

ISAIAH, PART 1 (JUDGMENT – BUT HOPE)
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WEEK 3 (#911312)
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SERIES: Isaiah, Part 1 (Judgment – But Hope)

TITLE: Program 15 – When The Word Falls On Deaf Ears

FRIDAY

OPEN

You're a Christian. You share the gospel with others, but it's like a brick wall. They have ears, but they don't hear. They have eyes and you show them, but they don't see. They have hearts, but they are as cold and as hard as ice. And you think, "What is wrong? Why are they not believing? Am I all wrong?" Oh no, Beloved. It's part of delivering the gospel. We'll talk about it today.

PART ONE

The writings of men are many. And we're quick to read the writings of men, and we want to hear what they have to say. And we're fascinated by their theories. But are we quick to hear the Word of God? Are we drawn to the Word of God? Do we want to hear and know and understand God? For the most part, honestly, no. And so you think, "Well, what's wrong? Am I wrong? Am I all wet?" I remember when I first came to know Jesus Christ, and I began to share Him with everyone and the change that came in my life,

and I thought that they would rejoice, because they called themselves “Christians.” But instead, they didn’t like my sharing about the Lord. And I wasn’t assuming that they didn’t know the Lord, except all of a sudden, when I found out that these people who went to church, who professed God, and who were not hungry for the Word of God, who preferred the works of men to the Word of God, and who really didn’t want me to share about this glorious new experience that had made me a new creature in Christ, I began to wonder, “Hey, what’s wrong? Is it me? Am I crazy? Or is it something else?” And then as I steeped myself in the Word of God, I saw that, **“Not everyone [that] says to [Him], ‘Lord, Lord,’ [is going to] enter the kingdom of heaven....” (Matthew 7:21)** I saw that [“not everyone who does miracles and who speaks in the name of God is going to go to heaven.”] (PARAPHRASE Matthew 7:22) I saw, [“Hey, you better look at the fruit of their lives, because the fruit tells you what kind of a tree it is.”] (PARAPHRASE Matthew 7:18-20) That’s what Matthew chapter 7 says. Well we have come to the closing of Isaiah chapter 6. Isaiah has seen his sin. God has taken away his sin. He has **“...heard the voice of the Lord, saying, ‘Whom [can] I send...who will go for Us...?’”** And he has said, **“...Here am I. Send me! [Lord]” (Isaiah 6:8)** So now he gets his commission. And in giving him his commission, in giving Isaiah his commission (and it’s about the year 739 B.C., so that’s over two millennia, almost three millennia ago), in giving him his commission, you and I also receive a commission. And we receive a commission; to glorify God by obeying Him. Listen to what He says, in verse 9 of Isaiah 6. **“...Go, and tell this people....” (Isaiah 6:9)** Now we know, from going through Isaiah, from going through the first six chapters, that the people that he is to go to are the people of Judah, the people of Jerusalem, the people who profess to know God, who are His elect and holy nation. You’re to go to this people, and yet we know that for the most part, this people “ain’t a good people.” They are not living according to the commandments and the statutes of God. They have rebelled against God. They have revolted. They

have despised the Holy One of Israel. But He says, “**...Go, and tell this people....**” What is he to tell them? “**...‘Keep on listening, but do not perceive....’**” (Isaiah 6:9) Okay, keep on sitting there. Keep on going through the ritual. Remember, He tells us in Isaiah chapter 1, that they were bringing their burnt offerings. They were having their solemn assemblies, and yet they were rebelling against God. (See Isaiah 1:11-13) So He says, [“I want you to] “**...Go, and...**” when you get there, I want you to tell them this: “**...Keep on listening, but do not perceive; keep on looking, but do not understand.’ Render the hearts of this people...,**” this people I’m sending you to, “**...insensitive, [and] their ears, dull....**” I’m older, I have a hearing problem. My ears are dull. But He says, “**“Render...their ears dull, and their eyes dim, otherwise they might see with their eyes, [and] hear with their ears, [and] understand with their hearts, and return and be healed.”**” (Isaiah 6:9-10) What is He saying? He’s saying, “These people have gone too far. These people have despised me.” (See Isaiah 1:4) These people are calling me into question. They’re saying, “Okay, let the Holy One of Israel show Himself. Let God do this.” There’s an arrogance about them. There is a religiosity, but there is no relationship. And so He says, “[and return unless they] ‘**...understand with their hearts, and return and be healed.**” (Isaiah 6:10) “**Then I said...,**” and this is a logical response, “**...How long?**” (Isaiah 6:11) [“How long am I to go to this people? How long am I to tell them, ‘You’re hearing, but you’re not hearing. You’re seeing, but you’re not seeing. You have a heart that is not understanding.’ How long am I to do this?”] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 6:9-11) And then God makes this interesting statement. “**...He answered, ‘Until cities are devastated....’**” (Isaiah 6:11) Now you want to mark the phrase “until.” It’s a time phrase, and we teach you, if you get your free study guide and you can download, and we’ll teach you how to study the Word of God yourself. But you see that you’re to mark time phrases, and those of you that are sticking with me week in, week out, day in, day out, we are always picking up new students; people who really are serious about God. So how

long am I to go? He says, “**Until...**” put a clock over there, “**...cities are devastated and without inhabitant, houses are without people and the land is utterly desolate.**” (Isaiah 6:11) Now remember He told them that His people were going to go into exile for a lack of knowledge. Remember Isaiah Chapter 5, verse 13. He says, “**Therefore My people go into exile for their lack of knowledge....**” (Isaiah 5:13) And it talks about what God is going to do and how God is going to judge them. So they’re going to go into captivity. Well he says, [How long am I supposed to do this?]
(PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 6:11) And He says, [“I want you to do this until they are gone. I want you to do this until there is no one left in this city. I want you to search it out and when there’s no human being in this city that you deliver the message to, then I want you to know, that’s how long.”]
(PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 6:11) He says, “**...Until cities are devastated and without inhabitant, houses are without people and the land is utterly desolate....**” (Isaiah 6:11) What is He saying? He says “Until the rod of my hand of judgment falls on this people, you are to keep on delivering the message.” And He says, “**...Until...the Lord has removed men far away, and the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land.**” (Isaiah 6:12) [I want you to do it until they’re all gone.]
(PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 6:11) “**Yet...**” and I love this, because it’s discouraging; it’s discouraging up to this point. “I’m to go and I’m to tell them, ‘You aren’t going to hear, you aren’t going to listen, you aren’t going to believe.’ And I’m to do that until they are all taken into captivity?” Yes. “**Yet, there will be a tenth portion in it....**” (Isaiah 6:13) In what? Well remember we are to mark all the geographical locations. And when He talks about “the land,” I double underline it in green and because it’s referring in the context to the land of Israel and the color for Israel is blue, I color it blue, double underline it in green. But not only the word “the land” but the pronouns that relate to it. And when you do this and then you stop and you see what you marked, and you see what you learn from marking it, this is what you see, you see that, “**...There [is going to] be a tenth portion....**”

(Isaiah 6:13) And when you think of a tenth with the Jew, or with the Hebrew or an Israelite, what do you think of? You think of a tithe. You think about the tenth belonging to the Lord, the tenth being given to the Lord. And it says, yet there will be a tenth portion in it. And it, “the land,” will again be subject to burning. Now remember, He’s going to bring His judgment on this land, and He’s going to judge this land as it says, in Isaiah chapter 4. It says, “...[He will purge] **the bloodshed of Jerusalem from her midst, by [a] spirit of judgment and [a] spirit of burning....**” (Isaiah 4:4) In 586 B.C. (which is yet to come; it’s the year that King Uzziah died, which is 739 B.C.). But in the year 586 B.C., the Babylonians came in. They besieged Jerusalem and they burned it. And what is He saying? He’s saying, [“Listen, there is still a remnant. There is still a tenth in the land, and it will be subject again to burning.”] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 6:13) What does that mean? Honestly, Precious One, it is the most fascinating prophecy, and we will look at it in just a few minutes. But let me finish reading this verse to you. **“Yet there will be a tenth portion in it...it will again be subject to burning, like a terebinth or an oak whose stump remains when it is felled....”** (Isaiah 6:13) And then, listen to what He says, **“...The holy seed is its stump.”**(Isaiah 6:13) What is God saying? God’s saying that, “In this oak that I am going to bring down, there is a stump. There is a remnant. There are the righteous, and this is why you keep going.” (See Isaiah 6:13) We’ll talk about it in just a minute.

PART TWO

The message today is, that you’ve got to go. Even as Isaiah was commissioned by God, Beloved, to go, you and I are to go. Whether they listen or not is not your business. Whether they believe or not is not your business. The Bible says that, **“...Salvation is of the Lord.”**(Jonah 2:9, **KJV**) And yet you and I, who live in His presence, who want to glorify Him, are responsible to be so consumed with Him that we are His

messengers, that whatever He desires we are willing to do it. And we are willing to do it whether we see fruit or do not see fruit. Why? Because [God wants to render the hearts of this people insensitive to Him. He doesn't want them to have one bit of an excuse. They have chosen to harden their hearts, they have chosen to close their eyes, they have chosen to stop up their ears.]" (PARAPHRASE Isaiah 6:10) It's okay. There is a remnant. Oh! It is absolutely awesome! Awesome! When you stop and you really observe the text. When you give the Word of God the honor that is due it and the honor that is due it is to hang on His every word, because this is pure, absolute, unadulterated truth. Watch what He tells us. Watch. Let's move through the text. He says, **"...Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on listening, but do not perceive; keep on looking, but do not understand.' Render the hearts of this people insensitive, their ears dull, ...their eyes dim...."** (Isaiah 6:9-10) And when He's saying that, I want you to note that this is so significant, that this passage in Isaiah is quoted in all four gospels; not only in the gospels, but also in the book of Acts. And it is put down so that you and I can understand that, ["Narrow is the way and small is the gate and few there are who enter in"] (PARAPHRASE Matthew 7:14) Few there are, comparatively, who are going to believe in Jesus Christ, who are going to believe that God is God and has a right to rule their lives, and they bow before Him and honor Him as God. It's the way it is. It's the way that God has ordained it. And if you know God, you ought to get flat on your face, and I have done it many times, and said, "God what manner of love You have bestowed upon me, that I should be called the son of God—that I should be called the child of God. (See 1 John 3:1) O God, thank You for opening my eyes, so that I might see. Thank You for turning me from darkness to light, from the power of Satan to the kingdom of God. (See Acts 26:18) Thank You for the forgiveness of sins that You have given me." And then you stand in awe and then you do what He tells you to do. I want you to go to Mark chapter 4, and let's just look at one place in one of the gospels. We've already looked at John chapter 12 earlier in the week, where he

quotes this passage from Isaiah. But in Mark chapter 4, Jesus is with His disciples and He stops and He tells them a parable. He says, in verse 3, listen to this, **“...The sower went out to sow; [and] as he was sowing, some seed fell [by the] road[side], and the birds came and ate it up.”** He said, **“[And] other seed fell on...rocky ground [and it didn’t] have much soil; and...,”** it sprung up immediately and when, **“...it sprang up because it had no depth of soil. And after the sun had risen, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.”** (Mark 4:3-6) And it says, **“[And] other seed fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. [But] other [seed] fell into the good soil, and as they grew up and increased, they yielded a crop and produced thirty, sixty, and...hundredfold. And he was saying...,”** listen to this, **“...He who has ears...let him hear.’ And as soon as [they] were alone, His followers, along with the twelve, began asking him about the parables. “And he was saying to them, ‘To you [it] has been given [to know] the mystery of the kingdom of God, but those who [were] outside get everything in parables.”** (Mark 4:7-11). **“...That while seeing, they may [not] see and while hearing, they may [not] hear and not understand, otherwise they might return and be forgiven.”** (Mark 4:12) In other words, what He’s doing to His disciples as He sends them forth to give the message, He wants to make sure that they understand that out of those four kinds of soil, only one is a picture of genuine Christianity. He wants them to understand so that they are not discouraged. He wants them to understand that all are not going to believe; all are not going to receive. He wants them to understand some are going to proclaim that they believe, but they haven’t put down the roots. And the minute (and He explains it later), and the minute the persecution comes for ’em, the gospel, the minute the sun comes out and they get scorched and things get hot, they wither away. Why? Because they don’t have any root. (See Mark 4:6) Why don’t they have any root? Because they only want the benefits of Christianity and not the responsibility of being part of the family of God. So consequently, they

don't put down their roots. They don't have time for the Bible. They don't have time for anything except the routine and the ritual. And then you have the other kind of soil that goes down, puts down roots, begins to grow up, but then it's choked. And because it's choked, it doesn't bear fruit. And no fruit, no genuine Christianity. So what chokes us? Listen carefully. It's the cares of this world. It's the anxiousness over things. It is riches. It is all the things of the world that come up and say, "Come on. Come on, you don't have time for this." And they choke the Word of God. And there's no fruit. Of the four, only one is genuine Christianity. It is the seed that is in the stump. It is the holy stump. It's the true believers. And so what He has told Isaiah is, "You are to go. You are to bring this message, and I want you to know, you are to do it until the cities are empty. But then it will be subject again to burning." (See Isaiah 6:9-13) It was destroyed in 586 B.C. Jerusalem was destroyed a second time in 70 A.D. It was burned by the Romans. Here is a prophecy that goes all the way up to the time of Christ, when He weeps over Jerusalem because they will not believe. (See Luke 19:41) Because they will not recognize the time of their visitation, and He knows the destruction that is coming: the destruction that is spoken of in Daniel the prophet. O Precious One, it is your responsibility and my responsibility, as we've looked at all week, to walk in the manifest presence of God. And that means that I am honoring God as God. I am glorifying God as God, and I am going, and you know what? Matthew 28, Jesus says, **"...[You] go and make disciples...and [know this] I am with you...to the end of the age[s].** (See Matthew 28:19-20) What is He saying to you and me? Go, Beloved! His presence will go with you.