

ISAIAH, PART 2 (COMFORT FOR HIS PEOPLE)
PROGRAM 10 (#911125)
WEEK 2 (#911325)
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SERIES: Isaiah, Part 2 (Comfort For His People)

TITLE: Program 10 – Modern Day Idolatry

FRIDAY

OPEN

Has anyone ever looked at you and said, “Where are you from? What country are you from?” Did you want to hide the fact that maybe you were a Native American? Maybe you were Hispanic. Maybe you were in a Jewish community, and you were German. Do you realize how often the Jews have tried to hide the fact that they are Jews? And yet there is a day coming when they’re going to wear their Jewishness with a badge of honor.

PART ONE

Well I don’t know if you noticed it or not, but I’m in a wheel chair and I can roll back and forth. Now when I’ve taught the other programs this week I’ve been sitting in a chair, totally immobilized. Why did I move to a wheel chair? Why have I got all this wood on the table? And why have I got a carving tool like this knife? Well you’re going to find out why as we do our program today. And I pray that it will give you a visual that you won’t forget and that God would use in your life any time you’re tempted to think about

worshipping something else other than God or put someone else in the place of God. Well Beloved, we've come to Isaiah chapter 44, our final chapter for this week. Remember in 43 His last words were, "...[I'm going to assign] **Jacob to the ban and Israel to revilement.**" (Isaiah 43:28) But then He says, "**But now listen** [listen]...." He says, "...**O Jacob, My servant....**" (Isaiah 44:1) [I'm going to assign you to the ban. I'm going to put you up for revilement, but listen to Me,] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 43:28) "**...My servant ...Israel, whom I have chosen.**" (Isaiah 44:1) How many times has He said, "I have chosen you"? He wants them to remember that their salvation, even the fact that they have become a Jew, is not because of their choosing or their design, but because of God's plan. He goes on to say, "**Thus** [said] **the LORD who made you....**" (Isaiah 44:2) Now remember we have a free downloadable study guide for you so that you can discover truth for yourself; so that you can study with us through different books of the Bible. You can get that free study guide by going to "preceptsforlife.com." Now as you look at this I want you to see that one of the things that we would tell you is mark every reference to "Jacob." So what I do is, when I see Jacob, first of all I put a star of David over it, but I'm not gonna put all the stars of David in my Bible. Instead I'm going to put a blue squiggly line over every reference. So He says, "**Thus says the LORD who made you** [made you, Jacob,] **and formed you** [you, Jacob] **from the womb, who will help you**" (Isaiah 44:2) Now, He's saying, ["I made you Jewish. I made you a son of Abraham. I made you a descendent of Israel, of Jacob. I chose you from the womb, but I chose you also from the womb of Sarah, the wife of Abraham."] (PARAPHRASE Isaiah 44:1-2) He says, "...**Do not fear...Jacob My servant; and you Jeshurun whom I have chosen.**" And it's another term for Israel. "**For I will pour out water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground....**" (Isaiah 44:2-3) I don't want you to fear because I'm going to give you water. But now watch how He does this, "**...I will pour out My**

spirit on your offspring and My blessing on your descendants.”””

(Isaiah 44:3) He’s not gonna do it at this time, but He is promising them that their offspring, their descendants, their seed, their children, and their grandchildren, and their great grandchildren, their heritage, their progeny is going to have the Spirit of God poured out on them, Now let’s go back for one quick minute and let’s look at Isaiah 42, which we studied this week. He’s talking about His Chosen One and He’s talking about His Servant. He’s talking about Messiah. And what does He say? **“...I have put My spirit on Him....” (Isaiah 42:1)** So God puts His Spirit on the Messiah, on Meshea, on Yeshua. He puts His Spirit on Him, and now He’s going to put His Spirit on His servants, on the Jews. He said, **““...I will pour out My spirit on your offspring and My blessing on your descendants...they will spring up among the grass like poplars by [a stream] of water.””” (Isaiah 44:3-4)** No problem for them to grow and prosper. **““This one will say, “I am the LORD’S”; and that one will call on the name of Jacob....”” (Isaiah 44:5)** What’s He saying? I’m the Lord’s! I’m a Jew! I’m a Jew! I want you to know that! I’m an Israelite! I belong to Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob. I am one of God’s chosen ones! He goes on to say, **““...And another will write on his hand, “Belonging to the LORD....””” (Isaiah 44:5)** Do you see that? I belong to the Lord. And He goes on to say, **““...And will name Israel’s name with honor.”” (Isaiah 44:5)** He’s going to name Israel’s name with honor. Now I want you to go back to Deuteronomy with me for just a minute. And I want you to go to Deuteronomy chapter 28, Deuteronomy chapter 28. Because remember in Deuteronomy 28, we looked at the blessings for obedience, at the curses for disobedience. And in verse 37 of Deuteronomy 28, when he’s talking about them being scattered among the nations, He says, **““You shall become a horror, [you shall become] a proverb, and a taunt among all the people...”” (Deuteronomy 28:37)** Jew, Jew, dirty Jew. It’s anti-semitism. It’s hatred of God’s chosen people. And because of that, they wanted to cover; they wanted to hide. They

wanted to run away and say, “No, no, no!” And they went from city to city hiding because they were despised because of one simple thing. They were simply a Jew. But they didn’t know that “simply a Jew” is not simply a Jew, but it is a chosen one by God. I may be wrong, but I think that someone that is Jewish is listening. And I want you to know, Precious One, I am so sorry for anything that you have suffered for being one of God’s chosen people. But I will tell you the day is coming when you’re gonna be proud of being Jewish. You’re going to be proud of belonging to the Lord. You are going to be proud of bearing the name Israel. Let’s go back to chapter 44 of Isaiah. And this is what He says, [He’s gonna pour out His Spirit on the offspring.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 44:3) Now when you hear that, if you’ve studied Joel— and they don’t know when Joel was written— they think Joel may have been written before Isaiah; they don’t really have a timetable. But if you would go to Joel chapter 2, and I would suggest that you simply write down next to this verse, Joel chapter 2. And this is what you see in Joel chapter 2, verse 28. “[And] **it will come about after this that I will pour...My spirit on all mankind...your sons and [your] daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on...male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.**” (Joel 2:28-29) Well who’s the first one that He poured out His spirit on? Well this is fulfilled in Acts chapter 2. And what is happening is Peter is saying, “Listen, you’re seeing the Spirit poured out on these Jewish people from all over the world, speaking their many different dialects.” He says, “**...this is what was spoken of...**” Acts 2:16, “**...through the prophet Joel: “And it shall be in the last days,” God says, “...I will pour forth...My Spirit on all mankind....”**” (Acts 2:16-17) So first of all, it’s poured out on the Jews. And then the Jews’ rejection of Jesus as Messiah, it is poured out on the Gentiles. But there is a time when it’s going to be poured out specifically on Israel. Go to Ezekiel chapter 36. In Ezekiel 36, and verse 24, He says, “**...I will take you from the nations....**,” talking to

Israel, “...[and] gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land. ...I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from your...filthiness...from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit...,” where? “...within you....” He’s talking to the house of Israel. He’s talking to the house of Judah. “...And [I will] cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; [to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob] ...you will be My people, and I will be your God.” (Ezekiel 36:24-28) There’s a day coming when they are going to rejoice. Yes, they’re assigned to the ban. Yes, they are for revilement right now, but that is going to change. So go back to Isaiah 44, verse 6, “**Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel...**” He has said it again, “**...and his Redeemer, [Israel’s Redeemer] the LORD of hosts: “I am the first and...the last...there is no God besides Me.””** (Isaiah 44:6) He wants them to understand this; why? Because they have turned to idols, because they have worshipped other gods, because they have gone into these countries, and just as He said in Deuteronomy chapter 28, when I scatter you, you’re going to pick up their gods. (See Deuteronomy 28:36) I want to ask you a question. What gods have you picked up from the world? The god of materialism? The god of the bod? I mean is your bod your god? What have you picked up? Is it your education? Is it you; all about you? Is it self-worship? Is it idolatry? Are you worshipping man, or are you worshipping God? He says, “**“...There is no God besides Me. Who is like Me? Let him proclaim and declare it; [yet] yes, let him recount it to Me in order....””** (Isaiah 44:6-7) Is there anybody like God? That’s a very important question. Have you put anybody before God? We’ll talk about it in just a minute.

PART TWO

Do you realize that one of the things that affirms that God is God, and there is no other is this Book? This Book that tells you what is going to come to pass from the beginning and brings to fulfillment. It is this Book, which is the very words of God, that tell you that [God does nothing in secret, but what He reveals at first through His servants, His prophets.]

(PARAPHRASE, Amos 3:7) So as you look at this, and as God is saying, [“Okay, I want you to understand I’m God. I want you to understand that there is no God beside Me.”] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 44:6) Verse 7 of Isaiah 44, **“Who is like Me? Let him proclaim [it] and declare it; yes, let him recount it to Me in order....”** Tell Me, who’s like Me? **“...From the time that I established the ancient nation....” (Isaiah 44:7)** What ancient nation? If you don’t have it by now, we’re in trouble! That ancient nation is Israel. He says, **“...And let them declare to them the things that are coming....”** He says, **“...and the events that are going to take place....” (Isaiah 44:7)** I mean, He has already told them that a child is going to be born, a son is going to be given and that He’s going to sit on the throne of David and of His kingdom there’s going to be no end! (See Isaiah 9:6-7) He is telling them about His servant that is going to come, and how He is going to be a light to the nations so that they don’t walk in darkness. (See Isaiah 42:6-7) He’s told them all these things. He says, **“...let them declare...the things that are coming and the events that are going to take place. Do not tremble and...be afraid; have I not long since announced it to you and declared it...?” (Isaiah 44:7-8)** Listen, whatever comes, I’ve already told you, you’re going into Babylonian captivity. Don’t sit there and tremble. Don’t be afraid. Listen to Me. Listen to My instructions, and He’s gonna give those instructions very clearly in Jeremiah. So He says, “Listen to My instructions. Do what I tell you; you don’t have to worry.” **“...And you are My witnesses. Is there any God besides Me...is there any other Rock...?” (Isaiah 44:8)** See the rock is that which does

not move. The rock is that which cannot be moved. “**...Is there any other Rock?** [Is there any other God?],...” He says, “**...I know of none.’ Those who fashion a graven image are all of them are futile, and their precious things** [this graven image] **are of no profit; even their own witnesses fail to see** [and]...**know, so that they are put to shame.**” (Isaiah 44:8-9) In other words, look, here’s a person who takes an idol, who fashions a god, who takes the knife and gets this god all formed, and there’s no one that can witness for him because he has a mouth, but he cannot talk. Watch what He says, “**Who has fashioned [an idol] a god or cast an idol to no profit? Behold, all [of] his companions will be put to shame....**” (Isaiah 44:10-11) Everyone that’s associated with this guy that’s making the idol will be put to shame. Because their craftsmen are mere men; they’re not gods! So you have a man making a god that’s not a god. He says, “**...Let them tremble, let them...be put to shame. The man shapes [into] iron...a cutting tool....**” (Isaiah 44:11-12) In other words, he takes this iron and he forms it until he has a cutting tool. “**...And does his work over the coals, fashioning it with hammers...working it with his strong arm. [And] he...gets [weary] and his strength fails; he drinks no water....**” This is the importance of water. “**...And [he gets] weary.**” (Isaiah 44:12) Here is a man that is making a tool that’s going to carve a god, and the man gets weary—that’s carving a god, a god that is supposed to speak to you, a god that is supposed to judge over you, a god that you are supposed to worship. Now watch what He says, “**Another shapes wood, he extends a measuring line; he outlines it [in] red chalk....**” And it says, “**...He works...with planes [he] outlines it with a compass....**” (Isaiah 44:13) And then it goes and says, “**...He makes it [in] the form of a man...so that it may sit in a house. Surely he cuts cedars for himself, ...[he] takes a cypress...an oak and raises it...among the trees....**” (Isaiah 44:13-14) So he goes out and he waters this tree. He’s getting this tree to grow up. He’s going to make himself from that tree that he raised, that he watered; he’s going to make for

himself an idol. But before he makes the idol, what does he do with the wood? It says, **“...the rain makes [the tree] grow. Then it becomes something for a man to burn, so he takes one of them and warms himself....” (Isaiah 44:14-15)** So he takes some of the wood and he makes a nice little fire to warm himself because he’s cold. [And then, I’m hungry! I’m hungry! So what am I going to do with my hunger? Well, I’ve got to roast meat, so I take more of the tree and I put it over here. I light the fire, and I cook the food that I’m going to eat. So he takes one batch of wood to warm himself, another batch of wood to roast his meat, and then he takes the third batch of wood to carve and to make his idol. And what does he do? Watch. It says, **“Then it becomes something for a man to burn...he takes one of them [he]...warms himself; he also makes a fire to bake bread. He... makes a god and worships it; he makes it a graven image, and falls down before it.” (Isaiah 44:15)** And he’s worshipping this god. O god, help me! O god, I need rain! You just watered the tree yourself. O god, O god, I need deliverance! O god, I’m afraid of you! You just carved it! You just carved it! You took part of the wood, and you used it for baking bread and roasting meat. You took the other part of the wood, and you warmed it. You got it off of a tree that you grew, and now you’ve carved it. And now you’re bowing down to it? He says, **“But the rest of it he makes...a god, [a] graven image. He falls down...and worships; [it] he...prays to it...‘Deliver me, for you are my god.’ They do not know, nor do they understand, [that] He has smeared over [his] eyes so that [he] cannot see and their heart so...they cannot comprehend. No one recalls, nor is there knowledge or understanding...,”** that says I’ve sinned, **“...‘I have burned half of [this] in the fire...[I] have baked bread over its coals. I roast meat and [I] eat it. Then I make the rest of it into an abomination, I fall down before a block of wood!’ He feeds on ashes; a deceived heart has turned him aside...he cannot deliver himself, nor say, ‘Is there not a lie in my right hand?’” (Isaiah 44:17-20)** He’s blind! And he says,

“Remember these things, O Jacob, and Israel, for you are My servant; I...formed you...,” You didn’t form Me. I, your God, formed you.

“...You are My servant, O Israel, [O Israel, O Israel] you will not be forgotten by Me. I have wiped out your transgressions like a thick cloud and your sins like a heavy mist...” I’m taking care of your sin! **“Return to Me, for I have redeemed you.”** (Isaiah 44:21-22) Why are you here worshipping something you made with your own hands? O Precious One, return to Me. **“Shout for joy, O heavens, for the LORD has done it! Shout joyfully, you lower parts of the earth; break forth into a shout of joy, you mountains, O forest, and every tree in it; for the LORD has redeemed Jacob and in Israel He [has shown] forth His glory.”** Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer....” (Isaiah 44:23-24) You have a Redeemer. Live for Him, and know that an idol is only the imagination, the work of your hands.