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

TITLE: Program 21 – A Sign Of Hope

MONDAY

OPEN

Who's in charge of your life? You say, "Man, I am! I've got it all under control." And what if you fall? "Oh, don't worry about it. I can straighten it out. I'm in charge." O Precious One, you are headed for a fall. You are headed for a time when you can not straighten it out. Do you know where the government of your life ought to be? It ought to be on the shoulders of the Son of God. We'll talk about it today.

PART ONE

It seems today, Beloved, that we are bred, that we are raised, to be independent, to really stand on our own. As a matter of fact, what you see is that our parenting skills are greatly lacking. Why? Because we are working on our life and kids are an accessory instead of realizing that they are a gift from God and they are to be brought **"...up in the nurture and the admonition of the Lord."** (Ephesians 6:4, KJV) So we're living in a time when each one of us is doing our own thing, is saying what is right, what is

wrong, even in Christendom, we don't want authority in our lives. All this week, as we look at Isaiah chapter 9, 10, 11 and 12, what we're going to do, is we're going to look at where the government of our lives is. Is the government of our lives, the running of our lives, the rulership of our lives, upon us or is it upon the shoulders of the child that was born of the Son that was given, the prophecy in Isaiah chapter 9, verse 6. What I want us to do is I want us to see what God is doing in Isaiah chapter 9, 10, 11, and 12. Because what we're doing, is we're coming to a conclusion or to a wrap-up of the first segment of Isaiah chapter 7 all the way through Isaiah chapter 39. As a matter of fact, next week we're going to look at Isaiah chapter 13 and it is a change in the book. He's moving to another subject. That subject is going to be Babylon. You don't want to miss it because what we're going to do, is you and I are going to be looking at Babylon, which is present-day Iraq. And you're going to learn some mighty fascinating things that have to do with the future and have to do with Iraq and will enable you to understand the present and what is going on in Iraq. But before we get there, what I want us to do is, I want us to stop and look at three major prophecies that occur in this first segment of Isaiah chapter 7 through Isaiah chapter 39. And that first segment, basically, is a historical segment. We're looking at a period of time from Isaiah 7 to Isaiah chapter 12 where he is talking to Ahaz, who is the king of Judah. And as he talks to him, and we look at Ahaz's response to God, and we see that the government of Ahaz's life is not on God's shoulders (See Isaiah 9:6), rather he is putting it on Assyria's shoulders, we're going to learn things for our own life. Now we've already looked at Isaiah chapter 7 and Isaiah chapter 8. We've already looked at the first eight chapters of Isaiah. But what I want us to do is I want us to see what's happening in this portion because there are three major prophecies in Isaiah 7 through 12 that you and I don't want to miss. Because there are prophecies, in a sense, about a child. They are prophecies about a Son. They are prophecies about a shoot, a branch, and a root. (See Isaiah 11:1) And so,

those prophecies, Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 9, verse 6 and 7, and then Isaiah 11 through Isaiah 12. But just primarily Isaiah chapter 11, verse 1 and then Isaiah 11, verse 10. So as we look at those, we're going to see, okay, we're going to take these truths and see what is God saying to you, and what is He saying to me in this segment of Isaiah? Does He have a message for us or is it only for Israel? Well you're going to see, no, it's not just for Israel, but it is for us. It is for the faithful remnant. (See Isaiah 10:20-22) The faithful remnant of Israel and the faithful remnant of believers. And all true believers will be part of that remnant. (See Romans 9:27) So this is what we're going to look at. And I would like you to open your Bibles to Isaiah chapter 7. And I want to pick up verse 14, first of all, because it's a major prophecy and I want you to see these three prophecies that have to do with this child. I want you to see them in conjunction with one another. And then know and understand, what do they mean for you and for me as we live out our days? In Isaiah chapter 7, remember Ahaz is trembling, ["His heart and the hearts of the people are like the trees being driven by the wind"] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 7:2) Why? Because the king of Aram is camped against Jerusalem, and that's present day Syria, and the king of Samaria, the king of Ephraim, the king of the northern kingdom, however you want to put it, is also camped there with Rezin, the king of Aram. And they are threatening to take Judah. They are threatening to capture Jerusalem. And so God sends His servant, Isaiah along with Isaiah's son, Shear-jashub, to meet Ahaz and to assure him as the house of David, that he is going to send those people home, that they are not going to capture Judah, that they are not going to capture Jerusalem. And all Ahaz has to do is believe. As a matter of fact, in Isaiah chapter 7, verse 9, he says, **"...If you will not believe..."** and you want to remember this, **"...you [will] not last."** (Isaiah 7:9) ["Without faith, we saw it last week, it's impossible to please God."] (PARAPHRASE, Hebrews 11:6) So you've got to get a hold of God's Word, you've got to understand it, you've got to have the knowledge of God, and then you live

out that knowledge of God. You live it out in the practicalities of life. So, Isaiah chapter 7. In the midst of all this, [God turns to Ahaz and He says, “Ask me for a sign.” And he says, “Oh no. I’m not going to test You. I’m not going to ask You for a sign.” And God gets mad at him. And He gets mad at him and He says, “How long will you try the patience of men, and how long will you try my patience?” He says, “I’m going to give you a sign. You didn’t ask for it but I’m going to give you a sign. I’m picking out the sign.”] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 7:10-14) The sign that He picked out is a sign for you and me that the Word of God is true, that it can be relied on, and that you and I can put the government of our lives on the shoulders of God. (See Isaiah 9:6) Now that comes from Isaiah chapter 9, but we’re not there yet. Okay? So let’s go to Isaiah 7:14. **“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign....” (Isaiah 7:14)** Now, as I pointed out, He’s speaking to **“...O house of David...,” (Isaiah 7:13)** and this is very important. It was the house of David that was given the Davidic covenant that promised that as long as the king walked in obedience to God, feared God, kept His commandments, God would keep a descendent of David on the throne forever. (See 2 Samuel 7:8-16) Now, we see Ahaz, a descendent of David, of the house of David, and God is speaking to him. And this is what He says to him. He says, **“...the Lord Himself will give you...,”** plural, **“...a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and [you] will call His name Immanuel.” (Isaiah 7:14)** Now this is what Immanuel means. It means, **“...God [God] with us.” (Matthew 1:23)** In other words, [“I’m going to give you a sign, and the sign is that this virgin, this maiden” and it’s literally a virgin as the way it’s re-translated in Matthew chapter 1, “is going to have a child and that child is not going to be an ordinary child. That child’s name is going to be Immanuel which means ‘God with us.’ ”] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23) And what He’s saying is, [“You can trust me. You can trust me. I am going to give you a child and that child is going to be different than other children because that child is

going to be the Son of God. That child is not going to be born of a sperm of a man. That child is going to be born by the Holy Spirit overshadowing Mary, coming upon Mary, causing her to conceive so that the child that is born in her is God with us; God in the flesh.”] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 7:14) Now, what is God’s message for you and for me in this? Well, this prophecy is given about 734 B.C. So it’s going to be about 730 years before this prophecy is fulfilled. And you can read about it, because we did it last week, you can read about it in Matthew chapter 1. The fulfillment of it is the fact that the Virgin Mary who is engaged to Joseph before she ever knows a man, has a child in her and His name is Immanuel, God with us. God is going to confine Himself to the womb of a woman. I mean, the woman is going to give birth to the Son of God. (See Matthew 1:18-25) And this is the One, Precious One, who is to govern your life, a child, not an ordinary child, but an extraordinary child, the very child of God is the One who is going to have the government of your life on His shoulders. (See Isaiah 9:6) We’ll talk about it in just a minute.

PART TWO

Thank you, Precious One, for studying God’s Word with me. And thank you for supporting this ministry. I tell you, that it is your support that is absolutely essential. And so I thank you for saying, “Hey, I want others to know truth for themselves, to discover truth for themselves.” And that’s what Precepts for Life is all about. It’s discovering truth for yourself. And that’s why we have a free study guide that you can download so that as we go through Isaiah, you’re marking the text and if you’ve gone through chapter 7 with us, you know that one of the things that you have marked is the word “sign.” S-i-g-n. You say, how do I get that study guide? All you have to do is go to “preceptsforlife.com”, and there you can download the study guide. And you can work with us and study God’s Word so that you’re ahead of me, so that I can come along and then you can check out what I

say. Well, as we mark “sign,” we have come to this first major prophecy about Jesus Christ. What is the sign? [The sign is that a child is going to be born and His name, from a virgin, and His name, maiden, in the Hebrew, but a virgin in the Greek, when it’s repeated in Matthew 1, His name is going to be Immanuel.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23) So, if you, if you are going to walk in the light of this prophecy, you have to first of all say, “Okay God, You said it and I believe it. I don’t know how a virgin can conceive. I don’t know how a woman can get pregnant apart from having a relationship with a man. But God, this is what You say and God, this is what I believe. You’re God.” Now remember, God told Ahaz, “**...If you will not believe, you [will] not last.**” (Isaiah 7:9) So what do I need to believe about this prophecy and what do you need to believe? Well first of all, you need to believe that it is a virgin that is conceiving and it is not a child from a human being. If it is, she is giving birth to a sinner. Because the Bible says, “**...by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin...so [then] death passed upon all men, [in] that all have sinned.**” (Romans 5:12 KJV) Jesus had to be born without sin because He was going to die in your place. He was going to be without sin and be made sin for you and me (See 2 Corinthians 5:21) so that He could pay for our sins in full. Now, to do that, you have to understand and believe that Jesus is not an ordinary human being. He is God incarnate. God in “carne,” “carne” means “the flesh.” He is God with us. John chapter 8, and I want you turn there because it is an absolutely crucial passage. In John chapter 8, in verse 24, Jesus is dealing with a group of people that are questioning who He is, who do not want to believe that He is *the* Messiah. Messiah is another word for “the Christ.” And so, He is talking to them and in John chapter 8, in verse 24, this is what He says. He says, “**Therefore I [say] to you that you....**” listen very carefully, “**...will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am...you [shall] die in your sins.**” (John 8:24) Now, it is has added in italics, in the New American Standard Version, “**...I am *He*....**” But what He was doing

was He was using the “ego eimi,” the, the great “I AM” from Exodus chapter 3, verse 14. So you might want to write that down next to this verse. And in Exodus chapter 3, in verse 14, this is what God says to Moses. **“God said to Moses...,”** when Moses asked God, what is your name, He says, **“...‘I am who I am’ ...He said, ‘Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel. I Am... sent me to you.’” (Exodus 3:14)** I Am. That’s the name of God. It’s the high and holy name of God. It is the “ego eimi,” “e-g-o e-i-m-i,” that defines God. And he goes on to say in verse 15, that **“...this is My memorial-name to [every generation].” (Exodus 3:15)** So what is Jesus saying in John chapter 8, verse 24? It’s a verse you want to memorize. It’s a verse that you want to know. It’s a verse that shows that it is imperative for you to believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, the fact that He is God with us, that He is God and man, God in the flesh, if you are going to be saved. So it’s John 8:24. **“... [If you do not] believe that I am...you [shall] die in your sins.” (John 8:24)** So this is the first, the very first of these three major prophecies that we find in chapter 7 through chapter 12 (Isaiah). Alright in this first segment of chapter 7 through 39, you got it? Okay. So what’s happening in chapters 1 through 5? In chapters 1 through 5, we’re seeing the sin of the nation as a whole. So we look at the sin of a nation as a whole. And we see in chapter 5 that they are going to, **“...go into exile...,”** into captivity, **“...for [a] lack of knowledge....” (Isaiah 5:13)** because they are not going to believe God, because they have despised the Holy One of Israel. In chapter 6 of Isaiah, we find Isaiah having a vision of God, seeing the holiness of God, seeing his own sin, confessing his sin, and then, as he confesses his sin, God purges it and tells him, I want, now listen carefully, I want you to go and I want you to speak to these people that are not going to hear, that are not going to understand, that are not going to see, that are not going to believe. And I want you to do that even when the cities are deserted and I want you to know that there is a holy seed, the holy seed. (See Isaiah 6) Now remember this for the next time, remember this all week. The holy

seed is the stump of the tree. In other words, what God is going to do is, God is going to cut down all unbelievers. He is going to deal with these unbelievers. These are people that He chose for Himself. These are people that He has called, so to speak, and they have refused to believe. They have a chance to believe, they have a chance to repent and come back, but they have to understand one thing, that the government of their lives is to be on God's shoulder (See Isaiah 9:6), therefore they need to believe God and [if they don't believe God, they will not last.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 7:9) And yet He tells them in Isaiah chapter 6, **"...the holy seed is [the] stump."** (Isaiah 6:13) Now what does that mean? Well it's awesome because I believe that in essence, it includes you and it includes me and that's what we're going to see as we move into tomorrow's lesson. But what is God telling you today? God is telling you that He prophesied and He sent His Son and His Son is God and you need to believe in Him. And **"...if you [do] not believe, you [will] not last."** (Isaiah 7:9) **"...You will die in your sins."** (John 8:24) You will perish, and He doesn't want that. Believe Him.