

ISAIAH, PART 2 (COMFORT FOR HIS PEOPLE)
PROGRAM 31 (#911146)
WEEK 7 (#911330)
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Precept Ministries International
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SERIES: Isaiah, Part 2 (Comfort For His People)

TITLE: Program 31 – When Truth Stumbles

MONDAY

OPEN

I'm standing here with a huge cast on my foot. Why? I was walking in the dark and I stumbled and I severely broke my ankle. They said the next worse thing that could happen to me would be to lose my foot. I want to talk to you about walking in the darkness. I want to talk to you about stumbling. I want to talk to you about what happens when "truth stumbles in the streets". (See Isaiah 59:14)

PART ONE

I am so happy that you have joined us. And I just want you to know as I begin this program, I love hearing from you. I love it when you sit down and get on the Internet and send me those emails or go to our webpage and let me hear from you. It just really, really connects me to you. Well all this week we are going to look at three chapters, Isaiah 58, 59, and 60. And we're going to see what happens when "truth stumbles in the streets". (See Isaiah 59:14) Now that statement comes from Isaiah chapter 59. So let's go

to Isaiah 59 so that we can get this kind of key verse that becomes our topic that helps us analyze these three chapters. But in Isaiah chapter 59, verse 14 it says, **“Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands far away; for...,” (Isaiah 59:14)** and he’s gonna tell you why “justice is just turned back” and justice isn’t happening. And why “righteousness stands far away,” why people aren’t being righteous. It says, **“...For truth has stumbled in the street, and uprightness cannot enter.” (Isaiah 59:14)** In other words, it’s like there’s a barricade and it’s saying: “If you’re upright don’t you dare come in here. Don’t you dare come in here. We don’t want you in here.” And the next verse tells us why. Let’s look at it, verse 15. **“Yes, truth is lacking; and he who turns aside from evil makes himself a prey....” (Isaiah 59:15)** In other words, if you’re going to walk righteously they don’t want you. That’s why there’s a barricade against uprightness. They don’t want you walking righteously. They don’t want to hear truth. They don’t want to hear the Bible. Why? Because: **“...truth has stumbled in the streets.” (Isaiah 59:14)** And if you come in with truth, you make yourself a prey. It’s like they’re gonna pick up the stones, or pick up anything that they’ve got and they’re going to hurl them at you. Why? Because your righteousness exposes their unrighteousness. So all this week what I’m going to do is, I’m going to share with you, over the week, ten things—ten things that we see from these three chapters about truth stumbling in the streets. And it’s ten things that we need to pay attention to because I will tell you that as it was in the days of Isaiah so it is today in the United States of America. Truth has stumbled in the streets. And I just got back from England and I can tell you there, that in that country, in that nation of Great Britain, but especially in England, truth has stumbled in the streets. And you see what happens historically to a nation when that happens. All right now, I want to lay down just a few premises about truth and then we’re going to look at those ten things. So the first thing I want you to do is I want you to go also to Isaiah 65, verse 16. Now remember Isaiah only has 66 chapters.

So when you come to the very end of Isaiah in Isaiah 65 in verse 16 you have this statement. It says, **“Because he who is blessed in the earth will be blessed by....,”** and this is the phrase I want you to get, **“...the God of truth....” (Isaiah 65:16)** You see God is truth. Jesus said in John 14:6 and I’m sure it’s already come to your mind because you’re students of the Word and I’m so proud of you and if you’re not a student, you’re on the way to becoming one. But in John He tells us in John 14:6, Jesus makes the statement, **“...I am the way...[I am] the truth, and [I am] the life; [and] no one comes to the Father but [by] Me.” (John 14:6)** So Jesus is truth. God is truth. And you go on to read in verse 16 **“...And he who swears in the earth will swear by the God of truth....” (Isaiah 65:16)** Eventually what’s going to happen is people are going to look at God and, although they have been blind before, they’re going to understand that God is truth. He is truth and in Him there is no lie. Now you want to contrast that with John chapter 8, verse 44. And in John chapter 8, verse 44 Jesus is speaking. He’s speaking to religious people, to the Pharisees, to the sons of Abraham, to those that claim Abraham as their father. And when He does He says in verse 43, **“Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word.” (John 8:43)** Now obviously they could hear. They didn’t have a hearing problem. But He says you can’t hear My words. You can’t understand it. You can’t grasp it. You can’t believe it. You can’t receive it. Why can’t they hear His word? He says, **“You are of your father the devil, and you....”** That’s a strong statement, isn’t it? Especially to religious leaders. **“...And you want to do the desires of your father. He [the devil] was a murderer from the beginning, and [he] does not stand in the truth...,”** why? **“...Because there is no truth in him....” (John 8:44)** So with the devil, truth is gone. With the devil, truth has stumbled. With the devil, the truth has no place. Oh he may take fragments of the truth and use them, but he uses them in order to distort them and in order to deceive or to manipulate, to lie and to take a person into the darkness that

comes from walking in a lie. So he says “...**Whenever he speaks...**” whenever the devil speaks, “...**he speaks from his own nature...he is a liar and the father of lies.**” (John 8:44) So what we’re going to see all this week and you’re gonna notice it especially if you will read ahead, which I hope you will in these three chapters so there’s a familiarity as I teach you. But you’re gonna see darkness. You’re gonna see light. You’re gonna see that contrast. You’re going to see truth and you’re going to see that truth is not something that we just acknowledge, but it is something that we are to embrace in our hearts. So a couple of verses, Psalm 15, verse 2. And this is a very good scripture that you need to look at Psalm 15, verse 2. Now in Psalm 15 he’s talking about who’s going to dwell in the holy hill and abide in the tent of the Almighty. It says, “**O LORD, who may abide in Your tent [in Your home]? Who may dwell on Your holy hill? He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness....**” Now remember righteousness is being barricaded from the streets in the days of Isaiah. “...**And speaks truth....**” Now watch, not just with his mouth. But he “...**speaks truth in his heart...**” in his innermost being. (Psalm 15:1-2) And that’s what he’s gonna talk about here in Isaiah chapter 58, 59 and 60. Now in Psalm 51, verse 6 which is the psalm that David writes when he is confessing his sin with Bathsheba, and he’s confessed it. He’s asking God to forgive him. This is what he says, “...**You desire truth in [our] innermost being [You desire truth in our innermost being]....**” (Psalm 51:6) Do you know that there are multitudes when they do surveys? There are multitudes of people that profess to know God. That believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that believe that there’s a literal devil, that believe that there’s the Bible. And that confess, you know, that they believe that this Book is truth, or most of it is truth. And yet they don’t live it. It’s not in their “innermost being”. And Proverbs chapter 23, verse 23 he says this, “**Buy truth, and do not sell it....**” (Proverbs 23:23) What is he saying? It costs to get truth. It costs. It costs you diligence if you really want to know truth and embrace truth. It

costs you diligence to study with me. I'm not here to entertain you. I'm here to teach you and train you because that's what God has called Precept Ministries International to do. That's why we offer you a free downloadable study guide. All you have to do is go to preceptsforlife.com and you can download our study guide, because it is our intent to help you have truth in the innermost being—[to know the truth because it's the truth that sets you free]. (PARAPHRASE, John 8:32) Now in Psalm 145, verse 18 and 20 it says, "**The LORD is near to all who call on Him....**" But now watch what he says. "...[To all who call on Him] **in truth.**" (Psalm 145:18) You're going to find out that the people in Isaiah's time were not calling on Him in truth. They wanted God to operate and they delighted in their religiosity, but they weren't calling on Him in truth. In Proverbs chapter 16, verse 6 it says this. "**By lovingkindness....**" "hesed" a covenant term, "**...and truth iniquity is atoned for....**" (Proverbs 16:6) In other words your sin can be covered. It can be dealt with by God's lovingkindness and by truth. We'll talk about it more in just a minute and you don't want to miss it because [it's truth that sets you free]. (PARAPHRASE, John 8:32)

PART TWO

I want you to know that my heart is filled with a love for you. It's a divine love. It's it's a godly love. It's a, it's a love that here is a brother or a sister or a potential brother or potential sister in the Lord. God's drawing you to Himself and He wants you to know the truth because He says, "**And you [shall] know the truth, and the truth [shall set] you free.**" (John 8:32) Do you realize that lies, that deceptions only bring darkness and bondage and stumbling and confusion? Well we were looking at different scriptures on truth and there are over 200 scriptures that use the word "truth", but what I want us to do is I want us to go to John chapter 17, John chapter 17. You say, "But I want you to review a little." Honey, Sir, listen. Get the CD or get the DVD and you can review all you want. But you to— ah, we need to

move on 'cause I've a lot to cover this week. Jesus is praying. He's about to go to the Garden of Gethsemane where He's going to be arrested and taken and then He's going to die. He's going to become sin for you and me so that you and I might have His righteousness, (See 2 Corinthians 5:21) so we might know truth and that the truth might set us free. (See John 8:32) And so He's praying, He's praying to the Father on behalf of you, on behalf of me, on behalf of all who believe on Him. And He says **"I do not ask You..."** verse 15, **"...to take them out of the world, but...keep them from the evil one."** (John 17:15) Why? [Because the evil one (remember John 8:44), is a liar. He's a deceiver. He's a murderer from the beginning. He's the father of lies. He doesn't abide in the truth. He's out to destroy you.]

(PARAPHRASE, John 8:44) He says **"They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them [set them apart] in [Thy] truth..."**

(John 17:16) Truth sets you apart. Truth sets you apart from a lie. Truth sets you apart from deception. Truth sets you apart from darkness, because if you're walking in a lie you're walking in darkness, and it's going to cause you to stumble. And so He says, **"Sanctify them [through Thy] truth..."** John 17:17, **"...[Thy] word is truth."** (John 17:17) You and I are looking at truth and He's going to tell us what happens when truth stumbles in the streets as we look, and if you will go back to Isaiah chapter 58, Isaiah chapter 58. So the first thing that I want you to see, remember all this week I'm giving you ten things, ten insights on— to what happens when truth stumbles in the streets. (See Isaiah 59:14) And the first thing that I want you to write down is: Truth stumbles in the streets when we are walking in iniquity—when we are walking in sin, when anybody walks in sin. Now Isaiah is written to the Southern Kingdom, to Judah and to Jerusalem. It's a message from God through His prophet Isaiah. A prophet is a messenger to this people. So I want you to know He is talking to the Jews. He is talking to the nation of Israel. He is talking to God's chosen people. And this is what he says in verse 1 of Isaiah 58. **"Cry loudly, do not hold back; raise your**

voice like a trumpet....” (Isaiah 58:1) He’s saying that they are to cry loudly. It’s not a shout for joy. **“Cry loudly...raise your voice like a trumpet....” (Isaiah 58:1)** A trumpet was used to get attention. A trumpet was used to warn, at specific times, of the enemy that was coming. He says **“...And declare to My people their transgression....” (Isaiah 58:1)** Now you want to mark every reference to “transgression” to “iniquity” and to “sin”. And I color it brown. And we told you to do that in your study guide. We told you as you observe the text, as you discover what it’s saying you look for key repeated words. And one of the key repeated words in Isaiah 58 and 59 is “iniquity” and “sin”. So when “truth stumbles in the streets,” and we saw that that’s the condition, it’s because they’re walking in iniquity. (See Isaiah 59:14) He says, **“...Declare to My people their transgression...to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet they seek Me day by day and delight to know My ways, as a nation that has done righteousness....” (Isaiah 58:1-2)** They think everything’s all right. And it says, they— **“...and has not forsaken the ordinance of...God.” (Isaiah 58:2)** So “forsaken the ordinance of God” I would also color brown if that’s the way you’re marking “sin” because that is a sin. The ordinance of God is the commandment. This is what you’re supposed to do and they forsake it. They are committing adultery. They’re not honoring their parents. They’re having other gods besides Him. All these are ordinances. All of these are the Ten Commandments. And a survey was done recently and they were just surveying people on the street and they found out that people can tell you more about McDonald’s hamburgers and what the meals are than they can tell you about the Ten Commandments. (See Exodus 20:2-17) The Ten Commandments are the ordinances of God. He says **“...They ask Me for just decisions, they delight in the nearness of God.” (Isaiah 58:2)** But they’re walking in sin. They’re walking in iniquity. Look at chapter 59. You’ll see the same thing. He says in verse 2 **“...Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God...your sins have hidden**

His face from you so that he does not hear.” (Isaiah 59:2) He says in verse 3, **“...Your hands are defiled with blood and your fingers with iniquity....” (Isaiah 59:3)** What have you been doing with your fingers? Where have you been on the Internet? What have you been typing in on these chat rooms? What have you been saying? Oh, you think that you’re alone? You think nobody sees you, but here are your fingers working iniquity. Now obviously they didn’t have that opportunity in those days, but their fingers were doing other things. They were shaping idols. They were getting the food and they were worshiping the idols and they were being immoral. And he goes on to say in verse 12, **“...Our transgressions are multiplied before You [God]...our sins testify against us; for our transgressions are with us, and we know our iniquities: transgressing and denying the LORD and turning away from our God....” (Isaiah 59:12-13)** So they are walking in iniquity. And this is what happens when you forsake God. Now after the book of Isaiah comes the book of Jeremiah. Isaiah is looking forward to the future in the days of Uzziah and Jotham and Ahaz and Hezekiah and talking about a captivity that is to come. The book of Jeremiah is right there in the kings, boom, boom, boom, that are being exiled and take us to the time of the Babylonian captivity. And when we look at that, what we see in Jeremiah chapter 9, verse 3 is God is telling them, “Hey, you didn’t listen. Nothing has changed.” Jeremiah chapter 9 and look at verse 3. And this is what he says, **“They bend their tongue like a bow; lies and not truth prevail in the land....” (Jeremiah 9:3)** Verse 5 **“Everyone deceives his neighbor and does not speak the truth, they have taught their tongue to speak lies....” (Jeremiah 9:5)** And then in Jeremiah chapter 23, verse 28 their prophets are prophesying dreams instead of the word of God. (See Jeremiah 23:28) O Beloved, this is what happens when you prefer a lie to the truth. Think on it and we’ll talk about it more tomorrow.