

## A Trek Through Isaiah 38 - 31:1 - 32:20 (Part 1)

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Mar 12, 2017

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Prayer

### Introduction

For today

- The fifth woe: All things new 31:1 - 32:20 (Part 1)

**(9:35)**

### Overview

These chapters form the greatest of Isaiah's interim fulfillments.

He had prophesied one world, one people, one God. Now he answers the the question: Is it real?

The test case was the "Egyptian alliance" situation in the days of Hezekiah. Judah was under Assyria. Merodach-Baladan of Babylon was urging alliance against Assyria. Egypt was promising assistance for a revolt. Isaiah's job was to urge the way of faith, trusting in Yahweh rather than in politics.

Structure

- Two sections
  - 28 - 35 Six woes
  - 36 - 37 Epilogue

### The fifth woe: All things new 31:1 - 32:20

Matches the 2nd woe: Is anything too hard for the LORD? 29:1-14

- V1-8 Eleventh-hour deliverance of the nation
- V9-14 Coming spiritual transformation of the people

Structure

- 31:1-9 The Egyptian alliance fails but the LORD protects His people
- 32:1-20 The coming King and His renewed people

Prologue: disaster & deliverance 31:1-5

- V1-3 Failure of the Egyptian alliance

1 Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help and rely on horses, who trust in chariots because they are many and in horsemen because they are very strong, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel or consult the Lord! 2 And yet he is wise and brings disaster; he does not call back his words, but will arise against the house of the evildoers and against the helpers of those who work iniquity. 3 The Egyptians are man, and not God, and their horses are flesh, and not spirit. When the Lord stretches out his hand, the helper will stumble, and he who is helped will fall, and they will all perish together.

- V1 The **folly** of the nation
  - Those who go down to Egypt for help. Going continually
  - rely on horses
    - Re 30:16...We will ride upon swift steeds
  - Trust. The question of faith: Where is your trust?
  - chariots because they are many and in horsemen because they are very strong
    - Egyptian army
  - do not look to the Holy One of Israel or consult the Lord!
    - Here is the danger in Dt 17:16-17 realized: Only he (the king) must not acquire many horses for himself or cause the people to return to Egypt in order to acquire many horses, since the LORD has said to you, 'You shall never return that way again.' ... lest his heart turn away,
- V2 The **certainty** of the LORD
  - Must make choices in the light of revealed truth
  - he is
    - The God of the Bible exists. Re Heb 11:6 ...whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.
  - wise and brings disaster
    - Knows all things
    - Is faithful to bring the judgment due for sin
  - he does not call back his words
    - Word given
    - Does not change
    - As Balaam prophesied to Balak in Num 23:19 God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?
  - but will arise against the house of the evildoers
    - God is faithful and active
    - Not indiscriminate. Against Judah

- V3 The **truth**
  - The Egyptians are man, and not God
    - So true security is not found in them
  - When the Lord stretches out his hand
    - The LORD is a jealous God.
    - He is able to bring judgment.
  - the helper will stumble, and he who is helped will fall, and they will all perish together.
    - When God's people seek help outside Him, He will not allow it.
    - Both the helped (Judah) and the helper (Egypt) will fall.
    - God is the source of all life. Egypt has no power outside Him.

- V4-5 God **saves** His city.

4 For thus the Lord said to me, "As a lion or a young lion growls over his prey, and when a band of shepherds is called out against him he is not terrified by their shouting or daunted at their noise, so the Lord of hosts will come down to fight on Mount Zion and on its hill. 5 Like birds hovering, so the Lord of hosts will protect Jerusalem; he will protect and deliver it; he will spare and rescue it."

- Here is the true help.
- Two pictures of the LORD's protection for His city.
- V4 A young lion protecting his prey.
  - Fierce toward His enemies
- V5 Birds hovering
  - Gentle toward His people
  - he will protect and deliver it; he will spare and rescue it."
    - Four-fold deliverance

Call to return 31:6-9

6 Turn to him from whom people have deeply revolted, O children of Israel. 7 For in that day everyone shall cast away his idols of silver and his idols of gold, which your hands have sinfully made for you. 8 “And the Assyrian shall fall by a sword, not of man; and a sword, not of man, shall devour him; and he shall flee from the sword, and his young men shall be put to forced labor. 9 His rock shall pass away in terror, and his officers desert the standard in panic,” declares the Lord, whose fire is in Zion, and whose furnace is in Jerusalem.

- V6 Call to **return** to the LORD
  - Children of Israel.
    - Be children of Israel rather than children of Jacob.
- V7-9a **Reasons** to return
  - Because the idols will be gone
    - everyone shall cast away his idols of silver and his idols of gold
      - As Is 30:22 Then you will defile your carved idols overlaid with silver and your gold-plated metal images. You will scatter them as unclean things. You will say to them, “Be gone!”
      - They themselves will cast them away
    - which your hands have sinfully made for you
      - Made by their hands
  - Because the Assyrian will be no more
    - a sword, not of man
      - The sword of the LORD
    - His rock.
      - The King of Assyria.
      - Contrast the rock of Judah.
    - shall pass away in terror
      - As 7:8 Ephraim will be shattered from being a people
- V9b **Basis** for the call
  - Declares the LORD
    - God’s faithfulness to His people based on His character
  - whose fire is in Zion,  
and whose furnace is in Jerusalem.
    - 2x for emphasis
    - As 29:1 Jerusalem as Ariel, where the holy fire burns.
    - Fire
      - Speaks of offerings and forgiveness of sin,
    - Furnace
      - Speaks of burning up enemies.

(10:00)

## Discussion

We will break into three groups to discuss today's passage:

1. **Woe to those who go down to Egypt 31:1**
  - a. **Going to Egypt for help**
  - b. **Relying on swift horses**
  - c. **Relying on chariots and horsemen**
  - d. **Not looking to the Holy One**
2. **He is wise and brings disaster 31:2**
  - a. **God is**
  - b. **He knows all things**
  - c. **He is faithful to deal with sin**
  - d. **He has given His word**
  - e. **He does not change**
  - f. **He will arise against evildoers**
  - g. **He will arise against the helpers of evildoers**
3. **Turn to Him 31:6-9**
  - a. **Turn to Him from Whom you have deeply revolted**
  - b. **You will cast away your idols**
  - c. **Assyria will be no more.**
  - d. **God is holy in your midst.**

In your group, please discuss

- **See:** Something about God that you see in the passage
- **Know:** The effect that this view of God has upon you.
- **Respond:** A way to respond to what you have seen and come to know.

For next week:

- The fifth woe: All things new 31:1 - 32:20 (Part 2)

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