

**ISAIAH, PART 1 (JUDGMENT – BUT HOPE)
PROGRAM 1 (#911046)
WEEK 1 (#911310)
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SERIES: Isaiah, Part 1 (Judgment – But Hope)

TITLE: Program 1 – Listen! The Lord Has Spoken!

MONDAY

OPEN

If someone were to ask you, “What is your spiritual parentage?” Would you say, “Oh well, God’s my Father. I’m His child.” Oh good, because God has a message for you today. And if you’re one of those people that say, “I’m not a Christian, but I want to tell you something. I know many people who identify themselves as Christians, and if that’s Christianity is I don’t want anything to do with it.” Well let’s see how a son of God, a daughter of God, is to behave.

PART ONE

We are going to study together the book of Isaiah. They call him the “the Prince of Prophets.” Of all the quotes of the different prophets, no one was quoted more by Jesus Christ than Isaiah. And no one was quoted more by the apostles than the prophet Isaiah. And so we’re going to take a look at this incredible, incredible book for the next 14 weeks. Now that sounds like a long time, but I want you to know that it is going to go by speedily. But for

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the next 14 weeks, Precious One, you and I are going to delve into the Word of God. We're going to learn what Isaiah has to say. And you say, "But that's a book that was written so long ago." You're right. It was written so long ago. And yet, you know what, even today, just as we begin to get our feet wet, just as you and I begin to get into this book, you're going to discover that this is a book for our times. As a matter of fact, it's going to cause you to have your eyes popping and your mouth hanging open because it is going to sound so much like today, so much like, unfortunately, the church of Jesus Christ today. And yet, in seeing all of this, there are incredible answers for you and for me. There are precepts for life that you and I can take and apply to our life, and as a result of that be prepared to see the Lord face to face. What I want you to do is open your Bible to Isaiah. Now Isaiah is the first of what they call the Major Prophets. And Isaiah comes right after Ecclesiastes, that's a book we very seldom study. But when you open the book, immediately this is what he does, he puts you into context. It says, **"The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz concerning Judah and Jerusalem, which he..."** [Amoz] **saw during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah...."** (Isaiah 1:1) Now what I want you to do is, as you and I study the Word of God together, and remember the purpose of this program is to go through the Bible, to study one book at a time, to read it verse by verse and move through the text so that you come face to face yourself with truth, with what the Word of God has to say. And then seeing what God says, you know and learn what He means and that He means what He says, and that you and I are to apply that and you and I are to live accordingly. So in the light of that I can tell you on the authority of the Word of God, Beloved of God, that God is going to use this to mature you, to perfect you as a Christian, to complete you as a Christian, and He's going to use it to give you insight into the times and understanding, so that you can know what you are to do and how you are to live. Well as he opens this book, immediately in that first verse he puts us in context. And he tells us

that this vision that came to Isaiah who was the son of Amoz, concerns Judah, which is the Southern Kingdom, and eventually comprised of two tribes, the tribe of Judah and the tribe of Benjamin, and Jerusalem which is the capital of all of Israel and then the capital of the of the Southern Kingdom once the two kingdoms divide. Now he's telling us when this vision comes. It comes **"...during the reigns of Uzziah [and] Jotham [and] Ahaz and Hezekiah...."** (Isaiah 1:1) Now when you read this book you're going to find three of these king's names in this book. One is going to be missing, but it's all right because he's in the middle of all of this. And so we know that it starts with Uzziah. It ends with Hezekiah. All right now, as we look at it you have to understand that during the days of Uzziah the kingdom was divided, but the Northern Kingdom had not yet gone into captivity. The kingdom united was called Israel. When the kingdoms divided into the Northern Kingdom and the Southern Kingdom the Northern Kingdom then assumed the name Israel and the Southern Kingdom assumed the name Judah. So when you read and you come across Israel then you have to look and see, "Is he talking about the nation as a whole or is he talking about the Northern Kingdom?" So the Northern Kingdom is Israel. The Southern Kingdom is Judah. You say that's going to help me great in the work place. No, it's probably not going to help you in the work place at all unless you understand why they went into captivity, unless you understand why they were divided, unless you understand why this happened to them, and then it will help. But you know what? We need to know God. And if you're going to know God you've got to know the facts. And God has facts in this Book. Well he says, **"Listen, O heavens, and hear, O earth; for the Lord speaks...."** He says, **"...Sons I have reared and [I have] brought up...."** He says, **"...But they have revolted against Me."** (Isaiah 1:2) "I brought you up. I've grown you up, and you've turned around and you've kicked your heels at me. You revolted against Me. You've walked away." He says, **"...Sons I have reared and brought up, but they have revolted against**

Me. An ox knows its owner, and a donkey its master's manger, but Israel does not know, My people do not understand.” (Isaiah 1:2-3) Now when he's using Israel in the book of Isaiah he's talking about the whole kingdom of Israel. He's talking about the sons that are part of the covenant that God made with Abraham, confirmed with Isaac, Abraham's son, confirmed with Jacob, the son of Isaac, and in Jacob, changed his name to Israel and he was the father of the twelve nations that make up the twelve tribes of Israel. All right, so he says, **“An ox knows its owner...a donkey its master's manger, but Israel does not know, My people do not understand.” (Isaiah 1:3)** And what happens? Listen carefully. This is for you today. This is for your life. What happens when you belong to God and you revolt against Him? What happens when you belong to God and you turn away from God? What happens when you do not understand: you do not understand because you don't want to understand? What happens when you do that? Well listen to what he goes on to say. **“Alas, sinful nation, people weighed down with iniquity....” (Isaiah 1:4)** He says, “Listen, your sin is on you like such a horrible weight that it is a burden on your back that keeps you from ever looking up. You're miserable. You're weighed down with iniquity.” Do you understand what he's talking about? Are you there, Precious One? Are you so burdened because you have so blown it, because you have so messed up with God, because you have walked your own way, because you have done your own thing? Yes, you name the name “Christian,” which means “little Christ” which means “a follower of Him,” but you're not walking like that. And so you're weighed down. You say, “I am down so bad that I don't think I can ever get up.” Come here. Come here. I want to put my hand under your chin, Precious One, and I want to say to you, “O, listen to me, Beloved. Listen. There is a way to get the weight off of you. There is a way to quit looking down and to be able to look up. There is a way to walk without shame, without disgrace.” You say, “But you don't know where I've been and you don't know what I've done.” I'll say to you,

“But you don’t know Isaiah.” And if you don’t know Isaiah, you do not know and understand the grace of God and the provision of God that He has made for you. I am so excited about teaching you this. He says, **“Alas, sinful nation, people weighed down with iniquity, offspring of evildoers....”** (Isaiah 1:4) You say, “Well look, look at my family. Look at what they did, and I’m just as destined to be like them.” No you’re not. No you’re not, not if you know truth, not if you believe truth. He says, **“...Sons who act corruptly! They have abandoned the Lord, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they have turned away from Him.”** (Isaiah 1:4) O, Precious One, have you despised Him? Have you turned away from Him? Then I want you to know it is a divine appointment that we have today and tomorrow and the next day, because your situation can change as you learn the truths of Isaiah. We’ll talk about it more and look at it ourselves in just a minute.

PART TWO

If you could see me now you’d say, “Kay, do you know that one hand is polished in a pretty color and the other hand has no polish on it? Oh, it has polish on it. It’s just clear. Why? Because I wanted use it as an illustration. You see I started out with good intentions. I started out and I wanted to look right and I wanted to look good, so I started polishing my nails. But I didn’t complete the task. This is what’s happened in Isaiah. They have started out well. God has made a covenant with the nation of Israel. He has set before them blessing and cursing, life and death. He does it in the book of Deuteronomy. (See Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 15, 20) And He tells them, “Now look you have a choice to make. You’re Mine, sons I have reared up. You’re Mine. I chose you. I redeemed you. But I have set before you a way for you to live. I have given you the commandments. I have laid them down for you in the **“Torah,”** the first five books of the Bible, which are called the book of the Law. And I have told you that if you will keep My commandments, if

you will walk in My statutes, if you will obey Me I will bless you. But if you choose to walk in the opposite direction, if you say, ‘No, I’ll do my own thing, I’ll do what I want to do and I’ll do it my way,’ then I will curse you. I will have to judge you. And I have to judge you because I am the Holy One of Israel. And because I am God,” now listen carefully, because this applies to you and to me today. “Because I am God you cannot despise Me and get away with it. I’m God. And you cannot go against Me and think that you can get away with it or that it won’t cost you, whether you believe in Me or not, whether you name someone else as your god, or something else as your religion, I want you to know that I am God. I am the Lord,” and He’s going to say this later on in Isaiah, **“I am the Lord and there is no other....”**

(Isaiah 45:5) Now when he opens up this wonderful wonderful book of prophecy, 66 chapters long, basically dividing and breaking, so to speak, in the middle, he is showing us a picture. There are 66 books in the Bible and there are 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New. And basically, Isaiah can divide that way. And so in the first portion of Isaiah God is going to talk to His people and He’s going to talk to His people, now watch, who have revolted against Him, who have kicked up their heels, who have walked away, who have chosen not the path of obedience and blessing, but have chosen disobedience, people who have revolted against Him, people who have despised Him. And so He’s going to talk to them. Now that may not be you, but you still need to listen so that it never becomes you and it never becomes me. Or it may be that we have begun to veer off the path and so what God wants to do is He wants to bring us back on the path. And He does not delight in having to chasten us. He does not delight in having to judge us. But because He is the Holy One of Israel He will do it if He has to. So you and I need to see what is God saying in this book and how does this transfer to my time, to the century in which I am living, to the year in which I’m living, to the month in which I’m living, to the day in which I’m living? Well what we have to see is in verse 2 he says, **“Listen, O heavens, and**

hear, O earth; for the Lord speaks....” (Isaiah 1:2) The first thing that you need to know and understand is, that God has spoken. He has spoken in this book. And this is what He says, **“...Sons I have reared and brought up....” (Isaiah 1:2)** In Exodus, and you want to write down the Scripture and then you want to go there. In Exodus chapter 4 in verse 22 God is telling Moses that he is going go and stand before Pharaoh and this is what he’s to say to Pharaoh, because the children of Israel are living as slaves in the land of Egypt. They’ve been in bondage for 400 years. And he says, **“[Thus] you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the Lord, ‘Israel is My son, My firstborn.’ So I said to you, ‘Let My son go that he may serve Me....’”** (Exodus 4:22) In other words, “You’ve got My child and he’s serving you. But I want you to let him go because I want him to serve Me.” Now when you look at that you say, “But that’s about the children of Israel.” Yes, but you know what? When you and I come to know Jesus Christ we become a child of God. In John chapter 1, verse 12. In verse 11 it says, **“[Jesus] came to His own, and [His own] received Him not.” (John 1:11 KJV)** Most of the Jews did not believe that Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah. It says, **“But as many as received Him, [as received Jesus Christ] to them He gave the [power, the authority] to become children of God....” (John 1:12)** So, Precious One, as we bring today’s teaching to a close what is God’s precept for life for you? God’s precept is this that God expects you to know Him. God expects you to understand Him. And it’s when you rebel, when you get so busy, when you get so entangled, when you put everything ahead of knowing Him that you get in trouble. It’s when you and I don’t sometime, in that day, take time to be still and to know that He is God (See Psalms 46:10 KJV), to cease striving, to let go, to relax and come face to face with the Word of God. Listen to what He says. He says, **“...Sons I have reared and brought up, but they have revolted against Me.” (Isaiah 1:2)** Now the fact that they have revolted against Him means this that they knew what they were supposed to do, but they didn’t do it. They knew what was right, but

they chose their own way. It speaks of a willful rebellion, a willful disobedience to authority, which means they knew, but they didn't do. And then it says, **“An ox knows its owner...a donkey its master's manger, but Israel does not know....” (Isaiah 1:3)** That word, “know” means to “recognize God for who He is.” They willfully chose the wrong path. Now what's God going to do? Is He going to take them to the holy woodshed? Yes, unless. And you say, “Oh.” The same thing is true for you. And that's what we're going to see as we continue our study in Isaiah. What I want you to remember is this, that if you are a child of God, Precious One, you are accountable to Him. You cannot revolt. You cannot rebel. You cannot despise Him and get away with it. And if you have there is a way back, but it's God's way.