

ISAIAH 30-31
Sunday, August 7, 2016

Ch. 30 – EGYPTIAN ALLIANCE TO FAIL; ONLY REPENTANCE PROMISES HOPE

Intro to chapter – As the Assyrians under Sennacherib overrun his kingdom and increasingly threatened Jerusalem, King Hezekiah secretly sent ambassadors to Egypt to seek the military aid of Pharaoh (cf. 29:15; 36:6).

I. NO EGYPTIAN ALLIANCE (30:1-7)

- A. King Hezekiah's mission to Egypt was ...
 - 1. ... An act of rebellion against God (30:1-5).
 - 2. ... An exercise in utter futility (30:6-7).

II. REBELLION AND RUIN DOCUMENTED BY PROPHETIC RECORD (30:8-17)

III. FUTURE BLESSINGS FOR THE PENITENT (30:18-26)

- A. For Judah, judgment must precede mercy, but divine compassion and future blessings await the righteous.
- B. Dimensions of blessing portrayed here include:
 - 1. Divine grace and guidance (30:19-22)
 - 2. Rich prosperity (30:23-25)
 - 3. Marvelous light (30:26)
- C. Jackson on 30:23-26 – “Using agricultural symbolism that would be familiar to these people, Isaiah describes the glories of the Messianic age. God will bless the land with fruitfulness (vv. 23-24; Joel 2:21ff; 3:18-20). The Lord will ultimately vindicate his people ‘in the day of the great slaughter,’ i.e., judgment (v. 25). G. W. Groan notes: ‘The Bible is a realistic book and shows that God’s future plan includes judgment for the rebel as well as blessing for the penitent’ (6.198). In the glorious Christian age, spiritual illumination will be far greater than in previous periods. The moon will shine as the sun, and the sun will be seven times brighter (v. 26). The language is obviously figurative. Those who like to press these figures into a literal mold (in speaking of an alleged earthly millennium) have difficulty with a verse like this (Martin 1985). Too, through the healing work of Christ, Jehovah will bind up the spiritual wounds of the people” (51-52).

IV. DESTRUCTION OF THE WICKED (30:27-33)

- A. The prophet now returns to his own time and foretells Heaven's judgment of the nations — especially Assyria.
- B. In a series of four figures, the wrath of God is vividly portrayed (30:30).

Ch. 31 – GOD IS THE ONLY DEFENSE.

TRUST IN HUMAN RESOURCES IS CONDEMNED

I. EGYPTIAN ALLIANCE REBUKED AS TRUSTING IN MAN INSTEAD OF GOD (1-3)

II. GOD WILL PUNISH THE ENEMY AND PROTECT JUDAH (4-9)