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

TITLE: Program 41 – A Day Of Reckoning

MONDAY

OPEN

Eat, drink, and be merry, but know this: Tomorrow you die. Oh, the world is throwing a party. They're having a blast. I mean, they are drinking, they are drugging, they are fornicating, and they think it is all right and it doesn't matter. And they're gonna get away with it. And what they don't know, what they don't realize is, the party is almost over.

PART ONE

I just got an email yesterday. And it was from a friend of mine. A gal that does Precept that leads Precept. Somebody that has become very precious to me, she and her husband and her family. Her teenage daughter who was 19, after Christmas, got a phone call. And that phone call was from a gal who was an acquaintance. Not someone really close to her. And the gal said, "I'm in trouble and I need to have you come and help me. I'm at a party and I need to get out of here. Please come, please rescue me." She knew that the woman that she was talking to, that the 19 year old was a woman of

compassion, a tenderhearted gal, a gal that was an example among others because she was a gal of moral value. She was a gal of purity. And she said, “Okay, I’ll come, but I don’t know how to get there.” And she said, “Call me, and help me, and guide me.” She drove for 50 minutes and finally arrived at this home. On the cell phone several times saying, “Just come here, come there. Please hurry, I am desperate.” She had a bottle of water with her. She walked in the house. She set down the bottle of water and began to look for this friend. She looked all over and couldn’t find her. And she was mystified. She was very, very thirsty. She went back. She picked up the bottle of water, and she chugged the rest of it down because she was so thirsty. She woke up at six o’clock the next morning. She was lying in a bed. She was stark naked, and she was laying next to a man whom she didn’t know. She was horrified, and she thought, “O God, I, I’m alive.” She got up, she put on her clothes, and she snuck out of the house and got in her car and went home. And because it had been the Christmas holidays, she couldn’t tell anyone. She didn’t want to spoil the festivities of the family. She went to work, and at work she absolutely collapsed because of the strain. They took her to the hospital, and on the way to the hospital her father was crying out. Her father knew what had happened because his daughter had explained it, she explained how she went to this party, and how she must have been drugged. All they could figure out was they sold his daughter as a virgin. And as they went to the hospital, this is what he said, “Thank you, Lord that we didn’t find our daughter over there in a field. Thank you, Lord that You put Your hand on her mind and she has no memory. Thank you, Lord that she wasn’t brutalized. Thank you, Lord that you can use this in her life to make her more like You.” What a story! What a story. You go to rescue someone. You end up at a party. You are drugged. You are raped. And you don’t know what’s going on. One day you’re a virgin, and the next day your virginity is gone and it is all a blur. What kind of people, what kind of people would take an innocent girl and do something like that and use her

for their own perverted pleasure? When she looked at her cell phone, everything had been cleared off that cell phone. She had no evidence whatsoever of a number that she had called or that had called her. That was a connection for her. It was all absolutely erased except for one thing. And the thing that wasn't erased was there was a telephone bill with those numbers. What would you do? What would you do if you went through that? Well listen to what this girl did. She said, "Mama, you said that our battle isn't with flesh and blood, that our battle is in the heavenlies. The evil one was controlling this man. Can we pray for God to use us to reach this man?" What a contrast between light and darkness! What a contrast between those that want to live the way God wants them to live and others that are bent on their own pleasures, and bent on violence! God is going to tell us one day, "The party is over." The party is over. The world has thrown its parties. The world has turned its back on God, but one day the party's going to be over. And what will it be like, my Friend, when the party is over? I want us to go to Isaiah chapter 24. In Isaiah chapter 24, we find a new segment in the book of Isaiah. In Isaiah 13 through 23, we have God's oracles to the nations. But when we get to Isaiah 24 and 25 and 26 and 27, Beloved, we come to a new segment in the book of Isaiah. And yet it's like a continuation of the story. It's like the nations have had their ways, the nations have walked in rebellion towards God. We have in Isaiah chapter 13 the demise of Babylon. In Isaiah chapter 14, we have the demise of the king of Babylon. We have a picture of him in Sheol. We have a picture where life goes on after death, and they recognize one another. And yet they are nations that have turned their backs on God. They're the kings of the earth and they still live, but they live in this prison, so to speak, where God has put them until the Day of Judgment. When we look at the rest of the oracles to the nations, God says ["This is what's going to happen to you, and this is what's going to happen to you because as I have planned, so it shall come to pass. And what I have purposed will surely come to pass."] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 14:24) In other

words, God has planned, and no man can thwart it. And then we come to the time when the party is over. Listen to how Isaiah chapter 24 opens up. As I read this passage, I was absolutely, absolutely overwhelmed. I was sitting in my breakfast room. I was propped up on that couch with my legs up on the couch, looking out on to my garden, and reading this, and all of the sudden I was overwhelmed. Tears flooded my eyes, and I thought, “God, O God!” Listen to what he says, **“Behold, the LORD lays the earth waste, devastates it, distorts its surface and scatters its inhabitants. And the people will be like the priest, the servant like his master, the maid like her mistress, the buyer like the seller, ... the creditor like the debtor. The earth will be completely laid waste and completely despoiled, for the LORD has spoken this word.”** (Isaiah 24:1-3) What is he saying? He’s saying the party is over. Those people that did that, that plotted, so to speak, the demise of this young virgin, of this virtuous young lady, the ones that persuaded her to call an acquaintance to get her to come out, to drive 50 minutes, to rescue her, who put the, substance in her drink, the man who took advantage of her and raped her, all of this, someday the party’s going to be over. And God is going to deal with people like this. God is going to lay the earth waste. God is going to despoil the earth, and what He says is, when He does it, it is in essence without distinction. The maid or the master, either one, they’re both going to get it. The debtor, the creditor, they’re all going to get it. There’s no one that is going to escape the judgment of God except the righteous. God is going to move upon the face of the earth. And what you see is, you see His total judgment. As we look at Isaiah chapter 24, what I want to do is, I want to divide it into segments for you. And I want us to look at it segment by segment, and I want you to see how God enfolds what’s going to happen when He’s had enough. When the time is up, when it has struck midnight, when the party is over, what are they going to turn into? What is this prince charming going to be like? What is this gorgeous car going to end up being, and where is it going to end up when the party is

over? He goes on to say that, **“The earth mourns and withers, [and] the world fades and withers, [and] the exalted of the people...fade away.”** It says, **“The earth...also...,”** listen carefully, **“...is...polluted by its inhabitants...,”** why? **“...For they [have] transgressed laws, [they have] violated statutes, [they have] broke the everlasting covenant. Therefore, a curse devours the earth, and those who live in it are held guilty. Therefore, the inhabitants of the earth are burned...,”** and listen, **“...few...are left [in it.]” (Isaiah 24:4-6)** There is a time coming when the party is over, and very few will be left on the face of this earth when the party is over. Why? Because of what the people of the earth have done to the creation that God gave them and put them in charge of. I want you to know this story. I used this illustration because I want you to be very, very careful. I want you to be very careful because this is a plan, this is a plot. This happened to another friend, another friend got a call. “I’m in trouble.” It was from a girlfriend, “Please come; please help me. I need you!” That girl hung up the phone, and called the police and sent the police instead. Beloved, the party is soon going to be over. And we’ll talk about it in just a minute.

PART TWO

Welcome back, Beloved. I thank you for studying Isaiah with me. I know it’s not an easy book. I know that we don’t understand everything, but I will tell you this, you are going to understand far more than you ever understood if you’ll stick with me and you’ll go through the book of Isaiah. What we are learning now, what you and I are seeing in this book is in chapter 13 through 23, God was speaking to the nations. We have His oracles to the nations. Now He’s speaking to the world. Now He’s speaking not to just Arabia as it says and Moab and the other places that He mentions in those chapters, Egypt, and Ethiopia, and that. But now He is speaking to the whole world. And He is telling us what is surely going to come to pass because we have seen it in His Word. In chapter 24 in verses 1 through 3, He levels the

playing field. And He lets us know that there is no one on the face of this earth that is going to escape. And then in chapter 24 in verses 4 to 6, what He's going to show us the why of it all. Why is God going to lay the earth waste? Why is He going to devastate it? Why is He going to distort its surface? Why is He going to scatter its inhabitants? Why is He going to do this? It tells us, **"The earth mourns...,"** look at verse 4 again, **"...and withers, the world fades [away] and withers, the exalted of the people of the earth fade away."** (Isaiah 24:4) You know one of the things that distresses me is you look at so many stars. You look at the movie stars, you look at the rap stars, you look at the rock stars, and you look at their lives collectively and in general, and what you see is not a pretty picture. You see debauchery. You see immorality. You see extravagance. You see them spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on their houses, and on their cars, and things like this, and buying expensive jewelry. You look at their bodies and their bodies are marked up and pierced. And and you listen to their language and it is foul! I'm not talking about everyone, but you know what I'm talking about. And yet we look at them, and these are the exalted of the earth. These are the ones that people want to dress like, talk like, look like, do like. These are their heroes. And God is saying, "The party's going to be over. The field is going to be leveled." And it's going to be leveled because, listen very carefully, verse 4, **"The earth mourns and withers, the world fades and withers, the exalted...people of the earth fade away. The earth is also polluted by its inhabitants...."** (Isaiah 24:4-5) In other words, the way that they are living is polluting the earth. It says, **"...for..."** (Isaiah 24:5) and then He's going to tell you why God's going to do this. **"...for..."** three things, **"...they transgressed laws...."** (Isaiah 24:5) Now to transgress laws means that God drew the line, and He said, "This is the way you are to behave. You're not to do this. This is the law you were to keep." And they just stepped over that law. They transgressed. It means that they crossed over. It means that they did not live by the Word of God. They

said, “No, I will do as I please.” And that’s exactly what happened at that party that my friend went to, to rescue someone, not to be part of the party. And what those people did is, they transgressed the law. They violated another person. God tells us in 1 Thessalonians chapter 4 that [those that take away the purity of another, those that commit fornication, those that sexually use another person will not escape the judgment of God.] (PARAPHRASE, 1 Thessalonians 4:1-6) And that’s what’s happening right here. This is why the whole earth is going to be devastated. This is why it is going to whither away. This is why God is going to tear it up and inside out, as we will see later, because they transgressed laws. Number two, they **“...violated statutes...” (Isaiah 24:5)** And what they did was they altered the Word. They altered the Word. Do you know that even in the church, this is going on? There is a movement and some have described it as the Emergent Church Movement. It’s hard to say this, this, this, and this is what they believe, but generally this is what they believe. They believe that there are no absolutes. They believe that you can’t say that this is right and this is wrong. It is a soft and cozy Christianity that is very, very tolerant because it’s not a matter of absolutes, it’s a matter of feelings. Now this is a small definition. The only reason I’m telling you this is because what they do is they alter the Word of God. If someone tells you that you can believe in Jesus Christ, and live any way you want. If they tell you that it is all right to sleep with a member of the opposite sex. It is all right to sleep with a member of the same sex. It is all right to sleep with someone that is not your wife. Or it is all right to steal, or it is all right to cheat, or, or whatever. And you can still go to heaven, that’s not true. **“Such were some of you; but you were washed, [and] you were sanctified, [and] you were justified...[by] the Spirit of...God.” (1 Corinthians 6:11)** No, He’s saying that there is a right, and there is a wrong. And you cannot, as it says, violate God’s statutes. [You can’t take evil and call it good, and take good and call it evil.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 5:20) You can’t do that and get away with it.

This is why God is going to lay the earth waste. The third thing they did was they, “...**broke the everlasting covenant.**” (Isaiah 24:5) Now what does it mean when it says, “...[They] **broke the everlasting covenant?**” (Isaiah 24:5) The word “broke” could also be translated “set it aside.” Now the first time that you see “the everlasting covenant,” that term used in the Bible is in the book of Genesis. It’s in Genesis chapter 9, and it’s talking about what God did when He looked down on earth that He had created, and man that He had put on earth as His vice regent to rule over His creation; (See Genesis 9:16) what man did when they corrupted the earth with their violence and with their disobedience, with their transgression against God. And so then at that point in time, God destroyed the earth with a flood. You say, “I don’t believe that.” Well you know what? The Bible tells me that if you scoff at that, if you laugh at that, and you say that didn’t happen, you are totally unaware that the party is coming to an end because He tells us that [in the last days scoffers will come and mockers saying, “Where is the promise of His coming, everything continues as it was from the very beginning. God does not judge. God’s a god of love. God’s not gonna do that, that’s the wrong kind of God.”] (PARAPHRASE, 2 Peter 3:3-4) O Beloved, you don’t want to miss the next lesson as we look at God as He really is, and as you see what happens when man violates God’s Law. The party does come to an end.