

# Isaiah 31 - The Folly of Not Trusting God; Future Kingdom Blessings; Focus on Jerusalem

## 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)

(e) Trust in Egypt's might rather than God (Is 31:1–32:20)

(i) Egypt's impotence and God's power to deliver Judah (31:1-7)

(ii) Predicted destruction of Assyria (31:8-9)

## Isaiah 31

(e) Trust in Egypt's might rather than God (Is 31:1–32:20)

(i) Egypt's impotence and God's power to deliver Judah (31:1-7)

**1 Woe** to those who go down to Egypt for help *And* rely on horses, And trust in **chariots** because they are many And in horsemen because they are very strong, But they do not look to the Holy One of Israel, nor seek the LORD!

**1** Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help *And* rely on horses, And trust in chariots because they are many And in horsemen because they are very strong, But they do not look to the Holy One of Israel, nor seek the LORD!

**1** "How terrible it will be for those who go down to Egypt for help, who rely on horses, who trust in the chariot, because there are so many, and in charioteers, because they are so strong— but do not look to the Holy One of Israel or seek the LORD!

**1** Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!

– "Woe" – fifth of six "woes" (Cf. Is 5): Is 28:1; 29:1,15; 30:1; 31:1; 33:1; Cf. Ps 20:7

– "...chariots" – 600 of Pharaoh (Ex 14:7); 1200 of Shishak (2 Chr 12:3)

**2** Yet He also is wise and will bring disaster, And does not retract His words, But will arise against the house of evildoers, And against the help of the workers of injustice.

**2** Yet He also is wise and will bring disaster And does not retract His words, But will arise against the house of evildoers And against the help of the workers of iniquity.

2 Yet he is also wise and can bring disaster; he does not take back his words, but will rise up against the house of those who practice evil and against anyone who assists people who work iniquity.

2 Yet he also is wise, and will bring evil, and will not call back his words: but will arise against the house of the evildoers, and against the help of them that work iniquity.

3 Now the Egyptians are human and not God, And their horses are flesh and not spirit; So the LORD will stretch out His hand, And *any* helper will stumble, And one who is helped will fall. And all of them will come to an end together.

3 Now the Egyptians are men and not God, And their horses are flesh and not spirit; So the LORD will stretch out His hand, And he who helps will stumble And he who is helped will fall, And all of them will come to an end together.

3 The Egyptians are men, not God, and their horses are physical,<sup>4</sup> not spirit. When the LORD stretches out his hand, anyone who assists will stumble, and the one who is helped will fall; and they will all perish together."

3 Now the Egyptians are men, and not God; and their horses flesh, and not spirit. When the LORD shall stretch out his hand, both he that helpeth shall fall, and he that is holpen shall fall down, and they all shall fail together.

### **The Program of Israel's Redemption**

4 For this is what the LORD says to me: "As the lion or the young lion growls over his prey, Against which a band of shepherds is called out, *And* he will not be terrified at their voice nor disturbed at their noise, So will the LORD of armies come down to wage war on Mount Zion and on its hill."

4 For thus says the LORD to me, "As the lion or the young lion growls over his prey, Against which a band of shepherds is called out, *And* he will not be terrified at their voice nor disturbed at their noise, So will the LORD of hosts come down to wage war on Mount Zion and on its hill."

4 For this is what the LORD told me: "Just as a lion or a young lion growls over his objects of prey,— even when a whole band of shepherds is called out against it, it is not alarmed at their shouting or disturbed by their clamor— so the LORD of the Heavenly Armies will come down to do battle on Mount Zion and on its hill.

4 For thus hath the LORD spoken unto me, Like as the lion and the young lion roaring on his prey, when a multitude of shepherds is called forth against him, he will not be afraid of their voice, nor abase himself for the noise of them: so shall the LORD of hosts come down to fight for mount Zion, and for the hill thereof.

5 Like flying birds so the LORD of armies will protect Jerusalem. He will protect and save *it*; He will pass over and rescue *it*.

5 Like flying birds so the LORD of hosts will protect Jerusalem. He will protect and deliver *it*; He will pass over and rescue *it*.

5 Like birds hovering overhead, so the LORD of the Heavenly Armies will protect Jerusalem; he will shield and deliver it; and he will pass over and bring it to safety.

5 As birds flying, so will the LORD of hosts defend Jerusalem; defending also he will deliver it; and passing over he will preserve it.

6 Return to Him against whom you have been profoundly obstinate, you sons of Israel.

6 Return to Him from whom you have deeply defected, O sons of Israel.

6 Turn back to him, yes to him whom your people have so greatly betrayed, you people of Israel.

6 Turn ye unto him from whom the children of Israel have deeply revolted.

7 For on that day every person will reject his silver idols and his gold idols, which your hands have made for you as a sin.

7 For in that day every man will cast away his silver idols and his gold idols, which your sinful hands have made for you as a sin.

7 For at that time, everyone will throw away their idols of silver and their idols of gold that your hands have sinfully made for yourselves.

7 For in that day every man shall cast away his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which your own hands have made unto you for a sin.

#### (ii) Predicted destruction of Assyria (31:8-9)

8 And the Assyrian will fall by a sword not *wielded* by a man, And a sword not of man will devour him. So he will not escape the sword, And his young men will become forced laborers.

8 And the Assyrian will fall by a sword not of man, And a sword not of man will devour him. So he will not escape the sword, And his young men will become forced laborers.

8 "Then Assyria will fall by a sword that is not from human beings only— a sword not wielded by mortal beings will devour them. They will flee from the sword, and their young men will be put to forced labor.

8 Then shall the Assyrian fall with the sword, not of a mighty man; and the sword, not of a mean man, shall devour him: but he shall flee from the sword, and his young men shall be discomfited.

9 "His rock will pass away because of panic, And his officers will be terrified by the flag," Declares the LORD, whose fire is in Zion and whose furnace is in Jerusalem.

9 "His rock will pass away because of panic, And his princes will be terrified at the standard," Declares the LORD, whose fire is in Zion and whose furnace is in Jerusalem.

9 Their stronghold will vanish by reason of terror, and their commanders will be filled with alarm because of the battle standard," declares the LORD, whose fire is in Zion and whose furnace is in Jerusalem.

9 And he shall pass over to his strong hold for fear, and his princes shall be afraid of the ensign, saith the LORD, whose fire is in Zion, and his furnace in Jerusalem.