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

**TITLE: Program 65 – Marked For Eternity**

**FRIDAY**

**OPEN**

What road have you chosen to walk on? What path have you decided that you are going to take? Do you realize that the Bible talks about a Highway of Holiness; a highway where you can walk, where you can be secure because you are living in a way that is pleasing to God. (See Isaiah 35:8) But there is another way. There's a path—a road that leads to destruction. We'll talk about those roads today.

**PART ONE**

As God brings Isaiah 35 to a close He says, “**A highway will be there, a roadway, and it will be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean will not travel on it, but it will be for him who walks that way, and fools will not wander on it. No lion will be there, nor...any vicious beast go up on it; these will not be found there. But the redeemed will walk there, and the ransomed of the LORD will return and come with joyful shouting to Zion, with everlasting joy upon their heads. They will find gladness and**

**joy, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.” (Isaiah 35:8-10)** Yesterday we talked about Edom and I told you that I was not finished talking about him. We looked at Edom in respect to what he did to his birthright, how he despised the birthright and how, after he got his belly full with “**...that red stuff...**,” that red stew and thus, “**...[Esau] was called Edom.**” (**Genesis 25:30**) How he then was sorry that once his belly was full that he had missed the blessing of the birthright. And it said that he wept. Hebrews 12 tells us this. It says that he wept and he begged but he did not find any place for repentance. (See Hebrews 12:17) It’s so interesting, Precious Ones, as we look at chapter 34 and chapter 35. Because when you look at those two chapters you see God talking to the nations and how He’s going to judge the nations and in particular, Edom. Then you come to chapter 35 and here is Edom over to the east and the Arabah to the west of Eden and you find the judgment of Edom and the blessing of the Arabah, and the fact that through that Arabah, through that southern part, that desert part of the nation of Israel there will be a Highway of Holiness, a Highway of the Holiness for the repentant ones, for those that have been ransomed, for those that will come with joy and rejoicing up to Jerusalem. Well years ago, well really millennia ago, we had Israel coming up out of the land of Egypt, coming over and begging to go through Edom. And the Edomites would not allow them to go. And because they made this decision it affected their destiny. Remember, and let’s go to Genesis chapter 12 because I want you to see it with your own eyes. Remember what God said to Abraham, Genesis chapter 12. This is a very important passage for you to understand because it tells you the fate of nations determined by their attitude towards Israel. So whatever nation you’re living in you can know that God will either bless that nation or judge that nation in respect to their treatment of Israel. In Genesis chapter 12 in verse 2, He’s speaking to Abraham, verse 1 says, “**Now the LORD said to Abram...**,” verse 2, “**And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and [I will] make your name great...so you [will] be a blessing; and**

**I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse....” (Genesis 12:1-3)** Now remember we were looking at Edom and I want us to go back to Isaiah chapter 34. We were writing in the margin of our Bibles the Scripture texts on Edom that are so important. We wrote down Genesis chapter 25, verses 22 through 34. Underneath that in parentheses we put Hebrews chapter 12, verses 15 and 16. Now I want you to write Numbers chapter 20, verses 14 to 21 and I want us to go to Numbers chapter 20 and we want to look at verse 14. It says, **“From Kadesh Moses...sent messengers to the king of Edom....” (Numbers 20:14)** Now they have been in Kadesh or Kadésh, whatever you want to call it, which is up in the Arabah. They want to go into the land of Canaan, but they are going to go up along the King’s Highway and they are going to go up through Edom before they cross over the Jordan and go in and take the land), they’re going to go in in a three-prong attack. All right now, so they’re at Kadesh. They want to move, follow on the map; they want to move now into the land of Canaan, which God promised to Abraham. And it says, **“From Kadesh Moses then sent messengers to the king of Edom...,”** remember we’re marking “Edom”. I would color it red in my Bible. **“...Thus your brother Israel has said...,”** and you mark “your” red. **“...Your brother Israel....”** Now remember they are brothers because they come from the same father Isaac. Isaac gave birth to Jacob and Esau. Jacob’s name was changed to Israel. Israel was made the father of twelve nations—the nation of Israel, twelve tribes; the nation of Israel. He says, **“...You know all the hardship that has befallen us; that our fathers went down to Egypt, and we stayed in Egypt a long time, and the Egyptians treated us and our fathers badly. But when we cried...to the LORD, He [the LORD] heard our voice and sent an angel and brought us out from Egypt; now behold, we are at Kadesh, a town on the edge of your territory. Please let us pass through your land. We will not pass through [the] field or... [the] vineyard; we will not even drink water from a well. We will go**

**along the king's highway, not turning to the right or [turning to the] left, until we pass...your territory.” (Numbers 20:14-17)** All we're asking is, for permission to walk on the king's highway. We won't take any water. We won't do anything. **“Edom, however, said to him, ‘You shall not pass through [it], or I will come out with [a] sword against you.’ Again, the sons of Israel said..., ‘We will go up by the highway...I and my livestock...,’ to, do not drink any of your water, “...and if [any of] my livestock do drink any of your water, then I will pay its price. [Only] let me pass through on my feet, nothing else.’ But he...,” Edom, color it red, “...said, ‘You shall not pass through.’ And Edom came out...with a heavy force [against his brother] ....”** And this is what it says. **“...Against him with a...strong hand. Thus Edom refused to allow Israel to pass through [the] territory; so Israel turned away from [them].” (Numbers 20:18-21)** That animosity continues. And because of that they are going to experience the judgment of God. And that is what God is showing us in chapter 34 of Isaiah. The nations are going to be judged for their treatment of Israel and especially Edom because Edom was a brother. Edom was so close. Now write down Jeremiah chapter 49, verse 16 and go to Jeremiah chapter 49. And when you get there there are a number of scriptures that have to do with Edom. But when you come to Jeremiah chapter 49 this is what he says. He says in verse 16, **“As for the terror of you, the arrogance of your heart has deceived you....”** He says, **“...You who live in the clefts of the rock, who occupy the height of the hill. Though you make your nest as high as [the] eagle's, I will bring you down from there,’ declares the Lord.” (Jeremiah 49:16)** Now why is God against Esau? Why is He against them? Well He is against them because they have not treated Israel properly, and you need to read from verse 7 of that chapter all the down through verse 22 where he says that God is going to mount up against Edom. Now from there I want you to go to Obadiah. Obadiah is a prophet that is one chapter in length and it all has to do with the nation of

Edom, so it is a word against Edom. And you will find Obadiah right after the book of Amos, okay? Now it's the vision of Obadiah. Listen to what he says. **“The vision of Obadiah. Thus says the Lord...concerning Edom....” (Obadiah 1:1)** And you'd want to read the whole thing and mark every reference. But we're just going to go to verse 10. It says, **“Because of [the] violence to your brother Jacob, you will be covered with shame, and you will be cut off forever.” (Obadiah 1:10)** Now remember Jacob is Israel. And he says, **“On the day that you stood aloof, on the day that strangers carried off his wealth, and foreigners entered his gate and cast lots for Jerusalem—you too were...one of them. Do not gloat over your brother's day, the day of his misfortune. And do not rejoice over the sons of Judah in the day of their destruction....”** They watched as the nations took advantage of Israel and they stood there and they gloated. And what does he say? He says, “The day of your,” “[Don't] **gloat over your brother's day, the day of...misfortune. And do not rejoice over the sons of Judah in the day of their destruction....**” (Obadiah 1:11-12) Why? God is going to judge you for it. We'll look at it more in just a minute.

## **PART TWO**

You look at the Hitlers of history. You look at the Lenins. You look at those that came against Israel or that did not keep their promises to Israel. Have those countries ever been what they once were? God judges us according to our treatment of Israel. And as we look at the times in which we live, as we look at the conflict among nations, as we look at the vehemence, the hatred towards Israel, as we look at the anti-Semitism, you've got to remember, Precious One, that there is a God in heaven and He has a day of vengeance. He has a day of reckoning for the destroyer. He knows that they are not going to get away with their treatment of Israel. So as we come now in Isaiah chapter 34 and chapter 35 we find God speaking of the day of vengeance that He is going to take on the enemies of Israel. We have looked

specifically at Edom. And I left you in Obadiah before the break, and I want to go back to Obadiah and I want you to see what God does. God takes us from the days of Obadiah all the way to the day of the Lord. To that time that proceeds—that comes—that last three and one half years before the coming of the King, before the day that they see the King ruling in Zion. And this is what he says in Obadiah, verse 15, **“For the day of the LORD draws near on [to] all the nations. As you have done, it will be done to you....”** And He’s speaking remember to Edom. **“...Your [dealing] will return on your own head. Because...you drank on My holy mountain, all the nations will drink continually. They will drink and swallow and become as if they...never existed.”** (Obadiah 1:15-16) **“Then the house of Jacob will be a fire and the house of Joseph a flame; but the house of Esau will be as stubble....”** In other words, they’re going to burn. **“...And they will set them on fire and consume them, so that there will be no survivor [left for] the house of Esau....,”** why? **“...For the LORD has spoken.”** It says, **“Then those of the Negev will possess the mountain of Esau....”** (Obadiah 1:18-19) So those of the Negev are the Jews who will go over and possess the mountains of Esau. And verse 21 is the closing verse and this is what it says, **“[And] the deliverers will ascend Mount Zion to judge the mountain of Esau, and the kingdom will be the LORD’S.”** (Obadiah 1:21) Now what do we know when we go to Ezekiel chapter 35, and that’s the next passage that you need to write down in Isaiah. Go to Ezekiel chapter 35 and the whole chapter of Ezekiel, has to do with Edom. It’s called Mount Seir because that’s where the mountain is. And He says, **“...[My hand is] against you, Mount Seir...I will...make you....,”** and I’m in the end of verse 3, **“...a desolation and a waste. I will lay waste your cities and you will become a desolation. Then you will know that I am the LORD.”** (Ezekiel 35:3-4) Sometimes, Beloved, it takes God’s rod of judgment to wake us up and let us know that He is the Lord. The problem is, Esau would not wake up. The problem is, Edom would not respond. The

problem is that Edom just increased their animosity against Israel. Now watch and you're going to get insight into the future. It says in verse 5, **"Because you have had everlasting enmity and have delivered the sons of Israel to the power of the sword at the time of their calamity....,"** now listen, **"...at the time of the punishment of the end."** (Ezekiel 35:5) God is going to punish Israel just before Jesus comes; just before He comes as King to rule over all the earth, He is going to punish Israel. He has said it all the way through Isaiah. But when their punishment is finished, there is a remnant left that He is going to bless. But as He punishes Israel you find the descendants of Esau in the land of Jordan coming against Israel and enjoying their calamity. He says, **"...You...have delivered the sons of Israel to the power of the sword at the time of their calamity...."** In other words, this was your brother and you did not come to his protection. You did not respond the way that you were supposed to respond. **"Therefore as I live,' declares the Lord..., 'I will give you over to bloodshed, and bloodshed will pursue you...."** (Ezekiel 35:5-6) He goes on to say, **"...You....,"** in the last verse, **"...will be a desolation, O Mount Seir, and all Edom, all of it [will be a desolation] ...."** (Ezekiel 35:15) That's what we read. Now let's go back to Isaiah because in Isaiah chapter 34 we have the desolation of Edom. But then in chapter 35 it says, **"[And] the wilderness and the desert will be glad, and the Arabah will rejoice and blossom; like the crocus."** (Isaiah 35:1) Over here in Edom you have desolation. You have destruction. You have no man left there. But now the Arabah that was once a desert is going to blossom. **"It will blossom profusely and rejoice with rejoicing and shouts of joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They will see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God."** (Isaiah 35:2) Once Sharon was brought low, once Lebanon was brought low, but now they are going to see the glory of the Lord. And so he says, **"Encourage the exhausted...strengthen the feeble. Say to those [of] anxious heart...."** Remember we have seen all week that the

Lord is the stability of our times. **“Say to those with anxious heart, ‘Take courage, fear not. Behold, your God will come with vengeance; the recompense of God will come, but He will save you.’” (Isaiah 35:3-4)** God is coming to judge but He will save the faithful. He will save the remnant. It says, **“Then the eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will shout for joy. For waters will break forth in the wilderness and streams in the Arabah. The scorched land will become a pool...the thirsty ground springs of water...the haunt of jackals, its resting place, grass becomes reeds and rushes. A highway will be there, a roadway, and it will be called the Highway of Holiness....”** Who walks on it? Those that believe God. Those that treat Israel and stand beside Israel in the right way. **“... [But] the unclean will not travel on it...it will be for him who walks that way, and fools will not wander on it. No lion will be there, nor...any vicious beast [will] go up on it; these will not be found there. But the redeemed will walk there...,”** those that have been redeemed from their sins, those that have been repentant, those that have returned to the Lord. **“And the ransomed of the LORD will return and come with joyful shouting to Zion, with everlasting joy upon their heads. They will find gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.” (Isaiah 35:5-10)** The Lord is the stability of our times and the fear of the Lord, Precious One, is your treasure. Continue to fear Him. Continue to trust Him. Continue to cling to Him and Precious One, as you do, know this: That He will make you a people for praise and renown and honor and glory at the appearing of the Lord. (See 1 Peter 1:7, KJV) There is a Highway of Holiness. There’s a highway that leads to destruction. Choose the Highway of Holiness.