

Isaiah 30 - Futile Confidence in Egypt; God Will Be Gracious; Judgment on Assyria

I. Prophecies of condemnation (Is 1:1–35:10)

- (3) Condemnation of the world (Is 24:1–35:10)
 - (B) Six woes (Is 28:1–33:24)
 - (d) Obstinate rebellion through misplaced trust (30:1-33)
 - (i) Condemnation of alliance with Egypt (30:1-5)
 - (ii) Egypt's impotence to help Judah (30:6-17)
 - (iii) God will show grace toward Judah (30:18-33)
 - (a) Millennial conditions (30:18-26)
 - (b) Destruction of Assyria (30:27-33)

Isaiah 30

- (d) Obstinate rebellion through misplaced trust (30:1-33)
 - (i) Condemnation of alliance with Egypt (30:1-5)

1 "Woe to the rebellious children," declares the LORD, "Who execute a plan, but not Mine, And make an alliance, but not of My Spirit, In order to add sin to sin;

1 "Woe to the rebellious children," declares the LORD, "Who execute a plan, but not Mine, And make an alliance, but not of My Spirit, In order to add sin to sin;

1 "Oh, you stubborn children," declares the LORD, "who carry out plans— but they are not mine, and who make alliances— but not by my Spirit, piling sin upon sin.

1 Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin:

- "Woe" - fourth of six woes (Cf. Is 5): Is 28:1; 29:1,15; 30:1; 31:1; 33:1

2 Who proceed down to Egypt Without consulting Me, To take refuge in the safety of Pharaoh, And to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt!

2 Who proceed down to Egypt Without consulting Me, To take refuge in the safety of Pharaoh And to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt!

2 They set out to go down to Egypt, without asking my advice; taking refuge in Pharaoh's protection, and seeking shelter in Egypt's shadow.

2 That walk to go down into Egypt, and have not asked at my mouth; to strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, and to trust in the shadow of Egypt!

3 "Therefore the safety of Pharaoh will be your shame, And the shelter in the shadow of Egypt, your humiliation.

3 "Therefore the safety of Pharaoh will be your shame And the shelter in the shadow of Egypt, your humiliation.

3 But Pharaoh's protection will become your shame, and sheltering in Egypt's shadow your longing.

3 Therefore shall the strength of Pharaoh be your shame, and the trust in the shadow of Egypt your confusion.

4 "For their officials are at Zoan And their ambassadors arrive at Hanes.

4 "For their princes are at Zoan And their ambassadors arrive at Hanes.

4 And it will turn out that his officials are at Zoan, and his envoys will reach Hanes.

4 For his princes were at Zoan, and his ambassadors came to Hanes.

5 "Everyone will be ashamed because of a people who do not benefit them, *Who are not a help or benefit, but a source of shame and also disgrace.*"

5 "Everyone will be ashamed because of a people who cannot profit them, *Who are not for help or profit, but for shame and also for reproach.*"

5 There is only loathsome destruction through a people that cannot benefit them, who bring neither help nor profit, but only shame and disgrace."

5 They were all ashamed of a people that could not profit them, nor be an help nor profit, but a shame, and also a reproach.

- Isaiah is talking to Hezekiah about the futility of making an alliance with Egypt against the Assyrians

(ii) Egypt's impotence to help Judah (30:6-17)

6 The pronouncement concerning the animals of the Negev: Through a land of distress and anguish, From where *come* lioness and lion, viper and flying serpent, They carry their riches on the backs of young donkeys, And their treasures on camels' humps, To a people who will not benefit *them*;

6 The oracle concerning the beasts of the Negev. Through a land of distress and anguish, From where *come* lioness and lion, viper and flying serpent, They carry their riches on the backs of young donkeys And their treasures on camels' humps, To a people who cannot profit *them*;

6 An oracle about the animals of the Negev: "Through a land of trouble, dryness, and distress, of lionesses and roaring lions, where there is no water, a land of vipers and darting snakes, he carries their riches on donkeys' backs, and their treasures on the humps of camels, to a nation that cannot benefit them,

6 The burden of the beasts of the south: into the land of trouble and anguish, from whence come the young and old lion, the viper and fiery flying serpent, they will carry their riches upon the shoulders of young asses, and their treasures upon the bunches of camels, to a people that shall not profit them.

7 Even Egypt, whose help is vain and empty. Therefore, I have called her "**Rahab** who has been exterminated."

7 Even Egypt, whose help is vain and empty. Therefore, I have called her "Rahab who has been exterminated."

7 to Egypt, which gives help that is worthless and useless. Therefore I call her, 'Rahab, who just sits still.'

7 For the Egyptians shall help in vain, and to no purpose: therefore have I cried concerning this, Their strength is to sit still.

- "...Rahab" - pride, arrogance (old name for Egypt; do not confuse with Rahab of Joshua) (Cf. Job 26:12; Ps 87:4, 89:10)

-- Some texts read, "I have called her Rahab, who sits still..."

Israel's Indifference to the Prophetic Message

8 Now go, write it on a tablet in their presence And inscribe it on a scroll, That it may serve in the time to come As a witness forever.

8 Now go, write it on a tablet before them And inscribe it on a scroll, That it may serve in the time to come As a witness forever.

8 "Go now, and write it down on a tablet in their presence, inscribing it in a book, so that for times to come it may be an everlasting witness.

8 Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever:

9 For this is a rebellious people, false sons, Sons who refuse to listen To the instruction of the LORD;

9 For this is a rebellious people, false sons, Sons who refuse to listen To the instruction of the LORD;

9 For they are a rebellious people, deceitful children, children unwilling to hear the LORD's instruction.

9 That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD:

10 Who say to the seers, "You must not see *visions*"; And to the prophets, "You must not prophesy the truth to us. Speak to us pleasant words, Prophesy illusions.

10 Who say to the seers, "You must not see *visions*"; And to the prophets, "You must not prophesy to us what is right, Speak to us pleasant words, Prophesy illusions.

10 They say to the seers, 'Don't see *visions*', and to the prophets, 'Don't give us *visions* of what is right! Instead, tell us welcome things, prophesy illusions,

10 Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits:

11 "Get out of the way, turn aside from the path, Stop *speaking* before us *about* the Holy One of Israel!"

11 "Get out of the way, turn aside from the path, Let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel."

11 get out of the way, turn aside from the path, and stop confronting us with the Holy One of Israel."

11 Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us.

The Consequences of Israel's Indifference (30:12-17)

The First Consequence: The Fall of the House of Israel (v12-14)

12 Therefore this is what the Holy One of Israel says: "Since you have rejected this word And have put your trust in **oppression** and crookedness, and have relied on them,

12 Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel, "Since you have rejected this word And have put your trust in oppression and guile, and have relied on them,

12 Therefore, this is what the Holy One of Israel says: "Because you reject this message, and put your trust in oppression and enjoy it, and since you rely on it,

12 Wherefore thus saith the Holy One of Israel, Because ye despise this word, and trust in oppression and perverseness, and stay thereon:

- "...oppression" = extortion

13 Therefore this wrongdoing will be to you Like a **breach** about to fall, A bulge in a high wall, Whose collapse comes suddenly in an instant,

13 Therefore this iniquity will be to you Like a breach about to fall, A bulge in a high wall, Whose collapse comes suddenly in an instant,

13 therefore, for you this sin will become like a breach in a high wall that is about to collapse, bulging out, and whose crash comes suddenly—in an instant.

13 Therefore this iniquity shall be to you as a breach ready to fall, swelling out in a high wall, whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instant.

- "...breach" - breach in the wall (graphic idiom for their time: their cities depended upon the walls for defense)

14 Whose collapse is like the smashing of a potter's jar, So ruthlessly shattered That a shard will not be found among its pieces To take fire from a hearth Or to scoop water from a cistern."

14 Whose collapse is like the smashing of a potter's jar, So ruthlessly shattered That a sherd will not be found among its pieces To take fire from a hearth Or to scoop water from a cistern."

14 Its breaking will be like when potters' vessels are broken, shattered so ruthlessly that among its fragments not even a broken sliver will be found for taking fire from a hearth or scooping water out of a cistern."

14 And he shall break it as the breaking of the potters' vessel that is broken in pieces; he shall not spare: so that there shall not be found in the bursting of it a sherd to take fire from the hearth, or to take water withal out of the pit.

The Second Consequence: Flight and Depopulation (v15-17)

15 For this is what the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, has said: "In repentance and rest you will be saved, In quietness and trust is your strength." But you were not willing,

15 For thus the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, has said, "In repentance and rest you will be saved, In quietness and trust is your strength." But you were not willing,

15 For this is what the LORD GOD, the Holy One of Israel, says: "In repentance and rest you will be saved; in staying calm and trusting will be your strength. But you refused.

15 For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not.

16 And you said, "No, for we will flee on horses!" Therefore you shall flee! "And we will ride on swift *horses*!" Therefore those who pursue you shall be swift.

16 And you said, "No, for we will flee on horses," Therefore you shall flee! "And we will ride on swift *horses*," Therefore those who pursue you shall be swift.

16 Instead, you said, 'No! We'll escape on horses!' Therefore, you'll flee away. And you said, 'We'll ride off on swift steeds!' Therefore your pursuers will be swift.

16 But ye said, No; for we will flee upon horses; therefore shall ye flee: and, We will ride upon the swift; therefore shall they that pursue you be swift.

17 One thousand *will flee* at the threat of one *man*; You will flee at the threat of five, Until you are left like a signal post on a mountain top, And like a flag on a hill.

17 One thousand *will flee* at the threat of one *man*; You will flee at the threat of five, Until you are left as a flag on a mountain top And as a signal on a hill.

17 A thousand will flee at the threat of one; and run away, pursued by five, until you are left like a flagpole on a mountaintop, like a banner on a hill."

17 One thousand shall flee at the rebuke of one; at the rebuke of five shall ye flee: till ye be left as a beacon upon the top of a mountain, and as an ensign on an hill.

(iii) God will show grace toward Judah (30:18-33)

(a) Millennial conditions (30:18-26)

The Future Restoration of Israel

18 Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him.

18 Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him.

18 "Nevertheless, the LORD will wait so he can be gracious to you; and thus he will rise up to show you mercy. For the LORD is a God of justice. How blessed are all those who wait for him."

18 And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him.

19 For, you people in Zion, inhabitant in Jerusalem, you will weep no longer. He will certainly be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you.

19 O people in Zion, inhabitant in Jerusalem, you will weep no longer. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you.

19 Indeed, you people who live in Zion and in Jerusalem, you will weep no more. How gracious the LORD will be to you at the sound of your cry! As soon as he hears it, he will answer you.

19 For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem: thou shalt weep no more: he will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry; when he shall hear it, he will answer thee.

20 Although the Lord has given you **bread of deprivation and water of oppression**, *He*, your Teacher, will no longer hide Himself, but your eyes will see your Teacher.

20 Although the Lord has given you bread of privation and water of oppression, *He*, your Teacher will no longer hide Himself, but your eyes will behold your Teacher.

20 And although the LORD gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, your teachers won't hide themselves anymore, but your own eyes will see your teachers.

20 And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers:

– "...bread of deprivation and water of oppression" – an allusion to the Great Tribulation – Israel's national regeneration will be a result of the judgments of the Great Tribulation, which God will use to discipline Israel and correct them

21 Your ears will hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right or to the left.

21 Your ears will hear a word behind you, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right or to the left.

21 And whether you turn to the right or turn to the left, your ears will hear a message behind you: "This is the way, walk in it."

21 And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

22 And you will desecrate your carved images plated with silver, and your cast metal images plated with gold. You will scatter them as a filthy thing, *and* say to them, "Be gone!"

22 And you will defile your graven images overlaid with silver, and your molten images plated with gold. You will scatter them as an impure thing, *and* say to them, "Be gone!"

22 Then you will defile your carved idols that are overlaid with silver and your images plated with gold. You'll throw them away like disgusting objects and say to them, "Away with you!"

22 Ye shall defile also the covering of thy graven images of silver, and the ornament of thy molten images of gold: thou shalt cast them away as a menstrual cloth; thou shalt say unto it, Get thee hence.

Israel's Possession of the Land & God's Blessing of the Land in the Millennium

23 Then He will give *you* rain for your seed which you will sow in the ground, and bread *from* the yield of the ground, and it will be rich and plentiful; on that day your livestock will graze in a wide pasture.

23 Then He will give *you* rain for the seed which you will sow in the ground, and bread *from* the yield of the ground, and it will be rich and plenteous; on that day your livestock will graze in a roomy pasture.

23 He will also provide rain for your seed that you sow in the ground, and the food that comes from the ground will be rich and abundant. At that time, your cattle will graze in broad meadows,

23 Then shall he give the rain of thy seed, that thou shalt sow the ground withal; and bread of the increase of the earth, and it shall be fat and plenteous: in that day shall thy cattle feed in large pastures.

- The Land will be productive, well-watered and produce abundant food for both people and animals (Cf. Is 35:1-2; 65:21-24; Jer 31:1-6,11-14; Ezek 34:25-31; 36:8-15; Joel 2:18-27; 3:18)

24 Also the oxen and the donkeys that work the ground will eat seasoned feed, which has been winnowed with shovel and pitchfork.

24 Also the oxen and the donkeys which work the ground will eat salted fodder, which has been winnowed with shovel and fork.

24 and oxen and donkeys that work the ground will eat seasoned fodder that workers will winnow with shovels and forks.

24 The oxen likewise and the young asses that ear the ground shall eat clean provender, which hath been winnowed with the shovel and with the fan.

25 And on every lofty mountain and every high hill there will be streams running with water on the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall.

25 On every lofty mountain and on every high hill there will be streams running with water on the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall.

25 And on every lofty mountain and every high hill there will be brooks and canals running with water on the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall.

25 And there shall be upon every high mountain, and upon every high hill, rivers and streams of waters in the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall.

26 And the light of the full moon will be like the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be seven times *brighter*, like the light of seven days, on the day the LORD binds up the fracture of His people and **heals the wound He has inflicted**.

26 The light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be seven times *brighter*, like the light of seven days, on the day the LORD binds up the fracture of His people and heals the bruise He has inflicted.

26 Moreover, the light of the moon will be like the light of the sun, and the sun's light will be seven times brighter, like the light of seven full days, when the LORD binds up the bruises of his people and heals the wounds inflicted by his blow.

26 Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the LORD bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound.

- There will be tremendous increase in light, since the moon will shine as brightly as the sun, and the light of the sun will increase seven times what it is today.

- "...heals the wound He has inflicted" - it will also be a time of healing all physical infirmities

(b) Destruction of Assyria (30:27-33)

27 Behold, the name of the LORD comes from a remote place; His anger is burning and dense with smoke; His lips are filled with indignation, And His tongue is like a consuming fire;

27 Behold, the name of the LORD comes from a remote place; Burning is His anger and dense is *His* smoke; His lips are filled with indignation And His tongue is like a consuming fire;

27 See, the name of the LORD comes from far away, burning with his anger, and in thick rising smoke; his lips are full of fury, and his tongue is like a devouring fire.

27 Behold, the name of the LORD cometh from far, burning with his anger, and the burden thereof is heavy: his lips are full of indignation, and his tongue as a devouring fire:

28 His breath is like an overflowing river, Which reaches to the neck, To shake the nations back and forth in a sieve, And to *put* in the jaws of the peoples the bridle which leads astray.

28 His breath is like an overflowing torrent, Which reaches to the neck, To shake the nations back and forth in a sieve, And to *put* in the jaws of the peoples the bridle which leads to ruin.

28 His breath is like an overflowing torrent, and it rises right up to the neck, to shake the nations in the sieve of destruction, and to place in the jaws of the nations a bit that leads them astray.

28 And his breath, as an overflowing stream, shall reach to the midst of the neck, to sift the nations with the sieve of vanity: and there shall be a bridle in the jaws of the people, causing them to err.

29 You will have songs as in the night when you keep the festival, And gladness of heart as when one marches to *the sound of* the flute, To go to the mountain of the LORD, to the Rock of Israel.

29 You will have songs as in the night when you keep the festival, And gladness of heart as when one marches to *the sound of* the flute, To go to the mountain of the Lord, to the Rock

of Israel.

29 You will have songs as on nights when people celebrate a holy festival, and gladness of heart, as when they set out with flutes to go to the LORD's mountain, to the Rock of Israel.

29 Ye shall have a song, as in the night when a holy solemnity is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one goeth with a pipe to come into the mountain of the LORD, to the mighty One of Israel.

30 And the LORD will cause His voice of authority to be heard, And the descending of His arm to be seen in fierce anger, And *in* the flame of a consuming fire In cloudburst, downpour, and hailstones.

30 And the LORD will cause His voice of authority to be heard, And the descending of His arm to be seen in fierce anger, And *in* the flame of a consuming fire In cloudburst, downpour and hailstones.

30 And the LORD will make heard—yes, he will make heard—his majestic voice, and make his arm seen descending in raging anger and in a flame of consuming fire, with a cloudburst, thunderstorm and hailstones.

30 And the LORD shall cause his glorious voice to be heard, and shall shew the lighting down of his arm, with the indignation of his anger, and with the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, and tempest, and hailstones.

31 For at the voice of the LORD Assyria will be terrified, *When* He strikes with the rod.

31 For at the voice of the LORD Assyria will be terrified, *When* He strikes with the rod.

31 Indeed, the Assyrians will be shattered at the LORD's voice, when he strikes them with his scepter.

31 For through the voice of the LORD shall the Assyrian be beaten down, which smote with a rod.

32 And every blow of the rod of punishment, Which the LORD will lay on him, Will be with *the music of* tambourines and lyres; And in battles, brandishing weapons, He will fight them.

32 And every blow of the rod of punishment, Which the LORD will lay on him, Will be with *the music of* tambourines and lyres; And in battles, brandishing weapons, He will fight them.

32 And every stroke of his punishing rod that the LORD brings down on them will be to the sound of tambourines and harps, as he fights against her in battle with a brandished arm.

32 And in every place where the grounded staff shall pass, which the LORD shall lay upon him, it shall be with tabrets and harps: and in battles of shaking will he fight with it.

- The term "Assyrian" here specifically denotes the leader of the Assyrians here conquering the Northern Kingdom

— However, there are many places where the term "Assyrian" is used as an idiom of the Coming World Leader...

33 For Topheth has long been ready, Indeed, it has been prepared for the king. He has made it deep and large, A pyre of fire with plenty of wood; The breath of the LORD, like a torrent of brimstone, sets it afire.

33 For Topheth has long been ready, Indeed, it has been prepared for the king. He has made it deep and large, A pyre of fire with plenty of wood; The breath of the LORD, like a torrent of brimstone, sets it afire.

33 For the Fire Pit has long been prepared; truly it is for the king; it will indeed be made ready. And its pyre will be deep and wide, with abundant fire and wood. Like a stream of burning sulfur, the breath of the LORD will set it ablaze.

33 For **Tophet** is ordained of old; yea, for the **king** it is prepared; he hath made it deep and large: the pile thereof is fire and much wood; the breath of the LORD, like a stream of brimstone, doth kindle it.

- "Tophet" = lowest part of the Valley of Hinnom (place of burning) also located the altar to idol Molech (child sacrifice); Cf. 2 Kings 23:10; Jer 7:31; 19:6,11). It later became the place of the "city dump" where they threw their refuse which gave rise to an idiom "Gehenna" (which denotes the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone).

- "...king" - Melech (yet same consonants for Moloch)