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

TITLE: Program 8 – The Lord Enters Into Judgment

WEDNESDAY

OPEN

When a country descends from its former glory into the cesspools of immorality and licentiousness who's to blame? Who is to blame? Well basically, it's the common person, the common person, or the leaders. It depends on whether the common people elect the leaders or whether the leaders are just self-appointed. But then it's not just the leaders. What is it? I'll tell you in just a minute.

PART ONE

Who's responsible when a country falls? Well I said that the leaders are responsible. The people are responsible, especially if they get to elect the leaders. But there's another group of people that God holds responsible. And this is what we see in Isaiah chapter 3, as we look at this word of the Lord that came to Isaiah concerning Judah and Jerusalem. (See Isaiah 3:1) In Isaiah chapter 3 we saw in verse 8 that, “...**Jerusalem has stumbled and Judah has fallen....**” (Isaiah 3:8) And what is the consequence of their stumbling and their falling? Well God has removed the leadership and He

has brought children to rule over them. (See Isaiah 3:4) He has lifted up the people, the inferior to come against the honorable. (See Isaiah 3:5) And it's chaos. I don't know if you know anything about Germany in 1945. But after Hitler was destroyed and taken out of power for a while Germany, in a sense, kind of fell apart. There was chaos. Why? Because there wasn't their leadership was gone. Now their leader was a horrible horrible leader. But there was just chaos. And so this is what you find when you have the leadership changing. But it's more so what you find when you have the inferior people displacing the honorable, when you have the youth through the capricious children displacing the adults. (See Isaiah 3:3-4) And he goes on to say this, **"...Jerusalem...and Judah has fallen, because their speech and their actions are against the LORD, to rebel against His glorious presence."** (Isaiah 3:8) He was right there. They were going through the ritual. They were having their religion, but they had no relationship. They were honoring Him with their lips, but their hearts were far from Him. And so he says, **"The expression [on] their faces bears witness against them, and they display their sin like Sodom; they [don't] even conceal it...."** (Isaiah 3:9) I mean they're parading in the streets. Stop and think if you ever listen to "E" Entertainment, and you follow what's happening among the heroes, so to speak, of this country, when you look at the entertainers, when you look at the rock stars and the musicians and people that have attained, that make themselves the ones that judge another's outfit and say whether they're cool or they're not cool, or their behavior and that, look at them. And you see a haughtiness about them. You see an arrogance about them. But the other thing that you also see is you see a lack of absolutes. You see a lack of morality. They don't try to hide their sin anymore. They've come, so to speak, out of the closet of iniquity. And you see there is a benefit to keeping your sin hidden. It benefits society. It benefits society when we say, "Oh listen," and this happened in years past in the movie industry. It got so bad that they came up with a commission that would review all films to make sure that they held a certain standard. And they held

a standard where they wouldn't even let a husband and wife have a double bed. They had twin beds. If you look at "I Love Lucy", if you look at those old sitcoms they had separate beds. Now you see them in bed and now you see all sorts of things going on that should only be in private. But what are they doing? "...[They're displaying] **their sin like Sodom.... (Isaiah 3:9)** You see movie stars and you see them filmed absolutely naked, and you see them in the act, in the very act that is something that is supposed to be beautiful, and supposed to be proper, and it's supposed to be undefiled. God says [Marriage is honorable in all and the bed undefiled.] (PARAPHRASE, Hebrews 13:4) But you see them **"...Display[ing] their sin like Sodom...."** There's no hiding it. It says, **"...They do not even conceal it...."** And so what you have is, you have a "woe". **"...Woe to them! For they have brought evil on themselves." (Isaiah 3:9)** This is why the leadership has changed. This is why you have these capricious children ruling over you. This is why you have the inferior rather than the honorable. But then he makes this statement, and this is a word to you and it's a word to me, Beloved. **"Say to the righteous that it will go well with them, for they will eat the fruit of their actions." (Isaiah 3:10)** In other words, they're going to benefit from their good behavior. But also, are they not only going to benefit from their good behavior, but the wicked are going to receive a curse because of their bad behavior. So we see the second "woe" in Isaiah. I told you that there are 22 woe's in a previous program. And it is more than you will find in any other prophetic book in the Old Testament. **"Woe to the wicked! It will go badly with [them], for what he deserves will be done to him." (Isaiah 3:11)** What is he saying? "Here is this wicked person displaying their sin like Sodom." You, you see it. You look and you read about so and so and how they have this wonderful announcement to make, this star is finally pregnant, and her boyfriend is so happy. God calls that adultery. God calls that fornication. God says that that is displeasing to Him. And yet, they displayed their sin. But God says, "Listen, you're going to reap the harvest of your sin." Now this is not a message that people want to

hear. Now if the Word of God is pointing out sin in your life, Precious One, then I can tell you this, God has you listening because God wants to work in your life. He doesn't want you to reap your wickedness. He doesn't want to judge you. He wants to bless you. He wants to turn you from your wickedness and your evil ways to righteousness. "Righteousness" means there are absolutes and you have chosen to do what God says is right. You've made a turn around. This is what he's calling them to in the first chapter of Isaiah. He is saying to them, "Repent, repent. Have a change of mind. Come back to God." And that's what God is saying to you if you're listening today and you are displaying your sin, and you know it's wrong. Deep inside your gut you know it's wrong. Then God is saying that He is hearing your cry, that it's no accident that we've connected and God is going to meet you where you are, but He's not going to leave you where you are. He's going to take you and transform you and make you into a man of God, a woman of God. And so I say to each one of you that has so prayerfully responded to the teaching of this Word, that you are supporting those that are teaching you, and that you have joined us in our mission to get this Word to others by helping support this program, thank you. Thank you so much. You just don't know how much we need it. All right now, he says, **"Woe to the wicked! It will go badly with him, for what he deserves will be done to him. O My people! [O My people!]"** It's a cry of anguish. **"...Their oppressors are children, and...."** Here's that second group I told you about. **"...Women rule over them...." (Isaiah 3:12) "...Their oppressors are children, and women rule over them...."** It says, **"O My people! [O My people!] Oy vey! Oy vey! "...Those who guide you lead you astray and confuse the direction of your paths." (Isaiah 3:12)** Do I live this way? Do I live this way? Do I go this way? Is this right? Is this wrong? I am confused. I don't know what to do. He says, **"O My people...!" (Isaiah 3:12)** You are regarding man whose breath is in his nostrils. You have rejected Me. Your speech and your actions have been against Me and you are reaping these consequences. It says, **"The LORD arises to contend,**

and [He] stands to judge the people.” (Isaiah 3:13) Now you need to mark the word “judge”. I put a big red “J”. You can mark it any way you want. I used to put like a gavel and take the time to draw that gavel, but a red “J” is much quicker. It says, “**The LORD arises to contend, and [He] stands to judge [His people] the people. The LORD enters into judgment....**,” another red “J” “**...with...elders and princes of His people....**” (Isaiah 3:13-14) Now I also, in the study guide, the free study guide that you can download, in that study guide I tell you to mark the references to “My people.” I just color it blue. He says, “**The LORD enters into judgment with the elders and [the] princes of His people, ‘It is you [the elders and the princes] who have devoured the vineyard; the plunder of the poor is in your house.’**” (Isaiah 3:14) You really don’t care about others. You care more about yourself. He says, “**‘What do you mean by crushing My people and grinding the face of the poor?’ declares the Lord...?’**” (Isaiah 3:15) What do you mean by doing that? Now listen to the next verse and then we’ll come back to it. “**Moreover, the LORD said, ‘Because the daughters of Zion are proud....’**” (Isaiah 3:16) What’s going to happen? It’s going to be a disaster for the nation. We’ll talk about it in just a minute. And if you’re a woman or a man you don’t want to miss it.

PART TWO

A country cannot survive ungodly leadership. O, they may have it for a long time, but it will bring down the nation, because God will not tolerate it. And He especially will not tolerate it in a nation that has professed Him, that has His name engraved in granite and marble and imprinted on coins and saying, “In God we trust.” God is not going to let the nation turn their back on Him and get away with it. And not only that, God is a defender of people. God wants us to treat even the aliens, even though they may not believe as we believe, God wants us to treat them properly. He told the children of Israel, “When you get into the land,” He says, “I want you to take care of the alien

remembering that you were an alien in Egypt. You learned your lesson there. You were severely oppressed. You were in bondage.” He says, “I don’t want you to do that to another people.” (See Exodus 22:21) And so God has told them that “[He] **arises to contend, ...[He] stands to judge the people. The LORD enters into judgment with the elders and [the] princes of [the] people, ‘It is you [elders of the people, you leaders. It is you] who have devoured the vineyard; the plunder of the poor is in your houses.’”**

(Isaiah 3:13-14) We think of all the scandals by leaders of corporations and we’re indignant. We look at the election that went on in the year 2006 and we see that there was a whole switch in the Congress and in the Senate. And there was a switch because people said, “Hey, the Republicans had all this corruption and they didn’t do anything about it. They didn’t take action against it.” Well who do you suppose, in a sense, is orchestrating all of that? It’s Almighty God. He’s the One that is sovereign. He’s the One that deals with sin. And so if we don’t judge ourselves then we will be judged by God. So He says, “**...It is you who have devoured the vineyard; the plunder of the poor is in your houses. What do you mean by crushing My people and grinding the face of the poor?’ declares the Lord...of hosts.** [What do you mean by that?]

(Isaiah 3:14-15) And then He goes on and He tells us what is going to happen. He talks about the women. But before we go to the women what I want to do is I want to take a moment and read to you some quotes that come from this book, “America’s God and Country.” It’s an incredible book. It’s an encyclopedia of quotations. It’s by William J. Federer, “F-e-d-e-r-e-r” and it’s an incredible work. But he went through alphabetically and he showed us the foundation of this country through the quotes and the writings and the actions of men that were godly leaders. “On March the 6th 1799 President John Adams called for a National Fast Day. He says, ‘I have proper to recommend, and I hereby recommend accordingly that Thursday, the 25th day of April next be observed throughout the United States of America as a day of solemn humiliation, fasting and prayer, that the citizens on that day abstain as far as may be from their secular

occupation and devote the time to attend to the sacred duties of religion in public and in private, that they call to mind our numerous offenses against the Most High God, confessing them before Him with the sincerest penitence implore His pardoning mercy through the great Mediator and Redeemer for our past transgressions that through the grace of His Holy Spirit we may be disposed and enabled to yield a more suitable obedience to His righteous requisitions in time to come, that He would interpose. He would intervene, to arrest the progress of impiety and licentiousness in principle and practice so offensive to Himself and so ruinous to mankind, that He would make us deeply sensible that righteous exalts a nation, but sin a reproach to any people.” That was President John Adams. Then you come to the governor. This was John Winthrop and he was the first governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. He was elected 12 consecutive times which tells you something about the people that he ruled over. And this is what he wrote to his wife. “Be of good comfort. The hardest that can come shall be a means to mortify this body of corruption, which is a thousand times more dangerous to us than any outward tribulation, and to bring us into nearer communion with our Lord Jesus Christ and more assurance of His kingdom.” He said as he wrote this under the Constitution of the New England Confederation, “Whereas we all came to these parts of America with the same end and aim namely to advance the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ and to enjoy the liberties of the gospel, therefore, with purities and peace and for preserving and propagating the truth and liberties of the gospel.” They were the ones that guaranteed the freedom of religion to all me; which means, in this country that you can worship any god you want, but you can’t stop the worship of Christianity of the one and only true God. Dr. James D. Kennedy, in reading over the constitution of our fifty states.... I love this man and I so appreciate his ministry. “I discovered something which some of you may not know. There is in all fifty constitutions, without exception, an appeal for a prayer to the Almighty God of the universe. Through all fifty state constitutions, without exception, there runs the same

appeal in reference to God who is the Creator of our liberties and the preserver of our freedoms.” This, Beloved, is godly leadership. And that’s why God blessed this country. But He’s not going to bless it if we continue living the way we’ve been living. Listen to what he says cause he moves then to the women, “...**Because the daughters of Zion are proud and [they] walk with heads held high and seductive eyes...go[ing] along with mincing steps and tinkle the[ir] bangles on their feet, therefore the LORD will afflict the scalp of the daughters of Zion with scabs, and the LORD will make their foreheads bare. In that day the Lord will take away the beauty of their anklets...,**” (Isaiah 3:16-18) and then he describes all the things, finery He’s going to take away. And he says, “...**It will come about...instead of sweet perfume there will be putrefaction; instead of a belt, a rope; instead of well-set hair, a plucked out scalp; instead of fine cloths, a donning of sackcloth; and [a] branding instead of beauty. Your men will fall by the sword and your mighty ones in battle.**” (Isaiah 3:24-25) You women that are so self-absorbed with the way you look and with the possessions you have, instead of the high calling as women, are going to lead your men into battle and most of them will be lost. “...**Your mighty ones [will fall] in battle. [In] her gates [she] will lament and mourn; ...deserted she will sit on the ground.** (Isaiah 3:25-26) [Seven women will go to one man because there’ll be such a shortage of men when God judges that nation and they’ll say, “I’ll provide my own food. I’ll provide my own cloak. Please just let me have your name.”] (PARAPHRASE Isaiah 4:1) They want the protection of the man, but the man is gone because God has judged. O Beloved, may we listen carefully to the Word of the Lord.