

## Isaiah Lesson 31

Isaiah Chapter 31

*Distributed by: KJV Bible Studies*

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**Introduction:** Last week in Chapter 30, we saw that God sent Isaiah to indict Judah for their spiritual rebellion against Him. The chapter concluded with an assurance of victory over Assyria. Chapter 31 of Isaiah closely parallels and essentially summarizes the preceding chapter. God again warns Judah against trusting Egypt for their deliverance. Rather, He promises to deliver Jerusalem and Judah by destroying their Assyrian foe.

### I. Woe Pronounced to Those Who Go Down to Egypt

*Isa 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!*

*Isa 31:2 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.*

As in the previous chapter, God through the prophet warned those in Judah who thought their deliverance from Assyria was in an alliance with Egypt, or in their horses, and chariots. They foolishly sought the help of those who seemed strong rather than seeking help from their God, the Holy One of Israel.

The prophet rather notes how that God is wise and would bring judgment (evil) upon the wicked. The Hebrew word translated as evil (er rah) also has the sense of 'trouble' or 'adversity.' God would not call back His words of warning through the prophets. Rather, He would rise up against the house of the rebellious

The Jews who looked to Egypt for their help and even against those Egyptians who cooperated with these wicked Jews. God's warning is apparent.

*Isa 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.*

*Isa 31:4 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.*

Whatever strength the Egyptians possessed was nothing compared to that of God. When the day of God's judgment fell, the Egyptians who agreed to help rebellious Jews would fall and fail along with their allies. An earlier prophecy warned of the Assyrians making a detour and sacking Egypt without warning. Little help would the Egyptians be to Judah. See Isaiah 19-20.

The day was coming when God would fight for His people Judah. He likens Himself to a lion roaring over his prey. Though the Assyrians may rise up against Almighty God, they will be as nothing before His power. God would defend Jerusalem. He would allow the Assyrians to chastise His people, but He would deliver them.

*Isa 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.*

*Isa 31:6 Turn ye unto him from whom the children of Israel have deeply revolted.*

*Isa 31:7 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.*

The metaphor of the eagle soaring above is at hand. Even as the eagle keeps one eye upon its nest with its young, so the Lord would keep His eye upon Jerusalem to defend it and preserve it. The prophet once again called upon Judah to repent. Judah was called upon to return to their God against whom they had deeply revolted. As foretold in chapter 30:22, when God delivered Judah, they would at least temporarily turn from their idols.

## **II. Assyrians to Fall with the Sword**

*Isa 31:8 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.*

*Isa 31:9 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.*

God promised to defeat the Assyrians, not with human force, but with miraculous power from on high. The remnants of the Assyrian army would limp home with their tails between their legs.

*2Ki 19:35 And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.*

*2Ch 32:31 Howbeit in the business of the ambassadors of the princes of Babylon, who sent unto him to enquire of the wonder that was done in the land, God left him, to try him, that he might know all that was in his heart.*

*Isa 37:36 Then the angel of the LORD went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.*

Sennacherib, the Assyrian king, would learn a tremendous lesson at Jerusalem. He was burned at Jerusalem by the Lord which here is likened to a furnace at Jerusalem. He would return in haste to Nineveh and his lieutenants would be afraid of any flag of Judah. Indeed, Sennacherib was broken when he attempted to conquer Judah. He returned to Nineveh where his own sons killed him.

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*Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.*

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