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## July 2022 “JUDGMENT IS UPON US”

Dear Friends,

Recently I was going through some notes and found a prophecy the Holy Spirit gave me a while back concerning the first chapter of Isaiah. It is the subject of this month’s letter.

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*(Isaiah 1:1-6) <sup>1</sup>The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. <sup>2</sup>Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. <sup>3</sup>The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider. <sup>4</sup>Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward. <sup>5</sup>Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. <sup>6</sup>From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.*

**(V2)** When the church was first established in the book of Acts, God gave His children everything they needed to grow and mature spiritually. Through the Apostles He established the doctrine by which the church was to live. He fed them with “spiritual manna” and, for the most part, the church was very strong and healthy. It was growing and feeding off the word God was giving. But over time, as the children approached “spiritual adolescence” they began to drift away from the “old timers,” the Apostles through whom God had raised and trained them. They saw less and less need to stay focused on the things God had established and began developing their own methods of spiritual development according to what they wanted to do. In short, the church rebelled against God and His proven methods.

**(V3)** The ox knows who it is that cares for him and the ass knows who it is that feeds him and where to go for his feeding. But the church does not really know God as a loving Father and does not consider that where it is feeding is not the crib the Father has built.

**(V4)** God sees the church as a sinful nation [1 Peter 2:9 reveals the body of Christ as a nation] with its citizens laden (Hebrew, kabêd: burdened and greatly slowed down and made stupid) with the iniquity of their self-developed religious formats. They are doing evil and sowing the seeds of their religion to each subsequent generation. They are children who have become corrupt and are corrupters of God’s truth. They have turned their backs on the words of the Lord and through their error provoke Him to anger. They are in a terribly backslidden condition.

**(V5)** God has continually sent “voices crying in the wilderness” to deliver truth and chastise them in their rebellion. But they have rebelled even more. Their whole head – [the] religious leaders – is spiritually sick and their hearts are in a troubled state with spiritual weakness.

**(V6)** From the sole of the foot, (those sitting in the pews) to the head (those in the pulpits and in positions of authority in the religious organizations) there is no spiritual stability. In the spirit, their doctrines have greatly injured and have spread putrefying “spiritual infections” which have not healed. They

have rejected the anointing of the Holy Spirit which could bring about a healing to their injuries (a correction to the error).

***(Isaiah 1:7-8) <sup>7</sup>Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers. <sup>8</sup>And the daughter of Zion is left as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city.***

**(V7-8)** The country represents man's denominations and neo-denominations, those groups which are not officially called denominations. The cities represent the churches in these organizations. Though some denominations number in the millions [of members], in reality they are desolate and empty of the things which produce a healthy, spiritual garden. Though many of their churches number in the tens of thousands, they are as dead as a burned-over field. In the natural, all may look beautiful, but in the spirit they are desolate. In some of these churches, they are so spiritually dull that strangers, people who aren't even born again, are working destruction in their midst. All of this results in My lambs being left in an open field to be attacked by the enemy.

***(Isaiah 1:9) Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.***

**(V9)** In the midst of all of this, there is a very small remnant who are holding on to and seeking truth. *[The people in verses 2-8 are not rejecting God or Jesus as Savior. They still love Him, but are so dead in their religion that truth seems like error. The remnant is very small in proportion to the entire Body of Christ.]*

***(Isaiah 1:10-15) <sup>10</sup>Hear the word of the LORD, ye rulers of Sodom; give ear unto the law of our God, ye people of Gomorrah. <sup>11</sup>To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats. <sup>12</sup>When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts? <sup>13</sup>Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting. <sup>14</sup>Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them. <sup>15</sup>And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.***

**(V10)** God sees the church as a type of Sodom and Gomorrah. What were those cities known for? They were known for their abominable sin and sexual perversions as men and women burned in lust for like genders. In acting out and fulfilling those lusts, life cannot be produced. God sees the church as guilty of doctrinal abominations and perversions. The church has burned in lust for teachings which cannot in any way produce life.

**(V11-14)** In verses 11-14 the multitude of sacrifices, the blood of the animals, the vain oblations, the new moons and Sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, the solemn meeting, and the appointed feasts all represent the human efforts and works demanded by the religions of the Church. It is all of the form and formality that people are taught will produce great things from God. But He says these religious works bring Him no delight and He is fed up with Christians living by those works and expecting Him to honor what they do. God declares He is greatly troubled by and hates the fact that they put faith in their works; and that to Him, trusting in these religious works is iniquity. He puts forth the questions, "Who has told you that you

must do these things and bring these offerings before you can come before My presence? You did not get these things from Me.” He is saying “Stop living by your works and expecting Me to answer your prayers that are based on these works.”

***(Isaiah 1:16-17) <sup>16</sup>Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; <sup>17</sup>Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.***

**(V16-17)** God is saying that the church must wash itself of this works-and-performance mentality; that this is an evil way and it must be stopped. The church must be retaught and learn to do only that which is approved of Him. The people must learn to judge teaching by what is truth. The oppressed are those Christians who have been burdened down with wrong teaching. The fatherless are those Christians who have not been taught to know God as their loving, merciful and compassionate Father. The widows are those Christians who, as the bride of Christ, have been separated from the Lordship of Jesus and the understanding of the inheritance they have in Him. God says all of these things must be corrected.

***(Isaiah 1:18) Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.***

**(V18)** The blood of their “works sacrifices” has covered the purity of their God-given righteousness. But for those who turn from religion and embrace the fullness of a relationship with God, their righteousness shall come forth.

***(Isaiah 1:19-20) <sup>19</sup>If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: <sup>20</sup>But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.***

**(V19-20)** Those in the church who willingly obey what He is saying will receive the blessings He has promised, the blessings their religious works will never produce. But if they continue in their rebellion, the day is coming when God’s Word, as a two-edged sword, will cut in pieces their religious beliefs which have never produced the Father’s will.

***(Isaiah 1:21) How is the faithful city become an harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers.***

**(V21)** In a spiritual analogy, the Body of Christ is as the citizenry of Zion. But its purity has been soiled as the people prostituted its truth for the approval of religious structure and order. At the first, righteousness, holiness and truth were the standards for the church. But these standards have been destroyed in the churches where man’s pursuits and self-approved teachings have killed the voices of spiritual judgment and discernment.

***(Isaiah 1:22-24) <sup>22</sup>Thy silver is become dross, thy wine mixed with water: <sup>23</sup>Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them.***

**(V22)** Pure silver is as a highly polished mirror and will reflect an image in perfection. The silver represents the image of Christ to which the church is to conform. But man has mixed the dross of what he

decided a Christian should look like with the purity of Christ. The result is that Christians take on the soiled, dirty image of religious corruption. The wine represents the born-again nature a person receives directly from God the moment he accepts Jesus as Savior. But the church has watered down the fullness of the reality of what it means to be born again. For example, many Christians truly believe that even though they are born again they still have a sin nature. This is *not* what the church believed in the beginning.

**(V23)** A prince is someone who is not a king, but just underneath the king in authority. The princes in this verse are those behind the pulpit who claim to represent the King of kings but are in rebellion to truth; for anyone who stands in a pulpit and does not preach and teach what was taught to the early church is in rebellion. God sees them as companions of thieves: some of them love the prosperity that is produced as they steal from people with their twisted doctrines; some of them seek the rewards of notoriety, popularity and recognition as they build their churches and ministries with the religion they have married. They do not teach people to truly know God as Father and neither do they teach people the truth about the Lordship of Jesus and a Christian's inheritance; for you cannot teach what you have rejected as truth.

*(Isaiah 1:24-26) <sup>24</sup>Therefore saith the Lord, the LORD of hosts, the mighty One of Israel, Ah, I will ease me of mine adversaries, and avenge me of mine enemies: <sup>25</sup>And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin: <sup>26</sup>And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city.*

**(V24-26)** In the last days, there is going to be a great turn-around. God sees those who have polluted His word as enemies, and He is going to get vengeance against them. His hand upon the Church represents His presence and anointing resting upon Believers. The dross of religion will be removed from the purity of the image of Christ. Tin is a metal which, when highly polished, can look almost identical to silver. Tin in this verse represents that which is false, being presented as true and genuine. God is saying that the false is going to be exposed and removed. The "judges at the first" and the "counselors at the beginning" are symbolic terms in reference to the Apostles and Prophets who ministered when the Church was established. Their doctrine was pure, as were their motives. God is revealing that there are ministers rising up even now who will be like the Apostles and Prophets in the early Church: their doctrine will be pure, having all the dross and tin removed, and their motives will be pure. Unlike the ministers produced by religion, God's hand of anointing and glory will be upon these "judges and counselors." This revival of truth and purity will result in a renewal of true righteousness and genuine, scriptural faith in God and His word.

*(Isaiah 1:27-31) <sup>27</sup>Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness. <sup>28</sup>And the destruction of the transgressors and of the sinners shall be together, and they that forsake the Lord shall be consumed. <sup>29</sup>For they shall be ashamed of the oaks which ye have desired, and ye shall be confounded for the gardens that ye have chosen. <sup>30</sup>For ye shall be as an oak whose leaf fadeth, and as a garden that hath no water. <sup>31</sup>And the strong shall be as tow, and the maker of it as a spark, and they shall both burn together, and none shall quench them.*

**(V27)** In this revival, truth shall be "redeemed" back to the church through the spiritual judgment and discernment which comes from the Holy Spirit. Fewer and fewer new converts will be led astray from truth.

**(V28-31)** Those who choose to hold on to their religion and reject the revival of truth and doctrine that is even now being released will be judged as though they are sinners. This is not to say that they [all] will be judged as a lost person, but that when they are judged, they will realize that they never knew the

Lord the way they thought. Their doctrine will be consumed as described in 1 Corinthians 3:10-15. But those who have embraced doctrinal error to the point that they declare sin and abominations are acceptable in the sight of God will burn for eternity in the lake of fire.

**(V29-31)** An oak symbolizes great strength, and gardens symbolize that which has been planted and is supposed to produce beauty and/or sustenance. Here, the oaks represent what the church has trusted to be great strength in their lives. They have allowed gardens of lies to be sown in their hearts. That in which they have trusted will bring them great shame; For the oaks of their supposedly solid doctrines will be found to be weak, dried out and hollow. What they thought was producing great spiritual sustenance will be exposed as unwatered; for a garden of lies cannot be watered by the river of living water flowing from the throne of God. They thought they were nourished and healthy but will discover that they were terribly weak. The oaks of their doctrines will be shaken, and just like a dried-up tree that begins to crumble when violently shaken, their doctrines will splinter and fall apart before their eyes, becoming like kindling. Once ignited by the fires of truth and holiness, there is nothing that can salvage them, they will be totally consumed.

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Just as God warned Israel over and over about impending judgment if there was no repentance, the same is true today. Israel ignored the warnings, and the judgment came. The same is true today: the Body of Christ is facing judgment, purging and cleansing. Will you be a part of the remnant staying faithful to God and holding on to truth and holiness?

In His Grace,



P.S. – Use the form below to request a CD of the sermon *Judgment is on the Horizon*, which flows perfectly with this prophecy.

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