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

TITLE: Program 54 – Resisting Insults

THURSDAY

OPEN

Have you ever been around a scoffer? If you have you know it is no fun. A scoffer is not only someone who disagrees with you, but a scoffer makes fun of what you believe. They don't say, "Okay, that's your opinion." Rather, they take it and they rehash it and they mock it. They scorn it. They are hard to talk to. We're going to talk about scoffers today. Don't be one.

PART ONE

Welcome Beloved, to our study of Isaiah; Isaiah 28 and 29. I know Isaiah is not an easy book to get a handle on, but I tell you, what we do understand really hits home and it hits home big time. And it is so important that it hits home, and I will tell you why. Because we are going to live in a time of increased scoffing. There is a government move, a move among congressmen, a move among senators who want to marginalize Christianity, who just want us to go back and stay in our churches. They are swayed by people that are trying to have political clout with them, threatening them, and they want to marginalize us. And they seem to think that our God is just

a local God, that our God just belongs to America, that we are just one of numerous amounts of different beliefs, and we are no different than the others. Now it's all right for people to think that way. It's not wise and it ends in death, but when they turn around and they mock you, when they are scorers, when they put you down, when they demean you that's when it's hard. And God has a word for those people. Let's look at it. It's Isaiah chapter 28 and it's verse 14. And this is what he says, **“Therefore, hear the word of the LORD, O scoffers....”** He says, **“...Who rule this people...in Jerusalem.” (Isaiah 28:14)** You see, we're not the only ones that have scoffers that are sitting in political high places who are ruling the country. But they had scoffers who were rulers in Jerusalem. God was speaking to His people. Remember Isaiah is the word of the Lord—the visions that God gave him during the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah. (See Isaiah 1:1) Ahaz is off the scene. It is now during the reign of Hezekiah. And what you find is, you find scoffers that are ruling in Jerusalem. Is Hezekiah a scoffer? No, he's not a scoffer. But there are others who rule this people who are in Jerusalem. **“Because you...said, ‘We have made a covenant with death, and [Sheol] with Sheol we have made a pact. The overwhelming scourge will not reach us....’”** Don't worry about that. It's not going to reach us. It says, **“...[it] when it passes by, for we have made falsehood our refuge and we have concealed ourselves with deception.’ Therefore thus says the Lord GOD....” (Isaiah 28:15-16)** He's talking to scoffers. Now let's just put it all in context. Go back to the map that we've been working with all week. And you can have it in your study guide that you can download absolutely free just by going to preceptsforlife.com, preceptsforlife.com>. Know that we make it free to you. It is not free to us. It takes a lot of work to produce this study guide, but we want you to discover truth for yourself. And by the way, while I'm saying that I just want to thank each and every one of you that help support this program. It's only through the support of the saints that we are able to be on the air. Now, Assyria, Assyria is here in the north. Assyria is the dominate power from

900 to 686 B.C. And what they have said here in Judah, in Jerusalem, in Ephraim, what they have said is, “[Listen we’ve] **made...**,” and he’s not saying that are their actual words, but this is what they’re thinking. “**We have made a [pact] with death....**” (Isaiah 28:15) I mean they’re scoffing. “**...We have made a [pact]...with Sheol....**” (Isaiah 28:15) [And when the overwhelming scourge comes down] and just imagine the Assyrians now coming down, because there’s a highway from Mesopotamia that goes all the way down to Egypt. It’s about 16 miles away from Samaria. [And so when it comes by it’s going to pass through. It’s not going to touch us.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 28:15) And he’s saying, yeah, you’re saying it’s not going to touch you ’cause “**...[you’ve] made falsehood [your] refuge... [You] have concealed [yourself] with deception.**” (Isaiah 28:15) It’s kind of like a speech of irony. And it says, “**Therefore...**,” and when you see a “therefore” mark it with three red dots in the shape of a triangle and see what the “therefore” is there for, ’cause it’s a term of conclusion. “**Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Behold, I am laying in Zion [I am laying in Zion] a stone, a tested stone....**” Now watch what he says. “**...A costly cornerstone for the foundation, [and it is] firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed,**” will not be thrown off of course. (Isaiah 28:16) The word “disturb” literally means “in a hurry.” But “in a hurry” means you’re frantic and you’re going this way and you’re going that way and you’re trying to find a solution. And he says, “I want you to know if you will trust in Me,” and this is the question we’ve been asking all week: Who are you trusting in? If you will trust in the tested cornerstone, the stone in Zion that God has laid you will not be in a hurry. You will not be disturbed. You will not be thrown off course. Why? Because your faith will keep you in perfect peace. Remember “**The steadfast of mind [thou] will keep in perfect peace, because he trusts in [Thee].**” (Isaiah 26:3) So he’s saying, “Okay, you can either trust in the arm of flesh. You can trust in your own thinking or you can trust in your own delusion, your own deception or you can trust in God. But you will lose if you don’t trust in God.” So he says and

I want you to watch this very carefully. It says, **“I will make justice the measuring line....”** In other words, I’m going to drop a plumb bob and I’m going to make justice the measuring line, **“...and righteousness the level....”** I’m going to see what’s straight and righteousness will tell me. **“...Then hail will sweep away the refuge of lies and the waters will overflow the secret place.” (Isaiah 28:17)** You thought you could hide in the secret place. You thought you could do this. You thought that the waters wouldn’t come near you. You thought that you could escape. You made deception your refuge. And he says, “You were wrong.” You need to trust in this cornerstone. This cornerstone is the promise of a deliverer. This cornerstone is the promise of the Messiah. This cornerstone is [the promise of the One who is going to sit on the throne of David. The government will be upon His shoulders and there will be no end to the increase of His peace.] (PARAPHRASE Isaiah 9:6) **“For unto [you] a...son is given: [unto you a child is born] and [you shall call] his name...Wonderful, Counsellor...mighty God...everlasting Father...Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)** These are the prophecies. This is the root. This is the root of Jesse. This is the stem. (See Isaiah 11:1) This is the One who is the Messiah. And so once again he points to that. Now how do I know that and how am I able to say this with such confidence. Well one of the things that you learn when you study with us is that the best interpreter of Scripture is Scripture, and so Scripture explains Scripture. That’s why you need to know **“...the whole counsel of God.” (Acts 20:27)** That’s why you need to study the Bible book-by-book, Precious One. That’s why you need to hang in there with this program and grow. I mean I’m not here to tickle your ears. I am here to equip you in the Word of God so you can be **“...steadfast, immovable, [and] always abounding in the work of the Lord...,” (1 Corinthians 15:58)** no matter what comes your way. So next to verse 16 of Isaiah 28 I would write 1 Peter chapter 2, verse 6 and 7. Now what does 1 Peter chapter 2 verse 6 and 7 say? **“For this is contained in Scripture....” (1 Peter 2:6)** It’s talking about coming to Jesus. Let me go back to verse 4, **“And coming to Him as...a**

living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God.” (1 Peter 2:4) Here is a living stone. You’ve got to understand everybody’s not going to believe in Jesus Christ. He’s going to be rejected. He was despised and He was rejected and: **“He came to His own, and his own received him not, but as many as received him, to them [he] gave power to become the sons of God.” (John 1:11-12 KJV)** So this is this living stone, rejected by men. But it says, **“[But] you also, as living stones, are being built up [into] a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God....”** Now here it is, **“...through Jesus Christ. For this is contained in Scripture...,”** and he’s going to quote Isaiah chapter 28, verse 16. **“...Behold, I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, and he who believes in Him will not be disappointed.” (1 Peter 2:5-6)** And it says, **“This precious value...is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, ‘The stone which the builders rejected, this became the very corner stone.’” (1 Peter 2:7)** So you have choice. Who are you going to trust in in a time of calamity? And then he goes on to say, in that **“...justice [is] the measuring line and righteousness [is] the level....” (Isaiah 28:17)** And if you go back to Isaiah chapter 16, verse 5 you see the same thing. **“A throne will...be established in lovingkindness, and a judge will sit on it in faithfulness in the tent of David; moreover, he will seek justice and be prompt in righteousness.” (Isaiah 16:5)** You will be justified before the scorners. We’ll talk about it more in just a minute.

PART TWO

“Ha!” the scoffer says. “I’ve made a covenant with death. I’ve made a pact with Sheol. Don’t worry about me. God’s not going to do anything to me.” Have you heard somebody say that? Have you heard someone say, “Look, when I die, I rot; that’s it. So don’t worry about me. Get off my back. The old man upstairs and I have made a deal.” That is a scoffer. That is a person who is insolent and arrogant toward God. And what does God say to them?

Well we're in Isaiah chapter 28. Listen to what He says in verse 18. **"Your covenant with death will be canceled [canceled]...."** You think you've got it made. No. **"...Your pact with Sheol [it won't] stand; when the overwhelming scourge passes through, then you [will] become its trampling place."** (Isaiah 28:18) In other words, you are going to get it. You're not going to escape. **"As often as it passes through, it will seize you...."** It will take you. He says, **"...For morning after morning it will pass through, anytime during the day or night, and it will be sheer terror to understand what it means."** (Isaiah 28:19) In other words, "You've scoffed. You've covered yourself with deception. You thought you weren't gonna get it. You thought that this local God had no control over you. But listen, that overwhelming scourge is gonna come through. It is going to trample you. [You don't know whether it's going to be day. You don't know whether it's going to be night. And it is going to be a sheer terror. You're not going to understand what's going on.]" (PARAPHRASE Isaiah 28:19) I want to ask you a question, Precious One. Are you panicked about the future? Have you got your eyes open? Do you understand what's happening? Do you understand why so many many Muslims are moving into various countries? Do you know that they believe that you're an infidel? Do you know that they want to rule the world? Do you know why our society is crumbling? Do you realize it's because we've rejected God? We've kicked prayer out of the schools. We have kicked the Bible out of schools and we say, "Hey, we don't need it." We have laughed. We have mocked. We have instituted laws. Why? Because we are living in desperate times. Now in those desperate times how do you live? You live by faith. You live according to that "cornerstone." But he's saying here that, **"The bed is too short on which to [spread] out...the blanket is too small to wrap oneself in."** Why? **"For the LORD will rise up as at Mount Perazim...."** (Isaiah 28:20) Mount Perazim is when God destroyed the Philistines according to His promise to David. (See 2 Samuel 5:20) **"...He will be stirred up as in the valley of Gibeon...."** (Isaiah 28:21) That's when Joshua spoke and the

sun stood still. (See Joshua 10:12) God is on His throne. And many of us will be martyred. And it is the time for us to understand that. And it's time for us to recognize that there is a hill to die on. You and I need to be prepared to suffer. How can we suffer? If we do not know the Word of God, if we do not know to cling to Him, if we do not understand that the suffering is not the end, that in the end we win. And he goes on to say, **"...To do His task, His unusual task, and to work His work, His extraordinary work."** And His extraordinary work is judgment of sin. **"And now do not carry on as scoffers...."** There's that word again. **"...Or your fetters will be made stronger...."** (Isaiah 28:21-22) You've got to know that there is a day of judgment coming. But when you sit, and the Bible talks about, "Don't stand in the way of scoffers." (See Psalm 1:1) Don't stand next to a scoffer because you'll find yourself scoffing. And then the more you scoff, the more and tighter the fetters come around you because you're behavior eventually becomes character, and it takes you captive and you're not very nice to be around, and you're not a nice person. **"...Do not carry on as scoffers, or your fetters will be made stronger; for I have heard from the Lord...of hosts of decisive destruction on...the earth."** (Isaiah 28:22) Now where do we read about that? Isaiah 24, **"...The LORD lays the earth waste...."** (Isaiah 24:1) Revelation chapter 3, verse 10 says that there is an hour of trial that is to come upon the whole earth. It is the day of the Lord. It is a dark and dreadful and terrifying day. But if you believe God, if you're a child of God, if you've received Jesus Christ, then Precious One, you know what? You ain't gonna be here. He keeps us out of that hour of trial. But he goes on to say, **"Give ear and hear my voice, listen and hear my words [listen and hear my words]. Does the farmer plow continually to plant seed?"** No he plows and then he puts the seed in. **"...Does he continually turn and harrow the ground?"** Does he do it over and over again? No. **"Does he not level its surface and sow dill and scatter cummin...."** He sows the dill. He scatters the cummin. **"...And plant wheat in rows, barley in its place and rye within its area?"** (Isaiah 28:23-25) Why does he do that? How does he

know to do that? How does he know not to keep plowing? How does he know what to plant and when to plant it and how to plant it? **“...His God instructs [him] and teaches him properly. For dill is not threshed with a threshing sledge....”** That’s not the way you harvest dill. **“...Nor is the cartwheel driven over cumin...,”** this spice, **“...but dill is beaten out with a rod, and cummin with a club.”** It says, **“Grain for bread is crushed, indeed he does not continue to thresh it forever. Because the wheel of his cart and his horses eventually damage it, he does not thresh it longer. This...comes from the LORD of hosts, who has made His counsel wonderful and His wisdom great.” (Isaiah 28:26-29)** What is God saying to us here? Well, I think first of all He’s telling us that there is a wisdom that comes from God. That wisdom for the most part is written in this Book. And this is the way you check out every other bit of wisdom. But then there’s an innate wisdom and He teaches the farmer and the farmer learns. And what is God saying to you? “Learn. Quit scoffing. Quit being taken captive into fetters by your continual scoffing. Listen to Me.” But I think He’s also saying this: “You know I don’t thresh and thresh and thresh. I’m going to judge you, Israel. I’m going to judge you Judah. I’m going to judge you. But after the judgment is over then I’m going to restore you.” Precious One, have you been under the judgment of God? Today is the day of restoration. Get on your knees. Talk to God and say, “God I want to know You. I want to listen to You. I want to obey You. I want to put away my scoffing. I want You to teach me knowledge. I want you to speak to me and I will believe You. I want to build my life on that precious cornerstone that will not be moved.” And Beloved, listen to me very carefully. When you listen to these scoffers, when you hear these mockers just know they need Jesus. Because if they don’t have Jesus, there’s a day coming when God is going to bring about their destruction; their judgment. So he says, [You and I are to have our] **“...delight...in the law of the LORD...[meditate in it] day and night.” (Psalms 1:2)** If you’ll do that Beloved, He’ll meet you on your knees.