

BOOK OF ISAIAH

Outline

Chapters 30-32

"The Bible is the best of all books, for it is the word of God and teaches us the way to be happy in this world and in the next. Continue therefore to read it and to regulate your life by its precepts...Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation, to select and prefer Christians for their rulers."

**John Jay: Co-author of the Federalist Papers and First Chief Justice of the U.S.
Supreme Court**

1. **CHAPTER 30** The hallmark of any nation, founded upon God but in rebellion against Him, is **reliance upon ANYTHING** but God. Typically, that nation, when it is unwilling to hear the voice of God's prophets and His word, will **return** to the very source of **its original captivity**. In Chapter 30, the **Southern Kingdom Judah** is turning to **EGYPT**, from which they were delivered hundreds of years prior, to help them against the Assyrian Empire. This is the pattern of the sin (flesh) nature within each of us, as well as a rebellious nation. It was illustrated here in the Old Testament and in the New Testament Peter further amplifies it on a personal level:

"For it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." 2 Peter 2:22

Question: What "captivity" is our nation returning to? (*Hint: Think about the circumstances which led to the Pilgrims coming to America.*)

Verse 1 "Woe to the rebellious children (Judah), saith the Lord, that **take counsel**, but **not of me**; and that **cover** with a **covering**, but **not of my spirit**, that they may add sin to sin:"

Question: Can you explain what is meant by God's COVERING? (*Hint: Think about what God did for Adam and Eve after the fall. Think about what Boaz, the kinsman redeemer and a type of Jesus Christ, did when he awoke at the threshing floor to find Ruth laying at his feet. Think about when the prophets anointed a king of Israel and how the anointing oil was poured upon him. Think about what the Mercy Seat, i.e., the Lid of the Ark of the Covenant "covers."*)

Verse 10 "Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, **Prophecy not unto us right things**, speak unto us smooth things, **prophecy deceits**." The people of Judah were in such rebellion against God that they told their spiritual leaders to **NOT TELL THEM THE TRUTH! They didn't want a true prophet of God! They wanted a SMOOTH OPERATOR--"SMOOTH THINGS."**

Question: Can this possibly be happening in our churches today?

Answer: Duhhh, YEAH! Paul in the New Testament warns Timothy about it:

"Preach the word; be instant in season and out of season...For the time will come when they will **not endure sound doctrine**; but after **their own lusts** shall they **heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears**; And they shall **turn away their ears from the truth**, and shall be turned unto fables." 2 Timothy 4:2-4

Verse 18 Though God will eventually judge Judah and its capital, Jerusalem, He will be gracious to them, "for the Lord is a God of judgment; blessed are all they that wait for Him."

Verse 20 Though God says He will give them "the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction," He is promising a day when He will be intimately involved with each individual. In verse 21, God becomes so personal that with their own ears His people will "**hear a word** behind thee, saying, **This is the way**, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left." Jesus Christ is THE WAY, the truth, and the life. He personally guides His child. The steps of a righteous man ARE ORDERED by the Lord. It is His grand promise to LEAD US!

Verse 25 "...in the day of the **GREAT SLAUGHTER** when the **TOWERS FALL**." God is telling His people there is a future slaughter of the enemies. Not only was this verse fulfilled when the Assyrians laid siege to Jerusalem and God sent an angel to **SLAUGHTER 185,000 of their soldiers in the night**, but there is a future fulfillment **when Jesus puts ALL ENEMIES UNDER HIS FEET** at the end of this age. (Note: It's interesting that this scripture associates "**slaughter**" with **TOWERS FALLING**.)

Question: Did you know that the slaughter of the 3,000 people in the Twin Towers in New York City exceeded the slaughter of 2,402 American soldiers in Pearl Harbor? Franklin D. Roosevelt call the Pearl Harbor attack "a date which will live in infamy." Indeed, it was! However, what can be said about the slaughter of civilians killed in what can only be characterized as an unprovoked "act of war" on American soil?

Verse 30-31 "And the Lord shall cause **His GLORIOUS VOICE** to be heard, and shall shew the **lighting down of His arm**, (*the arm of God is a metaphor for salvation in Isaiah 53:1*) with the **indignation of His anger**, and with the **flame of a devouring fire**, with scattering, and tempest, and hailstones. For through the **VOICE of the Lord** shall the **Assyrian be beaten down**."

This not only speaks of God slaughtering the 185,000 Assyrian soldiers as they slept, but also speaks of God returning His people to their land after the captivity. The **Assyrian** is a symbol of **evil in the world's system** and the **sin nature within us**. The **FUTURE** fulfillment of **overcoming the "Assyrian"** is **Christ's work on the cross**, which enables us to **HEAR HIS VOICE** (as it was in the Garden of Eden) and the **RETURN** of Christ at the end of the age. The **FLAME OF A DEVOURING FIRE** is pictured in the New Testament when Jesus Christ returns:

"...when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, **IN FLAMING FIRE** taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord

Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power; When He shall come to be GLORIFIED in His saints and to be admired in all them that believe..." 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10

Verse 33 "For **Tophet** is ordained of old...the breath of the Lord, like a stream of **BRIMSTONE**, doth kindle it." Tophet is another name for HELL. It was the scene of the Israelites burning their children alive in the arms of the statue furnace of Molech, not too far from Jerusalem.

NOTE: Another indicator of a nation which is very near to judgment is the DISREGARD for the life of the most vulnerable in society. Molech is alive and well in the American culture today!

2. **CHAPTER 31** Isaiah is still assuring the people of Jerusalem that God has promised **He will save them** from the **terrorist Assyrians**.

Verse 9 The Assyrian will leave in fear, because of the **COVENANT** God has with His people. God says His "**fire** is in **Zion**, and His **FURNACE** in Jerusalem." We are to be a people **LIT UP** with the **FIRE of GOD**. There were cloven **tongues of FIRE** upon the 120 at Pentecost. God showed up on **Mt. Sinai** at His first introduction to a called-out group of people in **FIRE**. He gave them a "**FIERY LAW**." When **God cut covenant** with **Abraham**, He appeared as a **FURNACE** passing through the pieces of the slain sacrificial animals. (Genesis 15:17) When Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were thrown into the **FIERY FURNACE**, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon was throwing them into a **LITERAL REPRESENTATION OF THEIR COVENANT WITH JEHOVAH!** **HALLELUJAH!** It's no wonder they didn't burn up! This was a great **OBJECT LESSON** to the pagan nation of Babylon that the **God of the Jews IS IN THE FIRE**. **Jesus Christ** was **ALREADY** in the **FIERY FURNACE!** For God's chosen, His Church, the **FIERY FURNACE of COVENANT** only serves to **BURN AWAY our BONDAGES**, as was graphically illustrated when the ropes were burned off Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that day!

3. **CHAPTER 32** Isaiah's speech changes from the current impending crisis of Assyria to the future **DELIVERANCE** of **ALL PEOPLES**. The Eternal King from the lineage of King David will set up the everlasting kingdom of God.

Verse 1 "Behold, a **king** shall **reign in righteousness**, and princes shall rule in judgment." Isaiah sees the future reign of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Verse 15 "Until the **spirit be poured upon us from on high**, and the wilderness be a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be counted for a forest." Isaiah sees the **DAY OF PENTECOST**--the **outpouring of the Holy Spirit** upon **ALL FLESH**--just as the prophet Joel had also declared and of which Peter preached about on the Day of Pentecost in the Book of Acts.