

# Isaiah Chapters 30-31 – Futile Confidence in Egypt; A Rebellious People; God Will Be Gracious; Judgment on Assyria; The Folly of Not Trusting God; God Will Deliver Jerusalem !

## OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 112 (1st floor, backside of the High School, facing Mac Arthur, near the east corner, adjacent to the High School office), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – [Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com); email – [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: [www.ptwente.com](http://www.ptwente.com) Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

## INTERPRETATION

## APPLICATION

### **NO CLASSES – MON. SEPT. 16/TUES. SEPT. 17**

**WE TRUST IN THE NAME OF THE LORD OUR GOD** – S. Chapman; Sung by Steve Green

*I Some trust in chariots. We trust in the name of the Lord our God. Some trust in horses. We trust in the name of the Lord our God.*

*(Refrain) We trust in the name of the Lord our God. We trust in the name of the Lord our God. His love never fails. His name will always prevail. We trust in the name of the Lord our God*

*2 Some trust in the works they do. We trust in the name of the Lord our God*

*'Cause by His grace all the work is through. We trust in the name of the Lord our God (Refrain)*

*Oh glory to the name. The name of our salvation. Oh, glory to the name above all names. The name of the Lord our God.*

*3 Some trust in the wealth of things. We trust in the name of the Lord our God*

*The name worth more than anything. We trust in the name of the Lord our God (Refrain)*

*We trust in the name of the Lord our God. We trust in the name of the Lord our God. His love never fails*

*His name will always prevail. We trust in the name of the Lord our... We trust in the name of the Lord our...*

*We trust in the name of the Lord our God!*

### **GENERAL OUTLINE OF ISAIAH: Referred to as the “Fifth Gospel” since the third century!**

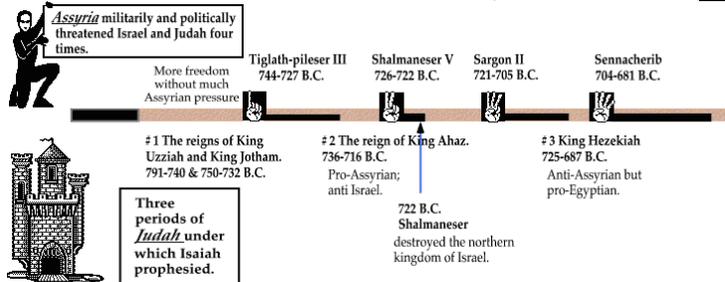
*Possible date of kings reign” - Uzziah, - 792-740; Jotham, - 750-736; Ahaz, - 735-720 Northern Kingdom of Israel falls to Assyria in 722BC; Hezekiah, - 715-699/686; Manasseh – 687-642*

*Isaiah’s time of prophecy - About a minimum of 40 years and possibly more than 60 years!*

*In the tenth year of Nabopolassar (616 BC) the Babylonians defeated the Assyrian army.*

*Cyrus takes Babylon. In October (539 BC), the Persian king Cyrus took Babylon.*

- I. **THE ASSYRIAN PERIOD - CONFLICT AND VICTORY (Isa 1-39)**
  - A. **PROPHECIES CONCERNING JUDAH AND JERUSALEM (Isa 1-12)**
  - B. **PROPHECIES CONCERNING THE NATIONS (Isa 13-27)**
  - C. **DELIVERANCE FOUND NOT IN EGYPT, BUT IN THE LORD (Isa 28-35)**
  - D. **HISTORICAL INTERLUDE (Isa 36-39)**
- II. **THE BABYLONIAN PERIOD - HOPE FOR TROUBLED TIMES (Isa 40-66)**
  - A. **THE ONE TRUE GOD VERSUS IDOLS (Isa 40-48)**
  - B. **LORD'S SERVANT WILL BRING SALVATION THROUGH SUFFERING (Isa 49-57)**
  - C. **THE FUTURE GLORY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE, THE NEW ZION (Isa 58-66)**



D.

NO CLASSES – MON. SEPT.

### **Isaiah – Bible Timeline**

739 BC	Isaiah Complains of Zion's Corruption	<a href="#">Isaiah 1 - 5</a>
739 BC	Isaiah's Vision and Commission	<a href="#">Isaiah 6</a>
735 BC	Isaiah's Prophecy of Immanuel	<a href="#">Isaiah 7</a>
734 BC	Uriah/Zechariah Verification	<a href="#">Isaiah 8</a>
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies a Child Is Born	<a href="#">Isaiah 9</a>
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies Judgments Upon Israel	<a href="#">Isaiah 9:8</a>
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies Judgment on Assyria	<a href="#">Isaiah 10</a>
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies The Root of Jesse	<a href="#">Isaiah 11</a>
730 BC	Isaiah's Joyful Thanksgiving	<a href="#">Isaiah 12</a>
725 BC	Isaiah Prophecies against the Nations	<a href="#">Isaiah 13 - 22</a>
725 BC	Isaiah's Valley of Vision	<a href="#">Isaiah 22</a>
725 BC	Isaiah's Burden of Tyre	<a href="#">Isaiah 23</a>
725 BC	Devastation on the Earth	<a href="#">Isaiah 24</a>
725 BC	Isaiah's Songs of Praise	<a href="#">Isaiah 25 - 27</a>
725 BC	<b>Isaiah's Further Warnings</b>	<a href="#">Isaiah 28 - 32</a>
725 BC	Isaiah Prophecies a King Shall Reign	<a href="#">Isaiah 32</a>
725 BC	Isaiah Declares God's Judgments	<a href="#">Isaiah 33, 34</a>
725 BC	Isaiah Declares the Joyful Will Flourish in Zion	<a href="#">Isaiah 35</a>
712 BC	Hezekiah's Illness and Healing	<a href="#">2 Kings 20, Isaiah 38</a>
711 BC	Hezekiah Shows Treasures	<a href="#">2 Kings 20:12, Isaiah 39</a>
711 BC	Isaiah Prophecies Captivity and Restoration	<a href="#">Isaiah 40 - 66</a>
701 BC	Sennacherib Threatens Jerusalem	<a href="#">2 Kings 18, Isaiah 36, 2 Chron. 32</a>
701 BC	Hezekiah's Prayer	<a href="#">2 Kings 19, Isaiah 37</a>

# Isaiah Chapters 30-31 – Futile Confidence in Egypt; A Rebellious People; God Will Be Gracious; Judgment on Assyria; The Folly of Not Trusting God; God Will Deliver Jerusalem !

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## INTERPRETATION

## APPLICATION

### TRUST IN THE LORD, NOT IN EGYPT - Chapter 30: Situation:

Chapter 30 deals with the rebellion of the people to the word of God. The Assyrians have now conquered the northern kingdom of Israel and are now on their way to attack Jerusalem. Many of the fenced cities of Judah have already been taken. This mighty Assyrian army is on its way to Jerusalem. In the midst of this serious and frightening situation, Isaiah is telling Hezekiah, “Just trust in the Lord and He will deliver you from the Assyrians. Put your faith and your trust in God. He will deliver you.” He is telling the leaders of the people, “Trust in God!” But they’re not satisfied with that. They felt they must get help from Egypt. They are sending emissaries down to Egypt with donkeys and camels, loaded down with rewards from Judah’s treasury, to pay for the Egyptians to send a military force, to help them defend themselves against the Assyrians. In their sending to Egypt for help, and in their relying upon Egypt for help, they are denying their faith in God’s ability to help them, who was not only promising to help them, but to do it for free! Their going to Egypt, is in direct disobedience to the command of God. Thus, God looks upon it as rebellion against Him.

*Do Not Go Down to Egypt*  
*Isa 30:1 "Woe to the rebellious children," says the LORD, "Who take counsel, but not of Me, And who devise plans, but not of My Spirit, That they may add sin to sin;*  
*Isa 30:2 Who walk to go down to Egypt, And have not asked My advice, To strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, And to trust in the shadow of Egypt!*

*Isa 30:3 Therefore the strength of Pharaoh Shall be your shame, And trust in the shadow of Egypt Shall be your humiliation.*  
*Isa 30:4 For his princes were at Zoan, And his (Judah's) ambassadors came to Hanes.*  
*Isa 30:5 They were all ashamed of a people who could not benefit them, Or be help or benefit, But a shame and also a reproach."*

*vs. 1-2* A rebuke to those in Judah who looked to Egypt for deliverance. *Who walk and go down to Egypt . . . To strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh:* This prophecy was given at a time when the Assyrian army was attacking Israel and Judah. The northern kingdom of Israel would be conquered by Assyria, and the people of Israel would be taken into exile. The Assyrians would then come against the southern kingdom of Judah, and because of this threat the leaders of Judah looked to Egypt for protection against the Assyrian invasion. In looking to Egypt, Judah forsook the LORD: Considering Judah’s plight in Assyrian’s power and present conquest in the northern kingdom, it’s understandable they needed help and were willing to look outside of themselves for assistance. But, it was foolish and evil of Judah to look to others - especially Egypt - for help, instead of looking to the LORD. You *take counsel* - but is it of the LORD? You *devise plans* - but are they of God’s Spirit? It is **one sin to reject the LORD, and another sin all together to trust in something else.** Therefore, to do what Judah did in situation is to *add sin to sin*, making the situation worse!

*vs. 3-5* The folly of trusting in Egypt. *Therefore the strength of Pharaoh shall be your shame, and trust in the shadow of Egypt shall be your humiliation:* From the perspective of heaven, the *strength of Pharaoh* was nothing. As the LORD saw it, Egypt was no substance, just a *shadow*. *They were all ashamed of a people who could not benefit them:* The ambassadors of Egypt came to Judah, and saw that Judah had basically nothing to offer them. It was foolish for the leaders of Judah to trust in a nation that looked at them this way! It was a worthless mutual agreement pact!

*vs. 1-2* Using your money to gain the help of the arm of flesh is a waste of your money! Trust in God, put your confidence in God! A great lesson for us in times of great danger and difficult trials, whom do we trust in? When the dire situation seems to call out that you’ve got to something! Whom do we go to for advice? We can’t take advice from every source we can think of and ignore what God has for us! When do we turn to the LORD? How quick are we to go to Him, who should and must be our first and primary source of help! Our first resource, not our last resort!

*vs. 3-5* When we trust in the arm of the flesh, worldly means and our contacts, and not trust in the LORD as He says, we will find our means to fail. The strength of our ways will be a shame and the shadow of strength that we hope to rely on will be our humiliation. We will end up being ashamed of those whose promises we were relying upon, promises that all failed.

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### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

**Isa 30:6** *The burden against the beasts of the South. Through a land of trouble and anguish. From which came the lioness and lion, The viper and fiery flying serpent, They will carry their riches on the backs of young donkeys, And their treasures on the humps of camels, To a people who shall not profit;  
**Isa 30:7** *For the Egyptians shall help in vain and to no purpose. Therefore I have called her Rahab-Hem-Shebeth.* (Egypt, the “do nothing”)*

#### *A Rebellious People*

**Isa 30:8** *Now go, write it before them on a tablet, And note it on a scroll, That it may be for time to come, Forever and ever:*

**Isa 30:9** *That this is a rebellious people, Lying children, Children who will not hear the law of the LORD;*

**Isa 30:10** *Who say to the seers, "Do not see," And to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us right things; Speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits.*

**Isa 30:11** *Get out of the way, Turn aside from the path, Cause the Holy One of Israel To cease from before us."*

**vs. 6-7** Their trust in Egypt will gain them nothing. *The burden against the beasts of the South:* Isaiah proclaims a burden against the pack animals of Judah, which will carry the riches of Judah down to Egypt, through the wilderness, in a foolish attempt to purchase protection against the Assyrians. It will be wasted money, because *the Egyptians shall help in vain and to no purpose.* No wonder Isaiah feels sorry for the donkeys that will carry the treasure of Judah down to Egypt! Despite the riches that the pack animals bring across the difficult, wilderness, desert, Egypt will not help Judah at all, so one could call Egypt *Rahab-Hem-Shebeth*, which means “Rahab Sits Idle” of “Rahab the Do-Nothing.” *Rahab* is a name, but it is also the Hebrew word for *pride*, and is sometimes used as a title for Egypt (**Psa 87:4**). Egypt will sit idly by as the Assyrians trouble Judah.

**vs. 8-11** The LORD documents Judah’s rejection of His message. *Now go, write it before them on a tablet . . . that it may be for a time to come, forever and ever:* God tells Judah this before it happens, and wants it documented. This is so when it all unfolds exactly as the LORD had spoken, Judah can have greater trust in the LORD. *That this is a rebellious people, lying children . . . who say to the seers, “Do not see.”* God wanted Judah’s rejection of His message, and His messengers, to be documented. Judah wanted to hear from the prophets and God’s messengers, but **they did not want to hear the truth from them.** They want religion, but **they don’t want the living God of heaven to be real in their life** (*Cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us*). The problem God confronted in Judah didn’t end in the days of Judah. Paul describes the same kind of heart in **2Ti 4:3-4** : *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.* And **the same problem still occurs today!**

**vs. 6-7** We can see God’s heart. He sees Judah, instead of turning to Him, sending money and treasures to Egypt to secure an alliance with them, enduring the dangers of lions and serpents in the process. How it must have pained Him to see them disobeying Him, refusing His help, which was being offered for free! May we be reminded in our own lives, not to look to the world and to the flesh, but look to our loving, gracious, all-sufficient and giving God! Also we need to be sure He is our first resort and not that behind our own personal, fleshly plans.

**vs. 8-11** Don’t prophesy to us the truth! Tell us deceitful things. Lie to us! Make us feel good! Do we ever get in the state of mind on not wanting to hear from the LORD? That we are drawn instead to smooth, pleasing things, even though we know that these smooth things will only harm us and can never help, as will His Word!

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**INTERPRETATION**

**APPLICATION**

*Isa 30:12 Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel: "Because you despise this word, And trust in oppression and perversity, And rely on them, Isa 30:13 Therefore this iniquity shall be to you Like a breach ready to fall, A bulge in a high wall, Whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant. Isa 30:14 And He shall break it like the breaking of the potter's vessel, Which is broken in pieces; He shall not spare. So there shall not be found among its fragments A shard to take fire from the hearth, Or to take water from the cistern."*

*Isa 30:15 For thus says the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel: "In returning and rest you shall be saved; In quietness and confidence shall be your strength." But you would not, Isa 30:16 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! Isa 30:17 One thousand shall flee at the threat of one, At the threat of five you shall flee, Till you are left as a pole on top of a mountain And as a banner on a hill.*

*vs. 12-14* The judgment to come upon Judah for their trust in Egypt and for their rejection of His message. *Because you despise this word . . . Therefore this iniquity shall be to you like a breach ready to fall:* God promises that because Judah trusted in Egypt instead of Him, everything will be broken and collapsed. Judah will be like a collapsed wall, *whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant.* Because you're trusting in Egypt, it's like a high wall that begins to bow out. It has a crack in it, and it begins to bow out. Once it starts to tumble, just boom! It's like a dam that has a crack in it. Pressure is built up behind the dam, and as the water begins to come over, or begins to come through, the more that it comes through, the more the thing erodes until finally the whole thing just collapses, and you have this flood that comes over you and there's no defense. You're just totally overwhelmed. God said, *Because you despise this word, And trust in oppression and perversity, And rely on them.* In an instant, *He shall break it as the breaking of a potter's vessel which is broken in pieces;* Judah will be like a shattered clay pot, *which is broken in pieces.* It'll just be broken so badly, there won't even be a piece big enough that you can pick up coals out of the fire on it or dip water out of the well with it, or out of the spring.

*vs. 15-17 In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength:* God offered to Judah the promise of protection from Assyria. They didn't need to look to Egypt to help at all. They could have trusted God for His promise. Trusting God's promise means *returning, drawing close to Him!* Trusting God's promise means *rest.* When we trust God, we don't have to strive for ourselves. We don't have to run all about trying to protect or guard ourselves. We have the best Protector, the best Guard in God. Trusting God's promise means *quietness.* You don't need to argue for your side when God is on your side. Be quiet before Him and before others, showing that you really trust Him. Trusting God's promise means *confidence.* You aren't given to despair or fear, because you trust God's promise. Together these things mean a real trust in God's promise; that we *shall be saved;* that we will find *strength.* There is no person walking this earth more powerful than a child of God boldly and properly trusting the promise of the living God! *But you would not, and you said, "No, for we will flee on horses" - Therefore you shall flee!* Because Judah rejected God's promise, and trusted in *horses* and other such things instead, they would need to flee! *2Ki 25:5 But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king, and they overtook him in the plains of Jericho. All his army was scattered from him.* If they would have trusted God's promise instead, they would never had reason to flee, and would have seen the LORD's salvation and strength instead. *One thousand shall flee at the threat of one:* This is reversal of the promise of *Lev 26:8; Dt. 32:30,* and a fulfillment of the curse promised in *Lev 26:17 : I will set My face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you.*

*vs. 12-14* The Holy One of Israel is saying to Judah that there are consequences in their rejecting Him and relying on Egypt or on any other worldly other things. Destruction is coming on them as a *bulging high wall.* The wall will break suddenly, like the *breaking of a potter's vessel,* and be broken in pieces so completely there won't even be a shard of any size. Are we trusting in Him or not? Or in an emergency, will we be like Judah?

*vs. 15-17* The Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel says to Judah that *in returning and rest you shall be saved!* Return! Repent! Turn from following anything other than Me! In quietness and confidence shall be your strength! Trust in Me! Rest in Me! God is waiting for them to get so desperate that there's no place to go, there's no hope. There's only one thing left, and that's God. We better pray! When you get desperate enough, you will pray. God said, "Okay I'll just wait till you cry out to Me. I'll just wait for you to call. But we see Judah responding, no we will rely on *swift horses!* None of these things will work and Judah will be left frightened and afraid as a *pole on top of a mountain!* If we trust in the natural, we need to understand we won't have advantage in the natural, ultimately we will be standing alone!

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## INTERPRETATION

## APPLICATION

*The Lord Will Be Gracious*  
**Isa 30:18** *Therefore the LORD will wait, that He may be gracious to you; And therefore He will be exalted, that He may have mercy on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; Blessed are all those who wait for Him.*

**Isa 30:19** *For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem; You shall weep no more. He will be very gracious to you at the sound of your cry; When He hears it, He will answer you.*

**Isa 30:20** *And though the Lord gives you The bread of adversity and the water of affliction, Yet your teachers (Teacher) will not be moved into a corner anymore, But your eyes shall see your teachers.*  
(Teacher)

**Isa 30:21** *Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left.*

**v.18** The blessing of restoration for Judah. A call to trust in God’s timing. *Therefore the LORD will wait, that He may be gracious to you:* We often wonder why the LORD waits to do things in our lives. Isaiah tells us plainly that it is so *He may be gracious to you.* Whenever the **LORD waits or seems to delay, it always has a loving purpose behind it.** We can trust that even when we don’t understand it. *And therefore He will be exalted, that He may have mercy on us:* When God has mercy on us, it exalts Him. Mercy does nothing to exalt the person who receives it; mercy recognizes the guilt of the one who deserves the punishment. But **mercy exalts the goodness of the person who gives it.** It shows **them to be loving, generous, and full of mercy.** *For the LORD is a God of justice:* On the surface, *mercy* and *justice* seem to oppose each other. If a guilty criminal stands before the judge, he has the choice to show either *mercy* or *justice*. But God is so great, **He can show both at the same time. Because on the cross, Jesus took the punishment we deserve, God’s justice is satisfied. At the same time, He shows mercy by extending the work of Jesus to us as payment for our sins.** Only God can reconcile *mercy* and *justice*, *that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus (Rom 3:26).* **Blessed are all those who wait for Him:** Because God is so great, there is a built-in blessing for *those who wait for Him.* Isaiah doesn’t mean *wait* just in the sense of passing time, but in the sense of **patiently waiting for and trusting God’s promise.**

**v. 19** God promises to bless His people by responding to their cry. *You shall weep no more . . . He will be very gracious to you at the sound of your cry:* When God’s people wait on Him and patiently trust His promise, God pours out His grace at the cry of their heart. Even if it feels God is distant, He hears and promises to answer. **Jer 31:20** *Is Ephraim My dear son? Is he a pleasant child? For though I spoke against him, I earnestly remember him still; Therefore My heart yearns for him; I will surely have mercy on him, says the LORD.*

**v. 20** God promises to bless His people with guidance. *Though the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction . . . your eyes shall see your teachers* (Teacher): When Judah was prosperous and comfortable, they wouldn’t listen to God. Now, God has given them the *bread of adversity and water of affliction*, but they can hear God and be guided by Him again. It’s always **better to be uncomfortable and in tune with the Lord than to be comfortable and out of step with God.**

**v. 21** Like the still, small voice Elijah heard, that quiet voice that cannot be heard in the hustle and bustle and scheming that we are so accustomed to. What a joy it is to take a significant portion of time to be quiet before God, for it is then that we hear His word in our ear, saying, *This is the way, walk in it! Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left.* During the Kingdom Age, we will enjoy great Spiritual sensitivity.

**v.18** Here, just like with us, they don’t deserve it, they’ve been rebelling against God, they’re seeking the help of man, that help has failed, the Egyptians are destroyed, they don’t come through, and now they are in trouble. Now the whole thing is falling to pieces and they say, “O God help!”, and God is so *gracious*, He comes down, and He shows His grace, He wipes out the Assyrians, and He gives them great victories over their enemies, and establishes them in power, and strength, under the reign of Hezekiah. *Grace.* The Lord, always having a loving purpose behind it, having something better in mind, is waiting for them to realize that all of their schemes are of no avail, they need God. When they finally turn to God, then He shows His grace upon them. What a Savior – perfectly just, but *gracious* and having *mercy* at the same time!

**v. 19** The moment you cry out to God, He’ll be *very gracious* to you, if you’ll just turn to God, in returning and resting you’ll be safe. Just cry out to God! When he hears it, He will answer you. He will be *gracious* to you! He will forgive you all of your sins. Just cry out to Him.

**v. 20** And though the Lord gives, allows you the bread of adversity as you’re rebelling against Him, and trying to go against Him, you come into real adversities, the waters of affliction. but **your eyes shall see your Teacher!**

**v. 21** You just turn your life over to God, and God will begin to guide you and direct you. God will say, “*Hey this is the way, walk in it.*” The voice of God leading and guiding your life. When you turn to the right, you turn to the left, God will say, “No, no, no, *this is the way. Walk in it.*”

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## INTERPRETATION

## APPLICATION

*Isa 30:22 You will also defile the covering of your images of silver, And the ornament of your molded images of gold. You will throw them away as an unclean thing; You will say to them, "Get away!"*

*Isa 30:23 Then He will give the rain for your seed With which you sow the ground, And bread of the increase of the earth; It will be fat and plentiful. In that day your cattle will feed In large pastures.*

*Isa 30:24 Likewise the oxen and the young donkeys that work the ground Will eat cured fodder, Which has been winnowed with the shovel and fan.*

*Isa 30:25 There will be on every high mountain And on every high hill Rivers and streams of waters, In the day of the great slaughter, When the towers fall.*

*Isa 30:26 Moreover the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, And the light of the sun will be sevenfold (Possibly the brightness of the Kingdom Age?), As the light of seven days, In the day that the LORD binds up the bruise of His people And heals the stroke of their wound.*

*Isa 30:27 Behold, the name of the LORD comes from afar, Burning with His anger, And His burden is heavy; His lips are full of indignation, And His tongue like a devouring fire.*

*Isa 30:28 His breath is like an overflowing stream, Which reaches up to the neck, To sift the nations with the sieve of futility; And there shall be a bridle in the jaws of the people, Causing them to err.*

*Isa 30:29 You shall have a song As in the night when a holy festival is kept, And gladness of heart as when one goes with a flute, To come into the mountain of the LORD, To the Mighty One of Israel.*

*v. 22* God promises to bless His people with the desire for purity. *You will also defile the covering of your graven images of silver:* The people of Judah kept household idols that they used to honor or worship other gods. The LORD promises a day when they will *defile* those images, and *throw them away as an unclean thing*. What a wonderful thing it is when God’s people say to wicked and idolatrous things, “*Get away!*” *You will throw them away as an unclean thing:* The literal Hebrew for *unclean thing* is literally a menstrual cloth.

*vs. 23-26* God promises to bless nature with abundance. *Then He will give the rain for your seed:* When Judah puts away their idols, boldly trusting God’s promise, then God will send material blessings on Judah. For a nation of farmers, it was a wonderful promise to make them *fat and plenteous*. In a naturally dry land, it was a wonderful promise to give abundant *rivers and streams of waters*. Better than the material blessing of the LORD is His loving care: *In the day that the LORD binds up the bruise of His people and heals the stroke of their wound.*

*vs. 27-29* God promises His people will have gladness in the day of judgment. *Behold, the name of the LORD comes from afar, burning with His anger:* Isaiah sees the judgment of the LORD quickly coming, *to sift the nations with the sieve of futility. Lips are full of indignation* (Old Testament word for Tribulation). Now we go into the tribulation period and the prophecy now goes out to the future. *Behold the name of the Lord comes from far, burning with His anger, and the burden thereof is heavy: his lips are full of indignation.* However, God’s people do not need to fear: *You shall have a song . . . and gladness of heart as when one goes with a flute, to come into the mountain of the LORD.* What a contrast! The truth is that God’s people are here portrayed rejoicing at His judgment on sin because they must take His point of view on everything, and because this judgment is at the same time their salvation. (***1 John 4:17***) *So love is made complete among us. We will be bold on the day God judges us. That's because in this world we love as Jesus did.* Boldness and joy in the day of judgment are precious gifts from God.

*v. 22* This will be a time where people will hate their former sins and idolatry, being reminded of what we once were - *Get that away from me!* I’ve invested enough of my life in that! I don’t want anything to do with it! As Christians we don’t have to wait for the Kingdom Age for that work of the Spirit within our lives. That’s in us right now! *Get the old flesh away from me!*

*v. 23-26* God is showing His grace. They respond to that. They get rid of their idols, and their images. God begins to bless them. They begin to get the rains again, and their seed is blessed, and their cattle are now pasturing in large pastures. Great material blessings during the Kingdom Age! Plenty of food for both man and animals. This is very good news!

*vs. 27-29* There will be great tribulation against the enemies of God upon the earth, *but you will be rejoicing with a gladness of heart as when one goes to worship God.* As we will be gathered together with the Lord in the heavenly scene. The rejoicing and the worship that is there!

**Isaiah Chapters 30-31 – Futile Confidence in Egypt; A Rebellious People; God Will Be Gracious; Judgment on Assyria; The Folly of Not Trusting God; God Will Deliver Jerusalem !**

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 112 (1st floor, backside of the High School, facing Mac Arthur, near the east corner, adjacent to the High School office), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – [Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221](mailto:Phil.Twente@gmail.com); email – [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: [www.ptwente.com](http://www.ptwente.com) Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

*Isa 30:30 The LORD will cause His glorious voice to be heard, And show the descent of His arm, With the indignation of His anger And the flame of a devouring fire, With scattering, tempest, and hailstones.*

*Isa 30:31 For through the voice of the LORD Assyria will be beaten down, As He strikes with the rod.*

*Isa 30:32 And in every place where the staff of punishment passes, Which the LORD lays on him, It will be with tambourines and harps; And in battles of brandishing He will fight with it.*

*Isa 30:33 For Tophet (the place of burning) was established of old, Yes, for the king (Satan) it is prepared. He has made it deep and large; Its pyre is fire with much wood; The breath of the LORD, like a stream of brimstone, Kindles it.*

**vs. 30-33** The glory of the judgment of the **LORD**. **The LORD will cause His glorious voice to be heard:** Isaiah wants God’s people see the *glory* of God’s judgments. When we understand how God’s perfect judgment exalts His justice and His righteousness, we see the glory of the judgment of the **LORD**. **Assyria will be beaten down:** In the near view, Isaiah sees the judgment of the **LORD** against Assyria. Judah had no business trusting in Egypt for help against the Assyrians, but they should have trusted the **LORD** instead, because the **LORD** will take care of the Assyrians. As it happened, this was exactly the case. **2Ki 19:35** describes how God simply sent the angel of the LORD, and killed 185,000 Assyrians in one night. When the people woke up, there were 185,000 dead Assyrian soldiers. **For Tophet was established of old, yes for the king (Satan) it is prepared: Tophet** was a place in the Valley of Hinnom, just outside of Jerusalem’s walls (**Jer 7:31**). The Valley of Hinnom served as Jerusalem’s garbage dump, and the combination of disgusting rubbish and smoldering fires made it a picture of hell. The Hebrew word for hell (*gehenna*) comes from the word for the Valley of Hinnom. Therefore, God says He has a special place in hell for the Assyrian king! God had an eternal place for the Assyrian king who attacked Judah and Jerusalem (**He has made it deep and large; its pyre is fire with much wood**). But God also had a special judgment for that king on earth. **2Ki 19:36-37** describes how when the king of the Assyrians returned home after attacking Judah, his own sons murdered him as he worshipped in the temple of Nisroch his god. “Great men, if not good, shall be greatly tormented; and the more they have of the fat of the earth, the more they are sure to fry in hell.”

**Chapter 31: Situation:** Assyria’s army has conquered the northern kingdom, and is now moving towards Jerusalem, defeating all of the cities in the path. All in Jerusalem are fearful! No city has been able to stand against the forces of Assyria, which are very cruel. They are inhumane, known to mutilate their captives physically, gouging out an eye/s, cutting off an ear/s, cutting off the nose, cutting out tongues. Thus, those in Jerusalem are really frightened! Egypt has a powerful army. It has many chariots, sort of the tanks of their warfare. They have powerful and numerous cavalry units. The logical strategy at this point would be to try to hire the Egyptians to come and to help in this impending struggle against the Assyrians. Yet the prophet Isaiah is counseling king Hezekiah to just trust in the Lord. That the Lord will deliver them from the Assyrians. It is true that God always wants to work in behalf of His people and for His people. If you are a child of God, God will defend you. God will take care of you. He wants to defend you and take care of you! He wants to do it in such a way that it will be obvious that only God could have delivered you, so that when the deliverance comes, only God can receive the glory. God loves to set His people free. God loves to work in behalf of His people, to show Himself strong in their behalf. That they might rejoice in Him, and praise Him for His help, for His strength, and for His victory.

**vs. 30-33** Now **Tophet** is the Old Testament equivalent of the New Testament **Gehenna**. **Tophet or Gehenna was not prepared for people, but those people who have chosen to rebel with Satan, will find Gehenna their abiding place, with Satan.**

**Isaiah Chapters 30-31 – Futile Confidence in Egypt; A Rebellious People; God Will Be Gracious; Judgment on Assyria; The Folly of Not Trusting God; God Will Deliver Jerusalem !**

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**INTERPRETATION**

**APPLICATION**

*Woe to Those Who Go Down to Egypt*

*Isa 31:1 Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, And rely on horses, Who trust in chariots because they are many, And in horsemen because they are very strong, But who do not look to the Holy One of Israel, Nor seek the LORD!*

*Isa 31:2 Yet He also is wise and will bring disaster, And will not call back His words, But will arise against the house of evildoers, And against the help of those who work iniquity.*

*Isa 31:3 Now the Egyptians are men, and not God; And their horses are flesh, and not spirit. When the LORD stretches out His hand, Both he who helps will fall, And he who is helped will fall down; They all will perish together.*

*Isa 31:4 For thus the LORD has spoken to me: "As a lion roars, And a young lion over his prey (When a multitude of shepherds is summoned against him, He will not be afraid of their voice Nor be disturbed by their noise), So the LORD of hosts will come down To fight for Mount Zion and for its hill.*

*Isa 31:5 Like birds flying about, So will the LORD of hosts defend Jerusalem. Defending, He will also deliver it; Passing over, He will preserve it."*

**THE LORD WILL GIVE VICTORY, NOT TO BE SHARED WITH EGYPT OR ANYONE!**

*vs. 1* Woe to those who look to Egypt, not the **LORD**. Isaiah confronts Judah with two sins: the sin of trusting in Egypt and its military might, and the sin of not looking to **the Holy One of Israel**. Judah felt they had a reason to trust in chariots (*because they are many*). Judah felt they had a reason to trust in horsemen (*because they are very strong*). **Deu 17:16** *But he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the LORD has said to you, 'You shall not return that way again.'* But they couldn't seem to find a reason to trust in the LORD! How much better to have the heart of the Psalmist in **Psa 20:7** : *Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.* And our trust should *only* be in the **LORD**.

*vs. 2-3* The LORD is mightier than the Egyptians. *Yet He also is wise and will bring disaster*: Though Judah couldn't seem to find a reason to trust God, the reasons were there, and Isaiah calls them to remember the reasons. They should trust God more than the Egyptians or their armies because *He also is wise and will bring disaster . . . He will arise against the house of evildoers. Now the Egyptians are men, and not God; and their horses are flesh, and not spirit*: Judah was also wrong about their trust in Egypt. The Egyptians and their armies were not as mighty as they seemed to be. All the LORD must do to topple them, along with all who trust in them, is to stretch *out His hand*.

*vs. 4-5* The LORD defends Mount Zion. *As a lion roars . . . So the LORD of hosts will come down to fight for Mount Zion*: Again, their trust in Egypt for protection against the Assyrian invasion was both foolish and unnecessary. God would protect **Mount Zion** if Judah trusted Him or not! *Like birds flying about, so will the LORD of hosts defend Jerusalem*: The picture is of a mother bird protecting her young. **God will defend Jerusalem with the ferocity of a lion, and also with the tender care of a bird**. The combination of the two images is powerful. *Like birds flying*; which come from above, and so cannot be kept off; which fly swiftly and engage themselves valiantly and resolutely, when they perceive that their young ones are in eminent danger. Review the General Allenby story of 1917.

*v. 1* Now in the scripture, Egypt is always a type of the flesh. The warning here is against trusting in the arm of flesh. The exhortation is to trust in the Lord, who wanted to help them for free! Woe unto them who trust in the flesh, who go down to Egypt to seek their help. People who would rely upon the strength of the flesh, rather than upon the Lord. We are constantly being exhorted in the scriptures to put our trust in the Lord. God knows when we make Him our first resort as well as when we don't! He's our Heavenly Father and He loves us!

*vs. 2-3* God is wise! If you trust in the flesh, it's going to fail you, and you will fail with it. Put your confidence in the flesh, it's going to let you down. It'll fall, and you will fall with it. So this very pointed warning by God against this alliance that would bring to them that trust in the flesh. He will let them know how inferior their plan was by letting them be defeated! The best of men are, at best, men! They're not God!

*vs. 4-5* *When a multitude of shepherds (Egypt) is summoned against him, He will not be afraid of their voice Nor be disturbed by their noise, God is going to deal with this whole situation. He is letting them know that Assyria is not a problem for Him. Although the land of Judah will be conquered, Jerusalem will not be conquered out of the goodness of His heart!*

## Isaiah Chapters 30-31 – Futile Confidence in Egypt; A Rebellious People; God Will Be Gracious; Judgment on Assyria; The Folly of Not Trusting God; God Will Deliver Jerusalem !

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### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

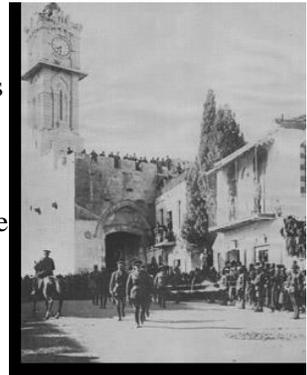
**An Interesting Story: Regarding Isa 31:5 Like a bird hovering over its nest, I will guard Jerusalem. I will keep it safe. I will pass over it and save it. I am the LORD who rules over all."**



JERUSALEM, ISRAEL -- The process of the return of the Jewish people to their homeland was began during the *World War I* period. A **British General Edmond Allenby** was a devoted Christian who read his bible on a daily basis. As the British headed toward Jerusalem to take the city from the Turkish Army he was moved on by God to take the city peaceful. Allenby was a believer in bible prophecy, he was sent to Palestine to remove the Turkish Empire and reestablish the nation of Israel by his government. On December 10, 1917 Allenby asked God how can we take this city and not destroy it. The Lord spoke to him out of *Isaiah 31:5 As birds flying, so will the Lord of hosts defend Jerusalem;*



*defending also he will deliver it; and passing over he will preserve it.* This was the battle strategy that was given to him by God. The British general began to ask God, "What does this mean?" God gave him inspiration. In 1917 there were very few airplanes in the world. Allenby got an idea and said I know how to fulfill the prophecy of *Isaiah 31:5*. I'll get every airplane I can get my hands on in all of the middle east. I'll bring them in and fly them in close formation over Jerusalem. At that time the Turks and the Arabs had not seen many airplanes, many had never seen an airplane at all. Allenby had them fill up the planes with leaflets. He wrote on the leaflets in Arabic "**Surrender the city today, Allenby.**" The Arab interpreter did not write the name right on the leaflet and wrote **Alla Bay, which means Son of God to Moslems.** You can imagine the Turks in the city having never seen an airplane and a whole group of them all of a sudden dropping leaflets with the Son of God telling them to get out of town. The scripture said, *Passing over the city I will preserve it and defend it*, only God knows how to interpret His Word. Allenby was sent by God to open Jerusalem back up for the Jews, but it was just a beginning and that would not become a reality until May 12, 1948 when Israel would become a nation. The Word came before the nation, it was in the winter of 1946-47 that the *Dead Sea Scrolls* were found in the first cave of Qumran. From this time on 97 nations began to give up their Jewish population to the new homeland of Israel. The lessons of the Holocaust was learned by the Jewish people and the final exodus into the land would continue even to this day to fulfill the prophecy found in *Amos 9:15 And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God.*



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**INTERPRETATION**

**APPLICATION**

*Isa 31:6 Return to Him against whom the children of Israel have deeply revolted.*  
*Isa 31:7 For in that day every man shall throw away his idols of silver and his idols of gold—sin, which your own hands have made for yourselves.*  
*Isa 31:8 "Then Assyria shall fall by a sword not of man, And a sword not of mankind shall devour him. But he shall flee from the sword, And his young men shall become forced labor.*  
*Isa 31:9 He shall cross over to his stronghold for fear, And his princes shall be afraid of the banner," Says the LORD, Whose fire is in Zion And whose furnace is in Jerusalem.*

**vs. 6-9** An invitation to repent to the God who will deliver. **Return to Him:** Because of how great God is, because of how terrible the alternatives to serving Him are, we should feel compelled to **return to Him**. Repentance means turning towards God, and away from anything we have put in God’s place (*idols of silver and idols of gold - sin, which your own hands have made*). **Then Assyria shall fall by sword not of man:** This was fulfilled exactly. The Assyrian army devastated almost the entire land of Judah, and camped on the outskirts of Jerusalem, waiting to conquer the nation by defeating the capital city. But **2Ki 19:35** describes how God simply sent the angel of the LORD, and killed 185,000 Assyrians in one night. When the people woke up, there were 185,000 dead Assyrian soldiers. It was a victory that had nothing to do with the *sword . . . of man*. God was more than able to protect Judah and Jerusalem. It is true that the Egyptians did not help. It is also true that when the Egyptian army was defeated, and they realized there could be no help, they did turn to the Lord. They did seek the Lord. There was a revival. There was a putting away of their idols, even as Isaiah predicted here. Unfortunately as time went on, they went back to their idols, they returned to their idolatry, and ultimately their idolatry was their destruction. **Any nation that forgets God, or any nation that forsakes God and turns to idols, turns to materialism, begins to worship materialism, or begins to worship pleasure, that nation is destined to go down.** Those in Jerusalem did go back to idols, the worship of the idols. **Jerusalem was destroyed by fire by Babylon.** The ruins of that city, remain to the present day. The fire of God’s wrath, destroying and devouring the adversaries of God. The furnace of God in Jerusalem. If we keep up the fire of holy love and devotion in our hearts and houses, we may depend upon God to be a protection to us and them.

**vs. 6-9** God is leading them to turn to Him and throw away their idols. He is letting them know that they eventually will lose everything that is not of the LORD. They can lose them the easy way by turning from them as an expression of their love for the LORD. Or they can go the hard way, through God’s chastening, having them forcefully taken from them as they are judged by their enemies. He then speaks to them how He is going to defeat the Assyrians by wiping out 185,000 soldiers - *Assyria shall fall by a sword not of man, And a sword not of mankind shall devour him.* God warns Judah of His coming supernatural destruction of Assyria and saving Jerusalem from them.

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