

## ***Session 10 The Forerunner Message in Isaiah 30***

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. Isaiah spoke to the leaders of Jerusalem sometime before the Assyrians invaded the land in 701 BC.
- B. Outline for Isaiah 30
  - 30:1-7 The peril of trusting Egypt
  - 30:8-17 Jerusalem rejected God's word and leadership
  - 30:18-26 God will transform Jerusalem
  - 30:27-33 God will destroy Assyria

### **II. THE PERIL OF TRUSTING EGYPT (ISA. 30:1-7)**

- A. Leaders in Jerusalem sent a delegation to Egypt to establish a political alliance (30:1-5; 31:1-3).  
*<sup>1</sup>Woe to the rebellious children...who devise plans, but not of My Spirit...<sup>2</sup>who walk...down to Egypt...to strengthen themselves...<sup>3</sup>The strength of Pharaoh shall be your shame... (Isa. 30:1-3)*
- B. A delegation was sent from Israel carrying great riches through south or the desert region, an area infested with lions and snakes (30:6-7). A dangerous and expensive diplomatic endeavor to gain an alliance with Egypt for help to protect Israel from an Assyria invasion, it was sure to fail.  
*<sup>6</sup>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...<sup>7</sup>for the Egyptians shall help in vain and to no purpose. (Isa. 30:6-7)*

### **III. JERUSALEM REJECTED GOD'S WORD AND LEADERSHIP (ISA. 30:8-17)**

- A. The Lord commanded Isaiah to record the events for the benefit of future generations (30:8-11).  
*<sup>8</sup>Now go, write it before them on a tablet...that it may be for time to come, [future generations] forever and ever: <sup>9</sup>That this is a rebellious people...<sup>10</sup>who say to the seers, "Do not see," and to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us right things; speak to us smooth things..." (Isa. 30:8-10)*
- B. Isaiah prophesied that disaster was coming to Jerusalem. He described it as cracks in a wall that would continue to increase until the wall collapsed. The collapse might not happen for some years, but when it occurs, it will be sudden and total, like smashing a potter's vessel.  
*<sup>12</sup>... "Because you despise this word...<sup>13</sup>Therefore this iniquity [of the leaders of Jerusalem] shall be to you like a breach ready to fall, a bulge in a high wall, whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant. <sup>14</sup>And He shall break it like the breaking of the potter's vessel... (Isa. 30:12-14)*
- C. Isaiah called the people to return (repent) and to rest by trusting the Lord's leadership and promises to provide and protect them. Those who responded in faith would find strength in their heart.  
*<sup>15</sup>In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength. But you would not, <sup>16</sup>and you said, "No, for we will flee on horses"—therefore you shall flee! (Isa. 30:15-16)*

#### IV. GOD WILL TRANSFORM JERUSALEM (ISA. 30:18-26)

- A. The Lord will be gracious to Jerusalem when He hears their cry (30:18-19). These blessing are released in part in this age and in fullness when Jesus returns and the Millennium begins.

**<sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>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. 30:18-22)**

1. **Therefore:** This is a transitional statement functioning as a conclusion to 30:1-17, yet also serving as an introduction to the positive message in the next paragraph, 30:19-26.
  2. **Gracious:** The Lord desires to be very gracious to Jerusalem and all of His people.
  3. **He will be exalted:** By showing great mercy, He magnifies or honors His name.
  4. **The Lord waits:** He waits on His people to turn to Him and to persist in crying out in prayer with faith for the fullness of His blessings and prophetic promises.
  5. **Sound of your cry:** The Lord waits until His people cry out to Him. There are blessings that God has chosen to give, but He withholds until we ask Him. God want us to pray because He wants us to connect with His heart in partnership. Asking for everything is a foundational kingdom principle. We must specifically *ask* and not just *think* about our promises and needs.  
**<sup>6</sup>In everything by prayer...let your requests be made known to God... (Phil. 4:6)**  
**<sup>2</sup>Yet you do not have because you do not ask. (Jas. 4:2)**
  6. **Blessed are all who wait:** Blessed are all who will wait on God in two ways—in crying out to Him in prayer and in not drawing back into passivity when His promises seem long delayed. God requires us to cooperate with Him in the grace of God. This is an expression of His desire for intimate partnership with us. *God will not do our part, and we cannot do His part.*
- B. **God of justice:** He is a God of justice in all that He does. He must confront sin in the midst of His people when it is persisted in, but He will not forsake His people—judgment is not His final word. Mercy triumphs over judgment (Jas. 2:13). He never suspends one attribute to exercise another.
- C. **The people shall dwell in Zion:** For many years after the Lord disciplined Jerusalem by the Babylonian captivity in 586 BC and again when the Romans destroyed the city in AD 70, it appeared as if Jerusalem would remain desolate without many inhabitants.
- D. **Weep no more:** Even though the tears of affliction and oppression lasted many years in Jerusalem, God promised to answer their prayers for His promise of restoration. This answer happened in part when God delivered Jerusalem in 701 BC and when they returned from Babylon in 536 BC, but its ultimate fulfillment will be at Jesus' return, when He defeats His enemies (Rev. 19:17-21).

E. The Lord will give understanding of His ways, and His people will reject false religions (30:20-22).

***20And though the Lord gives you the bread of adversity...yet your teachers will not be moved into a corner anymore, but your eyes shall see your teachers. 21Your 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. 22You will also...throw them away [idols] as an unclean thing...! (Isa. 30:20-22)***

1. ***Bread of adversity:*** For generations Jerusalem endured adversity as though it was their bread. This included the Lord hiding Himself in part (8:17). The Lord promised to reverse all of this.
2. ***Your teachers:*** God would reveal Himself through His servants who would give life-giving teaching to open their eyes. The time of Israel rejecting the word of the Lord would be over. Their teachers moved in to a corner seeking to hide from persecution and rejection.
3. ***Hear a word behind you:*** The Lord will be gracious to give them direction "in the moment," at the times when they might miss His will by moving to the right or left.
4. ***Throw them away:*** The Lord will bring a complete end of idolatry and any false religion in Israel and the nations after He returns. His people will walk in loyal love for Him.

F. The Lord will heal the land, resulting in abundant food, water, and sunlight (30:23-26).

***23He will give the rain for your seed...and bread of the increase of the earth; it will be...plentiful. In that day your cattle will feed in large pastures. 24Likewise the oxen and the young donkeys that work the ground will eat cured fodder, which has been winnowed...25There will be on every high mountain and on every high hill rivers and streams of waters, in the day of the great slaughter...26The light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the LORD binds up the bruise of His people... (Isa. 30:23-26)***

1. ***He will give rain:*** There will be enough rain so that harvests will be plentiful.
2. ***Bread of the increase:*** God will bless with fertile crops, with abundant produce of the ground.
3. ***Your cattle:*** The animals that work the fields will enjoy God's blessing.
4. ***Rivers of water:*** There will be such abundance of water that rivers and streams will flow even on every high mountain and every high hilltop in Israel (Joel 3:18).
5. ***The great slaughter:*** During the day-of-the-Lord activities, Jesus will defeat His enemies.  
***19I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered to make war against Him...20Then the beast was captured...21And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him...the birds were filled with their flesh. (Rev. 19:19-21)***
6. ***Light of the moon and sun:*** Light will increase during the day and the night (24:23).
7. ***Binds up the bruise:*** God will heal the wound caused by His strokes in disciplining them.

## V. GOD WILL DESTROY ASSYRIA (ISA. 30:27-33)

- A. Isaiah described the manifestation of God's power in anthropomorphic imagery— His anger, lips, tongue, breath, voice, and arm. He is coming is to help His people.

*<sup>27</sup>Behold, the name of the LORD comes from afar, burning with His anger...His lips are full of indignation, and His tongue like a devouring fire. <sup>28</sup>His breath is like an overflowing stream, which reaches up to the neck, to sift the nations...and there shall be a bridle in the jaws of the people, causing them to err. <sup>29</sup>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...to the Mighty One of Israel. (Isa. 30:27-29)*

1. **Name of the Lord:** The Lord will be involved personally; His name expresses His character.
  2. **Lord comes from afar:** He will come from heaven to judge the nations.
  3. **His breath:** His breath is like an overflowing stream, which reaches up to the neck.
  4. **Sift the nations:** The Lord will shake all the nations (Hag. 2:7).
  5. **Bridle in the jaws:** There shall be a bridle in the jaws of the people, causing them to err.
  6. **Song as in the night:** God's people 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 the mountain of the LORD.
- B. Isaiah emphasized that God Himself, not the Egyptians, would deliver His people from their enemy.
- <sup>30</sup>The LORD will cause His glorious voice to be heard and show...His arm, with the indignation of His anger and the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, tempest, and hailstones. <sup>31</sup>For through the voice of the LORD Assyria will be beaten down...<sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>For Tophet was established of old, Yes, for the king it is prepared. He has made it deep and large; its pyre is fire with much wood... (Isa. 30:30-33)*
1. **His glorious voice:** The LORD will cause His voice to be heard and will show His arm.
  2. **Assyria will be beaten down:** Isaiah applied the truth of God's indignation to Jerusalem's enemy—Assyria. Israel's greatest enemy will be the Antichrist as the "end-time Assyrian."
  3. **The staff of punishment:** The Lord will release it with tambourines and harps (2 Chr. 20).
- C. **Tophet:** In going to Jerusalem, the Assyrian king was rushing to his own funeral! Tophet refers to a funeral pyre—a heap of combustible material that was especially used to burn a corpse in a funeral ceremony. A Tophet was prepared for "the king" of Assyria—the corpses of 185,000 of his soldiers needed to be disposed of (37:36). Jesus made a large, deep "fire pit" for the Antichrist (Rev. 19:20). The Assyrian King Sennacherib was defeated in Jerusalem but he died in Nineveh. Tophet was in the valley of Hinnom outside of Jerusalem where children were sacrificed to Molech (2 Kgs. 23:10).