

ISAIAH, PART 1 (JUDGMENT – BUT HOPE)  
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**SERIES: Isaiah, Part 1 (Judgment – But Hope)**

**TITLE: Program 31 – Refuge In The Lord**

**MONDAY**

**OPEN**

O My Friend, do you find that you're wiping your face because of tears? Is your pillow wet at night? Do you have to turn it over? I've got news for you. The Bible says that, "...Weeping may endure for a night, but joy [can come] in the morning." (Psalms 30:5, KJV) Today I want to talk to you about sorrow that can be turned into joy, if you know where to run in the time of trouble, in the time of distress.

**PART ONE**

Our subject this week, Beloved, is about the sorrow of a righteous God, because of the sorrow of sinning man, because of the sorrow of unrighteous man, because of the needless sorrow of man. Do you realize that, yes, [in this world you and I are going to have tribulation]. (PARAPHRASE, John 16:33) But God says, "...be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33, KJV) We're going to be looking at Isaiah chapter 14, verse 28, where we left off. We finished through 27, and now we're going to be

looking at Isaiah 14:28 all the way through Isaiah 18, this week. If you read those chapters, I have to tell you, honestly, they are not chapters that are easily readily understood. They do not seem like they are even gripping chapters. As a matter of fact, if you just look at them, and you read them, you think, you know, “Who could care less?” I mean, “What is this about? It certainly isn’t relative to today.” But listen, you “hangeth in there” with me, in Isaiah, because you’re going to see how very relevant it is. We’re going to take that segment of Isaiah, and what we’re going to do is, we’re going to put that in the context of today. And all week we’re going to be looking at the sorrow of a holy, righteous God over the sorrow of man. And one of the things that you’re gonna know and one of the things that you’re gonna be able to understand is, that if you are living in a time of sorrow, a time of grief, a time of pain because you look at a loved one, and they’re going through something, and you think, “Hey! If you would just wake up, if you would just turn around, and if you would call upon God, then you could be relieved of this pain. But you see them instead walking in their own stubborn way, continuing in that stubborn way, when they don’t have to, and they don’t have to receive the chastening, discipline of a righteous God. Righteous, and therefore He has to deal with sin. So what I want us to do is, begin today by looking at Isaiah chapter 14, verse 28. Now as we do that, Precious One, what I want you to understand is I want to give you a lot of facts, but facts that will help you grow in knowledge, and will help you understand the times even better, and will give you, I believe, a greater interest in the affairs of this world, knowing that God is not only a God of the Old Testament, the New Testament, that which is chronologically past for us, but God is the God that is interested in today. And as you and I look at what’s going on among the nations, we can see, “Jesus is coming.” He is going to return. He is going to sit on His throne in Jerusalem, and He is going to rule over the nations of this world, just as we studied in Isaiah chapter 2. As a matter of fact, let’s go for just a minute to Isaiah chapter 2,

and let's look at this prophecy that we saw quite a long time ago, if we count the number of days. But in Isaiah chapter 2 it says, **"The word which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. Now it will come about...in the last days the mountain[s] of the house of the Lord will be established as the chief of...mountains, and [it] will be raised above the hills; and all the nations [are going to] stream to [that mountain of the house of the Lord]."**(Isaiah 2:1-2) And when they come to the mountain of the house of the Lord, it says, **"...many peoples will come and [they will] say, '[Hey!] come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that He may teach us concerning His ways...that we may walk in His paths.'** For the law will go forth from Zion...." (Isaiah 2:3) Now Zion is going to become a key focus of this week. Well it's the key focus of Isaiah, but we're going to look at Zion over and over again, this week because it's in Zion that we have our hope. It's in Zion that we have the cure, so to speak, for our afflictions. (See Isaiah 14:32) So that's what we're going to look at so you can know **"...[that] the law will go forth from Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."** (Isaiah 2:3) Now when you think of Zion, you think of Jerusalem. Remember Isaiah is Hebrew poetry. It's beautiful poetry. It's exquisite poetry. It's just kind of in a sense, unique in some places and magnificent. But in poetry there's a repetition, and so he's saying "Zion," then he says "Jerusalem," because Jerusalem is Zion and Zion is Jerusalem. And so we see that we're going to go up there, it says we're going to go up there, the nations are going to go up there, not just the Jews, but all the nations are going to go up and there they are going to be taught by the Lord. They're gonna to say, "Teach me Your ways." So this is what we're doing as we study Isaiah. We're saying, "God, teach me Your ways." And sometimes, and you know this in school, sometimes you sit and you listen to the teacher and you. "Whew, you're boring." And your mind wants to drift because the subject seems boring. And then all of a sudden, something will be said, and

you say, “Hey! Wait a minute. Wait a minute. That is really relevant.” So you “hangeth thou in there, O Baby,” with me, with your teacher as we look at Isaiah chapter 14. And remember he has just finished telling us about Babylon, and now he has another oracle. Isaiah 13 opens up with the oracle concerning Babylon, and takes us all the way to the very last days. But now he’s got another oracle. Let’s look at it. Isaiah chapter 14, verse 28. **“In the year that King [oh—] Ahaz died this oracle came.” (Isaiah 14:28)** Now this is very important, if you’ve got your study guide, I hope you know that we have a free study guide that you can download by going to our website. You just go to our website, and it is <preceptsforlife.com>; <preceptsforlife.com>, and you can download it. We want you studying with us. All right, so you would mark a green circle around the word “year” or somewhere or on that time phrase because it’s telling you a specific time when this oracle came. Now Isaiah 6 tells us, **“In the year that King Uzziah died....,”** it says, **“...I saw...the Lord....” (Isaiah 6:1, KJV)** Well Uzziah’s son was Jotham. Jotham had Ahaz, and so now we’re having Ahaz die. And they’re co-ruling, his son Hezekiah is the king then. All right now, it says, **“Do not rejoice, O Philistia, all of you, because the rod that struck you is broken; for from the serpent’s root a viper will come out, and its fruit will be a flying serpent.”** He says, **“Those who are [the] most helpless will eat, and the needy will lie down in security; I will destroy....” (Isaiah 14:29-30)** God is speaking, so I colored “I” there yellow. In fact all the way through these oracles I’m coloring every reference to God yellow so I don’t miss it. **“...I will destroy your root with famine, and it will kill off your survivors. Wail, O gate; cry, O city....” (Isaiah 14:30-31)** Now what I did, and you’re going to see this especially in the next two chapters, “wail” and “cry” is used multiple, multiple times. So when I say “wail” or “cry” or “mourn,” I draw, like a blue tear drop. And I put that over every reference. So I have, **“Wail, O gate....” (Isaiah 14:31)** The gate is the protector of the city. It’s the way you get into the city. So you

guard the gate when the enemy is coming. If the gate goes, the city goes. So it says, **“Wail, O gate; cry, O city; ...for smoke [is coming] from the north, and there is no straggler in [its] ranks.” (Isaiah 14:31)** I mean, they’re not walkin’ behind. He says, there is smoke and it is coming from the north. Now stop and think, “Where is Philistia?” Well it’s present day Gaza. Look at your map. It’s present-day Gaza; it’s Ashdon, it’s Ekron. It’s those cities, that belong to the Philistines. And from the north you have Assyria; Assyria, who is the main threat at that time. It is the super power. And he says “I want you to wail, O gates, I want you cry, O city.” (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 14:31) Why? Because there is smoke coming from the north. What’s the smoke? Well you take men, you put ’um on all those horses, and remember, this is the time of the cavalry and you’ve got them coming and they are stirring up a cloud of dust. And he says, “Listen. There is nobody that’s lagging behind. I mean, it is coming as a tremendous force.” He’s saying, “You are going to be taken.” Now watch what he says, **“...smoke comes from the north...there is no straggler in his ranks. How then will one answer the messengers of the nation...?” (Isaiah 14:31-32)** So there’s a messenger coming? “What am I gonna to say?” We’ll talk about it in just a minute.

## **PART TWO**

I wish I could start this segment riding in on a horse. They were coming from the north. (See Isaiah 14:31) You know in the year that King Ahaz died, it said, **“[Don’t] rejoice...because the rod that struck you is broken....” (Isaiah 14:29)** Really, commentators are divided, and and I can’t figure out which it is. Who is this “rod” that struck them? Well if you understand the history of the Philistines, you can know that it might have been the house of David, because David struck the Philistines, and I mean, brought ’em right under his power. You look at the fact that Uzziah did them in, and brought them under his power. So it could be the house of David, but

now that King Ahaz is dead, and they don't know about Hezekiah, although he's gonna deal with them. They may be rejoicing: "Ah! Shew! We're through with that house of David." Or it could be Assyria. It could be those guys coming on their horses from the north. And it could be those guys. And yet Assyria is broken. When you study the Scriptures, you know in chapter 8, that God is going to deal with Assyria. He's already told 'em this. Look at Isaiah chapter 8. In Isaiah chapter 8 he says in verse 4, **"...Before the boy knows how to cry out 'My father'...'My mother,' the wealth of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria will be carried away before the king of Assyria."** (Isaiah 8:4) So it could be that because the Assyrians dealt with the Philistines, then because of this, they think that they're free, that the rod is broken. But you know what? He says, "Out of the rod will come a serpent, and out of the serpent will come a flying serpent." (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 14:29) In other words, you think it's dead, but it ain't. Do you remember when Moses stood before Pharaoh? When he came before Pharaoh and he carried that staff in his hand? And Pharaoh said, "Why should I let your people go?" And remember in that whole course of events he takes that rod, he throws it to the ground and it becomes a serpent. But Pharaoh's boys do the same thing. Pharaoh's wise men stand there with their rods. They throw them down and they become serpents. But the thing that you see is, that Moses' rod that becomes a serpent takes on Pharaoh's boy's rods and swallows all their serpents. (See Exodus 7:10-12) God is the stronger. And what you see here, whether it is Assyria, or whether it is the house of David, he thinks it's broken, and he says, "Oh nah, it is not broken. There is a serpent in it and out of that serpent, there is a flying serpent." (See Isaiah 14:29) But who's in charge of all of that? God's in charge of all of that. You say, "Oh that's very good, but I'm getting a little ho-hum. What does that mean to me today?" Well, I want to give you some facts about the Philistines. I want you to understand them, and then in our next program we're going to look at what is the cure for the wailing of the Philistines, or

the wailing of anyone? What is the cure when you are suffering under the chastisement of God, and God is judging. And he does. He judges people, and he judges nations. Is there a way of escape? And yes, there is. The way of escape is always God. So let me tell you about the Philistines. First of all the Egyptian word and the Hebrew word for “the Philistines” is based on this word: “P-l-i-s-h-a-h.” And the only reason I’m giving that to you is it means “invasion.” So when you think of Philistines, think of people that are invading. Think of people that want more; people that are not content. Well as a result of the Philistines, eventually the land of Israel was called the land of Palestine. Now where did these people come from? Well their origin is basically unknown, except that Egyptian records tell them that these people were part of a larger movement of sea peoples. Sea peoples that came from the Aegean Sea over by Greece, settled in Cypress, and then came down to attack Egypt, but were rebuffed by Ramses the third. And then went up the land and went east. And as they moved east, they fought the Hittites and they ended up in places in northern Syria. And then they moved down into the area of Gaza, okay? And I say Gaza because you and I know where it is. I mean, we know that it’s in the Middle East. We know that it’s on the coastline of the Mediterranean Sea in the land of Israel, although they called it Palestine. All right now, the Philistines are first mentioned in the patriarchal period in Genesis chapter 21, in 32 and 34, and it’s called “the land of the Philistines.” But the most significant references to the threats of the Philistines are in the book of Judges. Do you remember Samson? Yeah, sure you remember the guy with the long hair, and Delilah that cut his hair. Well who did Samson fight? He fought the Philistines. And that’s in Judges chapters 13 to 16. Then you have the Philistines fighting against the tribe of Dan, that are really in the southern part, and it forces Dan to go north. And you see this in Judges chapter 18, in verses 11 and verses 29. Then you have the Philistine fighting against the Israelites and defeating them in the battle of Ebenezer and that is in 1 Samuel chapter 4. (See 1 Samuel 4:1) That’s

when they capture the ark. And remember, they take the ark and they put it in the house of Dagon, their god, and the next morning Dagon has fallen over and his hands are broken and then eventually his head is broken. (See 1 Samuel 5:1-4) Saul loses his life to the Philistines. You have David fighting the Philistines, and then you have the Philistines losing their independence to Tiglath-Pileser of Assyria in 732 B.C. And after that, all revolts are crushed. This is the one coming from the north. Now in this and I want you to see the answer, and then we'll talk about it more in our next program. But I want you to see the answer because I think it's so important. Isaiah chapter 14 ends with this phrase: **“How then will one answer the messengers of the nation...?”** And it says this: **“...the Lord [hath] founded Zion, and the afflicted of His people will seek refuge in it.”** (Isaiah 14:32) In other words, Precious One, if you have tears that are streaming down your face; if you are afflicted—afflicted because of a broken relationship; afflicted because you are under the chastening hand of God; afflicted because you have made wrong decisions; afflicted because of what someone is doing to you—whatever the affliction, there is a place for you to run to and that place is to God. And His city is Zion; Jerusalem. We'll talk about it tomorrow.