

**ISAIAH, PART 1 (JUDGMENT – BUT HOPE)
PROGRAM 7 (#911052)
WEEK 2 (#911311)
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SERIES: Isaiah, Part 1 (Judgment – But Hope)

TITLE: Program 7 – Woe To The Proud

TUESDAY

OPEN

What's the leadership in your country like? What's the leadership in our country like? Look at it, and it will tell you much about the country. Do you realize that when we have poor leadership in a country, it's probably because we have turned our backs on a holy God and He is giving us what we want and what we deserve? We'll talk about it today as we look at God's precepts for life.

PART ONE

We are such followers of men, aren't we? We have taken all sorts of people and put them on a pedestal and wanted to be just like them. Do you want to be like the leaders of the United States of America? Is there a man, or is there a woman in the leadership that you look at and that you admire? Well let me ask you a question. Why do you admire them? Why are you a proponent of who they are and what they are doing? What is it about them that causes you to gravitate to them and to want to support them? Tell me

what that person is like morally. Tell me what that person is like in respect to his family, in respect to his society, in respect to his peers, and in respect to his community, and respect to his church or his synagogue; in respect to God. In Isaiah chapter 3, which is where we are beginning this week— now you know that we are offering you a free study guide because we want you to discover truth for yourself. We want you to take the time to study God’s Word, and we want you to see His precepts for life. And so what we’re doing is, in that study guide we are showing you how you can observe the Word of God and discover truth for yourself. How you can know, “Hey, this is what God is saying!” So many times we read something, we read it quickly, hurriedly, and we really miss what was there because we don’t stop to pause and slow down, to think about what we’re reading. And so many times, what we do is, we miss the truth, or we distort the truth, or we ignore the truth because we didn’t even see it. So the purpose of this study guide is to show you how to discover who, what, when, where, why, and how. Those are the investigative questions that a reporter asks when they’re writing an article, when they’re getting a news story. They want to know, “Okay, who did it?” Or who is this about, or who was involved, and when did it happen, and what was it about? And where, where did it take place? And why? Why was this said? Why was this done? And I want you to know that many, many times we get a distortion on the why or the how. So it’s called the five “W’s” and an “H.” We want to teach you to discover truth for yourself by observing the text and discovering, “What does it say?” And then being able to interpret it and understand, “What does it mean?” And then be able to apply it to your life by saying, “Hey, that’s a truth that I need to embrace mentally, or that’s a truth that I need to live in the light of. It needs to help me order my life.” Well in Isaiah chapter 2, it ends with this verse. Now Isaiah chapter 2 says, **“Stop regarding man, whose breath of life is in his nostrils; for why should he be esteemed?” (Isaiah 2:22)** In other words, why are you so wrapped up in another human being? Listen, his breath is

only in his nostrils. He has no control on whether he's going to get the next breath, or the next breath, or the next breath. Why? Because it's God that gives us the air that we breathe, it's God that gives us the life that we have. And he says, here you are, a man regarding men and letting those men set the standard for your life. He says, **"Stop regarding man, whose breath...is in his nostrils...."** He said, **"...For why should he be esteemed?"** He says, **"For behold, the Lord...of hosts is going to remove from [Judah and Jerusalem] both supply and support, the whole supply of bread...."** He says, **"The mighty man and the warrior, the judge and the prophet, the diviner and the elder."** God's gonna get rid of all these people. **"The captain of fifty and the honorable man, the counselor and the expert artisan, and [a] skillful enchanter."** (Isaiah 2:22-3:3) He says, "Listen, God's gonna come in and He's gonna clean out all those people. Why are you regarding man, when there is a God who is in heaven, a God who is in charge?" He goes on to say, **"And I..."**, and then he switches to the first person of God. **"And I will make mere lads their princes, and capricious children will rule over them, and the people will be oppressed, each one by [the other,] and each one by his neighbor; the youth will storm against the elder and the inferior against the honorable."** (Isaiah 3:4-5) What's going to happen? He says, ["All society is going to turn upside down. I'm gonna take away your leadership, and I'm going to put capricious children over you."] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 3:1-5) What is a capricious child? One minute they're happy doing this thing, and the next minute they're unhappy doing this thing. There's no stability to this child. He says, **"...The youth will storm against the elder...."** (Isaiah 3:5) You make me sick! Get out of my way, old man. Get out of my way, woman! And there's no respect, there's no honor at all. It is just the youth, in a sense, rising up, not to take and follow in their leader's footsteps, but to come in and to take over. Did you ever study or see any movies on the French Revolution? Do you remember what it was like? I mean the

aristocracy was living in all of this plenty and all of this wealth, so to speak. It was borrowed, but it was a lot of wealth while the people were starving on the streets. And there was a revolt. But after the revolt, the people that came in and took over the leadership were people that were just depraved people, people that had lived at the lowest level of society, and I'm not talking about economically, I'm talking about morally. What happens when a nation turns their back on God? Now as I say all this, one of the things that you've got to remember and I have to remember is where we are in Isaiah. Remember chapter 1? It is the vision which Isaiah saw during the reigns of Uzziah and Jotham, and Ahaz, and Hezekiah? And then he says, [he calls the heavens and the earth to listen because His children He has reared up have revolted against Him] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 1:1-2) Remember in chapter 2, another vision begins. There is another word from the Lord. And it says, **"The word which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem."** (Isaiah 2:1) And what he does in the beginning of that word that he gets from the Lord about what it's going to be like in the last days. And he talks about how [all the nations are going to come streaming up to Zion, how they're going to go to Jerusalem.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 2:2) "Zion" is another word for "Jerusalem," and one of the words that you want to mark and observe as you go through the text. You want to see everything that you can learn about Zion or about Jerusalem. And it will be called both, as I said. So you would mark them the same way. I mark Zion and Jerusalem with a blue Star of David. And that way I can spot it immediately in my Bible. Well he starts off this way and talks about what's going to happen in the future. He tells us when that is going to happen. Now remember when you're studying the text, you want to find out who and what and when. So he says in verse 2, **"Now it will come about...in the last days...."** (Isaiah 2:2) The last days are the days that begin with the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and then lead us all the way up to the coming of Messiah. Crucifixion of Jesus Christ: It includes the last days, include the first coming of Christ,

where God speaks to us through His Son in His three and a half years of public ministry, then God crucifies Him for the sins of the world. He is buried. He is raised from the dead on the third day. He appears to many. He ascends into heaven, and He sits at the right hand of God. (See Mark 16:19) And He stays there until the final time when He descends from heaven and when there is a great battle on the face of this earth. (See Revelation 19:11-16) And then Jesus Christ sets up His kingdom and He rules from Zion. (See Psalms 2:4-9) He rules from Jerusalem. Now what you have is, you have this vision opening up that way. [And it tells how all the nations are going to stream to Jerusalem and how they're going to ask to be taught the Word of God. They want to know God. They want to walk in His ways. And it tells us also that He is going to judge between the nations and there is going to be peace. This is where they are going to find peace because nation will not lift up sword against nation. And never again will they learn war.]

(PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 2:2-4) Then he gives a word of exhortation.

“Come, house of Jacob, and let us walk in the light of the LORD.” And then God speaks, **“...You have abandoned Your people....”** (Isaiah 2:5-6)

And what he begins to do in verse 5 all the way through now into the end of chapter 2 and the beginning of chapter 3 is, he begins to tell us the state of affairs in the nation of Israel. The nation is not yet divided. This is an overview of the sin of the people that is bringing judgment on them. Now what he's showing us is that these people, instead of regarding God as God, have regarded men. And because they have, He's about to remove the good leadership and show them where they are. We'll talk about it in just a minute, and it's important because it has to do with our nation also.

PART TWO

We can be so egocentric, can't we? As a matter of fact, I think when you look at our nation, you can see that we are followers of men, and not followers of God. As a matter of fact, more and more and more you see that

our nation, or our society, or the rulers—I would say the rulers, not the common people—are saying, “I don’t want anybody coming and talking to me about God.” We don’t want God in our politics. We don’t want Christians influencing legislatures, legislators, or anyone. We want them out. We want them in a closet. We want to shut them to up. We’ll let the gays come out of the closet. We’ll let the adulteresses come out of the closet. We’ll let all of this come out of the closet—the thieves and that, but we will lock the Christians in the closet. And this is what was happening in Israel. Not that they were Christians then, but they were regarding man, they were esteeming man, higher than they were esteeming God. And you cannot do that. I want to show you, and I would suggest that you write this in your Bible right next verse 22, “Psalms 146 verses 3 and 5.” And let’s go to Psalms 146, and let’s look at verses 3, 4, and 5. It says, **“Do not trust in princes, in mortal man, in whom there is no salvation. His spirit departs [and] he returns to the earth....”** In other words, he was made of dust, he’s going back to dust. His spirit departs. His breath is in his nostrils. It says, **“...In that very day his thoughts perish.” (Psalms 146:3-4)** He stops thinking. **“How blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, who made...,”** and I’m gonna read one more, **“...[the heavens and the earth,] the sea and all that is in them; [and] who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free.” (Psalms 146:5-7)** In other words, why are you esteeming man and why are you not going to God? And this is what was happening. And as a result of that, they had built all these things, and you go back and you look at chapter 2 verse 12 and it says that **“[God is] against everyone who is proud and lofty...against everyone who is lifted up, that he may be abased. ...it will be against all the cedars of Lebanon...the oaks of Bashan...the lofty mountains...the hills....”** Now this is what they had built, **“...every high tower...every fortified wall...,”** I mean Uzziah had been doing that. And, **“Against...the**

ships of Tarshish...against all the beautiful craft. The pride of man will be humbled and the loftiness of men will be abased...the LORD alone will be exalted in that day, but the idols will completely vanish.” (Isaiah 2:12-18) Now he has told them, “Look, the works of man are not going to stand. Man’s not going to stand, so why are you regarding man and not regarding Me? Why are you so egocentric? Why is it man that is setting your standards, and controlling you, and setting the path and the course of your life?” He says, “Stop it.” And He says [because you haven’t stopped it I’m going to remove honorable men from your midst. And I’m going to raise up children. And those children are going to come along, and they are going to storm against the elders. The inferior are going to come against the honorable.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 3:3-5) He says, **“When a man lays hold of his brother in his father’s house, saying, ‘You have a cloak, you shall be our ruler....’”** He says, **“He will protest on that day, saying ‘[I’m not uh, I, phfff, huh, I’m not gonna be your leader. I’m not gonna] be your healer. For in my house, [look at my house] there is neither bread nor [there is a] cloak. You should not appoint me [as a] ruler of the people.’”** (Isaiah 3:6-7) Now why is this condition happening? Why this state of affairs in Israel? Why this state of affairs in the United States of America? When you look at our leadership, is so different than it was at the beginning of this country. Why? He says, **“For Jerusalem has stumbled and Judah has fallen, because their speech and their actions are against the LORD, to rebel against His glorious presence.”** (Isaiah 3:8) Do you realize that they could look at Mount Zion any time during the day; they could look to the temple that was built there, and as they looked at that temple, they could see the pillar of cloud during the day and at night. They could look up and the skies in Israel are just magnificent. But they could look up against that black velvet drop of the heavens with the sparkling diamond-like stars displayed on it, and they could see that beautiful fire of the Shekinah glory. And they could know, “Hey, the Lord is dwelling in our presence.” They

saw that, and yet they disregarded that. They preferred the glitter of man to the glory of God. It says, “...**Jerusalem has stumbled...Judah has fallen, because their speech and their actions....**,” now look, it says, “...**are against the LORD....**” (Isaiah 3:8) We marked, if you’re doing your homework, in verse 12 all the way down to this, you marked “against, against, against,” God is against this, God is against that. God’s against this. What is He against? He’s against those things that raise themselves up over Him. He’s against them and what does He say to them? He says, [He is against them because they in their actions and their speech are against the Lord.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 3:8) He says their expression, “**The expression of their faces bears witness against them...they** [displayed] **their sin like Sodom; they do not even conceal it....**” And then what does he say in verse 9? He says, “...**Woe to them! For they have brought evil on themselves.**” (Isaiah 3:9) Woe to them. This is the first time that “woe” is used in Isaiah. You’re going to mark it. I mark it with a little red kind of drooping down cloud, and then I color it brown. I have a Jewish friend, and she’s always saying “Oy vey! Oy vey!” In other words, they’re in trouble. They’re in deep trouble. Why, because they’ve rebelled against God. In our next program, I’m going to share with you out of a book called, “America’s God and Country Encyclopedia of Quotations.” And what you’re going to see is, you’re going to see that our country once was founded on very godly leadership, men who called the nation not to regard man, but to regard God. From presidents to governors to preachers, they all pointed men to God. They had a holy fear of the Lord. When you don’t have leaders like that and when you rebel, when you go against God’s Word, then God removes godly leadership and you suffer the consequences. Is that what’s happened in our nation for the most part?