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SERIES: Isaiah, Part 2 (Comfort For His People)

TITLE: Program 16 – Secure In Their Deception

MONDAY

OPEN

“I told you so. I told you it was going to happen. Oh but, oh no, oh no, you wouldn’t listen. Now look at what’s happened as a result of the fact that you wouldn’t listen.” O Precious One, has that ever happened to you? Maybe you heard it from a father, a mother, or maybe you said it to your daughter or to your son. What happens when we don’t listen to God? That’s what we’re gonna talk about all this week as we study Isaiah.

PART ONE

The mother was very concerned about her daughter, I mean, very concerned. She knew that her daughter had been pushing herself to the hilt, that she hadn’t been getting enough sleep. And now she was getting ready to go on a trip across country. She put herself on a deadline that she did not have to be on. And so the mother picked up the phone and called her and said, “Honey, don’t do it. Don’t do it. Just get some rest.” “Oh mom, I can handle it. I can go without sleep. I’m fine. Besides I want to get there. I’ve got it all

planned.” The next morning the mother called her again and said, “Please don’t go. Please rest. Just rest one day, or just rest all morning and then go.” “Mom, I told you I can handle it.” Well she fell asleep at the wheel. And when she fell asleep at the wheel and she crashed, she paralyzed herself from the waist down. Now she lives in a wheelchair. God got her attention, and God has her lock, stock and barrel now. That’s just the way God redeems. But Precious One, what could it have been if she had only listened? Haven’t you had that happen to you? Haven’t you found yourself in a circumstance where you were told not to do something, you were warned not to do something, you were told, “Hey, that is not the way God wants you to do it. You’re going too fast. I’m sorry, but this is crossing the boundary. Don’t do it.” And yet, you asserted yourself and you did it. You did it because you thought that you were in control and you forgot, Precious One, that you’re not. You forgot that there is the Lord and He alone is God, that He wounds and that He heals, that He kills and that He makes alive, that He’s the Lord that does all these things. That He creates well-being and He creates calamity. He creates the light and He creates the darkness. (See Isaiah 45:6-7) But somehow you thought you could get away with it. Maybe it was a wrong marriage. Maybe it was a date you shouldn’t have gone on. Maybe it was a business deal that your wife or your husband tried to convince you that you shouldn’t go into. Maybe it was a relationship and they said, “I just don’t think that this is a good and healthy relationship.” Whatever it was you should have listened and you know it. As we look at Isaiah and we’re going to cover Isaiah chapter 47, 48, 49 and 50 this week. But as we look at these chapters there’s one common, uniting thing in each one of these chapters and that is, hearing the Lord; listening to Him. And He talks about listening. He talks about Babylon not listening. He talks about Israel not listening. He talks about the nations and their need to listen. And then in chapter 50, He talks about one that does listen, and the fruit of that. And this is what we’re gonna talk about all this week as we go through these

chapters. This is going to be our uniting theme. Why? Because as I prayed I thought, “You know, we are getting into such trouble because we don’t know what God has said, and we’re not listening to Him.” Well as we begin this week’s study in Isaiah 47, if you downloaded your free study guide if you’re studying along with me, and I’m getting more and more emails from you all saying that you are. And I am so thankful that you’re doing it. But if you went to preceptsforlife.com and you downloaded your study guide, one of the things that we had you do was read chapter 47 of Isaiah. We had you mark every reference to “Babylon”. Now all throughout my Bible I mark the references to “Babylon” the same way. Why? Because Babylon is a key player in the Word of God. The book of Genesis talks about the tower of Babel. It’s the beginning of a kingdom—the kingdom of Babylon. And that kingdom keeps popping up all the way through the Scriptures until you come to Revelation chapter 17 and Revelation chapter 18 where you read about the demise of Babylon. Well we know from Isaiah chapter 39 that Hezekiah during his rulership when he got sick, two men came from Babylon. They came to visit him. While they were there he showed them everything in his kingdom; everything. I mean, he really showed off. And then Isaiah the prophet came to him and Isaiah made this pronouncement and I’m sorry to say that Hezekiah just thought: “Oh well. It won’t happen in my time. I’m gonna die before that happens,” and that is true. He does die before it happens. But the judgment was coming. Listen to what he said. He said in verse 6 of Isaiah 39, **“Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house...,”** Hezekiah, king of Judah, family of David, **“...and all that your fathers have laid up in store to this day...,”** because they kept accumulating these treasures. And he said, **“...All [of] that...will be carried to Babylon; nothing will be left,”** says the LORD. **‘And some of your sons who will issue from you, whom you will beget, will be taken away, and they will become officials in the palace of the king of Babylon.’”** (Isaiah 39:6-7) So what has He just told him? He’s told him,

[“You’re going to go into captivity. You’re going to lose all your treasures. The house of David is going to lose all of its treasures. And not only that but your sons are going to go into captivity and they’re going to serve in the palaces of Babylon.”] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 39:6-7) Now what is so interesting is Babylon is present day Iraq. And what you find is, you find that ruler after ruler in Babylon, in Iraq, wanted to be like the great king Nebuchadnezzar. So Babylon is going to be a figure that is going to play throughout history until the coming of Jesus Christ when He leaves heaven and comes as King of kings. Now the children of Israel know, because God has let them know, “You’re going to go into captivity in Babylon.” As a matter of fact, He has already mentioned Babylon in Isaiah 13 and Isaiah 14. And then a little bit later He mentions Babylon again. But now He’s focusing on Babylon, and it’s Babylon that needs to listen. Look at verse 8. I want to jump to verse 8 and then we’ll go back and pick it up. It says, **“Now, then, hear this, you sensual one....” (Isaiah 47:8)** God is making a proclamation to Babylon. “Listen up Babylon. Listen up you sensual gal. Listen up; because I’m gonna tell you some things about your demise.” Now let’s go back and look at it, because remember all this week we’re looking at listening up—listening to God. It says, **“Come down and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon; sit on the ground without a throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans! For you shall no longer be called tender and delicate.” (Isaiah 47:1)** Now He’s giving us this picture of a woman, a virgin daughter of Babylon that’s tender and delicate, and this tender and delicate woman is sitting right in the dirt. And He says to her, **“...For you shall no longer be called tender and delicate. Take the millstones and grind meal....”** In other words, you get up there, put those millstones down and you get on that thing and you begin to grind meal. Now this is beneath her. And it says, **“...Remove your veil, strip off [your] skirt, uncover the leg, cross the rivers.”** And there are several rivers there, at Iraq. **“Your nakedness will be uncovered, your shame also will be exposed; I will**

take vengeance and...not spare a man.” (Isaiah 47:1-3) Listen; who’s talking? God is talking. And He goes on to say, **“Our Redeemer, the LORD of hosts is His name, the Holy One of Israel.” (Isaiah 47:4)** So it’s like all of a sudden in this proclamation to Babylon there’s a proclamation from God about a Redeemer, about the LORD of hosts and He’s the Holy One of Israel and He is the One that’s going to do this. So right in this proclamation about Babylon all of a sudden He’s letting them know who’s behind her situation. Who has brought her into the dirt? Who has put her on that millstone grinding meal? Who has stripped off her skirt? Who has uncovered her nakedness? It is God. So, **“Sit silently, and go into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans....”** Now it took me a while when I was reading the Bible to figure out who the Chaldeans were. The Chaldeans are the Babylonians. It’s just another title for them. **“...For you will no longer be called the queen of kingdoms.” (Isaiah 47:5)** He says, **“I was angry with My people....”** God’s speaking. **“...I was angry with My people....”** Now who’s God’s people? It’s Jacob. It’s Israel. He said, **“...I profaned My heritage....”** In other words, “These are My people, but I profaned them because I let you come against them. He says, **“...[I] gave them into your hand. [And] you did not show mercy to them....” (Isaiah 47:6)** “I allowed you to conquer them and yet you were cruel conquerors. There was no mercy with you. Now that’s why you’re in the dirt. Now that’s why your nakedness has been uncovered.” He said, **“I was angry with My people, I profaned My heritage and [I] gave them...,”** I, God, gave them, Jacob, My people, **“...into your hand. You did not show mercy [on] them, on the aged you made your yoke very [very] heavy.” (Isaiah 47:6)** And He says, “And what did you say?” We’ll talk about in just a minute.

PART TWO

I am so thankful that you are studying Isaiah with us, and I thank you so much for communicating with us. And I want to thank you for your financial

gifts. Media is extremely expensive. Just the production of it is very expensive and the wonderful crew that we have. They all have to eat and we pay them salaries. So thank you for helping us. Thank you for your partnership. Now let's go on. He's talking to Babylon. He's saying, "Listen, I want you to understand that the only reason that you, Babylon, conquered Israel was because I was angry with My people. I used you as My rod of judgment. And yet this is your attitude." Now watch. He says, **"Yet you said....,"** and I'm in Isaiah 47, verse 7. **"Yet you said, 'I[']ll be a queen forever.'"** Now you want to put a clock over "forever". It's a time phrase, and it tells you how long she thinks she's going to be a queen. And I want to tell you something. Sometimes we think "I'm gonna be a queen forever. I'm gonna reign forever. I'm gonna run my own life." And then what happens? Because we don't listen to God, we hit a brick wall. We go to sleep on the Word of God. We crash and things happen to us, and then God is trying to get our attention. Well is He gonna get Babylon's attention? Well let's keep reading. **"Yet you said, 'I will be a queen forever.' These things you did not consider nor remember the outcome of them."** (Isaiah 47:7) You didn't stop and think this thing through. **"Now, then, hear this...sensual one...."** I mean, we could say this to most of America today: **"...Hear this...sensual one...."** (Isaiah 47:8) Why? Because we are living for our own desires. It's all about me. It's my world. It's what pleases me. It's what I want to do. And it's like I want more and more and more and more. He says, **"...Who dwells securely...."** (Isaiah 47:8) "You think that you're fine because you've got this great army. You have just conquered Israel." You know, "You've conquered other parts of the world." **"...Who says in your heart, 'I am, and there is no one besides me. I will not sit as a widow, nor know [the] loss of children.'"** (Isaiah 47:8) "I'm fine. I'll never be a widow. I'll never be without a man. And I'll never lose my children. I've got it all planned. It's all very secure." He says, **"But these two things will come on you suddenly in one day...:"** number one, **"...loss**

of children....” Now mark it. Put a one over it. And two, put a two over **“...widowhood. They will come on you in full measure in spite of your many sorceries....” (Isaiah 47:8-9)** “You think you’ve got it made because you’re into all the sorcery and this necromancy and you’re worshipping the heavens and you’re consulting the stars and all of this and this is the way you’re ordering your life.” Hey, horoscopes are horror scopes. You’ve probably heard that. They’re not from God. But they’re going this way. He says, **“...They will come on you in full measure in spite of your many sorceries, in spite of the great power of your spells. You felt secure in your wickedness and [you] said, ‘No one sees me....’”** “No one sees me. There’s no god. I’m it.” It says, **“...Your wisdom and your knowledge, they have deluded you; for you have said in your heart....”** The heart and mind are interchangeable. **“...I am, and there is no one besides me.” (Isaiah 47:9-10)** “I’m at the top of the pinnacle. I am. There’s no one besides me. I’m not coming down.” Do you remember when Nebuchadnezzar had a dream? A dream about a statue with a head of gold and a chest of silver and a belly of bronze and then legs of iron and then feet of iron and clay. (See Daniel 2:31-33) And God told him, “You’re the head of gold, but there’s another kingdom coming after you.” (See Daniel 2:38-39) So in the next chapter of Daniel he builds a whole statue of gold and he says, “You bow down and you worship this statue of gold, and if you don’t I’ve got a furnace of fire and it is waiting and it would be glad to burn you to smithereens—to make you a crispy critter.” (See Daniel 3:5-6) Now when he does that, he’s saying “I am. There is no other. Nothing’s going to happen to me.” And yet in the next chapter in Daniel chapter 4, you find him losing his mind. You find him down on the ground crawling and eating grass and just a mess. (See Daniel 4:25) Why? Because God showed him, “No, you are not.” **“...I am the LORD and there is no other....” (Isaiah 45:5)** Look at Isaiah 45, verse 6. It says, **“That men [might] know from the rising to the setting of the sun that there is no one besides Me....” (Isaiah 45:6)**

“You are not the top. You are not in charge. You are a human being which flesh is like grass. You’re here today, you’re gone tomorrow. You may be a great kingdom today, but you’re not going to last forever. You’re not going to sit as a queen forever, because I’m God. And you have to know and you have to understand. You better listen up. You better listen to Me.” And so He says, **“...I am the LORD, and there is no other. [I’m] the One forming light and creating darkness, causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the LORD who does all these [things].” (Isaiah 45:6-7)** And He’s telling them calamity is coming. Now watch what He says in verse 11, **“...[You’re saying that] ‘I am, and there is no one besides me.’” (Isaiah 47:10)** He says, **“But evil will come on you [and] which you will not know how to charm away....”** All your sorceries, all your necromancy— not gonna take care of it. **“...And disaster will fall on you for which you cannot atone; and destruction [will come] about which you do not know [and it] will come on you suddenly [suddenly].” (Isaiah 47:11)** Now listen, that’s exactly what happened. In Daniel chapter 5 you have Belshazzar ruling as a Babylonian king. He knows that the Medes and Persians are out there. He knows that they are trying to conquer his city, but he has it all planned. He can take care of everything. They can last for years under siege, far longer than an army can last. And he’s very secure and he throws a party. And you can read about it in Daniel. And then all of a sudden at the party an uninvited guest shows up writing on the wall: **“...Mene, mene, tekel, upharsin.” (Daniel 5:25)** In other words, “your days are numbered.” Precious One, just think with me and we’ll continue this on our next day. But just think with me. Sometimes we can be so arrogant. Sometimes we can think, “Hey, I’ve got it all under control. I’ve got a plan. Nothing is gonna stop me. Don’t worry about me.” And somebody is saying to you, “Listen, listen, listen.” Or your conscience is saying to you, “Listen, listen, listen.” Or the Spirit of God is saying to you, “Listen, listen, listen. You are not in charge. God is in charge.” And God can turn the tide just like

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that. Precious One, God is saying to you, today, “Listen to Me. Get to know Me. Understand My ways and remember you are not God. I am the LORD and there is no one beside me. You need to bow the knee. You need to quit thinking that you’re gonna be a queen or a king forever and you need to acknowledge Me and you need to walk and live accordingly.” So Precious One, you need to remember this. This is God’s message to us this week. And we’re going to see it from all different angles and I pray it’s going to be a great, great blessing in your life. I pray that it’s going to be such a blessing that there will come a new habit in your life that will help you listen to God moment by moment. He’s God. He’s spoken. You better listen up.