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**Precept Ministries International**  
P.O. Box 182218, Chattanooga, TN 37422-7218  
1-888-734-7707/ [www.preceptsforlife.com](http://www.preceptsforlife.com)

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

**TITLE: Program 23 – His Righteous Anger**

**WEDNESDAY**

**OPEN**

What happens when God speaks in His Word and makes it very clear about what we are to believe and how we are to behave, and we simply fold our arms, lean back and dig in a heel and say, “Look, don’t tell me what to do. I’ve got it all under control.” You say, “But you’re gonna fall.” “If I fall, I’m gonna get back up again.” “But everything’s gonna come crashing down.” “I’ll build it again.” Hey! You and I need to talk.

**PART ONE**

Three prophecies: in Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 9:6 and 7, and then, Isaiah 11, verse 1, and 11, verse 10. Three prophecies that you and I need to pay attention to. Three prophecies that will tell us that you and I can put the government of our lives on the shoulders of the One who is God in the flesh. And we can walk in peace and we can walk in security. We can walk in the light no matter how dark the days get. We can walk, not in arrogance, not in pride, but in the wisdom of submission to God. That’s what we’re all about at this

point in Isaiah. We have looked at Isaiah chapter 9, verse 6. I want to pick up there and take you, now, into the next segment of chapters 7 through 12. In chapter 9, verse 6 it says: **“For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders...;”** not on ours. **“...And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, [and] Prince of Peace.”**(Isaiah 9:6) It says, **“There will be no end to the increase of [this] government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom....”** (Isaiah 9:7) Whose kingdom? This child’s kingdom, this son’s kingdom, this One who is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. It says, **“...On the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it...,”** to establish His kingdom. (Isaiah 9:7) Now remember God had said through Isaiah the prophet to Ahaz, who was of the house of David: **“...If you will not believe, you...[will] not last.”** (Isaiah 7:9) “You will not be established.” But here is a king who is going to sit on the throne of David, who is not going to be like those human kings, but whose kingdom is going to last, whose kingdom is going to endure forever and ever and ever. So he goes on to say to establish it, **“...On the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it [the kingdom] and to uphold it [the kingdom] with justice and righteousness....”** (Isaiah 9:7) Now remember we mark the references to “righteousness.” And I just put a blue “R” over that. And it says, **“...From then on and forevermore....”** (Isaiah 9:7) So here’s a time phrase. Remember you can download a free study guide, and you can study along with us, and one of the things that we teach you is to mark and to color code the scripture so that you remember it. So we mark time. We put a green circle around it, and if we want to we make it look like a clock with a dinger on the top and two little feet, and the hands set at three o’clock or somewhere. But it says, **“...From then on and forevermore....”** (Isaiah 9:7) It’s a time phrase. And what he’s telling you is, this child that has been born, this son that has been given is going to be the One that is going to rule in His kingdom forever and forever. From once He starts, [there’s going to

be no end to the increase of this government]. (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 9:7) So get out a piece of paper and let's draw a straight line, it's our timeline, and let's start with a crib, and in that crib we'll put a head which represents Jesus Christ. And over the crib we'll just put a red cross so that we remember that that's the birth of Jesus Christ. We'll come over here and then we'll put another red cross for the death of Jesus Christ. And then we will put a tomb on that line and we will have Jesus coming out of the tomb, and we'll have him ascending into heaven. And then at the end of the line—near the end of this line—we're going to have an arrow coming down which signifies that Jesus is going to return. [“And of the increase of His government there will not be an end.”] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 9:7) So when that second arrow comes down, write “kingdom” there on the line. And know this, that from that point on it is the eternal kingdom of God. Now we won't go into all the details of this, but we'll get into some of the details tomorrow. But what I want you to see is, he says: **“...unto us a child is born....” (Isaiah 9:6, KJV)** So you go back to the crib with the baby. **“...A son is given....” (Isaiah 9:6, KJV)** And then it says, **“Of the increase of his government...there [is] no end....” (Isaiah 9:7, KJV)** Well what he's saying is, he's establishing his kingdom. He's establishing his government where He's governing in your life and my life if we're true believers and you and I then, are building his kingdom. And we're going out and we're talking to others and we're saying: “Believe in Jesus Christ,” and “This is who Jesus Christ is.” Most of them will not hear. Most of them will not believe. It's just like Isaiah 6 says. But some will. There is a remnant. There is a holy seed. There is a group of people, Jews and Gentiles, bond and free, male and female that will be **“...one in Christ Jesus...,”** as Galatians 3 says in those last verses. **(Galatians 3:28)** And we are of Abraham's seed. (See Galatians 3:29) We are believers. So we will believe. And more and more and more we will learn to walk under His authority. And the kingdom will grow and grow and grow. It's like the parable of the mustard seed. And so it's the tiniest of all the seeds and yet it grows into a

huge plant. (See Mark 4:31-32) And that's the same with the kingdom of God, until finally, Jesus Christ leaves heaven and comes back down to establish His kingdom. And that's where, as we saw yesterday in Isaiah, before we get to Isaiah 9:6, that [the boot of every warrior and the clothing that has blood on it from war will be rolled up and will be burned]. (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 9:5) Why? Because He's the Prince of Peace. And so the kingdom that He is going to rule over is a kingdom of peace. A kingdom of peace; and all the nations of the earth will worship Him. All right. Now let's move on because what does this prophecy mean to you and what does it mean to me? Well as he gave it to Israel, listen to what he says, because we're starting now another division in this. We have just seen two prophecies that have to do with Jesus Christ. We have seen the occasion of them. We have seen the setting of them, why he gave these prophecies. And now, he is turning, and he is showing us what happens when they don't allow the government of their lives to be on His shoulders. So it says in verse 8, **"The Lord sends a message against Jacob, and it falls on Israel."** (Isaiah 9:8) Now "Jacob" is the nation of Israel. So he's talking about the whole nation, but he's saying "it falls," this message that he's sending "falls on Israel," on the northern kingdom. It says, **"And all the people know it, that is, Ephraim and the inhabitants of Samaria...."** (Isaiah 9:9) Now "Ephraim" is another way of saying "Israel" for the northern kingdom, because it was the largest of the tribes. It's right above the border between the northern kingdom and the southern kingdom. That's where Ephraim is, and so Ephraim becomes synonymous with Israel. You see this in God's message through Hosea, who was a contemporary prophet with Isaiah. Hosea prophecies to the northern kingdom, Isaiah prophecies to Judah and Jerusalem, but now watch the arrogance. It says, **"...And all the people know it, that is, Ephraim and the inhabitants of Samaria, asserting in pride and...arrogance of heart: 'The bricks have fallen down, but we will rebuild....'"** (Isaiah 9:9-10) "The trees are gone, but we'll plant more." Let me read it to you. **"The bricks have fallen down, but we will rebuild**

**with smooth stones; the sycamores have been cut down, but we will replace them with cedars.” (Isaiah 9:10)** He says, **“Therefore....”** When you see a “therefore” you find out what the “therefore” is there for, because it’s a term of conclusion. And I put three red dots in the shape of a triangle over “therefore.” It says, **“Therefore the Lord raises against them adversaries from Rezin and spurs their enemies on.” (Isaiah 9:11)** All right, they’re walking in arrogance, they’re not gonna let the government be upon His shoulders. They’re gonna say, “Okay, you deal with us. [You bring down the bricks, you bring down the trees, we’ll put ‘em back up].” (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 9:10) It’s arrogance, and I want you to see that. **“...Asserting in pride...,”** verse 9, **“...and in arrogance of heart.” (Isaiah 9:9)** It says in verse 11: **“Therefore the Lord raises against them adversaries from Rezin....”** Now where is Rezin? Remember Rezin is the king of Aram. Aram is present-day Syria where Damascus is, and so it says: **“...and spurs their enemies on, the Arameans on the east and the Philistines on the west....” (Isaiah 9:11-12)** Now the Philistines are down there in the area. Remember Goliath was a Philistine? They’re down there along that strip. In modern-day terms it’s where Gaza is today, and it’s where the PLO has their special land; where Hamas is, where all this mess is going on. And it says, **“The Arameans [from] the east...the Philistines [from] the west; and they devour Israel with gaping jaws. [And] in spite of all this...,”** what is God gonna do? We’ll look at it in just a minute.

## **PART TWO**

Have you ever been to the divine woodshed where God gets you? Well that’s what God was doing with Israel. Ahaz of the house of David would not believe. God says, [“You will not last.”] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 7:9) “You have turned away from Me and you have turned to the arm of flesh. You have turned to the Assyrians, and so, for help, so I’m going to make them your enemy. They’re going to be My rod of judgment against you.

They're going to be my divine chastening." (See Isaiah 8:6-9) And so He tells 'em what's going to happen, and He tells 'em how He is going to bring the Arameans against 'em, the Philistines against 'em, they're gonna have trouble. And it's all because they have not believed God. And God says, "Yet, you know what? **"...In spite of all this..."** My anger is still burning against you. And you know what? **"...In spite of all this..."**[My arm] **is still stretched out** [against you]." (Isaiah 9:12) You know, we talk about; when I grew up all I heard was about a God of judgment—a God of wrath. That's not all you should hear. You should get the whole picture of God. You should get the love of God. You should get the compassion of God. You should get the promises of God. You should get the mercy of God; the loving kindness of God, all which never cease. And yet, you should be aware that God does have a holy temper. That there is a righteous anger, that God's very Being, His very holiness, His justice, His righteousness demands anger at disobedience. Why? Because disobedience ruins us. And so now in Isaiah chapter 9, in this verse, in verse 8, we pick up a group of statements that all end with the same repeated key phrase. And because it is a repeated phrase it is very important, and God doesn't want you to miss what He's saying. So you need to mark it in a very distinctive way. I put a red cloud around it and then colored it yellow because it has to do with God. So let's look at it. Isaiah chapter 9, verse 12: **"In spite of all this, His anger."** And I just took my red pen and I just made it kind of furious over anger—a micropen so that I could still see the word "anger." **"...In spite of all this, His anger does not turn away and His hand is still stretched out."** (Isaiah 9:12) Verse 13, watch the contrast. **"Yet [yet] the people do not..."**, now watch. **"...[They do not] turn [around] to Him who struck [um]..."** (Isaiah 9:13) He divinely chastens them because He's a holy Father and because He knows that when He chastens us it gets our attention and should turn us around. And yet, He chastens them, but they don't respond. Now it is very dangerous for you to be chastened by God and not respond; to be chastened by God and not literally fall to your knees; not

literally get on your face and say: “God I’m sorry.” And I stretch myself out in the shape of a cross because He has called me to a cross, and He’s called me to a cross, and He’s called you to a cross. [“If any man is going to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross.”] (PARAPHRASE, Luke 9:23) **“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ [lives] in me....”** (Galatians 2:20, KJV) I am crucified to this world, and so I say, “God I am so sorry.” And so what he says here is, **“Yet the people do not turn back to Him who struck [him], nor do they seek the Lord of hosts.”** (Isaiah 9:13) When you’re going through the chastening of the Lord, when God is trying to get your attention because you’re not walking in obedience, and He’s allowing certain things in your life, you are to seek the Lord of hosts. He says, **“So....,”** because they as a nation are not seeking the Lord of hosts, **“So the Lord cuts off head and tail from Israel....”** What do you mean, “head and tail”? Well listen, he’s going to tell us. **“...Both palm branch and bulrush in a single day.”** (Isaiah 9:14) It says, **“The head is the elder....”** So He’s cutting off these elders, He’s cutting off these wise men. The elder, the “head” **“...is the elder and [the] honorable man....”** (Isaiah 9:15) He’s removing them, why? Because their presence, their presence is not appreciated, because those people are not worthy of elders and honorable men, because they aren’t listening. He says, **“...And the prophet who teaches falsehood is the tail.”** (Isaiah 9:15) And you know what? There are prophets today that teach falsehoods. You can read about them in Ezekiel where he talks about prophets that have dreams and they prophesy their dreams and their visions instead of teaching the Word of God. And so he’s saying to them here. He’s saying to them, he says, **“...And the prophet who teaches falsehood is the tail. For those who guide this people....”** (Isaiah 9:15-16) And that’s the false prophets, **“...are leading them astray; and those who are guided by them are brought to confusion.”** (Isaiah 9:16) They say, “Uh, I don’t know what to do.” Why? Because they’re brought to confusion. He says. **“Therefore....,”** “therefore,” another therefore, **“...the Lord does not take**

pleasure in their young men, nor does He have pity on their orphans or [on] their widows; for every one of them....,” their young men, their orphans, their widows are—, “...is godless and an evildoer....” (Isaiah 9:17) I mean, you look at the whole group of people and they’re godless and they’re evildoers, and the honorable have been removed, and they’re walking around in this confusion. He says, “...every mouth is speaking foolishness....” (Isaiah 9:17) Can you imagine living in a society like that? Can you imagine you living in a culture where everyone’s speaking foolishness, where there’s no wise people, where there is just confusion? This is the way they’re living, and they’re living that way because they will not believe God, because of their arrogance, because of their pride. Because they think that they can handle the problems of life themselves. Now I want to ask you a question. Is that you? Are you going to the arm of flesh? Or are you going to the Word of God? Have you gotten on your face before God? He says this is the condition, and in verse 17, it ends this way: “...In spite of all this, His anger does not turn away and His hand is still stretched out. For wickedness burns like a fire; it consumes briars and thorns....” (Isaiah 9:17-18) Now remember when the Assyrians came the land was going to be nothing but briars and thorns. That’s what you see in the last part of Isaiah chapter 7. (See Isaiah 7:25) And so, “...It consumes briars and thorns, it even sets the thickets of the forest aflame and they roll upward [like] a column of smoke. By the fury of the Lord of hosts the land is burned up....” (Isaiah 9:18-19) I mean, it is just devastated by fire. Who caused the fire? Who lit the match? It’s God. It’s the fury of His holiness that causes the land to be burned up. “By the fury of the Lord of hosts the land is burned up, and the people are like fuel for the fire; no man spares his brother.” (Isaiah 9:19) They turn against one another. It’s awful isn’t it? And it didn’t have to be this way. We’ll talk about it later.