

THEY LOOKED NOT UNTO THE HOLY ONE ISAIAH 30, 31

Text: Isa 31:1

(Isaiah 31:1) "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!"

Introduction:

Israel had done what many do today. They went down to Egypt for help. Egypt has always been a type of the world in the Bible. Israel thought the worshippers of false gods were more likely to have success on earth than the servants of the living and true God.

They looked not to the Holy One. They didn't seek the Lord.

Notice:

1. WOE PRONOUNCED

Notice the wording “going down.” Any time we go to the wrong source for help we are going down. Any time that we fail to do God’s will for our lives we are going down.

Illustration: Jonah Read Jonah 1

Jonah went down to Joppa
Jonah went down in the boat.
Jonah went down in the sea
Jonah went down into the fishes belly

A. Helplessness (30:2,3; 31:1-3)

(Isaiah 30:2-3) "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 shall the strength of Pharaoh be your shame, and the trust in the shadow of Egypt your confusion."

(Isaiah 31:1-3) "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! {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 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."

B. Hardness (30:9)

(Isaiah 30:9) "That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD:"

C. Heedlessness (30:10-11)

(Isaiah 30:10-11) "Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits: {11} Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us."

2. WARNING PROCLAIMED

God in his faithfulness to man always sends words of warning.

A. Sudden breaking (30:13-16)

(Isaiah 30:13-16) "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. {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. {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} 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."

B. Sure besetment (31:3)

(Isaiah 31:3) "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."

3. WISE PROMPTING (31:6)

(Isaiah 31:6) "Turn ye unto him from whom the children of Israel have deeply revolted."

A. Repent

B. Return

C. Repenting and Returning leads to Rejoicing

Illustration: Prodigal Son

(Luke 15:11-24) "And he said, A certain man had two sons: {12} And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. {13} And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. {14} And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. {15} And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. {16} And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. {17} And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! {18} I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, {19} And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. {20} And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. {21} And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. {22} But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: {23} And bring hither the fatted calf,

and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: {24} For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry."

4. WONDERFUL PROMISE (30:18-19; 31:7-9)

(Isaiah 30:18-19) "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 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."

(Isaiah 31:7-9) "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. {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} 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."

A. Mercy

B. Gracious

C. Hear and answer thy cry

D. Victorious

Close:

Who are you looking to today for the answers to your needs and problems?

Let us not place our trust in men and the things of the world, but rely on God and His promises.