

ISAIAH, PART 2 (COMFORT FOR HIS PEOPLE)
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WEEK 2 (#911325)
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SERIES: Isaiah, Part 2 (Comfort For His People)

TITLE: Program 6 – Hope For Today

MONDAY

OPEN

Won't you be glad when justice rules on the face of the earth? You may say, "But I don't think it's ever going to happen. And it frustrates me to see evil paraded through the streets, to see the righteous be overrun by evil people and get away with it." Will justice ever come? Oh yes, Beloved, it is coming and I pray it's soon. We'll talk about it today.

PART ONE

When others have done us wrong, when they are getting away with evil, when they've taken us to court and they've won and they shouldn't win, when they have lied through their teeth and their lie has caused them to escape justice, it really is irritating isn't it? We want justice, and yet when it's us and when it's in our family, when maybe we have failed, when we haven't been everything we should have been, when we said something we shouldn't have said, when we've done something we shouldn't have done, when we have flown off the handle or when we have manipulated in order to

get our way and then we've been found out, do we want justice? Well it's good that we are punished. It's good that we bear our sin and say, "You know, I did wrong and you are right to be angry." Or "You were right to withhold this," or whatever. But underneath what do we want? We want mercy. It's our family. We want to know, we want to be assured that because we're family you're not going to turn away from me. You're not going to reject me. Okay, I did what was wrong. I blew it, but please, please be gracious to me. Well this is what we're seeing as we look at Isaiah chapter 40 through 66. God is going to show us over and over again in His dealings with Israel, "You have sinned. You have committed iniquity. You have been deaf to My voice. You have shut your eyes and been blind to what I am trying to do. You have walked your own stubborn way and I am having to deal with you. I'm going to take you into captivity under the Babylonians. I'm going to judge you. I'm going to take you through the fire, but you know what? [When you walk through the fire, I'm gonna be with you. Do not fear.]" (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 43:2) He's saying that because they are His people. They are His own people. Stop and think with me for a few minutes, Beloved. Let's go back and review very quickly the history of Israel. Remember in Genesis chapter 12? You have a man that is a Gentile. His name is Abram. But God calls him out of the Ur of the Chaldeans. And [God tells him that He is going to make of him a great nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed. He says, "I'm going to bless those that bless you, Abram. And I'm going to curse those that curse you."] (PARAPHRASE, Genesis 12:2-3) He promises him that he's going to have descendants, and yet Abram and Sarai are barren. They are unable to conceive a child. So in Genesis chapter 15 Abram goes to God, and he says, you know, ["What are You gonna give me? Sara still hasn't gotten pregnant. Are You going to make my servant that was born in my household? Is he going to be my seed?" And God says, "Oh no, come here. Look up. Count the stars if you are able." He says, "So shall your seed be." Now when He

says, “So shall your seed be....” It says, “And at that moment, at that day, at that time Abram believed God and God counted it to him as righteousness.”] (PARAPHRASE, Genesis 15:2-6) In Galatians chapter 3, it tells us that’s the day that Abraham was saved. (See Galatians 3:6) Later his name is changed from Abram to Abraham. So God promises him a seed. And then in chapter 15, He also promises Abram, not only a seed, but a land that he is going to possess forever and ever. It says in Genesis chapter 15, verse 17 **“On that day [God] made a covenant with [Abraham]....” (Genesis 15:18)** So what do you have? You have a man who is the father of a great nation. And what is that nation’s name going to be? Well God makes a covenant with Abraham. He confirms it with one of Abraham’s sons, which is Isaac. And then He confirms it with one of Isaac’s sons; not Esau but Jacob. And Jacob’s name then is changed to Israel, and Israel is the father of the twelve tribes of Israel. So we come from Abraham to Isaac to Jacob to a nation, a nation that is come from the seed, from the loins of Abraham so to speak. This is God’s covenant people. Then you get to Exodus chapter 19. So let me take you there very quickly because all of this is going to be a very good review and a very good background for you, so that you understand what God is doing as you look at Isaiah chapter 40, on. And this week we’re looking at Isaiah 42 through 44. Now in Exodus chapter 19 it says, **“In the third month after the sons of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt....” (Exodus 19:1)** When God made the covenant with Abraham in Genesis chapter 15, He told him [“You’re going to be enslaved in a country for 400 years and then I’m going to release you.] (PARAPHRASE, Genesis 15:13-14) Well you and I know, looking back, that He was talking about their bondage in Egypt. And then after 400 years, God remembered His covenant with Abraham. He released them from bondage out of the land of Egypt, making a covenant with them. Well now God is talking to them in Exodus chapter 19. In Exodus 20 is when He gives the Ten Commandments. He says, **“...[You] tell the sons of Israel...,”** verse 4, **“You yourselves**

have seen what I did to the Egyptians...how I bore you [up] on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself. Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep my covenant...." A covenant is a solemn, binding agreement. He says, "...then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples [of the earth] for all the earth is Mine." (Exodus 19:3-5) All the earth is God's because God created it. (See Genesis 1:1) But He's going to choose this one particular people. He did it in Abraham. He makes him a great nation. He takes them into Egypt. Now He has delivered them from Egypt and He is reminding them that they are, in a sense, a peculiar people. Not weird, but a peculiar people, a people of His own possession. (See Deuteronomy 14:2) Then, what He says to them in verse 6, and you want to remember this, "**And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation....**" (Exodus 19:6) Holy means you're set apart. Holy means you're consecrated. So you're a nation consecrated unto God. Well after they get out of the land of Egypt and they're getting ready to go into the Promised Land, what happens is they do not believe God. Twelve spies go in and spy out the land. Ten bring back a bad report. And instead of believing God, instead of listening to the words of Joshua and the words of Caleb who say, "We are able to take that land because God is with us." They listen to the ten dispirited spies that say, "Oh there's no way we can overcome these people." (See Numbers 13:31) Well they forget that God is God. He's the Creator. He owns the ends of the earth. All the people on the earth are His possession. He can do anything He wants. He's omnipotent. He's all-powerful. And so He can take care of those people, but they don't believe Him. So they end up wandering in the wilderness for 40 years. All right, now they are a people that when they came out of Egypt, they went to Mt. Sinai or Mt. Horeb—they are one in the same. They got the Ten Commandments. And they got all the statutes and the laws and the regulations of how they were to worship God. In Exodus 34, the covenant of the law was sealed, first the Abrahamic Covenant, now the Covenant of the Law. (See Exodus 34:10) But because

they did not listen to God, and they had to wander in the wilderness for 40 years until all the adult males were killed off, what we have is, we have a second giving of the law. Not a second law, but a second reiteration and a second calling of these people to enter into this covenant. (See Exodus 34:27) And in Deuteronomy, what He says in chapter uh 28 in verses 1-2, He tells them, [I'm your God and if you will obey Me, I will bless you.] (PARAPHRASE, Deuteronomy 28:1-2) In verse 15, He says, **"...if you do not obey the LORD your God, to observe...His commandments and His statutes...which I charge you [this day]...all these curses will come upon you...."** (Deuteronomy 28:15) So then He tells them about the curses, and among those curses— and this is one that pertains to the book of Isaiah— He says, **"The LORD will bring you...,"** verse 36 of Deuteronomy 28, **"...[will bring you] and your king, whom you set over you, to a nation which neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you shall serve other gods, wood and stone."** (Deuteronomy 28:36) But listen to what He says because this is gonna pertain to our lesson today. All of this is to get you ready for Isaiah. He says, **"You shall become a horror, [and] a proverb, and a taunt among all the people where the LORD drives you."** (Deuteronomy 28:37) "Jew! Jew! Oh look at those people. They don't belong here. Make them slaves. Don't give 'em good jobs. Keep the money away from them." And so they're a taunt and they are a proverb among the nations. Well He goes on to tell them that: **"These are the words of the covenant [of] the Lord [which He] commanded Moses to make with the sons of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant which He had made with them at Horeb."** (Deuteronomy 29:1) So they were at Mt. Sinai, Horeb. Now they've moved north. They're east of the Jordan. They're camped at Mt. Nebo, in the shadow of Mt. Nebo, and God is again going to reiterate to them commands—a covenant agreement—that they must keep if they want the blessing of God. We'll be right back, and we'll study it in greater depth in just a minute.

PART TWO

I want you to know, Faithful One, that I am so thankful that you want to study the Word of God. I am so thankful for these times that we are having in the book of Isaiah. And I know as a result of this that your walk with the Lord is going to be so much more solid. It's going to give you a confidence, and it's going to give you a passion to walk in obedience to God, to be a man of God, to be a woman of God, to not turn to the right or turn to the left. So as we look at Israel, I want you to know that God tells us in Romans that the things that were written beforehand, and he's talking about the Old Testament, were written for our instruction upon whom the end of the ages has come so that we might look at Israel and learn lessons for our own life. (See Romans 15:4) So that we might watch God and see what God is doing and say, "Oh that's my God. And this is what I know about Him, and this is what I can depend upon about Him." And this is what we're going to see. You can depend on the fact that if you belong to God, you are secure in Him. Now if you sin and you belong to Him, you're a child of God and He's going to take you to the woodshed. But the woodshed's not the end of it. After the woodshed, then you can crawl up, so to speak, in His divine lap and draw close to Him and have Him teach you and lead you and take you to even a greater dimension of intimacy. Now you can get that without doing what's wrong. So don't ever say, "Well, I'm gonna sin so that I might have this grace about— in my life and be more intimate with God." No, no, no, you don't want to do that. I left you in Deuteronomy. I left you in the shadow of Nebo, Mt. Nebo, which is to the east of the Jordan River. The children of Israel are about to get ready. The next book of the Bible tells in the book of Joshua how they crossed that Jordan River and how they go in and take the Promised Land. Listen to what He says to them in Deuteronomy 30. **"...it shall be when all these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse...." (Deuteronomy 30:1)** Now this is what you can know, God has to judge sin. His justice demands the judgment of sin, and yet His

justice never negates or cancels His love for you. So He says,
“...when...these...come [on] you...and you call them to mind in all [the] nations where the LORD...God has banished you.” (Deuteronomy 30:1)
Now remember what’s happening in Isaiah. In Isaiah 39, Isaiah has told Hezekiah the final king during the time of Isaiah, He has told him: [The Babylonians are gonna come down, and they’re going to take you captive. They’re gonna take your children captive. They’re gonna take all your possessions captive.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 39:6-7) Why? Because of their sin; because of their disobedience. Although there was a revival in the times of Hezekiah, still there was not a real change of heart that lasted. And this is the thing about revival, we call for revival. We want revival. But listen, no revival is sustained apart from the Word of God, apart from knowing the Word of God, apart from obeying the Word of God. And so He says, **“...[now if] you call [this] to mind in...the nations where [I am going to banish] you, and you return to the LORD...and obey Him [listen to His voice] with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today...and your sons, then the LORD...will restore you from captivity...have compassion on you, and...gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD...has scattered you.” (Deuteronomy 30:1-3)** He says, and I’m reading this ’cause you’re gonna see it in Isaiah. **“If your outcasts are at the ends of the earth, from there the LORD...will gather you, and from there He will bring you back.” (Deuteronomy 30:4)** He’s going to take them into the land. And in verse 6 He’s going to circumcise their hearts so that they will love God. And He goes on and He assures them. “Yes, you’re gonna disobey. Yes, you’re going to go into captivity. But you’re Mine. You are My people.” And the end of the story is good. When I was writing my novel, “Israel, My Beloved,” which is a history of Israel, it’s a great way to get some of this stuff under your belt because it’s loaded with Scripture. But it starts with the Babylonian Captivity, and it goes all the way to the coming of Messiah,

which is what Isaiah is talking about in chapters 42 through 44, that we're talking about this week. But the people, the Jewish people in Israel would say to me, "What are you doing?" I would tell them. And I would tell them it's a history of Israel and the future of Israel. And they'd say, "Is it good?" And I'd say, "Yes, it's good. But I want to tell you something, before it's good it gets very, very hard." And God knows that that difficulty is coming, and so what God does is He prepares them for it. He prepares them, and this is what He's doing in Isaiah. So let's go to Isaiah chapter 42. We finished 41 last week. And if you didn't get that, or if you haven't downloaded your free study guide, then you need to go to <preceptsforlife.com> and download your free study guide. But also, you can order the CD's or the DVD's of what you missed. Now we've come to Isaiah chapter 42. And God is talking about what He's gonna do. He's gonna rouse one from the east. He's gonna rouse one from the north. He is going to show that the idols are absolutely worthless. He has called Israel His servant. He has said in Isaiah 41, **"But you, Israel, My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, descendant of Abraham My friend...."** (Isaiah 41:8) "Friend" is a covenant term. He says, **"You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called [you] from [the] remotest parts and said to you, 'You are My servant, I have chosen you...,'"** listen, **"...and not rejected you. Do not fear, for I am with you...."** (Isaiah 41:9-10) So He's called Israel His servant. Now in chapter 42 of Isaiah, He's going to talk about another servant. Look at verse 1, **"Behold, My servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights...."** (Isaiah 42:1) Now Israel, as we've seen today, Israel was chosen by God through Abraham. But here's another servant that is chosen. He says, "I." God says, **"...I [will] put My Spirit upon [My servant]...."** He says, **"...He will bring...justice to the nations."** (Isaiah 42:1) He's going to bring justice and everything is going to be dealt with justly. Sin is going to be exposed as sin. It's going to get its consequences. Righteousness that has been, in a sense, defeated and despised is going to be recognized for

what it is. And it says, **“He will not cry...[nor] raise His voice, nor make His voice heard in the street. A bruised reed He will not break...a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not be disheartened or crushed until He has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands [even the Gentiles] will wait expectantly for His law.”** (Isaiah 42:2-4) Who is this One? O, Precious One, that’s what we’re going to look at in our next lesson. Don’t miss it! Get your study guide. Do your homework, and find out Who this is. And then put it in time and place in history. And know this: that God is saying it before it ever comes to pass. He alone can do that because He alone is God. You want justice? You want God.