

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

TITLE: Program 58 – Looking To The Arm Of Flesh

WEDNESDAY

OPEN

If God were to talk to you face to face and if He were to say to you, “This is what I want you to do and I’m telling you this for your own benefit, for your own good. I’m God and I know.” Wouldn’t it be absolutely ridiculous for you to say, “No, I’m not going to do that! You may have told me to go that way, but I want to go this way.” If God is God, do you think He can let you get away with that and bless you?

PART ONE

God, Precious One, God Almighty, the Creator of the heavens and the universe, is waiting for you to wait on Him so that He can be gracious to you, so He can move on your behalf. That’s our theme all week. That is Isaiah chapter 30, verse 18. Let me read to you. It says, “**Therefore the LORD longs...**” He waits is what it really means, “**...to be gracious to you, and therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you....**” It says, “**...For the LORD is a God of justice; how blessed are...those who**

[wait] for Him.” (Isaiah 30:18) The New American Standard says, “...Long for Him.” But that word “long” means “to wait,” but it’s a waiting that’s a longing because you only want to do what God wants you to do. Is that true of you, or do you think that you can manage your life by yourself? Or do you think you can handle everything that life is throwing at you, that you’ve got enough wisdom, that you’ve got enough experience, that you’ve got enough background that you just don’t need God? O Precious One, if you think that way you, excuse me, are a fool. God’s going to talk about a fool. But you are a fool if you think that you can handle life without God. We’re talking about: are you stressed, are you distressed, are you anxious, are you troubled, do you not know which way to go? Listen; God has a way for you to go. And God is saying to you, and God is saying to me this week in verse 15, “**For thus the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, has said....**” It is written. It is done. It stands. He says, “**...In repentance....**,” and that word “repentance” literally is in “returning.” “Hey, come back here. Come here.” You turn around and you return to Him. He says, “**...In repentance and rest you will be saved....**” So when you turn around and you come to Him, it’s almost like His arms are open wide and you can just totally, absolutely rest in those arms. You don’t need to do a thing because God’s got you. God’s got you because He’s been waiting for you to wait for Him, and you’re waiting for Him and therefore He can be compassionate toward you. Now this is what He’s saying. And He’s promising them that “**...In repentance and rest you will be saved, in quietness and trust is your strength....**” You want to be strong? That strength comes from being quiet in the arms of God. For being quiet as you sit with God and you just want to talk like this, and God goes “Shh, shh, listen to Me. Listen to Me.” “**...In...**” He says, “**...quietness and [rest] is your strength....**” So scoot back. Get off the edge of your seat. Scoot back and rest. But listen to the next line. He says, “**...But you were not willing.**” (Isaiah 30:15) You said, “No, no, now listen God. I am really troubled and I got this all figured out, and I’ve got a plan if You’ll just bless it.” God says, “Listen, I’m a God of

justice and I can't do that, because you are not walking in faith and in trust, because you are not waiting on Me, because you are not trusting in Me, I can't do it." Listen to me very, very carefully; you cannot be willing and you can run away from God. You think you can, but you're in trouble if you do. Listen to what He says. Listen to verse 16. He says, "**And you said, 'No [no] we're [gonna] flee on horses....'**" And God says to you, "**...Therefore you'll flee...!**" "Okay, go ahead, run." He says, "**...You [say]...[we'll] ride on swift horses, Therefore...,**" He says, "**...those who pursue you [will] be swift.**" (Isaiah 30:16) [Go ahead and run, but I want you to know, someone's after you. And you think that you're going to go on a swift horse. I want you to know they're following you on swifter horses. He says, "**One thousand will flee at the threat of one man; you will flee at the threat of five....**" Just five men standing there and you're going to run. Why? Because you are not waiting on Me. He says, "**...Until you are left as a flag on a mountain...,**" just a lone flag, "**...as a signal on a hill. Therefore....**" (Isaiah 30:17-18) Listen to Me. "**...In quietness and in confidence [is] your strength....**" (Isaiah 30:15, KJV) In returning to Me and resting in Me you will be saved. (PARAPHRASE Isaiah 30:15) Therefore listen to Me because you say you're running. "**Therefore [I] long to be gracious to you...[I'm] waiting on high to have compassion [for] you. For the Lord is a God of justice....**" But listen to me very carefully. "**...Blessed are all those who long [who wait] for [Me].**" (Isaiah 30:17-18) "If you won't wait you won't be blessed. Remember, you're man and I'm God. Remember I'm the sovereign Ruler of all the universe. Remember I have numbered your days, "**...when as yet there was not one of them.**" (Psalm 139:16) Remember I'm the One that can promise you "**...that all things [keep on working] together for good to [those who] love [Me], to [those] who are the called according to His purpose.**" (Romans 8:28) Remember I am the One that has to discipline. I'm the One that has to chasten because I'm righteous, because I'm holy, because I'm a God of justice. (See Jeremiah 30:11) So come back here. Come here, come on, come on. I want you to sit

down next to Me. That's good. That's good. Now lean back, lean back. Now trust Me. Trust Me." Now if I'm going to wait on the Lord how do I do that? How do I go about waiting on God? Well the first thing, if you're going to wait on God, if you're going to long for Him, if you're going to trust Him, if you're going to be able to sit back in quietness and confidence, if you're going to be able to rest, number one, the first thing that you have to do is, you have to know God. You have to understand who He is. You have to know His ways. That is absolutely critical if you are going to wait on God, because you can't wait on someone you don't trust. You can wait on someone you don't know. You've got to know God if you're going to wait on Him. That means you continue to study with us. That means that you continue to study the Bible. That means that you are willing to give due diligence to listening to God. That means you shut off the television. That means you put up a newspaper. That means that you discipline yourself, because this is the most important thing for you to know. In Exodus chapter 33, God is fed up with the children of Israel. He is fed up with the children of Israel because they have played the harlot, because they have made a golden calf, and God's had it up to here with them. (See Exodus 32:3-4, 9) [And God has said to Moses, "Look you go on. I'll send my angel, but I'm not going with you."] (PARAPHRASE Exodus 33:2-3) And so Moses pleads with God. And as Moses pleads with God you find Moses saying to God, **"...See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people!' But You Yourself [will not let me know] whom You will send with me. Moreover, You have said, 'I have known you by name, and you have... found favor in My sight.' Now therefore, I pray You, if [I've] found favor in Your sight, let me know Your ways that I may know You, so that I may find favor in Your sight...."** And then He says, God says to him, **"...My presence [will] go with you, and I will give you rest."** (Exodus 33:12-14) [And Moses says to Him, if Your presence doesn't go with me then I'm not going.] (PARAPHRASE Exodus 33:15) That's what God is waiting for. And if you're going to wait on God that means that you have to know God. The

second thing that you have to know and you have to understand is you need to understand that there's a future. You need to understand that there's hope. And this is what God tells Israel all the way through. We love Jeremiah 29:11, **"...I know the plans that I have for you... [they're] plans [of good and not of evil] to give you a future and [to give you] hope."** (Jeremiah 29:11) Since the beginning of the book of Isaiah, right from that second chapter, I mean in chapter one He cleans their plow. In chapter one He levels them low; He lets them know that they have revolted, that they have rebelled, that they have despised His word, that they're going through all the motions of a religion, but their relationship with Him is lousy. He has told them that **"...though [their] sins be as scarlet, [that] they [can] be as white as snow...."** (Isaiah 1:18) And then in chapter two what does He do? He jumps all the way to the end of times and tells how all the nations are gonna come up to Jerusalem, and they're gonna take **"...their swords [and beat them] into plowshares...."** (Isaiah 2:4) and they are going to be taught of God. So he takes them all the way to the future. Why does He do that? Because He wants us to see that we have a future and we have a hope and that is for those that wait on God. So if you're gonna wait on Him you've got to know hey, it's worth the wait. Waiting on God so God can wait to be gracious to me, that waiting game is worth it because there is a future. So what God does is, He comes in verse 19 to the future. We'll look at in just a minute.

PART TWO

Welcome back Precious One, and you are precious to me. And I want you to know that. This morning I beat my husband up. And, I didn't, excuse me; I beat him getting out of bed. I didn't beat my husband up. But ah, and he was still in bed and I was going by and he said, "Have you got your lesson for today?" And I said, "I am asking God what is His specific word? What does He want to hammer home?" And I laid across that bed and my husband

prayed for me. And I said, “Honey, millions can be listening to this program and we want those millions to hear what You, God want them to hear from Your Word. So show me.” And what He’s shown me is that: God is waiting for you to wait on Him; He’s waiting to be gracious to you. But He can’t be gracious to you if you’re going to walk independently of Him. Well how do you wait on the Lord? First you get to know God. You get to understand His ways, and you do that through the Word of God. The second thing that you do is you understand the future. And this is what you see in Isaiah. All the way through Isaiah, God keeps giving them tidbits about the future. He keeps pointing to the end of time. He keeps pointing to the time when the King will reign. Well that’s what he does next in Isaiah 30, verse 19. He points to that coming glorious day. **“O people in Zion, inhabitant in Jerusalem, you will weep no longer....”** You’re going to weep cause I’m going to have to judge you. You’re going to weep cause you have not listened to My word. But I want you to know Precious One, there is a day coming when you will weep no longer. **“...He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you.”** (Isaiah 30:19) What is He waiting to do? He is waiting for you to wait for Him. And when you and I cry to Him, He hears and He answers. It says, **“Although the Lord has given you [the] bread of privation and water of oppression, He, your Teacher will no longer hide Himself, but your eyes will behold your Teacher.”** (Isaiah 30:20) In other words, you’re going to see God face to face. Now you know the Bible tells us in the Old Testament, [no man has ever seen God and lived]. (PARAPHRASE, Exodus 33:20) We know Moses saw the back of God. (See Exodus 33:23) We know that Moses went up on Mount Sinai and the Lord was in the cloud (See Exodus 34:5) but you’re going to see your Teacher. It says, **“Your ears will hear a word behind you, ‘This is the way, walk in it,’ whenever you turn to the right or [turn] to the left. And you will defile your graven images overlaid with silver, and you molten images plated with gold. You will scatter them as an impure thing, and [you will] say to them, ‘Be gone!’”** (Isaiah 30:21-

22) You'll just throw them away. Why? Because they are nothing but the product of your hands and you have discovered that God is God. So he says, "You're going to get rid of those idols, those idols that kept you from Me, those idols that kept you from waiting on Me and trusting in Me. You're going to get rid of them." **"Then He will give you rain for the seed which you will sow in the ground, and bread from the yield of the ground, and it will be rich and plenteous; on that day your livestock will graze in a roomy pasture." (Isaiah 30:23)** In other words, they're gonna have plenty of places to feed. It's going to be wonderful. The harvest is going to come in. You're going to sow and you're not going to have crop failure. It says, **"Also the oxen and the donkeys which work the ground will eat salted fodder, which has been winnowed with shovel and fork. On every lofty mountain and on every high hill there will be streams running with water on [that] day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall." (Isaiah 30:24-25)** In other words, there is going to come a great judgment. There is going to come a great war and the towers are going to fall and there's going to be a slaughter, but Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Zion is going to be strong. Why? Because he's going to tell us later in chapter 32 because the King is there, because the King is there. Let's take a quick peek in chapter 32, verse 1, **"Behold, a king will reign righteously and princes will rule justly."** (Isaiah 32:1) This is what is going to happen. And then he says, **"...On the day that the LORD binds up the fracture of [the] people..." (Isaiah 30:26)** Here is a broken bone and God is going to set that bone and God is going to bind up that bone. He's going to bind up the fracture of His people. He's going to heal us, Beloved. That's what he is saying. **"...And [He] heals the bruise [that] He has inflicted." (Isaiah 30:26)** Now remember in chapter 1 he says, when will you be healed from the bruises and the wounds and the welts as I am chastening you? (See Isaiah 1:5-6) Well there is a day coming when that will happen. So what does God do? God points to the future. So if you're going to wait on God, number one: you need to know who God is, you need to understand His ways. You need to know that He's a

God of justice. In between now and the day when God rules, when the King rules righteously you and I are going to have tribulation. Jesus said it in John 16 in verse 33. He says, “...**In [this] world you [are going to] have [tribulations]: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.**” (John 16:33 KJV) So if I’m going to wait for God, who is waiting to be gracious to me, I’ve got to understand that I may have to wait through some trials, and I may have to wait through some tribulations, but there is a future. I think about the story of Niemoller. And he was a pastor during the time of Hitler. And as a pastor he was called in and face to face he stood there with Hitler, and Hitler told them that they have to take care of Germany and everything. And Martin said to him, “You said, ‘I will take care of the German people,’ but we too, as Christians and churchmen have a responsibility toward the German people. That responsibility was entrusted to us by God and neither you nor anyone in the world has the power to take it from us.” He walked out of that meeting and Hitler was after him. And eventually Hitler bombed his church. And eventually the man was arrested. On February 7th in 1938 he was going to go on trial. He felt all alone. He felt scared and as the guard walked behind him the guard was very stern and very strong and Niemoller was going up that final flight of stairs. And as he went up all of a sudden he heard a soft whisper behind him. He didn’t know where it came from. It was like the voice of a sigh, and then he realized that the officer was breathing into his ear the words of Proverbs 18:10, [The Lord is a mighty tower where His people can run for safety.] (PARAPHRASE Proverbs 18:10) You will hear a word behind you saying, “...**This is the way, walk ye in it....**” (Isaiah 30:21 KJV) Proverbs 18:10 was Niemoller’s verse as he went and spent those years in prison. The Lord is our strong tower. Think on it and we’ll talk more tomorrow.