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SERIES: Isaiah, Part 2 (Comfort For His People)

TITLE: Program 20 – Light In The Darkness

FRIDAY

OPEN

Look around you. Have you ever seen so much pain? Have you ever seen so much tragedy? People are hurting. Relationships are broken, and you stand there looking at those dear people and you think, “What can I say? What should I do?” And you walk away because you don’t know what to say. O Beloved, after today you should have the answer. After today you should know how to speak a word to those that are weary and hurting.

PART ONE

I don’t think that any nation has suffered more at the hands of the world than the nation of Israel. You look at their history. I’ve written a novel. It’s called, “Israel, My Beloved”, and it’s the true story of Israel in novel form. It’s based on that allegory of Israel being the wife of God. And it takes you from 586 B.C. all the way through the coming of Messiah, all the way to the time when the kingdoms of this earth become the kingdom of our God and of His Messiah. And in studying that I studied every aspect of Israel’s

history; the pain was incredible. Is it no wonder in Isaiah chapter 49 that Zion says, “...**The LORD has forsaken me...the LORD[’s] forgotten me.**” And God answers, “But wait a minute.” “**Can a woman forget her nursing child and have no compassion on the son of her womb...?**” Now it’s not normal. And He says, “...**Even these may forget, but I will not forget you.**” (Isaiah 49:14-15) I remember when I was invited to speak. I had five minutes to speak at a breakfast where there were so many Jewish people in the audience. So many yarmulkes on their heads, they were all over. I stood up in fear and trembling and I told them of how I had stood at the Holocaust Museum, how I had looked at the pictures and I described what had happened and how the soldiers were standing next to me. Because every one that goes into the Israeli Army—and every boy and every girl has to serve time in that army—is required to go through the Holocaust Museum so that they understand their history along with many other museums. And I’ve watched those soldiers there, virile young men, striking young women in their military garb with their guns over their shoulders standing there just weeping; just weeping. And I say I can understand how you would think that “God has forgotten me,” that “the Lord has forsaken me.” You think of the people that worked in the death camps and the ones that had to take the bodies out and put the bodies into the ovens, and all of that and you think: “The Lord has forgotten me; the Lord has forsaken me.” And yet, God says, [“No I haven’t. No I haven’t. I can’t forget you because I’ve inscribed you on the palms of My hands.”] (PARAPHRASE Isaiah 49:15-16) Do you know that when two people entered into a covenant that many times they made a cut in their wrists? And then they, with that cut in the wrist, the two covenant partners would be like gripping hands. Like shaking hands, only it’s gripping hands. And that was when they became friends. You can see this in the Scriptures. We don’t have time to go there. But that scar then was kept there. Dirt was rubbed into it and that to make it be a scar so that whenever they lifted up their hand they would remember

that they had a covenant partner, that they weren't living independent or just for themselves, but they were living for someone else. Jesus, "Yeshua" the Messiah bears in His body the brand marks of His crucifixion. When you go to Revelation and you look at Revelation chapter 5 and John is weeping 'cause there's no one that is able to open the book, it says that then, **"...I saw between the throne...and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth. And He came and [He] took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne."** (Revelation 5:6-7) **"And they sang a new song..."** verse 9 **"...saying, 'Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and...nation.'" (Revelation 5:9)** So here is the Lamb as if slain bearing in His body the brand marks of the crucifixion when He who knew no sin was made to be sin for them. (See 2 Corinthians 5:21) So He's saying, "No, I haven't forgotten you." He says in verse 16, **"Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; your walls..."** the walls of Zion **"...are continually before Me. Your builders hurry; your destroyers and devastators will depart from you. Lift up your eyes and look around...."** (Isaiah 49:16-18) Listen to me very carefully. Jerusalem, Zion belongs to Israel. It does not belong to any other people. It is God's holy city. And all the world someday will come up to Zion, if the nations don't come up there's not gonna be any rain on them. Because **"...your walls are continually before Me. Your builders [or your sons] hurry; your destroyers and devastators will depart from you. Lift up your eyes and look around; all of them gather together, they come to you. 'As I live,' declares the LORD, 'You will surely put...them on...."** (Isaiah 49:16-18) Now it sounds like He's talking about, instead of "your builders," it could be translated "sons." You're going to adorn yourself with your children. You're going to put them on, **"...all of them as jewels [you're going to] bind them on as a bride.**

For your waste and desolate places and your destroyed land—surely now you will be too cramped for the inhabitants, and those who swallowed you will be far away.” (Isaiah 49:18-19) Do you know that Jews have been making “aliyah”? They’ve been going up to Jerusalem. They’ve been going up to the holy land. They’ve been establishing their settlements. Do you know that there is plenty of room for the Jews there? Plenty of room, but there’s gonna come a day when there’s not room. It says, **“The children of whom you were bereaved will yet say in your ears, ‘[This] place is too cramped for me; make room for me that I may live here.’ Then you will say in your heart[s], ‘Who has begotten these for me...?’” (Isaiah 49: 20-21)** How did I get all these children? **“...Since I have been bereaved of my children [since I] am barren, [and] an exile and a wanderer? ...Who has reared these? Behold, I was left alone; from where did these come?” (Isaiah 49:21)** He says, “You’re not forsaken. You thought you were all alone. You thought you were barren but look at all the kids that I’m bringing to you. Look at your descendants. Look at your offspring.” **“Thus says the Lord..., ‘Behold, I will lift up My hand to the nations....”** Now God is speaking. You mark “nations”. **“...Behold, I will lift...My hand to the nations [I will] set up [a] standard to the peoples....”** It’s like a banner. It says, **“...And they will bring your sons in their bosom, and your daughters will be carried on [your] shoulders.” (Isaiah 49:22)** Think of those people and a darling girl with that black hair and brown eyes being carried on their shoulders. **“Kings will be your guardians....”** The kings of these nations are going to be guardians of the Jews. **“...Their princesses your nurses....”** Here are the princesses, the royalty of other nations that are going to be the nurses to the children of Israel. “I haven’t forsaken you. I’ve engraved you on the palm of My hands.” (See Isaiah 49:16) **“...They will bow down to you with their faces to the earth [they will] lick the dust of your feet; and you will know that I am the LORD; those who hopefully wait for Me will not be put to**

shame.” (Isaiah 49:23) “Don’t think I’ve forsaken you. When you’re going through all these trials and all these traumas know this: you may feel alone, you may feel barren, but I am there because I am God and I am not going to forsake you.” And you say, “But that’s to Israel. I need that promise.” O Precious One, Hebrews 13, verse 5 and 6 says, [For the Lord has said, and it’s in five negatives, I will never, never, never, leave you, nor never forsake you so that you can boldly say ‘The Lord is my helper, I will not fear what man will do unto me.] (PARAPHRASE Hebrews 13:5-6) We don’t have to fear man. Why? Because the Lord has not forsaken us. The Lord didn’t forsake Israel. The Lord’s not gonna forsake the church. He’s not going—we may go through trials. We may go to martyrdom. We may be decapitated. We may be crucified upside down. We may be shamed and rejected of men, but you know what? That’s not the end of the story. That’s not the end of the story. Because God will triumph. It says, **“Can [a] prey be taken from the mighty man, or the captives of a tyrant be rescued? Surely, thus says the LORD, ‘Even the captives of the mighty man will be taken away, and the prey of the tyrant will be rescued; for I....’”** God is speaking. **“...Will contend with the one who contends with you....”** (Isaiah 49:24-25) Listen, they come against you, they’re coming against Me. So as they come to hit you, just duck. “I’m standing there. I’ll get them.” **“...I will save your sons. I will feed your oppressors with their own flesh, and they will become drunk with their own blood as with sweet wine; and all flesh will know that I, the LORD, am your Savior and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.”** (Isaiah 49:24-26) “No, I haven’t forsaken you. You’re going to walk through the waters,” as we saw in Isaiah chapter 41. “You’re gonna walk through the fire. It’s going to be hard. It’s going to be difficult. But know this: I have not forsaken you. Listen to Me! Listen to Me! Believe Me! I have not forsaken you. I will not forsake you. I am God. I am your Redeemer. I am the Holy One of Israel. I am the Mighty One of Jacob.” And you know what? If He’s that to Israel

He's also that to the church of Jesus Christ. You say, "But they're suffering so much." Yes, and after this break I'm going to show you how to speak a word in due season to those that are weary.

PART TWO

Welcome back, Beloved. Now I want you to remember how we started this program. I want you to remember that we're talking about pain upon pain and hurt upon hurt and you look at all these people that are suffering and you say, "What do I say? What do I say?" In chapter 50 of Isaiah, our last chapter for this week, and remember the message is: to listen. Are you listening to God? Are you hearing what He says? And are you living accordingly? Well listen to what He says. It's another **"Thus says the LORD, 'Where is the certificate of divorce by which I...sent your mother away? Or to whom of My creditors did I sell you? Behold, you were sold for your iniquities, and for you transgressions your mother was sent away.'" (Isaiah 50:1)** "I did it legitimately. I wrote her a bill of divorcement and I sent her away, but I'm gonna bring her back. I judge you for your iniquities, but I haven't left you." So He says, **"Why was there no man when I came...?"** Why was there no one standing there to intercede? Why was there no one standing there? **"...When I called, why was there none to answer? Is My hand so short that it cannot ransom...?" (Isaiah 50:2)** Now when He says, "When I called why was there none to answer?" Were they listening? He's calling. He's calling. He's calling. Somebody's there, but they're not listening. They're not paying attention. He says, **"...Is My hand so short that it cannot ransom...?"** No. You're God. **"...Or have I no power to deliver...?"** You absolutely have power to deliver. **"...Behold, I dry up the sea with My rebuke...."** I say something and the sea's dried up. **"...I make the rivers a wilderness; their fish stink for [a] lack of water...."** They just lay there and rot in the sun. **"[They] die of thirst. I clothe the heavens with blackness and [I] make sackcloth their**

covering.” (Isaiah 50:2-3) Who do you think I am? Now watch what He says. **“The Lord God has given Me the tongue of disciples....”** What’s a disciple? It’s a learner. It’s a follower. It’s someone that attaches himself to a teacher and learns and follows everything they can. Now listen to what it says because this is the culmination of all this week. **“The Lord has given Me the tongue of disciples, that I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word....” (Isaiah 50:4)** The Lord has shown Me how I can sustain somebody that is fainting, how I can sustain somebody that’s hurting, how I can minister to somebody that is in this broken relationship or has just experienced this tragedy, or just lost a loved one. He says, **“...He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to listen....”** You want to mark it again, green “ear”. **“...To listen as a disciple.” (Isaiah 50:4)** He says, “Where do I get this message for these people?” Every morning God awakens Me. Every morning I tune My ear to listen to God as a disciple, as a follower of God. It says, **“The Lord God has opened My ear; and I was not disobedient....” (Isaiah 50:5)** In other words, I begin my day. Listen, this is the key. I begin my day by saying to God, “I’m Your disciple. I’m Your follower. I’m Your learner. Now in the morning as I awaken I want to focus on You and I want to ask You as I open Your book to give me a word for those people out there.” And believe me, He will. If you begin the day with God, if you allow Him to awaken your ear morning by morning to learn as a disciple, Precious One, then He’s going to give you a word. But listen to this. **“The Lord...has opened My ear; and I was not disobedient nor did I turn back. I gave My back to those who strike Me, and My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard; I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting. [Therefore] the Lord...helps Me, therefore, I am not disgraced; therefore, I have set My face like [a] flint, and I know that I [shall] not be ashamed. He who vindicates Me is near; who will contend with Me? ...Who has a case against Me? Let him draw near to Me. Behold, the Lord God helps Me; who is he who**

condemns...? Behold, they will all wear out like a garment, the moth will eat them. Who is among you that fears the LORD, that obeys the voice of His servant, that walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.” (Isaiah 50:5-10)

What is He saying here? Who is this? Who’s the one that says, [I’m awakened morning by morning, He opens My ear. I listen as a disciple. I know how to speak a word to the weary one.] (PARAPHRASE Isaiah 50:5) I believe this is a picture of Jesus. And I believe that it is a model, and that as Paul said, “As I’m an imitator of Jesus Christ be an imitator of me.” He says, [I gave My back to the smiters. I allowed My beard to be plucked out.] (PARAPHRASE Isaiah 50:6) If you study the crucifixion; I would love to have you go to Israel where I teach this in the very house of Caiaphas where it happened, where Jesus was brought to trial, where they blindfolded Him, where they spit in His face, where they balled up their fist and struck Him, and where I believe, they pulled out His beard, according to Isaiah 50. And He stood there and He took it. He took it because He was a disciple, a follower of God. He did it because He was the One who was going to die in your place. He was going to die for you and pay for your sins so that God would never leave you nor forsake you. He was going to give you the gift of Himself. He was going to come and indwell you. And so He says to this, “No one’s coming against Me because I am walking in obedience to God.” I mean, not that they’re not going to come against Him, but their condemnation is not going to stand. You look at Romans chapter 8. **“...If God be for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31, KJV)** Who is the one that condemns us? Why it’s Jesus Christ who justified us. So this carries over all the way to you and to me. So then it goes on to say, okay, **“Who...among you...fears the LORD, that obeys the voice of His servant, that walks in darkness and has no[t] light...?” (Isaiah 50:10)** What do you do when you’re in darkness and you don’t know what to do? You listen to the Lord. You listen to what He’s said to you. You trust Him.

You grab hold of the Word of God and you clutch it to your very being and you live according to that. Now you can walk that way or it says, **“Behold, all you who kindle a fire, who encircle...with firebrands, walk in the light of your fire....” (Isaiah 50:11)** Okay, you don’t want to walk in the light of God, walk in your fire. But know this that **“...This you will have from My hand: you will lay down in torment.” (Isaiah 50:11)** In other words, you can believe God and walk according to His Word or you can lay down in torment. So in the dark when you don’t know what to do, you listen to God, you trust in Him and you know how to speak a word to the weary one. Keep listening and keep talking for Him.