

ISAIAH, PART 1 (JUDGMENT – BUT HOPE)
PROGRAM 34 (#911079)
WEEK 7 (#911316)
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SERIES: Isaiah, Part 1 (Judgment – But Hope)

TITLE: Program 34 – God Opposes The Proud

THURSDAY

OPEN

What is the deadliest of all sins? Is it immorality? Is it lying? Is it cheating? Is it stealing? No, it really is pride because the root of all sin is, me thinking I can walk my own way and get away with it. It's me thinking I, who was created by God, is "I'm not answerable to God." O, Beloved it was the pride of Moab that brought them down. Don't let it be your downfall.

PART ONE

I have so much, Beloved, that I want to teach you from these chapters in Isaiah, and I think oh my goodness, how the time flies. You read these chapters on your own. You begin to mark the text to study it. I assume you've downloaded your free study guide. And as you do, you think, you know, "What is this about?" But the deeper you go the more you understand. And when you come to passages like Isaiah chapter 16, where he tells us the cause of the fall of Moab, you think, okay God, I've got it. I see what You're saying, and I'm going to learn a lesson from You. So let's learn a lesson.

Look at Isaiah chapter 16, and listen to what he says in verse 6. Now remember there's been weeping and wailing in Moab. The enemy is coming and driving them from town to town. Refugees are fleeing. The water is filled with blood. And you have seen that in many cases of battle and the conquests of cities. And you see bodies just floating in the water. You see it in a lot of World War II pictures. Well why is all this happening? He's saying, ["Listen, bring a tribute lamb, O daughters of Moab, come to Zion."] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 16:1) And it talks about Zion where, **"A throne will...be established in lovingkindness...a judge will sit on [the throne] in faithfulness in the tent of David...."** (Isaiah 16:5) In other words, God said that David would have an heir that would sit on the throne forever, if God said it is going to happen. **"...Moreover, he....,"** this one that sits on the throne, **"...will seek justice [He will] be prompt in righteousness."** (Isaiah 16:5) And then the subject changes, it says, **"We have heard of the pride of Moab, an excessive pride; even of his arrogance, pride, and fury; his idle boasts are false. Therefore Moab will wail; everyone of Moab will 'wail'...."** (Isaiah 16:6-7) Now remember we're marking those with blue tears so that we can see how many times it's used. This ought to take you back to last week. It ought to take you back to where God is bringing this lament against the king of Babylon. And He says to the king of Babylon, **"...you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God...I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north, I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'"** (Isaiah 14:13-14) In other words, I'll be my own god. That's the lie that was given to Adam and Eve by the serpent in the Garden of Eden. [God knows the day that you eat of the fruit of that tree. You shall be like God.] (PARAPHRASE, Genesis 3:5) And so in the sin of pride, they take the fruit. Eve takes it, she gives it to Adam. They eat and they die. They're separated from God. And they're going to die when they could have lived forever. They're going to

experience sorrow when they could've had joy, all because they didn't listen to God, all because of that pride. He says, **“Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit.” (Isaiah 14:15)** In other words, you will be brought low. And this is what is happening to Moab. They are being brought low. He says, **“...You will moan for the raisin cakes of Kir-hareseth....” (Isaiah 16:7)** Kir means “city,” the city of Hareseth. It is 12 miles east of the Dead Sea, they believe. And it says, [For all those who are utterly stricken, you're going to be wailing.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 16:7) Says, **“For the fields of Heshbon have withered, the vines of Sibmah as well; the lords of the nations have trampled down its choice clusters....” (Isaiah 16:8)** In other words, they have attacked Jordan. **“...Which reached as far as Jazer and wandered to the deserts; its tendrils spread themselves out and passed over the sea.”** He says, **“Therefore I will weep bitterly....” (Isaiah 16:8-9)** I? I? I, God. God has sorrow, a righteous God experiences sorrow over this needless sorrow of man. If we would not be full of pride, if we would submit, if we would not think “Oh, I can reason. I can look at the Word of God, accept what I want to accept, reject what I want to reject. I can sit in judgment on the Word of God. It's not what it says. There's no absolutes, it's just the way I feel.” That is a lie from the pit of hell, and God is saying, “Oh no, Precious One, you can't do that and get away with it.” He goes on to say, **“...I will drench you with my tears, O Heshbon and Elealeh; for the shouting over your summer fruits and your harvest have fallen away.”** There's no harvest now, **“Gladness and joy are taken from the fruitful field; in the vineyards...there will be no cries of joy or of jubilant shouting, [as the] treader treads out the wine in the [press]....” (Isaiah 16:9-10)** In the harvest when they would bring in the grapes and they would put it in the winepress, and they would stand in that winepress, many times holding a rope and trampling it down, they would be singing with joy. They would be taking the wine, the fresh wine, and they would be drinking it. And there

would be a joyous celebration. Why? Because the harvest has come in, and the wine and the food have made us glad. But that's not the case for Moab. It's not going to be gladness. It is going to be sorrow. It is going to be weeping and wailing. And it grieves the heart of God because it's unnecessary. He says, **"Therefore my heart [h-e-a-r-t, intones like] a harp [h-a-r-p] for Moab and my inward feelings for Kir-hareseth. So it will come...when Moab presents himself, when he wearies himself [on] his high place...."** (Isaiah 16:11-12) He will not come to God. He is going in the opposite direction. He goes to his high place instead of going to Zion. Now look, go back to Isaiah 16. It says, **"Send the tribute lamb....,"** verse 1, **"...to the ruler of the land, from Sela by [the] way of the wilderness to the mountain of the daughter of Zion."** (Isaiah 16:1) In other words, go get across that river, go up to Jerusalem, go to the daughter of Zion, there you will find refuge. But they say "No," Moab says "No." Now listen, Moab is a descendant of Lot. It's the two boys that Lot had by his two daughters after Sodom and Gomorrah was destroyed, and they were afraid no one was left. And they wanted to carry on the name of their father, so they had two sons Ammon and Moab. (See Genesis 19:30-38) These form Jordan. Oh, you say, that was years ago, that was centuries ago, that was millenniums ago. You're right. But what is God saying? God is telling us the future. God is showing us what happens when we, in excessive pride, in our fury, rebel against God. And so he says, **"So it will come...when Moab presents himself, when he wearies himself [from] his high place and comes to [the] sanctuary to pray, that he will not prevail."** (Isaiah 16:12) Now what does that mean? Well I want us to look at modern history because it's my goal as we look at these oracles to the nations to see, okay, who are these nations? What are these nations like? And so, I want you to understand. And let me give you a little bit of history on Jordan, OK? Then we've talked about the Philistines that are going to make up the PLO, and we will blend that together. The Ottoman Empire ruled over what they called Palestine, the

land of Israel. The word “Palestine” is not in the Bible. It’s never referred to as the land of Palestine. It was the land of Canaan or Canaan. It was the land of Israel. It was the land of Jacob. It was the land of Ephraim, the land of Judah. The land of God’s chosen people, a people that He chose out of all the peoples on the earth in order to take those people, and to bring to them the commandments and the promises and the covenants and the Savior of the world for sinners. So until World War I, the Ottoman Empire ruled over the land, and I hate to even say it, but the land of Palestine. But with World War I things changed. World War I is very significant. We usually don’t pay attention to it, but what happened was, the Ottomans (or the Turks) united with Germany. And when they united with Germany, then eventually they were driven from that area of Palestine by the United Kingdom, by the British people. And their empire dissolved. Now when that happened, Great Britain took control of most of the Middle East at the end of World War I. So they took control of Palestine, and they took control of what is modern-day Jordan, only it was not called Jordan at that time. Allenby, who was a British field marshal, came into Jerusalem. And on December the 9th, in 1917, he pronounced Jerusalem as the capital of the country. He did what God had done a long time ago. Jerusalem was the capital. Jerusalem was where God put His name. Jerusalem is His Zion, and this is what he did. But after that, listen, all hell was about to break loose because of the pride of man. We’ll talk about it in just a minute.

PART TWO

I am so excited about what you’re learning. And I’m excited because it is so good for us to know truth, for us to get the facts down, and then to take truth and take modern history and weave it into the Word of God so that we understand what’s going on. Well we’re looking now at the history of Jordan. It is World War I. It has come to an end. The Ottoman Empire has been removed from rule in the land of Palestine, the land of Canaan, the land

of Israel. General Allenby has come in, the British field marshal. He has declared on December 9th, 1917, that Jerusalem is the capital of that area. Now in 1916, there was a Sykes-Picot, however you pronounce it, Agreement that made Palestine an international zone. But in 1917 what happened was with Allenby, they made what they call the Balfour Declaration. The Balfour Declaration promised that they would establish within that land of Palestine, a national home for the Jews. I mean, you have the Holocaust, you have all these people, they would come to the shores of different countries, even the United States, and we turned them away, and we sent them to the oven. That's awful, absolutely awful! So they wanted their own land. A place in Africa was offered them, they didn't take it. Why? Because this is the land that God ordained. This is where God has put His name. This is Zion that He has established. So they come. Now what happens? In the 1920's, in the division of this land, what they did was they made Transjordan a separate entity. They portioned it off. And in 1946, Transjordan across the Jordan, they gained their independence from the British people. Now we're talking about the area of Moab and Ammon. So just remember that we're putting all this in context. In May 1948, the Jews proclaimed an independent state of Israel. The British moved out and the Jews said, "Okay, this is our state." Well, the next day Israel was attacked by Iraq. They were attacked by Lebanon. They were attacked by Syria, and they were attacked by Jordan and Egypt. So here is this little land. They're attacked from the north. They're attacked from the east, and they are attacked from the south. It was a very, very bloody battle. When the cease-fire was signed in 1949, Jerusalem was divided. The city was divided. Jordan held the old city because, remember now they're a country, okay? In 1950, Jordan, Transjordan's, name was changed to Jordan. And that's the name that we have now. In 1953, King Hussein gained the throne with British support. And so they are a country, they're holding the old city, so that when you go to Jerusalem, you would find a zone where no Jew could

pass beyond into their sacred, holy city that had been captured by David, that had the temple built there and became the city of David, and became the place where they went to worship, where God had founded Zion. They were not allowed to go. That was until 1967. Now let's stop there for a minute, and let's bring in the Philistines. Let's bring in, remember we started this week looking at God's oracle regarding Philistia. So let's go back to these people that are living in the, what we know as the Gaza Strip. In 1964, the PLO is established. It's founded by the Arab League with the formal goal to annihilate the state of Israel, through an armed struggle. So what you have is, you have Jordan possessing part of the old city, the most sacred part. You have a people that are Arab in nature. You have the Dome of the Rock up there. You have the Al-Aqsa Mosque. You have at that same time, the PLO that are saying, "We are going to drive the Jews into the sea." Then in 1967, there is a Six-Day War. And during that Six-Day War, Jerusalem is taken and reunited, listen, for the first time since the Bar Kokhba revolt, 1800 years before. The city, you remember the pictures, you remember the young man kissing the wall. It is a momentous moment. It is not a war that was planned by Israel. Instead, they are attacked on all these quarters, and yet they survive the war. And you're going to hear more about it later. So they survive the war. And we have Jerusalem reunited, and we have it under the domain of Israel. And although they could have claimed the Temple Mount area and gotten rid of the Mosque, and gotten rid of the Dome, they did not do it. And then in 1993 what you have is, you have Arafat coming up with a two-state solution. He says, "I'll recognize Israel." And Rabin says, "OK, we'll recognize the PLO." And then in 1994, the Palestinian Authority is created to administer Gaza and the West Bank. And then we go back and what we have is in 1994, we have Israel and Jordan signing a peace treaty. What is going on over there? Well, there is peace now, but there is a fence between those two lands. And if you'd ever go to Israel, and we would love to have you go if you want to study the Bible; because it's a Bible study

tour, you'll never be the same. But as you go along that border, and see that Jordan River, you look over and you see, there are the sons of Moab, there are the sons of Ammon. And they are going to be demolished because of their excessive pride and fury. God is going to deal with them. God has an oracle for Moab. And you know what? God has an oracle for you. And that oracle for you, Beloved, is listen, "Don't be full of pride. Pride will bring weeping. You don't have to suffer like that if you will simply bow the knee and submit to God. And the other thing that I want you to understand is the heart of God. When God has to chasten people, when God has to judge them, it breaks His heart. I think about what He says in Ezekiel, "O how you've broken My heart by your adulterous ways." Our sin breaks God's heart, because of our sin. So what does God want you to do? He wants you to live righteously. He wants you to remember that, **"A throne [is going to] be established in lovingkindness, [that] a judge [is going to] sit in faithfulness in the tent of David; [that] he [is going to] seek justice and [he is going to] be prompt in righteousness."** (Isaiah 16:5) And when His kingdom comes then every nation will be brought to judgment if they do not believe Him. Oh, believe Him, Beloved.