

ISAIAH, PART 1 (JUDGMENT – BUT HOPE)
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SERIES: Isaiah, Part 1 (Judgment – But Hope)

TITLE: Program 38 – I Am God...There Is No Other

WEDNESDAY

OPEN

The book of Daniel tells us that there is a time coming when all the kingdoms of this earth will be ruled by the kingdom of Jesus Christ. We have listened to Handel's Messiah and we have heard: "And the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of His Christ." That day is coming and you and I are studying about that day as we look at Isaiah, and what we see is: His purpose will be accomplished. (See Isaiah 14:28)

PART ONE

As we study Isaiah 19 through chapter 23, remember I told you, there is a theme for this week. And the theme of this week is, that in everything God has a purpose, and His purpose will be accomplished. (See Isaiah 14:28) It may be frustrating, it may be hard to understand, it may cause pain, it may cause strife, it may cause death, it may bring forth life, but I will tell you this, it has a purpose. And if you can get that in your head, if you can understand that when life becomes confusing, and when the kingdoms of

this world are rallied against the Christ and against the church, and when evil seemingly triumphs, you and I have to remember that God is on His throne. And there is not a calamity, there is not an adversity that can come your way but what it has not been filtered first through God's fingers of love. It will accomplish His purpose. Now we saw in Isaiah chapter 19, in the oracle that God gives in regard to Egypt we see that He starts out smiting Egypt, but he's smiting Egypt, not carelessly, not recklessly, but purposefully. And He's smiting them and striking them because He wants to heal them and because He wants them to return to the Lord. I told you the capstone, or the diamond that is set in Isaiah chapter 19 is really verse 22. I love it and I've got red all around it in my Bible. It says, **"The LORD will strike Egypt, striking but healing; so...,**" this is His purpose, **"...so they will return to the LORD, and He will respond to them and [He] will heal them."** (Isaiah 19:22) And then we saw that there's going to be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and Assyria will come down to Egypt and Egypt will go up to Assyria. Do you know that not too long ago, maybe a year or so, there was a group of Christians that gathered in Egypt. Many of them had come out of the Muslim faith and had embraced Jesus Christ. They knew this chapter and they were there 14,000 strong to pray for the day when this highway would be built from Egypt to Assyria, and when Egypt and Assyria and Israel would worship the Lord together. Well now I believe what He's doing in Isaiah 19 is, He's giving us this big picture, and the thing that I want you to understand is, that in every situation you may not understand it, but you can understand that God has a plan. I wanna show you something. I want you to go to Amos chapter 3, verse 6. In Amos chapter 3, verse 6 it says, **"If a trumpet is blown in a city will not the people tremble? If...calamity occurs in a city has not the LORD done it?"** (Amos 3:6) He's even behind calamity. But He has a purpose in it, and that's what you and I need to remember. When we go to Isaiah chapter 45 which is a chapter that we are going to come to in the second segment of our study, and it's an

awesome, awesome segment of study. It's all about redemption and the Redeemer and the future, and it's incredible. But in Isaiah chapter 45, He's speaking to Cyrus who has not even yet been born, and this is what He says, **"I am the LORD..."** verse 5, **"...and there is no other; besides Me there is no God. I will gird you..."** He's speaking to a man not yet born. But God has a plan; God has a purpose. He says, **"...though you have not known Me; that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that there is no one besides Me. ...There is no other [God]."** (Isaiah 45:5-6) There is no other God. There is only one real God. All the others are figments of man's imagination. They're man's own devising and therefore they're very human. He says, **"...I am the LORD, and there is no other, the One forming light and creating darkness, causing well-being and creating calamity..."** (Isaiah 45:6-7) And I have that marked with a purple cloud around it and then colored red: "I am the Lord who does all these." So you and I need to know and we need to remember, and this is our watchword this week. We need to remember that God is behind calamity, that He has a purpose in it all. Well now we come to Isaiah chapter 20. In Isaiah 20 we move from, I believe, a future prophecy now to the time of Isaiah. And it says, **"In the year that the commander came to Ashdod, when Sargon...king of Assyria sent him and he fought against Ashdod and captured it...."** It says, **"...at that time the LORD spoke through Isaiah the son of Amoz...."** (Isaiah 20:1-2) So what God is doing is, now He is anchoring us in this specific time in history. The year you might want to write down is about, 711 B.C.; 711 B.C. And God is speaking through Isaiah the son of Amoz, and He says, **"...Go and loosen the sackcloth from your hips and take [the] shoes off [of] your feet."** (Isaiah 20:2) In other words: ["Get undressed. You been walking around with sackcloth with this black cloth and this, a cloth of mourning." And He says, "I want you to take it off. I want you to get rid of your sandals. I want you to go barefoot."] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 20:2) **"And the Lord said.... (Isaiah 20:3)**

“...And he did so, going naked and barefoot. And the LORD said, ‘Even as My servant Isaiah has gone naked and barefoot three years...,’” three years, He says, **“...as a sign and [a] token against Egypt and Cush.”**

(Isaiah 20:2-3) Now where’s Isaiah walking around naked and barefoot? He’s walking around naked and barefoot in Judah because, remember, he is the prophet, and he is giving the visions of God concerning Judah and Jerusalem as Isaiah chapter 1, verse 1 tells us. And he’s doing this, and yet it is a message about Egypt and Cush. Well for heaven’s sake, why a message about Egypt and Cush and showing what’s happening? Because he wants them to understand something; listen to what it says. **“So the king of Assyria will lead away the captives of Egypt and the exiles of Cush, young and old, naked and barefoot with buttocks uncovered, to the shame of Egypt.” (Isaiah 20:4)** He says He’s going to take Egypt into captivity. They’re gonna go, they’re gonna look just like Isaiah’s looking with the bare buttocks, etc. But you say, “Why is He doing this?” Well what was Israel doing? Israel was running to Egypt for help. Israel would run to Assyria for help. That’s what Ahaz did. Then Israel would run to Egypt for help, and He’s saying, “I’m showing you what’s going to happen to them, what Assyria’s going to do to them.” And it says, **“[And] they will be dismayed and ashamed because of Cush their hope and Egypt their boast.” (Isaiah 20:5)** In other words, they were saying, “Hey! Hey! It’s okay, it’s okay. I know that we’ve got problems with Assyria, but listen, we’re aligning with Egypt, and Cush, and therefore we’re all right, we’re gonna be able to fight them.” We think so often, Beloved, that our human alliances can deliver us from the purpose of God, and the whole thing, and the reason that God has to come after us is because we are looking to human alliances. Why do you think there’s so much trouble between Israel and all the nations surrounding them? Well, first of all, because Genesis 3 tells us that that’s what’s going to be. There’s going to be enmity between the serpent and the woman, between the serpent’s seed and the woman’s seed;

those of the evil one and those of God. But also, also what we see is where is Israel running for help? To whom does Israel depend on? Now are they not to make alliances? Yes. But they are to look to God, and the problem is, is Israel's giving away—has given away—land for peace. And every time they do that, there is a judgment of God upon the person that decides to do that, or upon the country because of it. He says, **“So the inhabitants of this coastland will say in that day, ‘Behold, such is our hope, where we fled for help to be delivered from the king of Assyria; and we, how shall we escape?’”** (Isaiah 20:6) “Here we were, we were all along the coastline.” Well if you look all along the coastline, you can have the Philistines, you can have then, Israel, the northern kingdom. And then you can come up into Tyre and Sidon. But those of the coastline were looking to Egypt for help instead of looking to God. And now Egypt is going the wrong way. What is the lesson for you and me? What are you and I to remember when you think of Isaiah chapter 20? I want you to write this down: God acts, but he warns us beforehand. God acts, but He warns us beforehand. He has Isaiah going around for three years naked so that he can warn them what is to come. And what is God's word to us? In Amos 3:7 it tells us this, [The Lord does nothing but what He tells His prophets—His servants—His prophets beforehand.] (PARAPHRASE, Amos 3:7) This is why we study. This is why God has laid on my heart to do Isaiah at this time, so that you and I can wake up to what's going on among the kingdoms of this world, and remember they are going to become the kingdoms of our Christ, and the kingdoms of our God.

PART TWO

Welcome back, Beloved, to our study of Isaiah. As we looked at that 20th chapter, that has only six verses in it, what is the message that God has for us as we look at Isaiah chapter 20? It's for us to understand that God acts, but He warns us before He acts. In other words, no national or international

calamity ought to catch any Christian by surprise. Why? Or discombobulate them, I mean, just flatten them out so that they can't handle it because of terror. Because we should know and remember this: that God has purposed, God has planned. And as He said to Israel, I believe every Christian, in a sense, can embrace that: **"...I know the thoughts that I [have for] you, ...[they're] thoughts of [good], and [they're thought] not [thoughts] of evil...."** (Jeremiah 29:11, KJV) **"...[I want] to give you a future and [I want to give you]....hope."** (Jeremiah 29:11) And we have that because God promises us as Christians that, **"...all things [keep on working] together for good...."** (Romans 8:28) That He uses these to conform us—to make us into the image of Jesus Christ. (See 2 Corinthians 3:18) So no matter what happens, no matter what comes upon the United States of America, or whatever your nation is, you can know this: that God has a plan, He has purposed and He has it under control. It has not thrown God a curve. It has not blindsided God, and also it should not blindside you. So let me give you a verse now that I quoted, but I want you to see it. I want you to turn to it, and it is Amos chapter 3, verse 7. Now we were just in Amos, but I want you to see this and I want you to mark it in your Bible if you are able, otherwise, I trust that you have the downloaded study guide and you can look at that study guide, and you can get this verse and mark it in your Bible. But it's, Amos chapter 3, verse 7, **"Surely the Lord... does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets."** (Amos 3:7) That's why we're studying Isaiah. We want to understand God. We want to know His ways. We want to know what He has planned for the kingdoms of this world and how He is going to make them the kingdoms of His Christ, and how we are going to live in His presence forever and ever. And so mark it down, God is going to lay out, not in detail, but in broad strokes, in broad brush strokes, He's going to lay out for us the future. Sometimes He gives us details like He gave us in Isaiah chapter 19. So what is God telling us? He warns us beforehand, and this is what you see in verse 3 of Isaiah 20. It says,

“...Even as My servant Isaiah has gone naked and barefoot three years as a sign....” (Isaiah 20:3) And I put like a stop sign—the shape of a stop sign—in orange over “sign.” They did not have the completed Word of God. You and I have the completed Word of God. God had to send them a prophet. Now God’s prophets have spoken and everything that you and I hear from anybody that claims to be a prophet, and it always scares me when somebody calls themselves a prophet. But anyone that claims to be a prophet, you bring what they’re saying up against the whole counsel of God. Well now we move into Isaiah chapter 21, and we’ve come to a new oracle. It is, **“The oracle concerning the wilderness of the sea. As windstorms in the Negev sweep on....” (Isaiah 21:1)** “In the Negev” is the south of Israel. It’s between ah Eliat, which is E-l-a-t-h on the map. It’s E-l-i-a-t in today’s map, and it’s a beautiful, beautiful resort, and we go there every year when we take our tour to Israel. And we go down and we see Arabia, we see Jordan, and we see Israel, and we can see Egypt all from that one spot. And we look there at the top of the Red Sea is that one finger of the Red Sea. And as you look at all of that, what you see is, when you go from Jerusalem on down to Eliat, you go through the Negev, you go through the southern territory. It’s a wilderness, in a sense in many places, **“...As windstorms in the Negev sweep on, it comes from the wilderness, from a terrifying land.” (Isaiah 21:1)** All right, so there is something coming. There’s something that is coming from the wilderness. Now some people think it’s coming from the Negev, others think it is coming over from Babylon and from the Persian Gulf. People believe, commentaries believe, this is Merodach Baladan, or his other name is Marduk-apal-addina, they believe that this is the one that is coming up out of the wilderness. Now this is a man, that had conquered Assyria, had conquered Babylon and now they’re looking to this one to help deliver them from Assyria. This is the historical background, and Sennacherib who is the king of Assyria is going to come into a conflict with Merodach Baladan and they think that Merodach,

Baladan will win, but really he loses. So that's the historical background that many people have attributed to this passage. But this is what I want you to see. I want you to see that this is a harsh vision. That all of a sudden, Isaiah, as he gets this message from the Lord; now remember God does nothing but what He reveals it to His prophets beforehand. It says, **"A harsh vision has been shown to me...; Isaiah. 'The treacherous one still deals treacherously, and the destroyer still destroys....' (Isaiah 21:1)** In other words, Assyria is still continuing to destroy. Assyria is still continuing to deal treacherously. Now we've learned a lot about Assyria, and we have learned at fierce and how terrible these people are. It says, **"...Go up, Elam lay siege, Media...." (Isaiah 21:2)** Now Media and Elam are to the east of Iraq, and remember that Assyria was in the area of Iraq, and so here they are and it's saying, **"...Go up, [help]...."** and it says, **"...I...."** God's speaking, **"...have made an end of all the groaning she has caused."** (Isaiah 21:2) Now that cannot be Isaiah, because Isaiah's not God. It says, **"For this reason my loins are full of anguish...."** I am hurting in my loins. And he says, "I am hurting," he says, **"...[for pain has] seized me like the pains of a woman in labor...."** If you've been in labor and you haven't had your medicine yet, you know exactly what he's talking about. **"...I am so bewildered I cannot hear, [I am] so terrified I cannot see. My mind reels, horror overwhelms me; the twilight I longed for....,"** the night that I thought was coming that was going to bring deliverance, **"...has been turned for me into trembling."** (Isaiah 21:3-4) It's too bad. This judgment is too bad. He says, **"They set the table, they spread out the cloth, they eat, they drink; 'Rise up, captains, oil the shields.'"** (Isaiah 21:5) In other words, "Calamity is coming. God has shown you this and you're sitting there waiting for a foreign power to conquer another power so that you will be delivered by Babylon. You're looking to the flesh instead of looking to God." O Beloved, you can't look at the flesh and have the blessing of God. And God'll prove that to you if you won't learn it any other way.