

ISAIAH, PART 1 (JUDGMENT – BUT HOPE)
PROGRAM 22 (#911067)
WEEK 5 (#911314)
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SERIES: Isaiah, Part 1 (Judgment – But Hope)

TITLE: Program 22 – A Great Light To Those In Darkness

TUESDAY

OPEN

Is life gloomy? I mean, does it feel like the sun is never going to shine, the birds are never going to sing, it's just going to be clouds and it's going to be darkness? Why? Because you're in anguish. You're in pain. You're hurting and you don't know what to do and you don't know which way to turn and you think, I'll never come out of this darkness. I'll never come out of this depression. Oh yes you will, if you listen to God.

PART ONE

Who is governing your life? That's the question, that's the theme for this week. And so as we look at Isaiah chapter 9, you can know this: that if your life is full of gloom, if your life is full of anguish, if you feel like you're groping about in the darkness, it's because the government of your life has not been placed on the child that has been born, on the Son that has been given. (See Isaiah 9:6) Because the government of your life is not to be on your shoulders or on the shoulders of anyone else. Rather, it is to be on the

shoulders of God. Now, as you move from Isaiah chapter 8 to 9, what you have is you have a segment of 8 and 9 that really go together. And in this segment, you have the second prophecy about Jesus Christ. Now, we're looking at the government of your life and we're seeing that the government of your life should be on the shoulders of the Son of God, who is the child of God, who is God with us. (See Isaiah 9:6) And we're looking at three prophecies. We looked yesterday at the prophecy in Isaiah 7:14, that God would give them a sign. By the way, the way I mark "sign" in my Bible, because it's a key repeated word in chapters 7 and 8, is I draw in the shape of a stop sign. And I just do it in red and then I color it yellow. So the sign that He gave us was that [a virgin would conceive, that she would be with child and she would give birth to a male son and that male son was name would be Immanuel, God with us.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 7:14) So that we saw that the government of our lives is to be on the shoulders of the one who is God. (See Isaiah 9:6) God in the flesh. I mean, why should man try to run his life when he's got God to run his life? The problem is many times people don't want God to run their lives because they want to do what they want to do and they think that they're smarter than God. Well when you walk that way and you don't believe God, then you're walking in darkness. And so, Isaiah 8 talks about this darkness, instead of turning to God, they turn to Assyria and they get in trouble with Assyria. In the end of chapter 8, Isaiah talks about his disciples. And he talks about his disciples that are binding up, well let's look at it. It's Isaiah chapter 8. And he says, "**Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples.**" (Isaiah 8:16) They're the ones that are going to fear God. They are the ones that are going to let Him be their sanctuary, as verse 13 of chapter 8 says. "**It is the Lord of Hosts whom you should regard as holy. And He shall be your fear, and He shall be your dread.**" (Isaiah 8:13) In other words, your respect, your trust, and you want to dread displeasing Him. "**And then He shall become a sanctuary....**" (Isaiah 8:14) He shall become the place where you find that intimacy and where you find that peace. But what if you don't make Him

your sanctuary? Well, then you're going to turn away from the light to darkness because Jesus is the light of the world. (See John 9:5) Now, this is what He says in Isaiah chapter 8: **“To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word...,”** according to the Bible, it says, **“...it is because they have no dawn.” (Isaiah 8:20)** In other words, they're walking in darkness. The Son of God, has not risen in their lives. They are walking in darkness and [they prefer darkness to light because their deeds are evil.] (PARAPHRASE, John 3:19) As a matter of fact, he says in verse 19, he says, **“When they say to you, ‘Consult the mediums and the spiritists who whisper and [who] mutter,’ should [the people not] consult their God? Should they consult the dead on behalf of the living?”** He says, **“To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn. They will pass through the land hard-pressed and famished, and it will turn out that when they are hungry, they will be enraged and [they will] curse their king and their God [with their] face upward.” (Isaiah 8:19-21)** And he goes on to say, **“Then they will look to the earth, and behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish; and they will be driven away into darkness.” (Isaiah 8:22)** Why are they **“...driven away into darkness”**? Why do they go into greater and greater darkness? Why are they groping and trying to find their way? Because they have chosen darkness rather than light. Now why have they done that? Well, let's look at John chapter 3 for just a minute. John chapter 3. And in John chapter 3, which is the chapter that tells you you must be born again (See John 3:3), you must be born of the Spirit. (See John 3:5) In that chapter that tells you that **“...God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son....” (John 3:16)** the Son that was born of a virgin, **“...that He gave his only begotten Son, [so] that whoever believes in Him [will] not perish....” (John 3:16)** If you believe you'll last- **“...If you [do] not believe, you ... [will] not last,” (Isaiah 7:9)** as Isaiah 7:9 says. So then he says, **“For God did not send [His] Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.” (John 3:17)**

And it says, **“He who believes in Him is not judged; [but] he who does not believe has been judged already...,”** Why? **“...Because [he’s] not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” (John 3:18)** **“...only begotten Son of God”** means that He is the One that was born of a virgin, that God put His seed in Mary so that Jesus was the Son of God, **“...the only begotten Son of God.” (John 3:18)** [And so that you do not believe in His name.] (PARAPHRASE, John 3:18) What is His name? We saw it in Isaiah 7:14. He shall be called “Immanuel.” (See Isaiah 7:14) Then it says, **“This is...judgment, that...Light has come into the world, and men loved...darkness rather than the Light...,”** why? Because, **“...their deeds were evil.” (John 3:19)** And so, if your deeds are evil, you’re not going to come to the Light. Why? You don’t want the Light to expose your deeds. You think you can hide them in the darkness. So He says, **“...everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that His deeds will be exposed.” (John 3:20)** Now if you go back to John chapter 1 where they’re describing the Word that became flesh, the Word that was in the beginning with God, it says this, that **“In Him was [light]...,”** verse 4, **“...and the [light] was the [life] of men.” (John 1:4)** And it says, **“There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.” (John 1:9)** In other words, we all have a sense of God. There’s all a sense of God consciousness. There’s an awareness that there is a supreme being to us, that there is someone that is beyond man, that there is someone that is over man. And they have never found a people that did not have a worship of a god. They’ve never found someone that was truly, truly saying that there is no God. Now, when you look at this, what he’s showing us in Isaiah is that these people are walking in gloom. They are walking in darkness and they are walking in the anguish of it all. (See Isaiah 8:21-22) So he says, **“But there will be no more gloom for her who was in anguish; in earlier times, he treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt....” (Isaiah 9:1)** He’s talking about the region that is close to the Sea of Galilee, the region that is north and west of the sea of

Galilee. And he says, “...but later on He shall make it glorious...,” now listen, “...by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles. The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them.” (Isaiah 9:1-2) He’s talking about that here, in fact it quotes it in the gospels. It quotes it. And you’re reading along and it says, and Jesus came into their region and he was doing all these miracles. And the prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled, the people that were sitting in darkness, in gloom, in anguish, under the oppression of the Romans. (See Matthew 4:12-17) The Gentiles lived in that area because they liked it much better than Jerusalem. And they loved the beautiful Sea of Galilee. And so many Gentiles lived there. (See Isaiah 9:1) And it says, [but the people that were sitting in darkness saw a great light.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 9:2) And that light was the light of the world, Beloved. It was the light of this One whose prophecy we see here. He says, “**You shall multiply the nation[s], you shall increase their gladness; they will be glad in Your presence as with the gladness of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For you [will] break the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders, the rod of [the] oppressor, as [in] the battle of Midian...every boot of the booted warrior in...battle tumult, [every] cloak rolled in blood, will be for burning, [and] fuel for the fire. (Isaiah 9:3-5)** is going to get rid of all of it, why? “**For a child will be born [for] us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of [His] peace.**” (Isaiah 9:6-7) No end. This is what you want, isn’t it? “...**The government [of your life] on His shoulders....**” (Isaiah 9:6) so that you can have peace.

PART TWO

In the midst of the people’s distress and darkness, in the midst of their gloom of anguish, because they had not listened to God, because the house of

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David had not believed, God had brought the Assyrians, or He was going to bring the Assyrians down and they were going to come over and take that northern kingdom captive. They were going to take out the people of Naphtali and Zebulun and they were going to take them into captivity or they were going to rule over them as Assyria dominated that area around the Sea of Galilee. (See Isaiah 8-9) The people sitting in darkness, though, could rejoice because they would yet see a great light. (See Isaiah 9:2) What God is doing is telling the children of Israel. Right now, you're going to be taken into captivity by Assyria. But I want you to know, I'm giving you a promise now, I am giving you a prophecy, a prophecy about One, a child who will deliver you out from and under the dominion of Assyria, out from and under those dark, dark clouds, out from and under that distress, out from and under that anguish. And the One that is going to deliver you is a child that is going to be born. It is a son that is going to be given. And His name is going to be called Wonderful Counselor, counselor that gives you truth. (See Isaiah 9:6) It's supernatural revelation. And it's not talking apart from the Word of God, but it is the Word of God, and it's supernatural because it comes from God and not from man. ["But he's going to be your Wonderful Counselor. He is going to be your Mighty God. Remember he's Immanuel. He is going to be your Mighty God. He is going to be your Everlasting Father."]

(PARAPHRASE Isaiah 9:6) Do you need a father, Precious One? Did your father abandon you? Do you live in a home without a male presence or too many males trotting through your home doing things with your mother that you have seen and you think, "You know, this is not right." You're right. It is not right. There needs to be a father in every home. And while there may not be a physical father, a mother and her husband living together, a woman and her husband creating children, blessed by God and nurturing those children and bringing them up, there is still for you that are missing this father, there is a promise for you that you, Precious One, can have an Eternal Father, an Everlasting Father. So, what does God have for you and for me? He has a Wonderful Counselor. He has a Mighty God. He has an Everlasting

Father. He has a Prince of Peace. (See Isaiah 9:6) And you know what? The government of your life will be on His shoulders. You don't have to bear the weight of life. You don't have to be burdened down. You don't have to live with that cloud of gloom and doom over you. You know the Peanuts cartoon and you know how Lioness is walking along and there's just this dark cloud over him and it's raining on him. That does not have to be in your life [because a child has been born, a son has been given, and the government of your life is to be on His shoulders and he says, and of the increase in His government there will be no end. And of the increase of His peace there will be no end.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 9:6-7) This is a promise. It is a prophecy. It has to do with Jesus Christ. It is given to the children of Israel and it is given to you and it is given to me so that we don't have to live in distress and darkness and the gloom of anguish. We can go through situations like that and we can live as more than a conqueror. (See Romans 8:37) So what he's telling them is, okay, right now at this present time in your life, you're in defeat, Assyria is here, but look to the promise. Look to the promise. Because what is going to happen is when He comes, and I want you to see that, when He comes, every boot of the warrior and every clothing that is stained with blood from battle, is going to be rolled up and burned with fire. (See Isaiah 9:5) In other words, war is going to someday be over, the gloom, the darkness, the distress of war. Doesn't it break your heart when you hear about all the wars and all the guerilla activities in South America, in Africa, in the Sudan and other places? There's going to come an end to that. Yes it is gloom. Yes it is darkness. Yes it is anguish. But it is our job to get the message to them, even as Isaiah got the message to those people, that the people walking in darkness are going to see a great light. (See Isaiah 9:2) So it says in verse 6, **“For a child will be born....” (Isaiah 9:6)** now I want you to catch this, **“[For us] A child will be born [for Israel]....” “A child will born...,”(Isaiah 9:6)** for us, for the nations. It says, **“...a son will be given to us...,”** To us! This is a very personal thing. **“...And the government...,” (Isaiah 9:6)** the government of our lives will

come off of our shoulders. It “...will rest on His shoulders....” (Isaiah 9:6) Remember what Jesus said in Matthew. He says, “[O you that] **are weary and heavy-laden**, [come unto me] **and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you...my yoke is easy...my burden is light.**” (Matthew 11:28-30) I’m to bear that. If you take a yoke, a yoke is a piece of wood and it has two circles, one on each side. And you put animals through there and usually the animals are to be animals that are of equal strength. But when you get in that yoke, it’s God and it’s man. Who’s going to pull the load? It’s God that’s going to pull the load. And so this is what he’s saying. “...**The government will [be upon] His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.**” (Isaiah 9:6) Prince of Peace. No more gloom, no more anxiousness, no more darkness, no more distress. Even if they’re clouds in the sky, it’s alright because the government of your life is on the shoulders of the One who is the Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of his government or of peace. (See Isaiah 9:6-7) And what He’s saying is, and what He’s doing, is He is pointing, Precious One, to the coming of Jesus Christ. He’s pointing to the birth of Jesus Christ. And He is pointing to the second coming of Jesus Christ when Jesus Christ comes to rule and to reign on the face of this earth. And that’s what we will talk about. And you will see it in the rest of this week. And you know what, you’re going to see that it is glorious and that it is joyous, and that it is salvation. What is the answer for your need, Precious One? It’s to remember that God has given you a child, that God has given you a Son, and the government of your life is to be on His shoulders and He’ll take away the gloom and anguish. (See Isaiah 9:6-7)