there's no chapter divisions so he keeps on speaking, **“Behold, a king will reign righteously and princes will rule justly. Each will be like a refuge from the wind...a shelter from the storm, like streams...in a dry country, like the shade of a huge rock in a parched land. Then the eyes of those who see will not be blinded, and the ears of those who hear will listen. And the mind of the hasty will discern...truth, and the tongue of the stammerers will hasten to speak clearly.”** (Isaiah 32:1-4) In other words, there is a glorious day coming when ears will be unstopped, when eyes will no longer be blind, when the mind quits running around and rests on the truth of God and the stammering tongue is able to speak the word of God. Welcome back defector. All you have to say to God is “I have deeply defected from You and You have said ‘Return’ and I confess my sin. I name it for what it is and I am back to wait on You. And I am going to open Your Word, and I’m going to study it, and I’m going to ask You to speak to my heart and cleanse me with the washing of the water of Your Word so that You might present me before Your Son clean and pure like a virgin again.” God’ll do it if you’ll return.