

ISAIAH, PART 1 (JUDGMENT – BUT HOPE)
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SERIES: Isaiah, Part 1 (Judgment – But Hope)

TITLE: Program 28 – Babylon Is Fallen!

WEDNESDAY

OPEN

When you listen to the news, when you hear what's going on in the Middle East, what's happening in Israel, when you look at how the nations are aligning themselves with one another or leaving out other nations, then you take your Bible and you open the Book. Hey, the news takes on a whole new dimension. Do you know what we're getting ready for? We're getting ready for the Day of the Lord. It is coming. Do you understand it? We'll talk about it today.

PART ONE

When I'm listening to the news and I hear anything about Iraq, I am very, very attentive. And I'm attentive because when you go to the Bible, Babylon is the same as Iraq. When I hear anything about Iran, when I hear the ranting and raving of the leaders of Iran, when I hear what they have to say about the Jews and how they have no right to exist I'm very interested. And I'm very interested, why? Because Iran is mentioned in the Word of God,

because I know that Iran is going to align with Russia and they're going to come down against Israel. Because I know that Iran is the old land of the Medes and the Persians, and so I'm fascinated by it. And the more that I study Isaiah, Beloved, the more excited I get. Well we're looking at God's oracles to the nations. We're looking at what God has to say beyond Judah, beyond Jerusalem to the whole world. And we have seen that the Day of the Lord is coming, and it's going to affect the whole world. It's going to make man scarcer than pure gold, and the purer it is the more transparent it is. It's going to make man more scarce than the gold of Ophir. We know that this terrible and dreadful Day of the Lord, the day of the Lord's devastation, the day of the Lord's anger is coming. And I left you with looking at two scriptures in the Old Testament, (although there are more), about the Day of the Lord. We looked at Joel, chapter 2, verses 1 through 12, and then we looked at Malachi, and we looked at the last chapter of Malachi, chapter 4, and at the last two verses about the Day of the Lord is coming, and [Elijah is going to come before the Day of the Lord]. (PARAPHRASE, Malachi 4:5-6) Well I would like you to draw our infamous timeline, and that means that you get a piece of paper and you just draw a straight line, and that is Planet Earth, and we're going to put some timeframes on this. At the right hand side of that line, the right hand side of your paper, where it all comes to an end, I want you to put a cloud and with that cloud put an arrow coming down, and that is a description, or a visual picture for you, of the coming of the Lord. Now what brings the coming of the Lord to Earth? Well it is the Day of the Lord, and so I want you to go back from that arrow, three and one half years, and I can't explain that, but if you've ever studied Daniel with us, or Revelation, you see that that is a timeframe, that three and a half years before the coming of the Lord, when He establishes His kingdom, begins the Day of the Lord. Now we've looked at Isaiah chapter 13, and we have seen twice that he says the Day of the Lord is coming. This is the first time in the book of Isaiah that he has mentioned the Day of the Lord. Now he has made

reference to the day when God will reign upon the earth, when all the nations will come up to Jerusalem and there they will have peace, and there they will seek to be taught of the Lord, which speaks of this time. It speaks of the time when the cloud, depicting Jesus, comes back down to earth and sets up His Throne, so with that arrow that is coming down, why don't you draw a throne, and then you will understand that this is the reign of Christ upon the earth. All right now, the Day of the Lord, remember, starts three and a half years before that. So the Day of the Lord is when God directly, Himself, intervenes in history, and when He intervenes in history—when He starts to bring man under His control—that's the beginning of the Day of the Lord. Now we have seen that it is a day of distress. It is a day of darkness. It is a day of pain. It is a day of anguish. We have seen that it is also a day when, during this time, God is going to judge Babylon. He is going to judge Babylon. Now he has just introduced Babylon to them in his prophecies in Isaiah 13. He has mentioned Babylon for the very first time. But when he mentions Babylon for the very first time, what he's telling us is, he's telling us about the destruction of Babylon, which if you stop and think about it, it's good. And it's good because Babylon is going to become an enemy of Israel. We know this from Isaiah 39. We haven't gotten there yet, but we know in Isaiah 39 that the emissaries from Babylon come down to visit Hezekiah when he's king, and when he's sick, and they bring him presents. And Hezekiah takes him and he shows him everything in his kingdom, and then Isaiah walks in to ah Hezekiah and says: "What did you do?" And he says, "I showed them everything." He says, "They come from a far country." And he says, "I want you to know that those people that came from the far country are going to take you—your people—captive. So what God's doing in Isaiah 13, and you've gotta think with me on these things. All right, what He's doing in Isaiah 13 is, He is taking them in time, in time, from the days of Ahaz. Now Ahaz rules from 735-715 B.C. It's near the end of his rule that we think this prophecy is given, because of the end of chapter 14. And he's

telling them what is going to happen to Babylon in the Day of the Lord. So he's pointing them to the Day of the Lord. All right now, I want you to go to 1 Thessalonians chapter 5, and you will see that there is a specific Day of the Lord. Verse 1: **"Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you." (1 Thessalonians 5:1)** You don't need to have anybody explain this to you, **"For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night." (1 Thessalonians 5:2)** It's gonna sneak up on you. A thief doesn't call you up and say, "I just want you to know I'll be there at four o'clock in the morning, so would you unlock the door so I don't have to smash it down?" No, he just shows up while you're sleeping. And it says, **"While they are saying, 'Peace and safety!' then destruction will come...suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape." (1 Thessalonians 5:1)** Now what did you read in Isaiah chapter 13? You read in verse 8 of chapter 13, that **"...pains and anguish will take hold of them; they will writhe like a woman in labor, they will look [to] one another in [suh—] astonishment...." (Isaiah 13:8)** So they are there just in absolute agony. **"Their faces [are] aflame....,"** from this agony. **(Isaiah 13:8)** And this is what he's saying, and this is what you see again in 1 Thessalonians chapter 5. Then 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 tells you that certain things have to happen before the Day of the Lord. He says, **"...[I don't want you] quickly shaken...as if...to the effect that the day of the Lord has come." (2 Thessalonians 2:2)** Verse 3: **"Let no one in any way deceive you, ...it....,"** the "Day of the Lord," and you would mark it the way you've been marking it, and I hope you've downloaded your study guide by going to preceptsforlife.com, it's free. It says, **"...it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction." (2 Thessalonians 2:3)** So what you have is, you have a specific time for the Day of the Lord that is going to come on the face of this earth. Now I told you in yesterday's lesson to write this down next to chapter

13, verse 6. Okay so, what is going to happen to Babylon? Verse 17 of chapter 13 of Isaiah: **“Behold, I am going to stir up the Medes against them, who will not value silver [n]or take pleasure in gold. And their bows will mow down the young men, they will not even have compassion on the fruit of the womb, nor will their pity children.” (Isaiah 13:17-18)**

I mean, these people are ruthless. He says, **“And Babylon....” (Isaiah 13:19)** The Medes are going to come in and they’re going to do this. And it says, **“And Babylon, the beauty of [the] kingdoms....”** This is Iraq. You say, “It doesn’t look very beautiful on the news.” Oh no! But when you look at Revelation, chapter 17 and 18, it becomes one gorgeous, gorgeous spot, one city of incredible wealth and treasures. It says, **“And Babylon, the beauty of kingdoms, the glory of the Chaldeans’ pride, will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.” (Isaiah 13:19)** When God leveled Sodom and Gomorrah, it was nothing! You can’t even take pictures of it right now. It just doesn’t exist. I mean, He leveled it. It says it, **“...will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It will never be inhabited or lived in from generation to generation; nor will the Arab pitch his tent there, nor will [the] shepherds make their flocks lie down there. But desert creatures will lie down there, and their houses will be full of owls; [and] ostriches...will live there, and shaggy goats will frolic there. Hyenas will howl in their fortified towers and jackals in their luxurious palaces. Her fateful time also will soon come and her days will not be prolonged.” (Isaiah 13:19-22)** O Beloved, do you realize what he is telling you? He is telling you about the destruction of Babylon. When? In the Day of the Lord, and this is the day when God will judge the whole earth. What do you do? How do you find out more about it? Read Revelation chapter 17 and 18. But just know this. Listen to the news. It’s going to come to pass just as the Book says.

PART TWO

Well I know on that break that you didn't have time to read Revelation 17 and 18. But you know what? I just pray you just wanna know what it has to say. Isn't it awesome? Just stop and think about it. Here God is speaking, back somewhere before 715 B.C., telling us about something that is going to come to pass. You and I are standing in between 715 B.C. and the coming of the fulfillment of this prophecy, and we know what the future holds. So let's look at it even more. Let's go to Revelation chapter 17, and let's see what God has to say about Babylon. And let's see how these nations line up, because remember, we're in the section where he is dealing with the oracle about Babylon in the last days. Now, yes, he's told us that the Medes are going to come against them. And the Medes did come against them in 539 B.C. The Medes came in combination with Cyrus. It was a Medo-Persian empire. You can read about the conquering in history books, that the Medes came down. It was not a bad battle, it did not leave Babylon in this description that is here. And it did not leave it never to be inhabited again as it says here in verse 20 of Isaiah 13: **"It will never be inhabited or lived in from generation to generation...."** (Isaiah 13:20) It will be and it has been, and if you would get this book by Charlie Dyer, he is one sharp man. I just love Charlie, and he has taken thousands of photographs in Babylon. This book is incredible: The Rise of Babylon: The Signs of the End Times. (Actual title is: *The Rise of Babylon: Sign of the End Times*) And it is just wonderful. And he shows you the pictures of how Babylon has been reconstructed. Saddam Hussein saw himself as a modern-day Nebuchadnezzar. The thing that he didn't realize was what God said about the king of Babylon, and that comes next, and that comes tomorrow as we look at Isaiah chapter 14, because 13 and 14 are one prophecy. But now let's just go to Revelation chapter 17. The reason I appreciate Charlie's book is because there is some people that have said that Babylon in Revelation 17 refers to a religious system, and some of them say it refers to Rome because

it talks about seven hills or seven mountains, and it's really, literally mountains. But that's not what it's talking about. This is why it's so important for you to study God's Word for yourself instead of just listen to somebody and be a follower of man and get your theology from them. This is why I want you to study on your own, and why we have a free study guide for you just by going to <preceptsforlife.com>. Revelation chapter 17, he says in verse 1: **"...Come here, [and] I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters."** (Revelation 17:1) This "many waters" implies that it is a harlot that has a world-wide influence, so to speak. **"With whom the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality. And he carried me away in the Spirit into [the] wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, [and] having seven heads and ten horns."** (Revelation 17:2-3) **"[And] the woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold[en] cup full of abominations...."** And it says, **"...and of the unclean things of her immorality, and on her forehead a name was written...."** (Revelation 17:4-5) It says, **"...a mystery, 'Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and of the abominations of the earth.'"** (Revelation 17:5) In other words, all the abominations of sinful man, of man in rebellion to God, she's the mother of it all. She's the one that gave birth. And then it talks about she is **"...drunk with the blood of the saints....,"** the Jewish remnant, **"...and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. [And] when I saw her, I wondered greatly."** (Revelation 17:6) And they talk about her, and then it talks about the fact that she is associated with this beast that has ten horns. Then it says in verse 15, and I'm jumping because of time, you can read it and study it on your own. **"And he said to me, 'The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues. And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate**

the harlot....” (Revelation 17:15-16) Now you gotta remember in Isaiah chapter 13, there is this army that is coming against—this army that God has mustered—that is coming against Babylon to destroy Babylon. And it says that these **“...ten horns...and the beast...will hate the harlot [they] will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her...with fire.”** And it says, **“For God has put...in their hearts....”** **(Revelation 17:16-17)** This is the army, this is the warriors that He has consecrated, that He has set apart. And it says, **“For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God...be fulfilled. The woman...,”** and this is key, **“...[which] you saw...,”** and you let scripture interpret scripture, **“...is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth.” (Revelation 17:17-18)** So now think, when the Day of the Lord comes, God is going to destroy Babylon, **“...[this] great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth.” (Revelation 17:18)** But God is also going to do it by having a great army come, an army from the north. And you read about this in Jeremiah chapter 50; in Jeremiah chapter 51. And it says, **“...which reigns over the kings of the earth.” (Revelation 17:18)** And then in verse 4 of chapter 18, he says, **“I heard [a] voice from heaven, saying, ‘Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues.’” (Revelation 18:4)** He is going to exterminate sinners from the earth and from Babylon. And He says, “You get outta there, because you’re going to receive the plague if you don’t.” He says, **“For her sins [are] piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.” (Revelation 18:5)** Now listen in verse 8: **“For this reason in one day...plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord...who judges her is strong.” (Revelation 18:8)** And it says in verse 10: **“...Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.” (Revelation 18:10)** It says in verse 20,

“Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her.”

(Revelation 18:20) And it talks about how all the nations were enchanted by her sorcery. (See Revelation 18:23) This is the fate of Babylon—Iraq. O Beloved, let’s stop and think about what we have learned. If sin is going to be brought to an end, if sin is going to be judged, then why sin now? Why not live righteously? Remember God says that He is going to come and He is going to exterminate sinners from the earth. And so His word to you and me today is, [“To be holy, even as He is holy”]. (PARAPHRASE, 1 Peter 1:16) And warn the world to **“...flee from the wrath which is to come....”** **(Matthew 3:7)**