

**ISAIAH, PART 1 (JUDGMENT – BUT HOPE)
PROGRAM 6 (#911051)
WEEK 2 (#911311)
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SERIES: Isaiah, Part 1 (Judgment – But Hope)

TITLE: Program 6 – Consent And Obey

MONDAY

OPEN

Do you realize, Beloved, that if you are a child of God, that you have a very high calling on your life? And with that high calling, goes a great responsibility, a great responsibility. You are far more responsible and accountable to God than the world that does not know God. Of course, what you get when you know God is, the benefits, the blessings, that are yet to come. We'll talk about it all today as we look at God's precepts for life.

PART ONE

O, Beloved, I am so thankful that you have joined us for our study of Isaiah. We are in the second week, and if you downloaded your study guide, and it's absolutely free, then you know that what we're studying this week is chapters 3, 4, and 5. Now, when we complete chapters 3, 4, and 5, what we will do is, we will have completed the introduction to the book. I want to make sure that you understand that as you read Isaiah, that Isaiah is, in essence, a very heavy book; heavy with knowledge, heavy with teaching,

heavy with exhortation, heavy with the idea of God's holiness. But in this heaviness, there are tucked all these awesome prophecies that show us what is going to take place in the future. Now, why is it such a heavy book? It's such a heavy book because God is speaking to His people who are in sin. You saw in chapter 1, He says, ["Sons I have reared up but they have rebelled. They have revolted. They have kicked up their heels against Me."] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 1:2) They have gone their own way, and He's going to have to deal with them. And so, what I want to do today is, I want to give you an overview, just an overview of these first five chapters, and what God is doing in Isaiah. And then, we're going to go verse by verse through chapter 3, and chapter 4, and chapter 5, so that you hear the Word of the Lord, so that you understand it, and so that God can speak to you. Now as we begin Isaiah, I want to begin by taking you to the book of Deuteronomy. I want to take you to the book of Deuteronomy because, remember when I opened the program, the thing that I said is, that it is a great responsibility to be a child of God? If you're a child of God, it's an awesome privilege, but it is a responsibility. And God is saying to you that you need to live intentionally. You need to know that God, because of this high calling on your life, expects a lot of you. Now He doesn't expect what He's not going to provide, but you see we're living in a society today, where many who profess Christ live very sloppily in regard to God. And this is what was happening with the children of Israel. In Deuteronomy chapter 7, God made it very clear to them that they were chosen by Him. Let's see what He says in Deuteronomy chapter 7, in verse 6. He says, **"For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord...has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of [this] earth."** And He says, **"The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any...other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples."** He says, **"But because the Lord loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, [Abraham,**

Isaac, and Jacob,] **the Lord brought you out....**” and he’s talking about out of Egypt, **“...by a mighty hand and [He] redeemed you from the house of slavery....” (Deuteronomy 7:6-8)** Now, when you get to the second portion of Isaiah, which really begins about Isaiah chapter 40, you’re going to see that word “redeem,” “Redeemer,” “redemption” just surface, because he’s going to talk about God as our Redeemer. But what he’s going to do in the first 39 chapters of Isaiah is, he is talking to Israel about this high calling that they’ve failed at. So, as we listen to this, I want to know, have you realized the privilege that you have as a child of God, and are you living accordingly? As I teach, you want to cry out to God and you want to say, “God I want You to speak to me. When I see You face to face, I do not want to be ashamed.” And so he goes on to say in verse 9, as he speaks to them, **“Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant....”** He keeps His covenant; He makes an agreement, **“...and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments; But [He] repays those who hate Him to their faces, to destroy them; He will not delay with him who hates Him, He will repay him to his face.**

Therefore...keep the commandment and the statutes and the judgments which I am commanding you today....” (Deuteronomy 7:9-11) Israel was a chosen people, and you know what? You are also! I want you to go to 1 Peter chapter 1. In 1 Peter chapter 1, as Peter opens up this epistle, and he’s written two of them, he says, **“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, scattered through Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen.”** Now watch what he says, **“[You are chosen] according to the foreknowledge of God [you are chosen by] the Father, [and] by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood....” (1 Peter 1:1-2)** He goes on, and he says in chapter 1, in verse 14, **“As obedient children, do not be conformed to [your] former lusts which were yours in your**

ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; [as] it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’” (1 Peter 1:14-16) God has a high calling on your life, just as He had a high calling on the life of the nation of Israel. Now what God is going to do in these first five chapters that are the introduction to the rest of all that is going to come, it’s like they’re bookends in the book. And the bookends in Isaiah are chapters 1-5 at the beginning of the book, and then the last few chapters of Isaiah. So, they hold the book together. And what He’s doing in these first five chapters is, He’s saying, “OK you are My children. You are My sons. I have chosen you, and I expect you to be a holy people. I expect you to walk in obedience to Me. You have a high calling on your life.” As we look at that, we take what He’s saying there and we apply it to our lives, because we too are chosen. And we are to be holy even as He is holy. So, what He’s going to show us is their unholiness. He’s going to show us in the first five chapters of Isaiah that these people were not living as they should be living. And my question to you is, are you living, Precious One, the way you should be living? Are you living life on a much higher plane than the rest of the world? You should, because you’ve been chosen by God. So he describes this nation, in verse 4 of chapter 1, **“Alas, sinful nation, people weighed down with iniquity....” (Isaiah 1:4)** These were people that were to be holy. These were people that were to keep His commandments. His commandments keep us from iniquity. It keeps us from sin. It keeps us from doing what is wrong in the eyes of God. He says, **“...Offspring of evildoers...,”** he says, **“...Sons who act corruptly...!” (Isaiah 1:4)** You’re My child. And as we saw last week, you, if you have received Jesus Christ, are a child of God also. He says, **“...They have abandoned the LORD, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they have turned away from Him.” (Isaiah 1:4)** The question is have you despised the Holy One of Israel? Have you turned away from Him? Now what is it to despise the Holy One of Israel? Well, I want to take you back to Numbers chapter 15. One of

my coworkers and a dear friend of mine, one that helps us in television, Beverly Mealor, sent me an email. And she said, “I was reading Numbers 15.” And she said, “Very interesting,” and it was verse 30 and 31. Now this is in a passage where God is teaching them about unintentional sin and intentional sin. Unintentional is, “I didn’t mean to do that. I goofed, God, I am so sorry I disobeyed You. Or I didn’t do what I should have done. Or I didn’t respond the way I should have responded.” But then going from unintentional sin and talking about the forgiveness that is ours and the understanding, He talks about being defiant. (See Numbers 15:30) And this is what had happened to the children of Israel. They, remember, had kicked up their heels. They had rebelled. They had revolted. He says, “**...The person who does anything defiantly, whether [he’s] a native or an alien, that one is blaspheming the Lord; and that person shall be cut off from among his people. Because he has despised the word of the Lord and has broken His commandment....**” (Numbers 15:30-31) In other words, you know what God said. It’s very clear to you, and yet you despise it by breaking it. Is there anything in your life, My Friend, that you are doing that you shouldn’t be doing? You know it in your gut, you know it in your head, you even know it in your heart, and yet it is such a pleasure to you? Something that has caught you, and you won’t let it go? O, Precious One, don’t miss what I’m about to say.

PART TWO

Well I left you on a very sober note, didn’t I? I’m so glad that you came back, because it’s so essential that you understand that when you despise the Holy One of Israel, Precious One, God is going to have to deal with you. And that’s what this introduction to Isaiah is about. They have revolted. They have walked away. And therefore, God has to judge them. You see, “**...judgment...begin[s] at the house of God....**” (1 Peter 4:17, KJV) It tells us this in the Old Testament. It quotes it in the New Testament. Why?

Because if we are children of God, genuine children of God, if we belong to Him and He is the Holy One of Israel and we are being unholy, then a holy God has to judge sin. He has to judge it. Now, it's not judging it with the Christian so as to cast him in hell, but it is taking you to the divine woodshed. Let's look at it. I want you to go in your Bibles to Hebrews chapter 12. Hebrews chapter 12 is the chastening chapter. And as you look at that chastening chapter, what you see is you see God talking after He talks about all these Old Testament saints who were among, listen carefully, a faithful remnant, who did not go the way of the nation in its continuous rebellion, but who walked by faith, who did not despise the word of the Lord, but listened to the word of the Lord, obeyed the word of the Lord. All right, so what He tells us in Hebrews chapter 12 is that this is our **"...great cloud of witnesses...."** (Hebrews 12:1) Look at them! Look at them! You've just read about them. And, **"...since we have [this] great... cloud of witnesses surrounding us..."**, then what ought we to do? Well he says, **"...since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance [that which is weighing us down] and the sin which does so easily [beset] us [the thing that you are prone to.]...."** (Hebrews 12:1) Now when I was saved, I was immoral. I was prone to immorality. Some people are not even interested in being immoral. There are different things. Some people are obsessed with making it in this life and being well-known. Others are obsessed with having things, and others are obsessed with education. They're obsessed and they've got to have it not for God, but for themselves. And so what he is saying here is, you have a sin which does so easily beset you. A sin is that which keeps you from believing God. A sin is that which keeps you from obeying God, from trusting God, from doing what God says. And so he says, **"...since we have [this] great...cloud of witnesses...let us also..."** (Hebrews 12:1) they had to do the same thing. They had to, **"...lay aside every encumbrance..."**, that was weighing them down, **"...and the sin..."** that did so easily beset them.

“...the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.” (Hebrews 12:1) And then he goes on to talk about us in our relationship to God. He says, “[Do not forget] **the exhortation [that] is addressed to you as sons, ‘My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor faint when you are reproved by Him; for those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and [those whom the Lord receives] He scourges....’**” (Hebrews 12:5-6) And scourges means He inflicts pain. He inflicts pain, and this is what you see in Isaiah chapter 1. He says, **“Where will you be stricken again, as you continue in your rebellion...?” (Isaiah 1:5)** In other words, I have had to take you, as I told you last week, to the divine woodshed. So, what he’s doing in this introduction to this book, in this preface that leads to the most incredible prophecy that leads to the words of the Prince of the prophets, what He’s doing is, He’s showing them you have a high calling on your life. You have not lived up according to your high calling, according to your responsibility. Instead you have rebelled. You have despised My word. And because you’ve despised My word, I’m going to have to judge you. I’ve started judging you already, but it’s going to get worse if you don’t listen. And this is what He begins to do; He begins to point to an immediate judgment, a judgment that is coming, that’s in the near future, and then a judgment that is coming, and all of this an introduction to this week, a judgment that is coming at the very, very end. He tells us our high calling, He tells us about their sin, He tells us about His judgment because He is the Righteous One, He is **“...the Holy One of Israel....” (Isaiah 1:4)** But then, He also tells us that there is a future. There is a future. So in the midst of all of this as you read chapter 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, in the midst of all this, when He’s talking about His holiness, when He’s talking about His judgment, and if you did your homework or if you’re doing your homework for this week, one of the words that you want to mark in chapter 3, and 4, and 5 is the word “judge” and “judgment.” I just took a fine pen, and I made a big red “J” on every use

of judge and judgment. And he wants us to see that that's coming, but he also wants us to see that there is a future and there is a hope. (See Jeremiah 29:11) And he shows us this future and he shows us this hope. He'll he'll talk about this judgment and then he'll show us, but this is what I'm going to do. He'll talk about it more, but this is what I'm going to do. And what He does, now watch, what He does is He keeps pointing us to the future. So, he's going to talk about the last days. Now he has a message in chapter 1 and 2. In chapter 1, one message talking about their rebellion and then in chapter 2, he starts a second message. When he starts that message, he starts with talking about Zion. He talks about Zion and all the nations streaming into Zion. (See Isaiah 2:2) We looked at it last week. And you see that in chapter 2, he begins a message. That message goes all the way through either chapter 4 or chapter 5. If it goes through chapter 4 it begins talking about Zion and it talks about the nations coming in, and then when it ends it talks about Zion again. And it gives you the hope. It reminds me of what God says through Jeremiah, a prophet who was yet to be raised up, a prophet who was going to prophesy during Judah's exile, the Southern Kingdom's exile. And he's going to prophesy, and he's going to let them know, God's judgment is coming. God's judgment is coming. You're a people of special privilege, and you are supposed to walk in obedience. You haven't and God's going to have to chasten you, but listen, [I know the plans I have for you, plans of good and not of evil, to give you a future and to give you a hope.] (PARAPHRASE, Jeremiah 29:11) The blessed assurance that you have, Precious One, if you belong to God, if you truly have been chosen and have received Jesus Christ is this, God has a future and a hope for you. And you're going to see that future in all of its glory as we study Isaiah.