

ISAIAH, PART 1 (JUDGMENT – BUT HOPE)
PROGRAM 36 (#911081)
WEEK 8 (#911317)
©2011 PRECEPT MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL



PRECEPTS FOR LIFE
a Production of
Precept Ministries International
P.O. Box 182218, Chattanooga, TN 37422-7218
1-888-734-7707/ www.preceptsforlife.com

The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

SERIES: Isaiah, Part 1 (Judgment – But Hope)

TITLE: Program 36 – God's Purpose For The Nations

MONDAY

OPEN

We sit around the table. We have a cup of coffee or we're eating dinner, and we're talking. We're talking about history. We look back at events and we discuss, "What did you think? Do you think that we were right or wrong to go into Iraq? Did President Bush bring about the death of thousands of men, needlessly?" We sit there and we discuss the affairs of state and there's something we're missing when we do it. We'll talk about it today.

PART ONE

Pick a year. Think about that year. Think about the United States of America, let's say, in the year 2007. In the year 2007, America was at war with Iraq. We were threatened by terrorists that did not believe in our God. They were enemies of Jesus Christ. They were enemies of America and they were enemies of Israel, and America and Israel held one common belief, and that is in a Judeo-Christian God, in a Book called the Bible. You look at the United States of America in that year 2007. And you remember how that

year took off with Hillary Clinton, this woman that is a woman of great controversy, headed for the presidential nomination for the Democratic party; wanting to be the first woman president of the United States of America. If you look at 2007, you remember at the beginning of that year, they were saying, “Where is a strong Republican to run against whoever the Democrats come up with?” If you remember the beginning of that year, it was a new senate, it was a new house, and now the majority had swung from the Republican Party to the Democratic Party. If you remember that year, you remember that the stats still tell us that the family is disintegrating. There’s the debate on what makes up a family. The nation that once held to one true God; that once held to the Word of God and emblazoned scriptures on monuments. The nation that prayed was no longer praying. The nation now that professed God, was forbidding the putting up of crèches in public places. It was a different, different world from about 30 or 40 years before in the United States of America. If you look at our nation at that time. It was a time of calling evil good and good evil. It was a time when there were to be no absolutes. It was a time when there was a conflict in the church; a conflict that is saying, “Okay, we are not to go by the rigidity of the Word of God; rather, we are to go by what we think and what we feel in line with Christian principles. That was the world in the beginning of the year 2007, in those first few months of 2007. You look at it and people were at odds with one another. The media was lambasting this person or that person or the president of the United States of America. There is something that we forgot. It’s a truth that is there embedded, very clearly, in different chapters of Isaiah. A truth that you and I need to remember when we pull up a chair, when we sit down, when we pick up our cup of coffee, or we pick up whatever we’re drinking, and we begin to discuss. There’s something that you need to remember, and that’s what this week’s Bible study is all about. What do we need to remember? We need to remember that despite all that’s going down here on earth, there is a God in heaven who is behind it all. A

God who has purposed, a God who has planned, a God who says: [“As I have planned, so it shall surely come to pass.”] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 14:24) This week, what we’re going to do is, we’re going to start at Isaiah 19 and we’re going to continue in this flow of the oracles to the nations. And as we do that, Beloved, I want you to see God. I want you to see who He is. I want you to see His power. I want you to see His rule over the kingdoms of this earth. Because if you can, if you will, in the midst of all this conversation, and all these heated debates and everything, and all this pounding and shutting and slamming and everything, there is a God who is in control. I want us to start by going back to a scripture that we’ve already looked at. It’s Isaiah chapter 14. In Isaiah chapter 14, in verse 24, it says this: **“The LORD of hosts has sworn saying, ‘Surely...as I have intended so it has happened....’”** He says, **“...and just as I have planned so it will stand....”** (Isaiah 14:24) Then He says, **“To break Assyria in My land....”** (Isaiah 14:25) “I’m gonna bring Assyria down, but I’m gonna ‘...break Assyria in My land, and I will trample him [Assyria] on My mountains. Then his yoke will be removed from them and his burden...from their shoulder. This is the plan devised against the whole earth....” (Isaiah 14:25-26) Now there is no Assyrian Empire today. But if we were to look at where Assyria was, it was Iraq, it was parts of Syria, it was part of Turkey, and then at other times it even went into Lebanon and came on down into the northern part of the kingdom of Israel. So is he talking about Assyria in the past? Is he talking about Assyria yet to come in the future? The point is, and this is what I want you to get: That God has purposed; that God has planned. He says in verse 26, **“This is the plan[s] devised against the whole earth; and this is the hand that is stretched out against all the nations.”** (Isaiah 14:24) So I want you to remember that hand being “stretched out.” Just imagine, you know, it being stretched out, this powerful, powerful arm and hand of God. Think of the Sistine Chapel, think of Michelangelo’s work. Think of the hand of God coming out and the

finger—reaching out to touch the finger of Adam, the first man that He ever created. This is Almighty God. And this is what He says: **“For the LORD of hosts has planned, and who can frustrate it...as for His [out-stretched] hand, who can turn it back?” (Isaiah 14:27)** Who can take God’s hand and turn it back? In Daniel chapter 4 and verse 35 it says, **“...[God does] according to his will in the army of heaven ...among the inhabitants of the earth...none can...say unto him, What doest thou?” (Daniel 4:35, KJV)** [He stretches out His hand and none can stop Him. None can question Him.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 14:27) And you see, when you and I are in situations like this, when we take history and we look at a time in history, or we look at our time in history and we begin to evaluate the kingdoms, and, and the rulerships, and the governments, and we look at them and we begin to debate that, one of the things that we need to learn to do as Christians, as people that believe the Word of God is to look beyond the current, and to look at the **“...[One who does] according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth...,”** and know that **“...none can [thwart him and none can] say unto him, What doest thou?” (Daniel 4:35, KJV)** Why? Because God is in charge of history; God has a plan. God has a purpose. Well this is what He’s saying not only about Assyria, but he says it about the whole earth against all the nations. Then we come finally to Isaiah 19, and this is where I left off with you. In Isaiah chapter 19 it opens up with the oracle concerning Egypt, and what I want you to see; I’m gonna come back and I’m going to look at this with you. But what I want you to see is, I want you to see a couple verses in this awesome, awesome chapter. This is what he says in verse 12. He says, **“Well then, where are your wise men...?” (Isaiah 19:12)** He’s speaking to Egypt. He says, **“...Please let them tell you, and let them understand what the LORD of hosts has purposed against Egypt.” (Isaiah 19:12)** At this point, in chapter 19, Egypt is falling apart. And so He says, “Okay, call your wise men. Here we are sitting at the table. Here we are discussing current events.”

He says, “...let them tell you [let them tell you] **what [God] has purposed against Egypt.**” (Isaiah 19:12) Then you come on down and you see this word “purposed” again. And it says, “**The land of Judah will become a terror to Egypt; everyone to whom it is mentioned will be in dread of it, because of the purpose of the LORD of hosts....**” (Isaiah 19:17) In other words, they’re sitting around in Egypt and they’re discussing this and they are worried, and they are anxious, and they are troubled, and they are this way because they are talking about Israel. Egypt is fearing Israel, and they’re all upset. And what it says here is, it says, “...**because of the purpose of the LORD of hosts which He is purposing against them,**” against Egypt. (Isaiah 19:17) God is in control. [And what God has purposed, what God has planned, and it’s the same Hebrew word, will surely come to pass. It will not fail. As He has planned, as He has purposed, so it shall happen.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 14:24) So how does this relate to the opening of our program today? It’s telling you, Precious One, that no matter how frustrated you are, no matter what you think, you can know this: that God’s in heaven and He has a plan. We’ll talk about it more in just a minute.

PART TWO

Thank you, Beloved for studying the Word of God with us. That’s what Precept Ministries International is all about. As we study Isaiah, this book is not an easy book to understand. I mean, if you’ve downloaded that free study guide, if you’ve gone to <preceptsforlife.com>, and you have downloaded that study guide, then you know that this is not an easy book. And I want to tell you something, it is a real challenge to teach it over the air. It is a real challenge to teach it on radio, to teach it on television. Because, you know, people want programs that have to do with today, with now. “Get me out of this problem.” “Help me in this situation,” or “Entertain me.” You know, “Let me entertain you.” And yet I know that God brought Precept Ministries International—“Precepts for Life” to the kingdom “...for

such a time as this.” (Esther 4:14) He has given us the Word of God and He wants us to understand it. This is not a feel good program. It is not a program to entertain you. It is a program to equip you so that you can stand in the days to come, so that you know what’s going on. And if you’ll hang in there with me all week, or if you’ll go online, if you missed the program, or if you’ll order the, the audios or the CDs of this teaching so that you can get a grasp on Isaiah, I promise you it will make you rooted and grounded and solid and [steadfast and immovable so that you can always abound in the work of the Lord] (PARAPHRASE, 1 Corinthians 15:58, KJV) because you’re connected to God and you’re connected to what God is doing. Now all of that takes work, Beloved. It takes work. And I tell you, honestly, that as I sit, and as I study Isaiah, I think, “Lord! I can’t understand this. Lord, when are you talking about? Lord it seems like—.” But you know what? Just the very process of being in the Word of God, the very process of studying it inductively, like I’m trying to teach you to do, just the basics of observation and giving you the study guide, so that we can grow together— just the process of it. It’s a time when God speaks to my heart, and oh my goodness, how He spoke to my heart this week. How He showed me; because I’m going through incredible trials, and they’re trials that, that cause not physical pain, but the worst kind of pain of the, of the heart and of the spirit, and the battle in the mind, and yet, yet this week I thought, “God! God! You purpose. You plan. And even, even the problems that I’m going through, You have a purpose in those. They are not without purpose.” Now does this leave you and me totally unaccountable to God? Oh no, oh no. But as we look at God’s Word to the nations, God wants us to understand that He’s sitting on His throne. So in chapter 19, He deals with Egypt. Now watch what He tells us about Egypt. Now let me just tell you a couple things about Egypt. Egypt is one of the oldest civilizations in the world. Because of the richness of the Nile— this is very important as we read this. But because of the richness of the Nile Delta and all that it gave them agriculturally, and

because of the isolation and the natural barriers that were provided by the desert, the Egyptians were able to develop a culture unlike the rest of the Middle East and Africa. The first unified kingdom emerged about 3200 B.C. They were ruled by a number of Egyptian dynasties until finally they were conquered by the Persians in 341 B.C. Now as we are looking at Isaiah, we're in the 700s B.C. We're in the 700s B.C., okay? And Egypt was ruled by, a series of Greeks, of Romans and Byzantine dynasties. So until the seventh century A.D. they were under these different dynasties, and then the Arabs came in. The Arabs are not a religion, they are a people. And they introduced, when they came in, they introduced their religion. Their religion was Islam, and so they introduced that and they introduced the Arab culture to the Egyptians. In 1250, a local Muslim caste named the Mamlukes; the Mamlukes— now they were part of the Ottoman Empire— and they are the ones that ruled over Israel for awhile. They took control of Egypt under the Ottoman Empire and this was in about 1517. In 1869 A.D., jumping—big jump—the Suez Canal was built and that then, attracted the interest of the world, because now they had better transportation. They were connected by that Suez Canal, and so, economically, militarily, strategically it became a great place to rule over, so the British came in, and they took control of them. And this lasted until 1922 when they gained their partial independence, and then they gained total independence at the end of World War II. Now there are two things, and I want you to remember this. There are two things that helped Egypt not be so dependent on the Nile. The first one was the completion of the Aswan High Dam, and the second one was, the Lake Nasser, named after its builder, that allowed the Egyptians to have this electrical power, and not depend on the Nile. As you look at this country, they are currently at peace with Israel. The official language is Arabic, but English and French are understood there, and 90% of the country is Muslim. Ninety per cent of the country is Muslim, mostly the Sunni Muslims. All right now, in that background, listen: **“The oracle concerning**

Egypt. Behold, the LORD is riding on a swift cloud and is about to come to Egypt; the idols of Egypt will tremble at His presence, and the heart of the Egyptians will melt within them. So I will incite Egyptians against Egyptians....” (Isaiah 19:1-2) What’s going to happen? There’s going to be a civil unrest. And it says, **“...they will each fight against his brother and each against his neighbor....” (Isaiah 19:2)** You know what that’s like. You’ve looked at history. You’ve looked at the conflict between gangs in America and so there’s civil unrest. **“...City against city and kingdom against kingdom. Then the spirit of the Egyptians will be demoralized within them; and I will confound their strategy, so that they will resort to idols and [to] ghosts of the dead...to [medium] and spiritists.” (Isaiah 19:2-3)** They want answers. They don’t know where to go. They go to idols, they go to witchcraft. And it says, **“Moreover, I will deliver the Egyptians into the hand of a cruel master...a mighty king will rule over them....” (Isaiah 19:4)** You say, “That doesn’t sound very nice, God. But you see, the thing is, we haven’t gotten to the reason that He is doing it. But God’s reason is always good. God’s reason is always just. It’s always fair. It’s always reasonable. So just know this, that when these things are happening, God is behind them and He has a purpose.