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

TITLE: Program 9 – Life Or Judgment?

THURSDAY

OPEN

Question. It's a hard question. It's a very blunt question. Do you think that the filth of many of the women of the United States of America could bring the hand of God's judgment on this country so that America is brought very very low, humbled because of their pride and their display of their sin like Sodom?

PART ONE

I love the light, but it's light that shows every single thing as it really is. That's what Isaiah does. He brings to us the light of God's Word, the light of truth. If you're a woman you know that you look much better in that soft light on that cosmetic mirror in your bathroom. I look so young there compared to the way you see me here. And when I go out in the light I think "Oh my gosh," as I look in the rear vision mirror or I pull down the mirror to check my make-up before I go and I'm out in the broad daylight. I can see every little blemish, every little flaw. What is God doing in the book of

Isaiah? He is bringing us to the light of truth and He is exposing the depths of darkness. In Isaiah chapter 4 he brings us into the glorious light of what's going to happen. Yet, when he does that this is what he says. Now I'm going to put us in context. But listen to what he says in the light of the way that I opened the program, verse 4. It's only six verses long. It says, **"When the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and purged the bloodshed of Jerusalem from her midst, by the spirit of judgment and the spirit of burning." (Isaiah 4:4)** God judged Israel because of **"...the filth of the daughters of Zion...."** Do you think that America can get away with her sin, Beloved? Do you think that women can continue to prostitute themselves and not have it affect this nation? If you look at the statistics, if you study them carefully, if you listen to the polls, just open the magazines and look at what is being displayed, we are displaying our sin like Sodom. And it's the women that need to draw a line and say, "I'm sorry. I am not a sex object, and I am not a sex symbol. I'm going to be a symbol of what God intended a woman to be when He created her." It's not that you have to be dowdy. It's not you have to be out of style. But it's that you have to have a propriety, a properness about the way you dress and the way you dress your daughters and the way that you let them dress. Why? Well look at what he says. Let me back track because I was trying in the last program to bring us to a conclusion. But I don't want you to miss this. In Isaiah chapter 3 he says, **"Moreover, the LORD said, 'Because the daughters of Zion are proud and [they] walk with heads held high and seductive eyes....'" (Isaiah 3:16)** In other words they are out to seduce men by their sensuality. And he says, **"...And [they] walk with heads held high and seductive eyes, and go along with mincing steps and tinkle the bangles on their feet...." (Isaiah 3:16)** What are they drawing attention to? They're saying, "I'm coming. I'm coming. You can hear me. And I'm coming and I'm coming. Look at my ankles. Look at my feet." When I went to India I was in a wheelchair, the first time I went to India. And Dianne Vereen was going

with me and she and her husband are our Ambassadors-at-Large. But she was trying to take care of me. She was trying to get the bag. She had on sandals and she pointed with her foot a man was helping us, and she pointed with her foot to the luggage that was going by, and someone, “Don’t do that.” Why? Because the feet are very seductive to men in that part of the world. It goes on to say, “[And] **the Lord will afflict....**,” because the daughters are like this “**...the Lord will afflict the scalp of the daughters of Zion with scabs...the LORD will make their foreheads bare.**” Here they have this beautiful hair and it says He’s going “**...to make their foreheads bare. In that day the Lord will take away the beauty of their anklets, headbands, crescent ornaments, dangling earrings, bracelets, veils, headdresses, ankle chains, sashes, perfume boxes, amulets, finger rings, nose rings, festal robes, outer tunics, cloaks, money purses, hand mirrors, undergarments, turbans and veils....**” all about adorning this woman. He says then, “**...Instead of sweet perfume there will be putrefaction....**” I’ve read this to you before. There will be “**...branding instead of beauty.**” (Isaiah 3:17-24) How is a woman to dress? How is a woman to look? What is becoming a woman of godliness? Well in 1 Timothy, and I want to take you there, in 1 Timothy, chapter 2. It says in verse 9, “**...I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, but rather by [a] means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness.**” (1Timothy 2:9-10) Is your claim to godliness contradicted, Beloved, by the way you appear? I’m not saying you have to look like you came out of a missionary barrel. I’m not saying that at all. But I’m saying, is your attire seductive or is it godly? Is it pleasing to God? Is that the way you would dress if you were going meet with Jesus Christ? Well when he says all this he’s talking about these women. He’s talking about the filth of the daughters of Zion that is going to bring judgment on them and this is what he says. “**Your men will fall by the**

sword...your mighty ones in battle.” It says, “And her gates will lament and mourn, and deserted she will sit on the ground.” (Isaiah 3:25-26)

Now when it's saying “her gates” he's talking about the gates of the city. A city is comprised by the people. The people tell you what the city is like. So you have the people and you have Zion the city. The two go together. And when you see her sitting at these gates and you see her sitting on the ground and you see her down there mourning, if you know the Scriptures your mind goes immediately to Lamentations. Lamentations is written after the Babylonian captivity, after God laid siege to the city through the Babylonians and destroyed Jerusalem in 586 B.C. So you come to Lamentations where they are lamenting what has just happened to them and it says, **“How lonely sits the city that was full of people! She has become like a widow who was once great among the nations...!” (Lamentations 1:1)** You know the United States was once great among the nations. We're not anymore. When you look at the statistics we are greatly lacking for all that God has given us and blessed us. We are going down intellectually. We are going down in our skills. We have set an immoral standard for many many nations, because of how licentious we are and we don't put a stop to it. And we don't let our voice be heard. And we need to let our voice be heard. We need to let it be heard with grace. But we need to let it be heard. He says, **“...She who was a princess among the provinces has become a forced laborer! She weeps bitterly in the night...her tears are on her cheeks;[there is] none to comfort her among all [of] her lovers. All [of] her friends have dealt treacherously with her; they have become her enemies. Judah has gone into exile under affliction....” (Lamentations 1:1-3)** So what he shows us in chapter 4, verse 1, which really the divisions are man-made, chapter 4, verse 1 really belongs with chapter 3 if you're going to divide it. It says, **“For...,”** and that's the connecting thing, and the context connects it. **“For seven women will take hold of one man in that day....” (Isaiah 4:1)** So many men are going to fall in battle that there's

going to be a shortage of men. And a lot of that responsibility is placed on the woman, the filth of the daughters of Zion because God has to judge iniquity. It says, “...**We will eat our own bread and wear our own clothes, only let us be called by your name; take away our reproach!**” (Isaiah 4:1) In that society it was a reproach for a woman not to have the protection of a family, not to have the protection of a man, her husband or her brother. And there are no men left. And then it says, “**In that day...**,” and what he’s doing here is he is taking us full circle now. He’s taking us from chapter 2, verse 1 where it’s talking about the last days in Zion, he says in verse 2, “**In that day the Branch of the LORD will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth will be the pride and the adornment of the survivors of Israel. [And] it will come about that he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy—everyone who is recorded for life in Jerusalem. (Isaiah 4:2-3)** Contrast those filthy daughters with those holy ones. Listen to me carefully. Only the righteous survive. It says, “**When the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and purged the bloodshed of Jerusalem from her midst, by [a] spirit of judgment and...burning, then the LORD will create over the whole area of Mount Zion [a glorious thing.]” (Isaiah 4:4-5)** What will it be? We’ll talk about it in just a minute.

PART TWO

Don’t you like Isaiah? Aren’t you awed at how relevant it is to you and to me? And I believe, Beloved, that later on, having studied it, having done the study with us and having spent that time in Isaiah yourself, more and more as you see the day of the Lord approaching, more and more as you see this time coming when only the righteous are going to survive, when there’s going to be a remnant left in Israel, more and more as we move to the last of the last days you’re going to be more cognizant of what is going on, more astute, more alert. And I pray, as a result of this, more godly. Do you know

how precious you are to me? Do you know how honored I am that God would allow me the privilege of being on the air and that you would help us be on the air, that you would not be just a sponge that takes, but you want to help because you believe in what we're doing? Do you know how much I appreciate you? Do you know how thrilled I am that you want to know God and that you'll give yourself the time to grow? Oh, how we need godly men and godly women, and that's been the message this week, as we've looked at leadership. Leadership basically begins with men. It's God-ordained. But when the men don't do their job the women are left vulnerable and they get caught up in other things, it's the demise of a nation. Listen to what he says, as he talks about this, day that is coming in chapter 4, verse 2, **"In that day the Branch of the LORD will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth will be the pride and...adornment of the survivors of Israel."** (Isaiah 4:2) I want to urge you to mark that word, "survivors of Israel". Mark your Bible because it's going to take on a new dimension if you will. There's nothing sacred about the printing or the paper or that. But there is something sacred about you and I hanging on every word of God. So I mark "remnant" by just doing a wiggly rectangle and then cutting off a third of it, drawing a wiggly scratch through that to show that there's a remnant left. Well these survivors will have **"...the fruit of the earth [which] will be the pride and [their] adornment [there in Jerusalem]. It will [be] come about that [everybody] who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem..."** (Isaiah 4:3) and so I put "left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem" the same way I marked survivors. It says, **"...will be called holy..."**, and then I would underline this, **"...everyone who is recorded for life in Jerusalem."** (Isaiah 4:3) You see God has a plan and His plan is that the righteous will survive. It's a whole message out of Ezekiel, but we don't have time to go. But listen, it says, **"When the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and purged the bloodshed of Jerusalem from her midst...."** (Isaiah 4:4) Now **"...purg[ing] the bloodshed of Jerusalem..."**

(Isaiah 4:4) would be dealing with all the innocent blood that has been shed. And you know that that covers abortions. See, God has got to deal with America. A woman is the one that decides that she wants an abortion. A man may pressure her, but the woman has to walk in. The woman has to say, “Give me an abortion.” And it is time for the filth of the daughters and the bloodshed of the daughters of the United States of America to stop. Otherwise God’s going to judge. He says, **“When [He’s] washed away..., by the spirit of judgment and the spirit of burning, then the LORD will create over the whole area of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a cloud by day, even smoke...,”** but not dark smoke, **“...and the brightness of a flaming fire by night....”** (Isaiah 4:4-5) Well what does that remind you of? It reminds you of the “Shekinah” glory. It’s not the “Shekinah” glory because the “Shekinah” glory is Jesus Christ, the glory of God sitting on His throne and ruling from Zion **“...in [this] day [when] the Branch of the LORD will be...glorious and the fruit of the earth will be the pride [of an] adornment of the survivors of Israel.”** (Isaiah 4:2) But it says, **“Then the Lord will create over the whole area...a cloud by day, ...and the brightness of...flaming fire by night; for over all the glory will be a canopy.”** (Isaiah 4:5) The glory of what? The glory of Jerusalem, the glory of Zion, because the glory of the Lord will be there. And who is the glory of the Lord? It says, **“In the beginning was the Word....”** (John 1:1) John 1:14, **“...The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, ...as of the only begotten [of] the Father, full of grace and truth.”** (John 1:14 KJV) He is the light. He says “I am the light of life.” He is the light that dispels the darkness. (John 1:5, 9) And this is the promise that is for us. And what would this be? **“There will be a shelter to give shade from the heat [of the] day, and refuge and protection from the storm and the rain.”** (Isaiah 4:6) This is the promise. I’ve cut a lot of television in Israel and when I’ve cut it, I can tell you that the heat and the light can be intense, especially when you cannot wear sunglasses while

doing television. And he's saying that there's going to be this cloud over this, this cloud by day, this fire by night. When we look at this, Precious One, he says, **"Let me now sing for my well-beloved...."** (Isaiah 5:1) Now who is this "well-beloved"? You need to mark and you'll discover. It says, **"...A song of my beloved concerning His vineyard. My well-beloved had a vineyard on a fertile hill. He dug it all around, [he] removed its stones, ...[he] planted it with the choicest vine. ...He built a tower in the middle of it...[he] also hewed out a wine vat in it; then He expected it to produce good grapes, but it produced only worthless ones. And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between Me and My vineyard."** He says, **"What more was there to do for My vineyard that I have not done in it? Why, [then] when I expected it to produce good grapes did it produce worthless ones? Now let Me tell you what I'm going to do to My vineyard...."** (Isaiah 5:1-5) Well when we drop down to verse 7 this is what it says, **"For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel...."** (Isaiah 5:7) He says, **"...Let Me tell you what I am going to do to My vineyard...."** (Isaiah 5:5) It was a vineyard, Beloved, that He expected to bring forth good grapes, but it didn't. Because of that He's going to have to deal with them. What you see is this, that God is the holy One of Israel and He expects us to be holy, even as He is holy. (See Leviticus 11:44) If you're holy, Beloved, you're not filthy. If you're filthy, you're not holy. We're to be holy even as He is holy. When we're not He has to judge us. His holiness and His righteousness demands it. His character demands it. Now there's a promise of a future and a hope. But first the filth has to go. What's God's word for you today? It's cleanse yourself so that He doesn't have to wash away your filthiness through judgment.