

ISAIAH, PART 2 (COMFORT FOR HIS PEOPLE)
PROGRAM 14 (#911129)
WEEK 3 (#911326)
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SERIES: Isaiah, Part 2 (Comfort For His People)

TITLE: Program 14 – He Reigns

THURSDAY

OPEN

Hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, disasters of all sorts, 9/11, the Holocaust; O Precious One, what is happening? Does the enemy have control of the world or is this Mother Nature run amuck? No longer with the heart of a mother, is she out to destroy us? Where does all this adversity come from? The Bible tells us. We'll see it today.

PART ONE

Has anyone told you today, Beloved, that they love you? If not, may I be the first? May I tell you that I love you with the love of the Lord? You say, "You don't even know me. Get off that stuff." But I know God and I know that God loves you and I know that He had you listen to this program because He has a message for you. He wants you to understand who He is. We're looking this week at nine truths about God, and about our thinking about God, that are going to shape our behavior. Because, ["as a man thinks so he is."] (PARAPHRASE, Proverbs 23:7) If your understanding of God is

warped, if it is distorted, if it is not accurate to the Word of God, then Precious One, it is going to affect the way you handle life. The way you face the good times and the way you face the adversities and the way that you handle the temptations. And so as we look at Isaiah, and we started at 44, verse 24, and we're moving through Isaiah 45 and 46, there are nine things, as I told you, that I want you to see. We have seen number one: that He is the Maker, the Creator of all things. (See Isaiah 44:24) Number two, we have seen that: He is God and that there is no other. (See Isaiah 45:5) Now we're on number three and this is Isaiah chapter 45 and it is verse 6 and 7. And this is what I want you to see is: God is sovereign over all. All capitalized, all at 25 or 50 point on your computer, God is sovereign over all, all, all, great big all, all, all, inclusive all. You need to understand that. You see we are always asking the question: Lord, where are You when bad things happen? I have a book titled that, "Lord, Where Are You When Bad Things Happen?" We've heard that God isn't involved in bad things. Well let's see what God says. Does God take a vacation when adversity comes? Does He cease to be God? Does He retire? Does He go on a fishing trip or on a vacation when adversity comes or is He right there? Listen, He says, and I'm gonna start at verse 5, **"I am the LORD, and there is no other...."** This is point number two. **"...Besides Me there is no God. I will gird you...."** He's talking to Cyrus who has yet to be born 150 years later he's going to be on the scene doing his thing. **"...I will gird you though you have not known Me; that men may know...."** This is for you and this is for me, Beloved. **"...[That men may know] from the rising to the setting of the sun that there is no one besides Me. I am the LORD and there is no other." (Isaiah 45:5-6)** **"The One [causing] forming light and creating darkness...."** He's the One that said in the darkness let there be light. He's the One that creates darkness. He's the One that creates light. He says, **"...Causing well-being....,"** now listen, **"...and creating calamity....,"** or another word that you could translate calamity is "adversity". He says, **"...I**

am the LORD who does all these [things].” (Isaiah 45:7) He is God and He is sovereign. What He’s saying is, “Because I’m God there’s nothing that is happening apart from Me. If there’s adversity I created it. If there is well-being I created it. If there’s darkness I created it. If there’s light I created it. I am the only God there is and I am in charge of literally everything, literally everything.” Now next to this verse I would write Psalm 103:19. And go in your Bible to Psalm 103 and let’s look at it. And I urge you when you listen to the teaching of this program, “Precepts for Life,” you need to have an open Bible if you can. Now I don’t want you doing it on the road, but you can download our free study guide. You can watch, or you can listen to us by going to our website, preceptsforlife.com. And I say “us” because it’s me, and you’re going to meet my son David ’cause he’s going to help me teach Isaiah, and because it’s the whole team of us working together so that you might discover truth for yourself. Well Psalm 103, verse 19. **“The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, and His sovereignty rules over all.”** “Sovereign” has the word “reign” in it: “r-e-i-g-n.” **“...He rules over all.” (Psalm 103:19)** He is God. Now this is what you see in Daniel chapter 4, and I want you to go to Daniel chapter 4, and God teaches this to a king, to the king of Babylon, a king that He reduces to absolutely nothing. And yet when He reduces Nebuchadnezzar to a period of seven years, when he’s crawling around on the ground like an animal eating the grass, his hair growing so it’s like feathers, his nails like claws—the guy is a mess—God still doesn’t take his kingdom away from him. But this is what Nebuchadnezzar comes to his senses and realizes in Daniel chapter 4, because he doesn’t know this until God reduces him to this. It says in verse 34, **“...At the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me....” (Daniel 4:34)** I got my thinking right. I just went off track. I became mentally ill. He says I got my thinking back. **“...I blessed the Most High....”** “Most High” is “El-Elyon.” It shows God’s sovereignty. It says, **“...And praised and honored Him**

who lives forever....” Now listen, “...For His dominion...,” God’s dominion, this One who is the Creator, the Maker of all things. This is the One who is the only God, who’s the rock and there is no other. This is the One who is sovereign. “...His dominion is an everlasting dominion....” He never leaves His throne. “...And His kingdom endures from generation to generation.” (Daniel 4:34) All the inhabitants of the earth [every inhabitant of the earth is] accounted as nothing....” (Daniel 4:35) You say, “Well that’s not very loving.” Oh listen; balance it with all the truth. “...God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son...,” for you, (John 3:16, KJV) for every person on the face of this earth. So that you might come to know Him and have forgiveness of sins and have the gift of eternal life and live with Him forever and ever. So you’ve got to balance all this knowledge. And when you don’t balance it, when you take one to the extreme is when I know that you’re not studying the whole counsel of God. You don’t have the full picture of God. So it says and “...[All the inhabitants of the] earth are accounted as nothing, but He [God] does according to His will in the host of heaven [in the army of heaven] and among the inhabitants of the earth...;” among us, “...no one can ward off [God’s] hand...,” when He gets ready to move, and no one can “...say to Him, ‘What have You done?’” (Daniel 4:34-35) So no matter what happens, if it’s a tsunami, or or if it is a hurricane, or if it is a flood, you can’t say to God, “What have You done?” Because Isaiah 45, remember, says: “He creates well-being and He creates adversity.” (See Isaiah 45:7) Now in the light of that I want you to look at another verse and it’s in the prophet Amos. Now I know you just love Amos and you’re reading Amos all the time. No, we’re not, are we? But as you go to Amos, and it’s after Joel. And when you come to Amos this is what he says in Amos chapter 3, “If a trumpet is blown in a city will not the people tremble...?” (Amos 3:6) Why? Because a trumpet was like siren going off. A siren saying, “Hey, the enemy’s above.” “...If a calamity occurs in a city has not the LORD

done it?” (Amos 3:6) “Has not the LORD done it?” See, that goes with Isaiah. That goes with Daniel. God’s in charge. He is sovereign. Now I want to ask you a question. Do you believe that? Do you live like that? Do you live accordingly? As I told you at the beginning of the week, we’re going through horrendous trials, trials that I never thought that we would go through, trials that that wrench your gut. And yet how can I keep on doing the work of ministry? How can I remain steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord? It’s because I have put in the knowledge of God and I, through obedience to that knowledge of God, have wired my brain to believe and embrace and live accordingly. And that’s how you go through it. So you’ve seen people, and they’ve come through the flood and they’re not bitter, they’re not angry. They are dismayed, and that rightly so. But they’re saying, “But I have my life and I can build again.” And many of them will say, “God will help me,” or “God preserved me.” And this is what you and I need to understand. God is sovereign. Now listen, every time you act on that knowledge, and how do I act on adversity? I act on adversity by doing what God says in James chapter 1. It says, “[And count] **it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials. (James 1:2)** So you count it all joy. 1 Thessalonians chapter 5 says, “**In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:18 KJV)** When my husband—my first husband committed suicide—these are the verses that I took hold of as a brand new Christian. And took hold of them and embraced them and it enabled me to move forward. Especially because, before I got saved and he told me he was going to commit suicide, I’d tell him to “Do a good job.” So how do I live with myself? I live with myself because I know God and I wire my brain, so to speak, according to truth. That’s the way we worship God. I’ve got more to tell you, but we’ll do it in just a minute.

PART TWO

Do you remember, Beloved, what I was telling you at the beginning of this week? About how our brains are wired and how now, through all this brain imaging, they're able to look at neural pathways, and that's like the hardware of the brain and the software that we put into it. The truths enable us to rewire the brain, or to strengthen what needs to be strengthened. So every time you are in a trial, every time adversity comes your way; and we've seen from Isaiah chapter 45 that He is the LORD. That He creates light and He creates darkness. That He creates well-being and He creates adversity. That He is the LORD that does all these things. (See Isaiah 45:7) So every time you and I go through adversity and we do what God has told us to do, what we're doing is we're strengthening those neural pathways in our brain, those neural networks of our brain which in turn make us stronger and able to handle the situations of life. So that's why He says **"In everything give thanks...."** (1 Thessalonians 5:18) That's why he says **"...Count it all joy...."** (James 1:2, KJV) This is why he says **"...All things work...together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For...whom [God] foreknew...,**" just as He foreknew Cyrus, He foreknew you, **"...[whom God foreknew], He...predestined...,**" He marked out beforehand, even as He did for Cyrus. For you and I in a higher calling than Cyrus, and that is: **"...to become conformed to the image of [God]."** (Romans 8:28-29) So every time you do what God says do, every time you obey a command then you strengthen that brain of yours, and you strengthen the bent of that brain to do what is right. And you can go through these things. You can go through them. Listen, I can tell you, you can make it. I can tell you, you don't have to faint. I can tell you that underneath are the everlasting arms and He is able to bear you up on His wings and to carry through this trial if you will rest on the fact that He is sovereign. Okay, now the next thing I want you to see, and this is point number four out of nine, is, I want you to see that: you are not to

quarrel with God. Remember Daniel chapter 4 when it said [“and no one can say ‘What are You doing?’”] You’re God. What are You doing?”

(PARAPHRASE, Daniel 4:35) So many people waste so much energy, raising their fist in the face of God. Their puny human wrist that was given them by God, they’re raising it in the face of God and saying, “What are You doing?” Well let’s look at Isaiah chapter 45 and we want to start with verse 8 where I left off. Okay, ’cause I want you to get all these verses.

“Drip down, O heavens, from above...let the clouds pour down righteousness; let the earth open up and salvation bear fruit, and righteousness [shall] spring up with it. I, the LORD, have created it.”

(Isaiah 45:8) Once again He’s showing that He is the Creator. Now He says, “Don’t quarrel with Me.” Look at verse 9. **“Woe to the one who quarrels with his Maker....”** Remember He’s already established He’s the Maker.

“...An earthenware vessel among the vessels of [the] earth...!” (Isaiah 45:9) You, a vessel made by God, created by your Maker, you’re gonna sit there, little vessel, and quarrel with God? You’re gonna challenge Him? Say, “What are You doing? I don’t deserve this. This is not fair. You’re unjust. If this is what You’re doing, then You forget it. I’m going off. I’m gonna do my own thing.” O Precious One, woe to you! Woe to you if that’s your attitude. He says, **“...Will the clay say to the potter, ‘What are you doing?’”** He says, **“...Or the thing you are making say, ‘He has no hands’?” (Isaiah 45:9)** You’re making something. You draw a picture. You make something. Will the picture say to you, “You don’t have hands”? Will the bowl that you’re fashioning say, “You don’t have hands”? Will the cake that you bake say, “I got here by myself; I mixed myself up and I put myself in the oven and I came up all this fluffy and good”? Is it gonna say, “You have no hands”? No. He says, **“Woe to him who says to a father, ‘What are you begetting...?’” (Isaiah 45:10)** Look at that child. Look at how ugly that child is. Look at that deformed child. Look at that stupid child. Look at that child that is worthless. He says, “Will you say that to God?” He says,

“Woe to [you—or to a woman], “...who says...to a woman, [What are you] ‘To what are you giving birth?’” (Isaiah 45:10) What did you begat? Look at this. You’ve heard women say that. Oh! Oh! What did you give me as a grandchild? What did you give me? What did you bring forth? Look at that. Listen, the minute that you say that you are quarreling with the Maker, because Psalm 139 says God formed me in my mother’s womb. He wove me in my mother’s womb. He made my parts. He’s the One that created me. (See Psalm 139:13) You see God saying, “Didn’t I create the deaf and the dumb? (See Exodus 4:11) Didn’t I create that? I’m God.” So you can’t sit there and quarrel with God. Now let’s go on. He says, **“Thus says the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker: ‘Ask Me about...things to come concerning My sons, and you shall commit to Me the work of My hands. It is I who made the [heavens] and created man on it. I stretched out the heavens with My hands...I ordained all their host. I have aroused him [Cyrus] in righteousness...I will make all [of] his ways smooth....”** In other words, he’s not gonna have a rough time. **“...He will build My city [he] will let My exiles go free, without any payment or reward,’ says the LORD of hosts.” (Isaiah 45:11-13)** Don’t argue with God. Don’t quarrel with God. He says, **“Thus says the LORD, ‘The products of Egypt and the merchandise of Cush and the Sabeans, men of stature, will come over to you and will be yours; they will walk behind you....”** He’s talking to Cyrus. **“...They will come over in chains and [they] will bow down [behind you]....”** When he came home in victory, a king often rode on his chariot and the slaves were in chains behind. It says, **“...[They will bow down] to you; they will make supplication to you: ‘Surely, God is with you, and there is none else, no other God.” (Isaiah 45:14)** Do you see Him saying again, “There’s no other God”? **“Truly, You are a God who hides Himself, Of God of Israel, Savior! They will be put to shame and even humiliated, all of them; the manufacturers of idols will go away together in humiliation.”** Why?

Because He only is God. It says, **“Israel has been saved by the LORD....”** (Isaiah 45:15-17) Now what I want you to see is the fifth point: God promises ultimate good. God promises ultimate good. I’m only going to be able to touch on this. We’ll go into it in greater depth in our next lesson. But listen, Israel will be saved by the Lord. **“...With an everlasting salvation; you will not be put to shame or humiliated to all eternity.”** (Isaiah 45:17) What is He saying? He is saying, “Look, I may judge you. You may go through calamity. You may go through adversity. You’re not to sit there and say, ‘What is the Potter doing to me, the clay?’ But you can know this, that I am the Savior. I am the ultimate Savior and there is ultimate salvation for you. If I chose you, if you’re Mine, if I formed you as the potter forms the clay, I guarantee you that you are going to have salvation, ultimate good.”