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**SERIES: Isaiah, Part 1 (Judgment – But Hope)**

**TITLE: Program 46 – Peace In Turmoil**

**MONDAY**

**OPEN**

Everything has changed in a moment. You've picked up the phone and all of a sudden, there is pain, there is turmoil, there is a churning of your stomach. You go to the doctor. You've been praying. You've been hoping. But then he gives you the diagnosis. What do you do, Beloved? Is it possible in the midst of that turmoil to walk in peace? We'll talk about it today as we look at God's precepts for life.

**PART ONE**

On March 19<sup>th</sup> of the year 2007, I had just finished meeting with our leaders and going over our lesson in Isaiah—the lesson that I'm going to teach you this week. When I finished, I went up to the house and I picked up the phone to call my sister to find out how my 95 year-old mother was doing. My sister had been taking the phone and putting it close to her ear and I had been telling her how precious she was to me, and how much I loved her, and how thankful I was that I was her daughter and that she was my mother. This

time Judy said, “Mother just died at 4:20 this afternoon.” It was about 5:20. **“The steadfast of mind You [God] will keep in perfect peace....” (Isaiah 26:3) “...Whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he [trusts] in Thee.” (Isaiah 26:3, KJV)** That same day, Beloved, that same day in the morning, I had picked up the phone to call one of our staff to ask if I could take her and her husband (they both work for us) to lunch. I said, “I wanted to talk to you face to face,” because I’d heard the news, “Tell me what happened.” And she told me. She told me how she went to the doctor and how they found out that she had two different kinds of cancer (aggressive cancer) in both breasts. She said, “But we are trusting the Lord. We know that God is sovereign. (See 1 Timothy 6:15) **“And we know that...all things...work together for good....” (Romans 8:28) “The steadfast of mind You [God] will keep in perfect peace [perfect peace], because [we trust] in You.” (Isaiah 26:3)** I had just gotten back from Albuquerque, New Mexico where I was speaking at Hoffmantown Church, where dear friends of mine are now pastoring that church. Wayne Barber and Tommy Jones and others that I just love. And while we were there we had Leaders Day. And we gathered our leaders from Texas and from New Mexico and from Colorado and from Arizona, and we had a wonderful day. When I got there I went from table to table to say “Hello” to everybody and to find out how they were doing. (Some I had never seen their faces; others I had seen their faces.) And I looked down and there was Gary and Teresa, a wonderful couple in about, in about their 40s. And I said, “How are you doing?” And she said, “Gary brought me again.” And she said, “Kay, Mayo is telling me that they will probably have to take off my leg, right underneath the hip. They’re afraid that the staph infection in that leg will spread to the other leg and I could lose both legs.” We brought them up to the platform at the end of our Leaders’ Day because we wanted to present them with a plumb bob which is a symbol of this ministry, because we teach people to discover truth for themselves and we measure everything by the Word of God. Well when we

had the leaders that had been leading from ten to 14 years come to the platform, Gary was helping Teresa. Gary was helping her stand up there, and as we gave her the pin in gratitude for that, we stopped and we all prayed. We prayed as we had been praying before, that God, Who is “Jehovah Rophe,” the Lord God that heals, that God would move in mercy and compassion and in His power and heal her leg so that she wouldn’t have to have it amputated. And yet we had already discussed it. We had already heard them say, “Whatever God desires, we’re resting in His sovereignty.” **“The steadfast of mind [God] will keep in perfect peace [perfect peace]....” (Isaiah 26:3)** Why? Because Gary and Teresa are trusting in the Lord. And what about you, Precious One? What about you? Has the phone rung? Has the diagnosis come? Have you gotten word about one of your children, or one of your parents? Do you realize that God says that if you will be steadfast in your mind, then He will give you perfect peace. He will keep you in that perfect peace. He will guard you in that perfect peace.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 26:3) We have come to a wonderful, wonderful part of Isaiah. This week we’re going to look at Isaiah chapter 26 and 27. And I do pray that you have gone to <[preceptsforlife.com](http://preceptsforlife.com)> and that you have downloaded that study guide. It’s absolutely free. And if you have, you’re prepared for this. If not, what you want to do is, this week, just pour over Isaiah 26 and 27. And you will find a peace that comes because of trust, a trust that comes because you have an everlasting Rock. (See Isaiah 26:4) And although God is going to have to move, and God is going to have to judge, there is a remnant. There is a faithful group, and that remnant, [who love God will walk along that path that God will level.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 26:7) You will see what happens to the righteous. You will see the way that God smoothes the way in the midst of toils and troubles and tribulations and testings; the way that [He makes the path of the righteous smooth.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 26:7) It’s going to be a wonderful, wonderful week. It is going to be so very, very encouraging. Now what I

would like to do is, I would like to take you for a few minutes on a journey to where we have come from, to where we are. That's sounds pretty clever, doesn't it? But I would like to take you on a journey through the book of Isaiah so that you understand the portion of scripture that we're in, because next week what we're going to do is, we're going to move to another segment of Isaiah. And I want you to keep the broad picture in mind, because God has something that He is accomplishing. In chapters 1 through 5, God has let us look at Israel. God has let us look at these people that are His children, and yet who have despised His Word, "...[who] **have despised the Holy One of Israel....**" (Isaiah 1:4) He has said to them, "...**Though your sins be as scarlet, [yet]...shall [you] be as white as snow....**" (Isaiah 1:18, KJV) But they need to listen. They can have righteousness, even though their sins have been as scarlet, if they will believe God, if they will turn to the Holy One of Israel. In chapters 1 through 5 He tells us about the coming judgment upon Israel, the northern kingdom; and eventually the coming judgment on Judah, the southern kingdom; the judgment that's going to come from Assyria when they're taken into captivity; the judgment that is going to come from Babylon when the southern kingdom is taken into captivity. (See Isaiah 2:6-8 & 1:7-9 & 5:13, 26) In the midst of all this, and this is very important, he lets them know that there is a holy city, that that holy city is Jerusalem, and that some day all the peoples of the earth will come up to Jerusalem. (See Isaiah 2:2-3) "**And [there] they [will] beat their swords into plowshares...,**" and there they will find peace. (Isaiah 2:4, KJV) Now this week, we're going to talk about the peace of the righteous; the peace of the righteous. How do the righteous walk in peace even in the midst of turmoil? How do you keep on keeping on even when things are difficult? And that's what we're going to look at. And so what he does is, he points them to the future. He points them to the new Jerusalem, he let's them know, he gives them hope: This is how it is all going to end. (See Isaiah 27:13) And the end is merely the beginning of a brand new heaven and a

brand new earth. Now in this, as he tells us about the judgment that's going to come, he reminds us that there is a remnant, that there is a faithful remnant. Now he closes that portion of talking to Israel, in Isaiah 5, when he talks to them about being His vineyard, and how He made this vineyard and how He planted it and how He protected it, but how that vineyard refused to bear fruit, how it did not come up with the fruit that it was supposed to come up with. (See Isaiah 5:1-2) Then in Isaiah chapter 6, we find Isaiah going into the presence of the Lord. "[It's] **the year that King Uzziah died** [and he sees]...**the Lord...high and lifted up....**" (Isaiah 6:1) And seeing the Lord high and lifted up, and hearing the cherubim cry, "Holy, Holy, Holy," he sees himself. He sees his sin. (See Isaiah 6:1-3) He says, **"...Woe is me ...I am undone...[I'm] a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of [an unclean] people...."** (Isaiah 6:5, KJV) And the minute he sees a righteous God and sees his own unrighteousness, then God moves and they take coals off of the altar, they touch his lips and they say that, **"...your iniquity is taken away...your sin is [purged]..."** why? (Isaiah 6:7) Because this person, Isaiah, seeing a holy God, seeing the Holy One of Israel, then realized that [within him there dwelt no good thing]. (PARAPHRASE, Romans 7:18, KJV) Then seeing his sin, being cleansed by God, Isaiah was able to hear God's voice and God's call as He said: **"[Who will] I send...who will go for Us...?"** (Isaiah 6:8) And he was ready because he's righteous, because God has declared him righteous. Now his focus is on the things of God. And, Precious One, that's the way it is to be for us. Why? I'll tell you in just a minute.

## **PART TWO**

If Israel was so bad, if they had eyes to see (but they weren't seeing); if they had ears to hear (but they weren't hearing), if they were not paying any attention, why would God keep sending the prophet? Why would He judge Israel, and then, in a sense, when it's subject again to burning, He's going to

deal with them. It's because of this, Precious One, and I want you to remember this: [There is a holy seed in the stump.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 6:13) Most of the world is going to perish. Most of Israel is going to perish. Two thirds of Israel will perish in the day of God's judgment, Beloved. But there is a seed. There is a remnant. And this is what you need to remember. You need to remember that it's the righteous that "...[God] **will keep in perfect peace....**" (Isaiah 26:3) It's the one who is steadfast in mind, who focuses himself on the Word of God, and walks and lives according to that Word—who trusts in God. These are the ones that have peace, and they have peace because they trust, and they trust because they have an everlasting Rock that cannot be moved. (See Isaiah 26:4) If you have read Isaiah chapter 26, you know that I'm pulling scriptures out of Isaiah chapter 26 and putting them together. Well after Isaiah 6, then in chapter 7 through Isaiah chapter 12, what we have is, we have God's word to Ahaz. Ahaz who has the enemy coming against him, he can be kept in perfect peace if he will stay his mind on God. (See Isaiah 7:2-4) But the problem is, he will not, and God has said to him, **"...If you will not believe, you [will] not last."** (Isaiah 7:9) Precious One, listen to me carefully, if you will not believe, if you will not cling to God, you will not have peace. You will not last, you will fall apart and that's what happens with Ahaz. Yet God comes and He brings them these wonderful, wonderful promises of a virgin conceiving and being with child. (See Isaiah 7:14) And we go down the line and we see it's a promise of a Messiah, of the Christ, of the Promised One who is to come and who is to deliver His people, first from their sin and then, eventually, from the presence of sin, and put them in a new heaven and in a new earth. He promises us that **"...a child will be born [and] a son [would] be given...and [He]...will be called...Prince of Peace."** (Isaiah 9:6) The peace of the righteous—this is what we're talking about this week. How do the righteous have peace? The righteous have peace by believing what God says, being steadfast in mind. Then **"...[God keeps us] in perfect peace, whose mind is**

**stayed on [Him]...;**” staying our mind, being steadfast in mind upon the Word of God. (**Isaiah 26:3, KJV**) He tells us that this One is going to sit on the throne of David. He tells us about [the root that is going to come from Jesse]. (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 11:1) And then, having dealt with Israel, he turns to the nations and in chapter 13 all the way through chapter 23, he tells us what he is going to do the nations so that we see that God is not just a God of Israel, but He is the God of the universe, He is the God of the world. And He tells us how he’s going to judge the nations that will not believe Him, that come against Israel; that persecute Israel. And in that judgment He reminds us that [as He has planned, as He has purposed, so it will come to pass]. (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 14:24) And then we moved, last week, into Isaiah chapter 24 and 25 and we saw that [God was going to lay the earth waste, that He was going to devastate it]. (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 24:1) And He was going to do that because the land had been polluted by its inhabitants. (See Isaiah 24:5) Our unrighteousness, our ungodliness, our rebellion, our pride that said, “We don’t need God,” has brought about this chaos upon the earth, and God in His righteousness and holiness has to move. And He has to judge, and yet in the midst of all this, once again He points us to the holy mountain. He points us to Jerusalem. He points us to that holy city. (See Isaiah 24:23) And then in this segment where God is talking about His judgment of the earth, we come to these wonderful, wonderful, awesome, awesome chapters; chapters that are so full and so pertinent for you, Beloved, and I’m going to take you through them this week. And when you finish, you’re going to be singing a song also. In Isaiah chapter 26, verse 1, it says: **“In that day this song [this song] will be sung in the land of Judah...,” (Isaiah 26:1)** in this day when God is going to lay the earth waste, in this day when God is going to devastate the earth. In this day when God is going to burn it up and [burn up many of the inhabitants of the earth.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 24:6) In that day there’s going to be a song sung. And it says, **“...We have a strong city....” (Isaiah 26:1)** That

strong city is Jerusalem. Every other city on the face of this earth is like a matchbox, or a match stick house that just will fall and be tinder for the burning, but not Jerusalem. It says, **“...He sets up walls and ramparts for security.”** It says, **“Open the gates, that the righteous nation may enter, the one that remains faithful.”** (Isaiah 26:1-2) He’s talked about the judgment of the nations that do not remain faithful. He’s told us about the redemption of the nations that will turn in faithfulness to God. We’ve seen that Assyria is going to believe. We’ve see that Egypt is going to believe. We’ve seen that there’s going to be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and so that they can go back and forth. (See Isaiah 19:23) And we see that they’re going to join with Israel and they’re going to know the blessing of God. But where’s it all going to camp? You see that road from Egypt goes through Jerusalem. That road from Assyria comes down to Jerusalem, and so we find here that he says, **“Open the gates, that the righteous nation may enter, the one that remains faithful. The steadfast of mind You [God] will keep in perfect peace, because he trusts in You.”** (Isaiah 26:2-3) How can I keep on going? How can my friends keep on going? One that’s probably going to lose a leg unless God intervenes. One that is going to have both breasts removed and then go after this cancer in the body. One that has lost a loved a loved one; one that has all of a sudden a husband that walks out, how do you keep going? **“[It’s] the steadfast of mind [He] keep[s] in perfect peace....”** Now watch what He says, **“...Because he trusts in You.”** (Isaiah 26:3) Because he trusts in God! It says, **“Trust in the LORD forever, For in...the LORD, we have an everlasting Rock.”** (Isaiah 26:4) In other words, there is a Rock that cannot be moved. There is a Rock that is your refuge, is your source. And that’s what we’re going to look at. How, Precious One, do we stay, like it says, “steadfast of mind”? How do we have that perfect peace? We have it. The peace comes because we trust in Him. And the trust comes because we know, that: **“...in...the LORD, we have...,”** as he says here, **“...an everlasting Rock.”** (Isaiah 26:4)