

ISAIAH, PART 1 (JUDGMENT – BUT HOPE)
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WEEK 5 (#911314)
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SERIES: Isaiah, Part 1 (Judgment – But Hope)

TITLE: Program 24 – An Outstretched Hand

THURSDAY

OPEN

When you see the injustice of people towards others, when you see them demeaning them, cheating them, and, and coming against them and lying against them and trying to get them in trouble or just trampling on them and using them for their own elevation, does it make you angry? It should because you know what? It makes God angry. You say, “What’s going to happen to them?” Well I’ve got good news for you today. We’ll talk about it.

PART ONE

It makes me angry. It is not right, and they don’t need to get away with it because it’s not right. You are right! They don’t need to get away with it if it’s not right. And you know what? Because there is a God in heaven, they won’t get away with it. They won’t. God tells us in Isaiah chapter 9 from verse 8 all the way through chapter 10 verse 4, [His anger is not spent and His arm is still stretched out.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 9:21) And so when

we come to chapter 10, we come to God's statement that says, **"Woe to [them]...."** (Isaiah 10:1) Now I left you in chapter 9 in verse 18 where He's talking about wickedness burning like a fire. And he says, **"By the fury of the LORD of hosts....,"** verse 19, **"...the land is burned up, and the people are like fuel for the fire; No [one] spares his brother."** (Isaiah 9:19) In other words, what he's saying is, brother turns against brother. Now watch how he describes this. He says, **"They slice off [what's] on the right hand but [they] still are hungry...."** (Isaiah 9:20) They're slicing it off and they're eating. In other words, they're cannibalizing their own flesh. It says, **"...and they eat [what's] on the left [arm and they're eating] but [they're still] not satisfied; each of them eats the flesh of his own arm."** (Isaiah 9:20) Now he's not talking about literally eating your own body, but he's talking about Israel as a body, Israel as a people. And so he goes to say, **"Manasseh devours Ephraim, and Ephraim Manasseh....,"** (Isaiah 9:21) Manasseh and Ephraim were the two sons of Joseph. (See Genesis 41:50-52)) And here they are brothers devouring one another. It says, **"...And together they are against Judah...."** (Isaiah 9:21) And Judah is one of the sons of Jacob, one of the sons of Israel. And it says, **"...In spite of all this, His anger does not turn away and His hand is still stretched out. Woe to those who enact evil statutes...."** (Isaiah 9:21-10:1) Now listen, if you're doing evil, if you're passing evil laws, if you're passing like sometimes it happens in Congress or in the Senate. And they get a law, and they name that law so it deludes the people. And the conservatives, so to speak, think—or one group thinks that they're getting what they want by the name of the law. Then they come along, and they attach all these amendments that are really to do people in. So it says, **"Woe to those who enact evil statutes....,"** God is gonna get them some day. **"...And to those who constantly record unjust decisions, so as to deprive the needy of justice and rob the poor of My people of their rights, so that widows may be their spoil and that they may plunder the orphans."** (Isaiah 10:1-2) He

says, [Now what are you going to do in the day of punishment, 'cause it's coming. You can't do that and get away with it because there is a God in heaven.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 10:3) It says, **“Now what will you do in the day of punishment, and in the devastation which will come from afar? To whom will you flee for help? And where will you leave your wealth? Nothing remains but to crouch among the captives....”** (Isaiah 10:3-4) You're gonna go out with those captives, and you're gonna hide yourself to protect yourself. He says, **“...Or fall among the slain....”** (Isaiah 10:4) In other words, you are going to be judged. And it says, **“...In spite of all this, His anger does not turn away and His hand is still stretched out.”** (Isaiah 10:4) Now God said that this was going to happen in Isaiah chapter 5. It says, **“...they have rejected....,”** at the end of verse 24, **“...the law of the LORD of hosts and [they have] despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. On this account the anger of the LORD has burned against His people, and He has stretched out His hand against them and [He has] struck them down. And the mountains quaked, and their corpses lay like refuse in the middle of the streets. For all this His anger is not spent, but His hand is still stretched out.”** (Isaiah 5:24-25) So you see that phrase much earlier. Now we come to the next segment. He's talked about how God is going to deal with His people because of their unrighteousness, because they will not believe Him and obey Him. And now he turns in verse 5, **“Woe to Assyria, the rod of My anger....”** (Isaiah 10:5) [I'm using Assyria to judge the northern kingdom and woe to them though, because even though they're the rod of My anger and the staff at whose hands is My indignation.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 10:5) So it's not only woe to the children that are being afflicted, but woe to the afflicter. Although God has chosen Assyria as the rod of His affliction, he says, **“I send it against a godless nation....”** (Isaiah 10:6) “It” what? “It” Assyria. So you want to go through, if you haven't done this, and mark every reference to “Assyria.” That's what I've done all the way through the book

of Isaiah. I color Assyria orange. That's my color for them. He says, **"I send it against a godless nation and [I] commission it against the people of My fury to capture booty...to seize plunder, and to trample them down like mud in the streets. Yet it does not so intend...."** (Isaiah 10:6-7) "It" what? Assyria, this is what I want them to do, but it intends to do more. **"...Nor does it plan so in its heart, but rather it is its purpose to destroy...."** (Isaiah 10:7) I want to use Assyria as a rod of affliction, but not destruction. [But Assyria in its heart is determined that it is going to destroy.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 10:7) It says, **"...to cut off many nations. For it [Assyria] says, 'Are not my princes all kings? Is not Calno like Carchemish, or Hamath like Arpad, Or Samaria like Damascus?'"** (Isaiah 10:7-9) Look at what I did to Damascus. Look at what I did to Arpad. Look at what I did to Carchemish. I can do the same to these people. He says, **"As my hand has reached to the kingdoms of...idols..."** this is Assyria speaking, **"...whose graven images were greater than those of Jerusalem and Samaria."** (Isaiah 10:10) In other words, Jerusalem and Samaria had false gods there. He just thought that they were their gods. Assyria says, **"Shall I not do to Jerusalem and her images just [like I've] done to Samaria and her idols?"** (Isaiah 10:11) Now Samaria had lots of idols. He said, [I wiped out Samaria, I'm gonna come against Jerusalem.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 10:11) And then it says, **"So it will be that when the Lord has completed all His work on Mount Zion and on Jerusalem..."** when His anger is spent in other words, **"...He will say, 'I will punish the fruit of the arrogant heart of the king of Assyria and the pomp of his haughtiness.'" (Isaiah 10:12)** This is the way Assyria is, I'll do what I want to do. I'm not gonna just chasten them, I'm gonna destroy them. And He says, when I'm finished with him, I'm going to destroy him. **"For he, [Assyria] has said, 'By the power of my hand and by my wisdom I did this, for I have understanding; [I've] removed the boundaries of the [people] and [I've] plundered their treasures, and like**

a mighty man I brought down their inhabitants...my hand reached to the riches of the peoples like a nest...as one gathers abandoned eggs, I gathered all the earth...,” braggart? “...and there was not one that flapped its [wings] or opened its beak [and] chirped.” (Isaiah 10:13-14) And then God says, “[Now wait a minute] is the axe to boast...over the one who chops with it?” (Isaiah 10:15) In other words, you pick up an axe, you go to chop, and is the axe to look at the chopper and say, “Hey, I’ll do this myself.” No! He wants Assyria to see, you’re nothing but an axe in My hands. “...Is the saw to exalt...over the one who wields it? That it would be like a club wielding those [that] lift it...?” (Isaiah 10:15) You lift up the saw, is the saw going to govern those that lift it up? He says, “...or like a rod lifting him who is not wood. Therefore, the Lord, the GOD of hosts, will send a wasting disease among his stout warriors....” (Isaiah 10:15-16) In other words, He’s gonna give them a disease. He’s going to afflict those Assyrian warriors. “...And under his glory a fire will be kindled like a burning flame. And the light of Israel will become a fire and his Holy One a flame, and it will burn and devour his thorns....” (Isaiah 10:16-17) Whose thorns? Assyria’s thorns, this is why, Beloved, when you read, you’ve got to make sure you know who the pronouns belong to. And that’s why you color code. And it says, “...And it will burn and devour his thorns [Assyria’s thorns] and his briars in a single day...He will destroy the glory of his forest....” (Isaiah 10:17-18) He, God will destroy the glory of Assyria’s forest. “...And of his fruitful garden, both soul and body....” It says, “And the rest of the trees of his forest will be so small in number that a child could write them down.” (Isaiah 10:18-19) In other words, what is he saying? Now remember, we’re looking at the three prophecies. The prophecy of Isaiah 7:14, of a child being born who is Immanuel, God with us, to show us that we are to believe because if we do not believe in him, we will not last. We’re looking at Isaiah 9:6, “...unto us a child is born...a son is given: and the government shall be upon his

[shoulders]....” (**Isaiah 9:6, KJV**) And we’re looking all week at the fact that the government of our lives is to be upon His shoulders. Well, Jacob has refused that, Samaria has refused that, Assyria has refused that. They’ve walked in pride. They’ve walked in arrogance, but there is a remnant. And this is what it says, **“Now in that day the remnant of Israel [those that survive, those that are left,] those of the house of Jacob who have escaped, will never again rely on the one who struck them....”** (**Isaiah 10:20**) Oh, what does he mean? We’ll talk about it in just a minute. And you need to know what it says because it pertains to you.

PART TWO

I’m sure that you know Christians, or you know people that profess to be Christians and yet they are as mean as snakes. They are crooked. You cannot trust them. They lie. They manipulate. They scheme. And they sit in church and fold their pious little hands and sing the songs. And you think, “My goodness, what hypocrites!” They are lost people that bear the name of Christ. And yet don’t look at them and decide what Christianity is like because in every group, God has a remnant, a remnant of faithful people. And so as God talks to Jacob, and as God tells how His anger is not spent on Jacob yet, and His hand is still stretched out, as He talks about the same thing about Assyria because Assyria has become arrogant, there is a group of faithful people. And for the first time in Isaiah, now we come to where they are actually called “the remnant.” Now remember in Isaiah 7, when Isaiah goes to meet Ahaz at the conduit of the upper pool, he takes with him his son. (See Isaiah 7:3) His son’s name is Shear-jashub. And Shear-jashub means “a remnant will return.” Remember in Isaiah 6 when [Isaiah is told by the Lord to go. And he says “How long?” And He says, “Until there’s nobody around, but know this, there’s a holy seed. The holy seed is the stump. That’s the remnant.”] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 6:9-13) And this is what we’re looking at here. He says, **“Now in that day...,”** in verse 20 of

Isaiah 10. **“...the remnant of Israel, and those of the house of Jacob who have escaped, [have escaped this judgment of Assyria] will never again rely...,”** now watch carefully, **“...on the one who struck them....”** (Isaiah 10:20) Who’s the one who struck them? Assyria, remember Ahaz could have believed the sign that God gave him in Isaiah 7:14 about a virgin, but Ahaz did not believe it. Ahaz walked away. He would not believe, and he was not going to last. But he turned to the Assyrians. They were relying on the Assyrians. And remember in chapter 2, verse 22 God says, **“Stop regarding man, whose breath...is in his nostrils....”** (Isaiah 2:22) Don’t look to man, look to God. So these people at first relied on Assyria, and then they got struck by Assyria and they learned their lesson. Have you learned your lesson? Have you turned away and thought you could get away with sin and you found out you couldn’t? You know what God is doing? [He loves you, and He’s chastening every son whom He receives. If you’re without chastisement, you’re an illegitimate child. No chastisement seems good for the present time, but to those that are exercised by it, those that learn by it, and I’m quoting out of Hebrews 12, those that learn by it then, turn to godliness.] (PARAPHRASE, Hebrews 12:6-11) Those that learn by it become what God intended for them to become. So it says, **“A remnant will return...,”** verse 21, **“...the remnant of Jacob, to the mighty God.”** (Isaiah 10:21) Now remember Isaiah 9:6, **“...unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his [shoulders] and his name shall be called...,”** what? **“...Wonderful, Counselor...mighty God....”** (Isaiah 9:6, KJV) Mighty God, so here it’s saying, **“[They] will return...to the mighty God. For though your people, O Israel, may be [as] the sand of the sea....”** That’s a lot of people. He says, **“...only [the] remnant within them will return; a destruction is determined, overflowing with righteousness.”** (Isaiah 10:21-22) He says a righteous God is not going to let people get away with sin. And so if they won’t learn from their chastisement, then they are a godless person. And they are going

to miss what they could've had with God because they wanted to walk their own way. But there is a remnant. Now watch what he goes on to say, verse 22, **"...a destruction is determined, overflowing with righteousness."** (Isaiah 10:22) God's going to deal with them. God's going to destroy. And it is overflowing with righteousness. It is right for God to do that. **"For a complete destruction, one that is decreed, the Lord GOD of hosts will execute in the midst of the whole land. Therefore..."** Mark the **"therefore"** three dots and a triangle, red dots. **"...says the Lord...of hosts, 'O My people who dwell in Zion, do not fear the Assyrian who strikes you with the rod and lifts up his staff against you, the way Egypt did. For in a very little while My indignation against you will be spent and My anger will be directed to their destruction.'" (Isaiah 10:23-25)** "My anger" it says. His anger does not turn away, but now, He says, "In a little while My anger's spent. It's gone. I've vented it all." And He says, "And then I am going to devote Myself to the destruction of Assyria." **"The LORD of hosts will arouse a scourge against him..." (Isaiah 10:26)** Against "Assyria," you want to color it orange if that's the color you're using for Assyria. **"...like the slaughter of Midian at the rock of Oreb; and His staff will be over the sea and He will lift it the way He did in Egypt. So it will be in that day, that his burden..."** now watch, this is so beautiful. **"...his burden [Assyria's burden] will be removed..."** Now watch. He says, **"[Assyria's burden will be removed] from your shoulders and his yoke from your neck, and the yoke will be broken because of fatness." (Isaiah 10:26-27)** See you can either have the burden of the world on you, the burden of the enemies of God, the chastening hand of God, or you can put the government of your life on His shoulders. And that's the whole point of this week is, you don't turn to the arm of flesh; you turn to God. So he goes on to say, **"He has come against Aiath, He [and speaking of Assyria, he] has passed through Migron; at Michmash he deposited his baggage. They have gone through the pass, saying 'Geba will be our**

lodging place.’ Ramah is terrified, and Gibeah of Saul has fled away. Cry aloud with your voice...,” he says, “...O daughter of Gallim! Pay attention, Laishah and wretched Anathoth!” He says, “Madmenah has fled. The inhabitants of Gebim have sought refuge...today he will halt at Nob; He shakes his fist at the mountain of the daughter of Zion, the hill of [Israel].” (Isaiah 10:28-32) Assyria is going to come right up to Jerusalem (and you’re gonna see it later), and he’s gonna shake his fist, and he’s gonna threaten Jerusalem. But God is on His throne. And the government of our lives is to be on His shoulders. And we are not to fear man because God’s anger will turn against Assyria and Assyria will halt. And he goes on to say, **“Behold, the Lord, the GOD of hosts, will lop off the boughs with a terrible crash; [and] those also who are tall in stature will be cut down and those who are lofty will be abased. He will cut down the thickets of the forest with an iron axe, and Lebanon will fall [like] by the Mighty One. Then a shoot will spring forth from the stem of Jesse....” (Isaiah 10:33-11:1)** He has moved from the destruction of Assyria to the promise, the third prophecy regarding the Messiah. And that’s what we look at next. There’s hope. There’s God.