

ISAIAH, PART 1 (JUDGMENT – BUT HOPE)  
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WEEK 13 (#911322)  
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**SERIES: Isaiah, Part 1 (Judgment – But Hope)**

**TITLE: Program 62 – Hope For The Hopeless**

**TUESDAY**

**OPEN**

Does it distress you, Beloved, when you see individuals or leaders of countries, or religious groups destroying another? Does it distress you when you see people that, that manipulate and deal treacherously? Does it upset you? It ought to upset you. It is wrong! It is wrong. But listen, I've got good news. God is going to take care of those people. We'll see it today.

**PART ONE**

We are in the segment of “woes” of Isaiah. As a matter of fact, from Isaiah 28 through Isaiah chapter 33, we have a list of “woes.” And that last “woe”, I am so thankful to read because it says: **“Woe to you, O destroyer....”** (Isaiah 33:1) **“Woe to you, O...treacherous [one]....”** (Isaiah 33:1) God is not going to let the destroyer get away with his destruction. And that is such a relief. God is not going to let the treacherous one continue to deal treacherously. What He wants you and me to understand is: There is a day of reckoning coming; there is a day of recompense coming; there is a day when

God will move in vengeance and righteous, holy indignation against all of those that are evil. Now we come, as I said, to chapter 33. This week we're looking at Isaiah 33, 34 and 35. And as we look at these three chapters what I want you to see is, in essence, 33 belongs to 28 through 33, and then 34 and 35 are kind of a summary. They stand alone. There's no "woe" in those two chapters. Then in chapter 36 through chapter 39, we move into a historical interlude where God is going to tell us exactly what is going on between Sennacherib, king of Assyria, and Hezekiah. So at that point in the book, we move from the first part of the book that deals with God's judgment on sin to redemption. And Isaiah 40 opens up with **"Comfort ye, comfort ye my people...."** (Isaiah 40:1, KJV) And that historical interlude kind of takes us from one to the other. But when we look at Isaiah chapter 33, and he says, **"Woe to you, O destroyer...."** (Isaiah 33:1) he does not tell us who the destroyer is. Now if you open commentaries, the commentaries are gonna tell you that the destroyer is Assyria, and that Assyria is going to get it. But why doesn't God tell us that? Why doesn't He name Assyria when He has named Assyria over and over and over again? Well I believe the reason He doesn't name Assyria is because He wants us to understand that any destroyer is going to get it. (This is À la Kay, okay? This is Kay's commentary.) Any treacherous person is going to get it. And how are we to live in the midst of their time of destruction? How are we to live in the midst of the time of their treachery? How do we survive that time? Well this is where we come to the theme for this week. And the theme for this week is: The Lord is the stability of your times. And it goes on to say, and it's verse 6, **"... [He is] a wealth of salvation, [of] wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the Lord is [your] treasure."** (Isaiah 33:6) Now what is the fear of the Lord? The fear of the Lord is to respect Him. It means to trust Him. It means to see what He says and and take Him at His Word and know that **"...[He watches] over [His] word to perform it."** (Jeremiah 1:12) And that He can be trusted. So you rely on Him. That's what the fear of the Lord is.

The fear of the Lord means that if men are threatening and I fear the Lord, I'm not going to listen to what they're telling me I have to do, rather, I'm going to listen to God. As I am cutting these television programs, we have had a man in Iraq who is a believer who was kidnapped. And it's a man that our ministry works with. And all of a sudden he was kidnapped. The only way we knew was we called his brother. And his brother doesn't live in Iraq, his brother lives on the North American Continent, and we called him and found out that this man had been kidnapped. We began to pray fervently. We began to pray fervently because he was kidnapped by people that were destroyers. He was kidnapped by people that dealt treacherously, and so as we prayed for him, I know that our staff prayed, I know that many other people were praying for him, but as we prayed for him, I prayed that he would not fear his captors, but he would fear God and that they would be struck by the fact that if they were in his shoes, they would be fearing for their lives. And I think about Philippians chapter 1. In Philippians 1 it says this, **"In no way alarmed by your opponents—which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that too, from God."** (Philippians 1:28) The fact that you and I can live through a difficult situation like that (and this is what we were praying for this man), and not alarmed by his opponents, recognizing that [God wounds and God heals, God kills and God make alive]. (PARAPHRASE, Deuteronomy 32:39) Deuteronomy 32 tells us that, and recognizing that and trusting in God and letting **"...the fear of the Lord [be our] treasure," (Isaiah 33:6)** that God would keep this man stable in that time, and that's what God did. The man was released. He was released when his captors said to him, "Take that bag," and they gave him a huge bag, and it was full of identifications; I.D. tags. And they said, "See if you can find your name in there." And he went through all these names and he said, "My name's not here," and they said, "Your name is not there because we intended to kill you, we wanted to kill you, but for some reason we can't." And they released him. Awesome! And

we prayed that God would keep his mind stayed on Him. Remember we studied this in Isaiah: **“The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, because [you trust]...,”** because we’re trusting in God. (Isaiah 26:3) And that’s what this man did. He said the Lord kept speaking to him, the Lord kept bringing scriptures to his mind. This is why, **“...the fear of the Lord is [our] treasure.”** (Isaiah 33:6) We know who He is and then, Precious Ones, we live accordingly. But you’ve also got to know and you’ve also got to understand that God is a God of justice. God is a God who is righteous and God will deal with sin. So we come to Isaiah chapter 33, verse 1. Now remember, **“Woe to you...destroyer....”** (Isaiah 33:1) And we’re marking, and if you just caught this program for the first time, welcome! I’m glad you’re here. And you can download a free study guide simply by going to <preceptsforlife.com>. And one of the things we tell you is, the difference between reading the Bible and studying the Bible and consequently remembering the Bible is, a pencil. It’s marking the text, and we suggest you get colored pencils. So “woe” is marked with kind of like this downward red circle, and colored in brown, and then “destroyer” just has these red slashes over it like fire, destroying. And it says: **“Woe to you, O destroyer, while you were not destroyed; and he who is treacherous, while others did not deal treacherously with him....”** (Isaiah 33:1) I mean, he was just flat-out treacherous, he was just flat-out a destroyer. He says, **“...As soon...,”** God is speaking, **“...[As soon] as you finish destroying, you will be destroyed; as soon as you cease to deal treacherously, others will deal treacherously with you.”** (Isaiah 33:1) In other words, the Lord is a God of vengeance. Look in Isaiah chapter 34, verse 8. **“For the LORD has a day of vengeance, a year of recompense for the cause of Zion.”** (Isaiah 34:8) There are some people that believe that God is through with Israel, it’s just an Old Testament history book, and there’s nothing that has to do with God protecting Israel in the future. And all these nations that are coming against Israel: Iran saying, “Death to the Jews; death to the United States of

America.” All these people that are saying these things need to know this: You may be having your day now, but your day is going to be over, because God is going to deal with you. **“...The LORD has a day of vengeance, a year of recompense for the cause of Zion.” (Isaiah 34:8)** God is not through with Israel, and God is going to take care of Israel. God is going to judge Israel, but for those that believe God in Israel, and those that cling to Him, and come and walk according to His statutes and fear Him, **“...[the Lord] will be the stability of [their] times....” (Isaiah 33:6)** So he says, **“O LORD, be gracious to us...,”** I’m back in Isaiah 33, verse 2, **“... [be gracious to us] we have waited for You. Be their strength...,”** or **“our strength,” “...every morning, our salvation also in the time of distress.” (Isaiah 33:2)** He’s the only one that can take care of you in the time of distress. **“At the sound of the tumult peoples flee; at the lifting up of Yourself nations disperse. Your spoil is gathered as the caterpillar gathers...,”** talking about God, **“...as locusts rushing about men rush about on it. The LORD is exalted, for He dwells on high; He has filled Zion with justice and righteousness.” (Isaiah 33:3-5)** Zion is Jerusalem. We’ll talk about it in just a minute.

## **PART TWO**

Men have their schemes for peace, their plans for peace. People will say, “I’m all for peace.” If you run in a beauty contest and you stand on the stage before the people and tell them what you heart’s desire is, it is “World peace.” People talk about peace. **“...Peace, peace,’ but there is no peace.” (Jeremiah 6:14)** And what God is going to let us know is: There is a day coming when the ambassadors for peace are going to weep bitterly because they put all their efforts into this and it didn’t come. You know why it’s not going to come? It’s not going to come until the Prince of Peace, the Lord Jesus Christ, comes. **“...Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given...and his name [will] be called Wonderful, Counsellor... mighty**

**God ...everlasting Father...Prince of Peace. [And] of the increase of his government ...there [will] be no end....” (Isaiah 9:6-7, KJV)** Now this is a quote from Isaiah chapter 9, but what he’s telling us as we look and continue to look at Isaiah chapter 33 when He’s pronouncing the “woe” upon the destroyer, and the “woe” upon the one that deals treacherously. It says in verse 7, **“Behold, their brave men cry in the streets, [and] the ambassadors of peace weep bitterly.” (Isaiah 33:7)** I love to study history, I learn so much from studying history, and you can see that history repeats itself. As a matter of fact, you can see many, many parallels to Hitler’s Nazism and the radical Muslim movement. And you see that it is destruction, and you see people trying to be an ambassador for peace, I think about the time when Chamberlain was the Prime Minister of England, and when he went and met with Hitler and signed over land for peace, and gave Czechoslovakia to Hitler and Hitler deceived him. But Chamberlain didn’t know that and he came home and he was hailing himself as the one that brought about peace. And then he resigned. And Churchill became the Prime Minister, and he was the one that recognized that there’s no peace with the enemy, that you don’t make peace with liars and deceivers and destroyers and those that deal treacherously and of course, Hitler dealt very treacherously. So he says, **“...the ambassadors of peace weep bitterly.” (Isaiah 33:7)** I know that many that were involved in the Oslo Accord in Israel wept bitterly because it did not come to pass. And it shouldn’t have come to pass because they were giving away land for peace, and the land is God’s, and so he’s showing what is happening. All right. It says, **“The highways are desolate, the traveler has ceased....” (Isaiah 33:8)** You can’t go out! It’s not safe out there. Now many are saying this is when Assyria was threatening Hezekiah, and you can read about it in 2 Kings 17, and Hezekiah’s taking gold and he’s trying to send it to Assyria and it’s not safe on the streets because Sennacherib is down there and he’s taking these fortified cities of Judah. And that can be it! But He wants us to see that here

is this destroyer, here is this treacherous one, “...[and] **he has broken the covenant, [and] he has despised the cities, he has no regard for man.**” (Isaiah 33:8) And this is the way many people are that are world rulers. They get that power, and power corrupts if that man does not fear God; if the Lord is not the stability of his times; if he is not a man that fears the Lord. So it goes on to say, “**The land mourns and pines away, Lebanon is shamed and withers...**,” beautiful, beautiful Lebanon. It says, “...[And] **Sharon is like a desert plain...**,” and Sharon was like a beautiful, beautiful field. “**...And Bashan and Carmel lose their foliage.**” (Isaiah 33:9) In other words, nature is affected, and what was once rich and luxuriant has become barren. And then the Lord says: “**‘Now I will arise,’ says the LORD ‘Now I will be exalted...I will be lifted up.’**” (Isaiah 33:10) The ambassadors of peace have exhausted themselves, the destroyer has finished destroying, the treacherous one has finished dealing treacherously because I am arising, and I will be exalted. Right now He’s being shamed. Right now Christianity, they’re trying to marginalize it, that they don’t want to hear about God until you have like a terror strike, and then when we have the terror on the campus of Virginia Tech, as I was telling you about and at that time when terror strikes, then you hear people saying, “My thoughts and my prayers are with you.” We were praying. Students started getting on their knees and they started praying, why? Because there’s no help except God; there’s no hope except God. And all of a sudden there is a fear of God. The problem is, it doesn’t last. But the fear of God is there when we can’t do anything else, when we can’t figure out anything. So He says, “**...I will be lifted up.**” He says, “**You have conceived chaff, you will give birth to stubble; My breath will consume you like a fire.**” (Isaiah 33:10-11) When you go through Isaiah you see “fire” over and over and over again. You see, even at the end of Hebrews 12, he reminds us again, “**...our God is a consuming fire.**” (Hebrews 12:29) And He’s saying, “What you can see—the chaff. What you come up with, the stubble that you give birth to, I will consume.” I

mean, that's what fire loves to burn. He says, **"The peoples will be burned to lime, like cut thorns which are burned in the fire."** (Isaiah 33:12) Our God is a consuming fire, and He is going to consume all iniquity. He is going to be exalted. Remember Isaiah 6, remember the second verse. **"Seraphim"** are over him and they're crying out, **"...Holy, Holy, Holy..."** (Isaiah 6:3) What are seraphim? They are "burning ones." And He says, **"You who are far away, hear what I have done; and you who are near, acknowledge My might. Sinners in Zion are terrified..."** (Isaiah 33:13-14) In other words there are Jews that are terrified because of their sin. **"...Trembling has seized the godless. 'Who among us can live with the consuming fire? Who among us can live with [the] continual burning?'"** (Isaiah 33:14) All of a sudden they're fearful and they should be fearful because they're sinners, because the fear of the Lord has not been their treasure. (See Isaiah 33:6) Because they have not allowed **"...[the Lord to] be the stability of [their] times...."** (Isaiah 33:6) And then he says, "Who can do this? Who can be in God's presence?" **"He who walks righteously and speaks with sincerity, he who rejects unjust gain, [who] shakes his hands so...they hold no bribe...who stops his ears from hearing about bloodshed..."** I don't wanna plot anybody's murder. I don't wanna plot anyone's demise. **"...And shuts his eyes from looking upon evil."** (Isaiah 33:15) He says, "No, I'm not going to look at that. That is evil." **"He will dwell on the heights, His refuge will be the impregnable rock...;"** God is our Rock. **"...His bread will be given [to] him, [and] his water will be sure. Your eyes...,**" that righteous man's eyes, **"...will see the King in His beauty...."** (Isaiah 33:16-17) Listen. What is God's word to you today? God's word is: Fear God and you **"...will see the King in His beauty...."** (Isaiah 33:17) Don't fear Him, and you'll be judged in His consuming fire.