

Isaiah 30:6-18

Man will look in all directions sooner than to look to God. He will sooner, like Saul, seek the help of a witch or a devil, or today, look to tarot cards or palm readers than look to the living God. I believe man would rather make an agreement with death and a covenant with hell than to turn his heart towards his best friend and helper. Remember the nation of Israel, it wanted to be like all the other nations, so it rejected God as their King and sought a man. WILL YOU REBEL or WILL YOU TRUST?

If we look around today our TV's spew out dozens of commercials showing us there's a pill for every pain. Our TV's advertise "psychic readings" - know the future and what's in store for you! The Discovery Channel, although very informative, it's drenched with 'evolution'! No wonder man rebels against God, why? because He is never mentioned on TV. And we in America are so engulfed in our TV sets rather than in the Word of God, no wonder our trust is so misplaced! Do we, the nation of America trust in ourselves or do we rely on God?

It is written "*Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, who rely on horses, who trust in the multitude of their chariots and in the great strength of their horsemen, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel, or seek help from the LORD*". Vain is the warning, for man still leans upon his own strength and wisdom, and still the world says it's foolish to rely upon a God who you cannot see, hear or touch. WILL YOU REBEL or WILL YOU TRUST?

Open with me in your bible to Isaiah 30: 6 -18 (NRSV)

Let me introduce to you the man "Isaiah"

Isaiah, whose name means "The Lord is salvation," that is "the Lord is the source of salvation" which is key to understanding this passage as well as the whole book. The man who was taken into the very throne of the Almighty has much to say to the nation of Israel as well as to us. He exercised his ministry in and about Jerusalem for 40 years, and had ready access to the presence of kings. He was married to a prophetess and had two sons. Here is an interesting point: According to Jewish tradition, Isaiah's 2nd son was born of a second marriage to a virgin.

Isaiah was considered to be distinguished above all the other prophets, since he spoke from the mouth of God, whereas the other merely received the spirit from their masters. It is important to understand that Isaiah prophesied at a time when the nation of Israel needed to understand that salvation could not be obtained by reliance upon man but only from God Himself.

Our scene takes place in Judah and in its capital in the north Jerusalem. We have 2 historical events that dominate the story and to help us understand the oracles. Israel saw what the Assyrians did under Tiglath-Pileser III, how he had ravaged Judah and imminent threat of Assyrian king Sennacherib. Isaiah uses these invasions as a mean to teach his people about Yahweh's will and

ways. Isaiah notices first that Judah and its capital Jerusalem are full of crimes of all sorts - SEE IF THIS SOUND FAMILIAR - rebellion, religious ritualism, idolatry, flagrant injustice, self-satisfied arrogance, drunkenness. Judgment is called for, and God will implement it by means of foreign invaders. Second, he sees the contrast between the two kings - Ahaz of Jerusalem who waivers between God's command to 'stand firm in faith' (7:9) who is being persuaded to join the others kings of the surrounding areas to join with them to resist the Assyrian king Tiglath-Pileser conquests. He see Hezekiah in the south who does not waiver against Sennacherib's threat - He seeks the Lord to "saves us from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you alone are the Lord. (37:20) Remember it was the King's job to depend on the God of the covenant to allow Him to work His will.

Open with me in your bible to Isaiah 30: 6 -18 (NRSV)
READ IT!

This passage of scripture is broken into 5 sections:

God's Description of Man's Rebellion: (verses 6-11)

Here is an oracle, which is a divine utterance delivered to man, usually in answer to a request for divine guidance. In Mosaic Law "living oracles" = "commandments enforced by the living God". In this passage spoken by Isaiah this oracle the "animals of the Negeb" is used as a title for a special prophecy as a substitute for the word "burden".

What Isaiah sees and speaks out against is this caravan, in it are the beasts of the ambassadors heavily laden with rich treasures traveling south to Egypt for the purpose of securing a friendly alliance with one who cannot profit them. He then goes on to describe Egypt in a very descriptive manner. Let's notice how..

1. Through a land of trouble and anguish - he wants them to **REMEMBER** how they suffered severe oppressions and how they were burdened with cruel laws -

Exodus 5:7-14

2. A land of lioness & lion, viper and flying serpent - he them to **UNDERSTAND** that Egypt is not a land of liberty and happiness, but one of deceit and poison. You see, God is the one speaking through Isaiah, so he uses a viper, which is a species of serpent to describe Egypt. This viper was known for its quick and penetrating poison, it was beautifully spotted with yellow and brown, and sprinkled over with blackish specks. They have a large mouth and inhale great quantities of air, and when inflated they eject the venom with such force it can be heard at a considerable distance. The flying serpent was one who stayed in the trees and would dart itself upon man or beast that came within its reach.

You see, God wants His people to know who Egypt really was. Just as the serpent used "image" to deceive Eve in the garden, so Egypt was using its riches

and power to deceive the nation of Israel. So metaphorically, God was saying "If you even make it to Egypt, she will deceive you by her beauty and then quickly devour and poison you with such a force that you will have no escape".

We see one of the saddest pictures in all of scripture. Was it not God who led the Hebrew people through this very desert when he brought them from the country of their bondage?

Exodus 6:6-9

But now they have abandoned God and voluntarily chose to travel through this land for the purpose of finding aid and protection from a people who God calls "Rahab who sits still" - translated "Therefore I call her Arrogance that sits still." She who boasted of the help she would give, when it came to the test, sat still. *How many people do you know trust and boast in themselves, then when calamity comes, cry out to God?*
WILL YOU REBEL or WILL YOU TRUST?

Doesn't this remind you of something? How many times have we trusted in our sources? Maybe some of the things going on in the world are a wake-up call to us here in America! Maybe our trust is misplaced?

How many times has our mind gotten so busy the moment we open our eyes that we forget to come to God just say; Hi, it's me I love you... thank you for being apart of my life? It happens to me, especially to those of us who have little children, who are usually crawling up our butt before our eyes are even open - Amen?

I want you to notice something that was so important then and even more so today. God tells Isaiah "go write my words on a tablet before them, it should be set be set in public for all to see, in a book, so it's testimony of truth will come to pass and it will be a witness of my words". Doesn't this sound familiar? Don't you get the same picture of when Moses was on the mountain with God? What about today? What do we hold in our hands? God's thoughts put into human words! Jesus said " *For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished*"

God then declares through Isaiah that the people are rebellious, faithless children (NRSV) they are false sons who refuse to listen to His instruction! This are STRONG WORDS - God wants your attention!! Because in the next two verses, He sums up man's rebellion! The people have rejected the prophets, therefore they have rejected God! Just the same way today, people who reject Jesus reject God, the same way people today reject the bible, they reject God, the same way people today trust in themselves, their wisdom, their technology, their money, their looks, their boats, their homes, their jobs, and all their material possessions! WILL YOU REBEL OR WILL YOU TRUST? Just as the people of Isaiah's day didn't want to hear the prophets because they spoke God's truth.

Many people today whom we come in contact don't want to hear what the Bible has to say!!

NOTICE: The people's response to Isaiah in V. 10

- Do not see - Man rebels against hearing God's word
- Do not prophesy to us what is right - Man rebels against God's truth
- Prophecy Illusions - Man only wants to hear how great he is - the self-made man!

He now urges the prophet to leave the way, turn aside, let us hear no more. They want the prophet to stop speaking and rebel with them!

When the truth is no longer proclaimed, the God of truth disappears from the hearts of men. This is what the people desired!

WILL YOU REBEL OR WILL YOU TRUST?

Man's Misuse of Trust and His Outcome (verse 12-14)

As we move through this oracle, God brings more revelation about man's misuse of his trust and his outcome. God uses two words, oppression and deceit to describe man. The word "oppression" - in the Hebrew means extortion (getting money/misuse of authority) and "deceit" which means to depart from one's sight. So what we have here is God saying "since you are giving Egypt all your money for protection, you are letting Egypt have authority over you instead of me, and you think you have departed from my sight". Woe is you because nothing is hidden from me and because of your foolishness you will be punished.

Isaiah the prophet uses a metaphor of a high wall made of clay or mud with a bulging or swelling out on its side. The message here is: the swelling out is the dampness (sin) causing it to weaken and a tear begins to form. What God wants the people to see is by rejecting the prophet's instructions, the misplacement of their trust is causing the dampness to increase to a point where the wall can no longer stand, and the breaking of the wall occurs instantly. So the result of this leads to an outcome in which God uses an example of a broken potter's vessel.

- How many of us dropped on a glass in the kitchen sink? -

Does God want our attention here? Oh yes... He declares that the nation will become shattered pieces of clay, good for nothing! What does this mean to us today? If your trust is in yourself, and you rely on the things of this world to protect you, be aware, destruction can come without warning, your life as you know it can change or come to end.

WILL YOU REBEL OR WILL YOU TRUST?

God's Solution for Man's Rebellion (verse 15)

Oh how pleasant to find a wonderful promise amongst such strong and harsh words, a comparison between the certainty of the coming judgment of God and His solution for man to find true salvation. Here God simply says simply return

(change your heart) to me, rest shall be your salvation. Stop sending all your riches to obtain favor from Egypt! All I want is your TRUST!
Did they listen?

Man's Rebellion and His Outcome (verse 16,17)

Do we ever learn? Do we ever listen? NO - what's going on with these people? Did they listen? NO, they didn't rest, they were active, busy occupied in the task of saving themselves. THEY MISSED THE BOAT! Israel was to have a power over her enemies, a true strength, a confidence not found in themselves but in the grace of God. BUT NO....

The people refused God's solution and their heart and mind were still bent toward Egypt! They rejected the true way of deliverance and run to God's enemy thinking they would flee from his wrath and punishment.

During these ancient times, the horse represents pride and power. So the nation does not rest or wait, it flees to Egypt. Isaiah say's OK have it your way, be deceived, go ahead and think these swift horses and their multitudes will carry you to safety. You're WRONG!! - what will be swift is your punishment and what will be left is a mere remnant, alone in a place that once a vast host dwelled.

This is what will happen to those who place their trust in human help, it will lead to loneliness and destruction!

WILL YOU REBEL OR WILL YOU TRUST?

God's Desire and His Solution for His People (verse 18)

In this final verse, we find two soothing and comforting words, gracious and mercy. READ THE VERSE

So what is Isaiah saying?

Because of your rebellious nature, you will pursue the foolish way of Egypt and judgment will surely come. For that reason the Lord will wait to show mercy to you. Because He is a God of Justice, He must finish His work of Judgment upon you so you will then understand and know His compassion, for God will not show mercy until it time for Him to do so, and who will pronounce a blessing upon all those who wait. For as it says in

Deut 32:10 He sustained him in a desert land, in a howling wilderness waste; he shielded him, cared for him, guarded him as the apple of his eye.

TRUST

One day, while my son Jon and I were out in the country, climbing around in some cliffs, I heard a voice from above me yell, "Hey Dad! Catch me!" I turned around to see Jon joyfully jumping off a rock straight at me. He had jumped and then yelled "Hey Dad!" I became an instant circus act, catching him. We both fell to the ground. For a moment after I caught him I could hardly talk.

When I found my voice again I gasped in exasperation: "Jon! Can you give me one good reason why you did that???"

He responded with remarkable calmness: "Sure...because you're my Dad." His whole assurance was based in the fact that his father was trustworthy. He could live life to the hilt because I could be trusted.

WILL YOU REBEL OR WILL TRUST