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

**TITLE: Program 5 – The Day Of Reckoning**

**FRIDAY**

**OPEN**

Does it eat at your gut when people act in evil, horrible ways and seemingly get away with it? Does it make you furious to hear about these men that are going into villages in different countries and raping the women and maiming the children? Does it tear you up, O Precious One? It does me, and the only thing that keeps me peaceful is understanding the Lord has a day of reckoning. (See Isaiah 2:12)

**PART ONE**

Oh, what a book this Bible is! It helps me make sense of life, and not only make sense of life, but to know how to live. It helps me so much to understand that God is in control and that there is a “...day of reckoning....” (Isaiah 2:12) In other words, even men are not going to get away with their evil deeds because God is a God of justice, because God is a God of righteousness, because He is the “...Holy One of Israel....” (Isaiah 1:4) And with all of my frustration about Israel and what the nations are

doing, and all the confusion, and all of the claims about who Jerusalem belongs to and who the Temple Mount belongs to, I open the Book. I read the Book, and I know the truth. And I know that the truth will win. I know that God has a **“...day of reckoning....” (Isaiah 2:12)** Well, as we open Isaiah chapter 2, we find a vision again, a vision word that comes to Isaiah the prophet concerning Judah and Jerusalem. And he says, **“Now it will come about...in the last days the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains....” (Isaiah 2:2)** Well, if you did your homework, and I didn’t tell you this except in our last lesson, the last days begin with the first coming of Jesus Christ. They’re brought to a culmination with the second coming of Jesus Christ. And so, this time that he’s talking about when [God will establish the mountain of the house of the Lord and all the nations will stream to it,] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 2:2) is speaking of the time when the Lord comes again, but this time for judgment, this time to rule and to reign, this time to act in holy vindication against the evilness of men, the iniquity of men, the rebellion of men who have raised their puny fists in the face of God. God tells us in Psalm 2 that [the Lord sits in the heavens and He laughs at the nations.] (PARAPHRASE, Psalm 2:4) Let’s go to Psalm 2 because it’s important for you to see this. This is a very important psalm for you to know, Beloved. So, let me read a little bit. **“Why are the nations in an uproar and the peoples devising a vain thing?” (Psalms 2:1)** Now when you mark “nations” there, and I tell you, color it green and underline it in brown. That’s one way, and then wherever you see nations and you mark it that way, then you know what God says about the nations because God is not just interested in Israel. God is not just interested in the church. God has something to say to the nations. And God holds the nations accountable. It says, **“The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers take counsel together....”** They’re sitting, they’re talking, **“...against the LORD and against His Anointed....”** His Anointed is the Messiah. It is the One that is coming. **“...Saying, ‘Let us tear their fetters apart and cast away their cords from us!’” (Psalms 2:2-3)** No, I’m not

going to be bound by them, I'm not going to listen to this silly talk, I am going to rule my own destiny. **“He who sits in the heavens laughs, the Lord scoffs at them. Then He will speak to them in His anger and terrify them in His fury, saying, ‘But as for Me, [as for Me] I have installed My King upon Zion, My holy mountain.** [The mountain that will be chief of all the mountains.]” (Psalms 2:4-6) And this is the word that he has— that he is telling his people; that there is a “last days” that are coming. And in those last days, even the nations are going to recognize that God is God. And they're going to come up to that mountain, as we saw in our last lesson. And they're going to worship Him. And to worship means “to bow down” it means “to acknowledge.” [And so, they're going up, so that God might teach them, so that, Jesus who is God, God incarnate, might teach them concerning His ways, and so that they might walk in His paths. And then the law of the Lord will go forth from Zion.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 2:3) So, take that drawing that you have there, and with the coming of the Lord and that arrow, put a mountain there. And know this; that the law is going to come forth from that mountain, and it's going to go to all the earth. I have to keep going. There's so many scriptures I'd like to take you to. But then he says, [“Then there is going to be peace.”] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 2:4) I want us to go, and next to verse 4 of chapter 2, write “Joel 3 verse 9 through 21.” And let's go to Joel. As you head toward the New Testament, you're going to come by Hosea. And then after Hosea, you're going to come to Joel. And in Joel chapter 3, he says, **“Proclaim...among the nations: Prepare a war; rouse the mighty men! Let...the soldiers draw near, let them come...beat [their] plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears; Let the weak say, ‘[I'm] a mighty man.’ Hasten...come, all you surrounding nations, and gather yourselves [here]...,”** where? In **“...the valley of Jehoshaphat....” (Joel 3:9-12)** The valley of Jehoshaphat is a valley that runs all the way from Har Megiddo from the battlefield of Megiddo, all the way past Jerusalem, and on down to Edom. That is the valley. And it says, he goes on and says, **“Hasten and**

come...gather yourselves.... Bring down, O LORD, Your mighty ones. Let the nations be aroused [let them] come...to the valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I...sit to judge all the surrounding nations. Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, tread, for the wine press is full; the vats [overflowed,] for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.” (Joel 3:11-14) What you’re going to see is that if you will back up in time toward the cross, three and one-half years from Jesus ruling in Zion, you will have the beginning of the day of the Lord. He goes on to say, “The sun and moon grow dark...the stars lose their brightness. The LORD roars from Zion and utters His voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth tremble. But the LORD is a refuge for His people and a stronghold to the sons of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD dwelling in Zion, My holy mountain. So Jerusalem will be holy, and strangers will pass through it no more.” (Joel 3:15-17) There’s going to be no more war after that. Let’s look at it. Let’s go back to Isaiah. I love the way Scripture interprets Scripture. I love looking at these things. And I hope that you are downloading our free study guide and studying along with us. But watch what he says, “Come, house of Jacob...let us walk in the light of the LORD.” He says, “For You have abandoned Your people, the house of Jacob, because they are filled with influences from the east...they are soothsayers like the Philistines...they strike bargains with the children of foreigners. Their land has...been filled with silver and gold...,” they’re rich. “...There is no end to their [treasuries] their land has...been filled with horses and there is no end to their chariots. Their land has...been filled with idols; they worship the work of their hands...which their fingers have made. So the common man has been humbled and the man of importance has been abased....” He says, “...but do not forgive them.” (Isaiah 2:5-9) They have been brought low. They have their chance, but there is a day of reckoning. “Enter the rock...hide in the dust from the terror of the LORD...from the

**splendor of His majesty. The proud look of man will be abased and the loftiness of man will be humbled....” (Isaiah 2:10-11)** One of the things that you notice as you study on your own, as you discover truth for yourself, is you see in chapter 1 and chapter 2, that the lofty and the prideful are brought low, that they are abased. We can either bring ourselves to humility, or God will do that. But now watch what he says, it says, **“...the LORD alone will be exalted in that day.” (Isaiah 2:11)** The Lord alone will be exalted. He will not share His glory with any man. **“For the LORD of hosts will have a day of reckoning....” (Isaiah 2:12)** There is a day of reckoning coming, and he says in verse 17, **“The pride of man will be humbled...the [loftiness,] of men will be abased; and the LORD alone will be exalted in that day, but the idols will completely vanish. Men will go into [the] caves of the rocks...into [the] holes of the ground before the terror of the LORD and the splendor of His majesty, when He arises to make the earth tremble. “In that day, men will cast away...their idols [to the bats] ...when He...,” verse 21, “...arises to make the earth tremble.” (Isaiah 2:17-21)** There is a day of reckoning, but today prepare yourself for that day. Reckon with God. Kiss the Son, bow the knee, and live in accordance with the truth that He is God. And the day that is coming will not be a day that will cause you trembling, but it will cause you great joy, for He will be the King of the earth.

## **PART TWO**

What’s going to happen on that day of reckoning? What is God going to do when He arises and makes the earth tremble? What is His message? Well, he opens this message in chapter 2 by telling us about the last days when all this is going to happen. In the midst of that message, once again he gives a call. He gives a call to Israel. He gives a call to his people. He gives a call to them to come out of darkness and to walk in the light. (See Isaiah 2:5) It’s the Word of God that brings light into our lives. It’s knowing Jesus Christ,

who is the light of the world, (See John 8:12) that [removes us from the kingdom of darkness and puts us in the kingdom of light] as Colossians tells us. (PARAPHRASE, Colossians 1:13) So, he's speaking to his people. And he's speaking to his people, and there's that call in verse 5. And it's like an isolated verse between the first four and then the ones that follow. And here's his call. And then Isaiah is talking to God. He's talking to God about his people, and this is what he says. **"...You have abandoned Your people, the house of Jacob..."** but there's reason for that, **"...because they are filled with influences from the east..."** (Isaiah 2:6) Do you realize that there's a lot of that going on in our society today? He talks about soothsayers like the Philistines. He talks about people that strike bargains with foreigners. (See Isaiah 2:6) In other words, there's all this manipulation. And there's all this seeking of wisdom, other than God. You can meet the soothsayers; they're on television all the time. They're the ones that are sitting there and entertaining us as they sit on these programs, and they tell us things that we didn't know about ourselves, or that only we know. And here's a stranger telling us what to do, and answering questions, and sitting in the place of God. And God is saying that He abandons people like that. Why? He says that He is God and that we are to go to Him, and we are to get our answers. Then God talks about what Israel's land is like. **"Their land has...been filled with silver and gold...."** (Isaiah 2:7) And the thing that you and I need to realize is, that the days of Uzziah and Jotham were days of great prosperity. They were days and times of prosperity that the children of Israel had not known since the days of Solomon when they were at peace. And although there was war going on, they were days. Amos talks about these these women that have all these luxuries and treasures, and their trinkets and they want people waiting on them. (See Amos 4:1) And they talk about the houses that they have built and how big they are. And see, you pick up books like "Architectural Digest," or you pick up books like "Southern Accents," and I like to look at these magazines. But you see about a woman that, this is their third home, this magnificent dining room,

although they never entertain. It's just adding and adding. Do you realize that Colossians tells us that [greed is idolatry?] (PARAPHRASE, Colossians 3:5) [That the love of money is the root of all evil?] (PARAPHRASE, 1 Timothy 6:10) He goes on to say, "...[there's] **no end to their treasures....**" (Isaiah 2:7) And then he talks about how the land, and I read that to you, is filled with horses, etc. (See Isaiah 2:7) And then he comes down in verse 12, and he says, "**For the LORD of hosts will have a day of reckoning....**" (Isaiah 2:12) And we've seen their prosperity. Now watch what He's going to reckon against. And one of the that's the key word "against, against, against, against." Underline it. "**...Against everyone who is proud and lofty...,**" who thinks that they are exempt, who thinks that they are entitled, who thinks that they are smarter than God, who thinks that they are clever, proud, and lofty. It says, and he tells us in verse 11 that they're going to be abased. "[But] **the LORD [has] a day of reckoning against everyone who is proud and lofty...against everyone who is lifted up, that he may be abased.**" It says, "**And it will be against all the cedars of Lebanon that are lofty and lifted up, [and] against all the oaks of Bashan, against all the lofty mountains, [and]...all the hills that are lifted up.**" (Isaiah 2:12-14) When I went to the DMZ, that zone between North Korea and South Korea, and I saw the building that they had built that nobody occupies. But North Korea had to have a building that was taller. And what he's saying is these kingdoms are elevating themselves. They're lifting up their mountains, their empires. He says, "[It will be] **against every high tower...,**" and we erect towers to the glory of man. "**...against every fortified wall, against all the ships of Tarshish...,**" now listen to this, "**...against all the beautiful craft.**" (Isaiah 2:15-16) Against everything that we have produced, the art, the statues, the beautiful paintings, the beautiful china, everything that our hands have produced, He is against it all. Is He saying we can't have them? No. But when it becomes us and God, it is an idol. He says, "**The pride of man will be humbled...the loftiness of [man] will be abased...the LORD alone will be exalted on that day.**"

(Isaiah 2:17) God has a day of reckoning. Look at Revelation chapter 11. And in Revelation chapter 11, in verse 15, and this is what he says, **“Then the seventh angel sounded...,”** and this is the “leading up” in this day of the Lord. And **“...the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The [kingdom[s] of the world [have] become the kingdom of our Lord and of [our] Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.’ And the twenty-four elders, who sit on [the] thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying, ‘We give You thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who are...who were, because You have taken Your great power and [You] have begun to reign. And the nations were enraged, and Your wrath came, and the time came for the dead to be judged, and...to reward Your bond-servants the prophets...the saints and those who fear Your name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth.”** (Revelation 11:15-18) The coming of the Lord, when the mountain of the Lord will be established, and eventually all the nations will come to it. That time will begin with the day of reckoning, a day of giving an account. And it will be blessing for those who have been obedient. And it will be judgment for those who have not. And so he says in that day, **“...[all] the idols will...vanish. Men [run] into [the] caves of the rocks and into [the] holes of the ground before the terror of the LORD and the splendor of His majesty, when He arises to make the earth tremble. In that day men will cast...to the moles and the bats...,”** those are in those caves and those dark places, **“...their idols of silver...their idols of gold, which they [have] made for themselves to worship, in order to go into the caverns of the rocks and the clefts...before the terror of the LORD and the splendor of His majesty, when He arises to make the earth tremble.”** (Isaiah 2:18-21) Revelation says there’s a day when they’re going to cry out to the rocks to fall on them and hide them when He arises to make the earth tremble. (See Revelation 6:16) O Beloved, get ready for that day. He’s coming. His reward is with Him to give to each one according to their deeds.