

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

TITLE: Program 51 – Understanding Your Enemies

MONDAY

OPEN

There's a very old song, and it went like this: "The old gray mare, she ain't what she used to be." Well when I think of America, unfortunately, I think, "America, you ain't what you used to be." And that's so sad, because our culture is disintegrating. We are being threatened from enemies without, that desire to grind us into the dust, and the question is: How will you stand in these days to come?

PART ONE

We have come to a new segment in the book of Isaiah. It goes from chapter 28, all the way to chapter 33. And when you look at the segment, what you see is, you see six "woes." Why the "woes"? And who are those "woes" coming upon? Well you and I need to know that and understand that because Isaiah was not only written for Isaiah's time, but it was written for you and for me so that you and I can know, right now, "How do I live?" You and I can look at Israel. You and I can look at the northern kingdom and the

southern kingdom. We can look at the enemy, Assyria, up here in the northeast, and we can see that as Israel had an enemy that was threatening them and they didn't know where to turn, because they were refusing to turn to God. So you and I can see that in the United States of America we are being threatened. We are being threatened from within and from without and if we can look at what God says to Israel, and listen, and take those precepts and apply them to our life, then you and I are going to know, Beloved, how we are to live, and how we are to live in these days. Now all this week our theme is going to be based on two questions. The first question is this: Who are you going to trust? Who are you going to trust? Where are you going to find rest? In times of turbulence, in times of trial, whether they be personal, whether they be local, whether they be national, whether they be international, the question is: Whom are you going to trust? You can either trust in the "tested stone" that God has placed in Zion, that foundation stone, that Cornerstone which is really, Jesus Christ. (See Isaiah 28:16) Or you can trust in your own wisdom, in your own strength and with me, that'd be very, very bad—in your own wisdom, in your own strength, in your own cleverness, in your own political ability, but if you trust in that—if you trust in the latter—then you can know this: "Woe be unto you." Woe be unto you because you have made the wrong choice. The second question that we're going to ask and answer, especially as we get into Isaiah chapter 29 is this question: Do you consider yourself in the role of the potter, governing your own life, shaping your own destiny, or do you see yourself as the clay, now listen; not just clay, but clay in the hands of the Potter? (See Isaiah 64:8) In the hands of God, and the answer to that question determines whether you will have blessing or whether you will have "woe." So what I want us to do now is, I want us to get a glimpse of what was going on in Isaiah chapter 28 and chapter 29, and how that fits into the scheme of things because it's very important for you and for me to keep all of this in perspective. It's also very important for you to understand the geography of the times. Now if you

went online to <preceptsforlife.com> and you downloaded our study guide, then you know that there's a map for you to look at for today and for the rest of this week so that you can keep it in mind. But if you will just remember how we draw that map, we draw like a semi-circle of a half moon, and over on your left of the paper there's the Mediterranean Sea, and then we come over and what we do is, we drop down and we put the Sea of Galilee, come down with the Jordan River, and then come down to the Dead Sea. Now when we look at Isaiah chapter 28, we have to realize that there is an enemy over here in the northeast, and that enemy is Assyria. All right? It is the major kingdom that is going to rule all the way until 686 B.C. It goes, basically, from 900 to 686 B.C. So they are the predominant power. Now down here to the south of Israel and around that half moon at the base of it is the country of Egypt. Egypt is an enemy of Assyria. And Assyria would like to conquer Egypt. To get from Assyria to Egypt, he can't go through the desert, they won't go through the desert, but they will come over just up by Damascus and Aram, and then they will drop down through the land of Israel. When they come down through the land of Israel, this is very important, remember the kingdom was divided, and so in the south, what you have is, you have the capital of Jerusalem. And you might want to just put a star of David, if you're drawing this map, for Jerusalem. Now just miles, just a few short miles up the road what you have is, you have the northern kingdom. And you have the tribe of Ephraim, and Ephraim has as its capital, Samaria. And this is very important, and so Samaria is like a crown jewel. It's a city that's on a hill and it is terraced around so that as you stand and you look at it, and you look at this fertile valley that surrounds it, it rises out of the ground like a crown jewel. And I'm going to put a smaller star for Samaria. So if Assyria wants to conquer, Assyria is going to have to come over towards the west, and then "Go south, young man," and go down to Egypt. So what's on the way? Well Israel is in the way. There's another country over here that is in the way, that are the enemies of Israel and Judah

and that is the Philistines; and so it's Philistia. And so these are enemies. Then what do you have to the north? And all of this has a point, so hangeth thou in there, O Baby. All right. So to the north of Israel, up on the coastline, what you have is, you have Tyre. You have Tyre and Sidon. Okay, if you move over to the east, you come to Aram, and the capital of Aram is Damascus. All right, now if you drop down and come along the Jordan River and go east of the Jordan River, just above the Dead Sea, what you have is, you have Ammon, and then you have Moab, and then if you drop even further south what you have is, Edom. Okay? Then down even further south you have Arabia. Now why am I mentioning all these countries? Well I'm mentioning them because they're mentioned in the book of Isaiah. And so what we do, what we look at this, what I want you to see is, I want you to see: Here is Israel. They are being threatened by Assyria, by Assyria, and Assyria wants to go down to Egypt, and Assyria's going to take Israel in the process. Now in the history that we've studied, Israel has gone up the northern kingdom and they have tried to make a deal with Assyria, but Assyria is the enemy. You and I, you and I have enemies, and when we see this situation that is laid out in the book of Isaiah, you and I in turn need to see, "Okay, what was God's message to these people?" Because basically, basically against the Assyrian army, they were absolutely impotent. The only thing that protected them was the fact that they knew God. But the question was this: When the enemy began to come, where would they put their trust? Would they put their trust in Almighty God, or would they try to make a political alliance. Would they try to make an alliance with Egypt? And when Aram and Ephraim were gathering together against Ahaz who was the king of Judah, where would Ahaz turn? Would Ahaz turn to God, or would Ahaz turn to the arm of flesh? Would they turn to Assyria for help? Would they run to Egypt for help? Well when you study next week with me, what you're going to see is, you're going to see in Isaiah chapter 30 and Isaiah chapter 31, he makes the statement: "**Woe** [be unto] **those who go**

down to Egypt...,” in the time of trouble. (**Isaiah 31:1**) God has a message for you. God has a message for me this week, and that message is: That you and I know our enemies, but we know that there is God who is greater than our enemies, and when we are being threatened we are to cling to God “**...as the waistband clings to the waist of a man....**” (**Jeremiah 13:11**) Okay. Now what are the enemies that we are dealing with? Well basically I think there’s an internal enemy and an external enemy that’s trying to move in. And that internal enemy is a disintegrating culture. It is a corruption of the foundation of the United States of America which is the family and the home and their religion. It is a corruption of that, and a disintegrating of the culture. And then it is the external threat, now listen to me very carefully, of Islam. Christianity is not the enemy of Islam, rather Islam is the enemy of Christianity. And that you need to understand. We’ll talk about it more in just a minute.

PART TWO

Thank you, Beloved, for wanting to discover truth for yourself; for wanting to know and understand “**...the [whole] counsel of God.**” (**Acts 20:27, KJV**) For wanting to discover truth for yourself and being willing to discipline yourself so that you have that knowledge and it is a knowledge that leads to godliness. (See Titus 1:1) Thank you so very, very much. As we look at Isaiah 28 through Isaiah 33, remember we’re looking at “woes;” woes that are coming because these people—Israel, Judah, Jerusalem—will not trust in God because they think that God doesn’t see. They think that they’re the potter and they forget that they are the clay. And so they think that they’re the controller of their own destiny. Now I told you that they were being threatened by Assyria and Assyria was going to go down to Egypt, and what’s on the way? It’s Israel, and so you just pick off these little enemies as you go along. The only thing that they didn’t know was, that there was a God who was not a local god, but who was the sovereign God of

all the universe, that was the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—the God of Israel. Now I didn’t tell you this, but morally they were disintegrating. This is the obvious lesson in Isaiah chapters 1 through chapter 5. They had turned their back on God. They had despised God. They had despised the law of God. God had taken them to the woodshed, and He was dealing with them, and all the problems that they were going through right now were part of the consequences of their lack of trust of God. Now just before the break we talked about two enemies. A disintegrating culture. I am absolutely distressed at all that I am hearing that’s going on in our country. I am so thankful that I am 73. Not thankful, because I don’t feel like I’m 73, but I am so thankful that I am because I have known a different America. I knew America where there was a foundation—a strong foundation—where the family was solid, where we knew what a family was: A father and a mother. Where the father was out earning the living as God tells Adam in Genesis chapter 3. (See Genesis 3:19) Where the mother is the keeper of the home as God tells us in Titus and in Timothy. (See Titus 2:5) And so we had healthier children. The children could go outside and play. As a matter of fact, Mom would just say, “Now you be in by dark.” But I was safe out on the streets. That’s not true anymore. Immorality was something that you hushed; that you covered up, if you were involved in that. And if movie stars were going to get a divorce, it was liable to hurt their career. Things have changed. Everything is falling apart. There is immorality. There is the breaking up of the family. There is sex, sex, sex all around us. I can’t believe it, the things that we see on television. There’s alcohol, there’s drugs, and things that kids are doing to get high. We’re a society that is disintegrating from within. And it’s because we turned away from the Word of God. It’s because we took prayer out of the schools, we took the Bible out of the schools, and we marginalized Christianity. But there’s another danger, a danger that is very, very great, and it is the danger of the plan of Islam. Now I’m not talking about every single person who says that they believe in

Mohammed and that the Koran is the book that they believe and that they live by, or they seek to live by, but I'm talking about people that take their religion seriously. Because those that take the Islamic faith seriously are people that are caught up in an ideology, and I don't want to put them down, All I want to do is, I want to explain them. Remember that I told you that Christianity is not the enemy of Islam. If you are listening and you believe in the Koran and you follow Mohammed, know this: you are not my enemy, and I'm not going to treat you like an enemy. But I can tell you this, that from all that the Koran teaches and from all that is being taught, we, Christians, are the enemy of Mohammed's followers. So let's look at it. It is not just a religion, it's an ideology. It is a passionate ideology. It is based on "Ummah," and "Ummah" is the concept of community. So wherever a Muslim is, he is going to build a community around him of other people of the same beliefs. He's going to have an Islamic community about him. He is going to want to establish a mosque. When he establishes a mosque, or when a mosque is built, and you need to understand that, they have the theory of Islamic space. So if an Islamic person buys a piece of property, or if a mosque, a group of people buy a mosque, that property belongs to them until the end of time. Now when you look at this, what you see is, you see that these are people that venerate Mohammed, and that follow the Koran. And the Koran is a book that starts with the ideology of peace. But then in the last half of the Koran it moves from peace in jihad. And because that is later, then jihad supersedes peace. Jihad is a holy war, and in 1972, what the Islamic faith did was, they sat down and they made a plan, and they have a plan for taking over every single country in the world, and bringing their religion into that country so that that country is run by Sharia law. Now Sharia law is the law that governs the Muslims. And this law looks at people and says if they do not believe in Mohammed, if they do not believe in Allah, if they do not honor the Koran, then they are infidels—absolute infidels—and you have a right to put them to death. Now in the Muslim faith

there is not right and wrong; rather it is the understanding of honor versus shame. “So if you say anything against Mohammed, if you say anything against the Koran, you have shamed us, and therefore we must act in honor and we must bring you down even if we have to kill you because you have shamed the name of Mohammed, or you have shamed the Koran.” So what you have is, you have a plan for them to take over the whole world and they have a map, as I told you, for every single country. You say, “But I’ve heard them say that the Koran says, ‘If you kill an innocent person, it is like killing the whole world.’” That’s in the Koran. But the rest of the verse, the rest of the verse says: “Unless there’s an infidel in the land.” Now, Beloved, what does all this mean in the light of Isaiah? Israel had an enemy: Assyria. They wanted to conquer them. They wanted to rule over them. They wanted to get rid of their religion. We have an enemy. And so you and I need to listen carefully this week so that we know how God would have us handle this enemy; what He would have us to do.