

Isaiah

“The Evangelical Prophet”

IV. Isaiah’s *Dire* Warnings to **Ephraim** and **Judah** (Chapters 28-35)

- A. Pronouncing *Woe* upon the Leaders of **Ephraim** and **Judah** (28:1-29)
- B. Pronouncing *Woe* upon **Ariel**—Jerusalem (29:1-24)

C. Pronouncing *Woe* upon **Judah** for their Alliance with **Egypt** (30:1-17)

1. An *Alliance* contrary to the Will of God (30:1-2)

30 “*Woe* to the **rebellious children**,” declares the **LORD**,
“Who execute a **plan**, but **not Mine**,
and make an alliance, but **not of My Spirit**,
in order to add **sin to sin**;

²Who proceed down to **Egypt** without consulting **Me**,
to take **refuge** in the safety of **Pharaoh**
and to seek **shelter** in the shadow of **Egypt!**

2. An *Alliance* that will bring Shame and Reproach (30:2-5)

³“Therefore the **safety** of **Pharaoh** will be your shame
and the **shelter** in the shadow of **Egypt**, your humiliation.”

⁴“For their **princes** are at **Zoan**
and their **ambassadors** arrive at **Hanes**.”

⁵“Everyone will be ashamed because of a people who **cannot profit them**,
who are not for **help** or **profit**, but for shame and also for reproach.”

3. An *Alliance* both Perilous and Unprofitable (30:6-7)

⁶The oracle concerning the **beasts** of the **Negev**.

Through a land of **distress** and **anguish**,
from where *come* lioness and lion, viper and flying serpent,

they carry their **riches** on the **backs** of young **donkeys**
and their **treasures** on **camels’ humps**,
to a **people** who **cannot profit them**;

⁷ Even **Egypt**, whose **help** is vain and empty.

Therefore, I have called her “**Rahab** who has been **exterminated**.”

4. An **Alliance** formed by a **Rebellious** people, *refusing* to hear the **Instruction of the Lord** (30:8-11)

⁸ Now go, write it on a **tablet** before them and inscribe it on a **scroll**, that it may **serve** in the time to come as a **witness** forever.

⁹ For this is a **rebellious** people, *false sons*, **sons** who **refuse** to **listen** to the **instruction** of the LORD;

¹⁰ Who say to the **seers**, “You must **not** see *visions*”; and to the **prophets**, “You must **not** prophesy to us **what is right**, speak to us **pleasant** words, prophesy *illusions*.”

¹¹ “**Get out** of the way, **turn aside** from the *path*, Let us hear **no more** about the **Holy One of Israel**.”

5. An **Alliance** resulting in the **Collapse of Judah** (30:12-14)

¹² Therefore thus says the **Holy One of Israel**, “Since you have **rejected this word** and have put your **trust** in **oppression** and **guile**, and have **relied** on them,

¹³ Therefore this **iniquity** will be to you like a **breach** about to **fall**, a **bulge** in a **high wall**, whose **collapse** comes **suddenly** in an **instant**,

¹⁴ Whose **collapse** is like the **smashing** of a **potter’s jar**, so **ruthlessly shattered** that a sherd will not be found among its pieces to take **fire** from a hearth or to scoop **water** from a cistern.”

6. An **Alliance** resulting in the “**Flight**” of the **People** (30:15-17)

¹⁵ For thus the **Lord GOD**, the **Holy One of Israel**, has said,

“In **repentance** and **rest** you will be **saved**,
In **quietness** and **trust** is your **strength**.”
But you were **not willing**,

¹⁶ And you said, “No, for we will **flee** on **horses**,”
therefore you shall **flee**!
“And we will **ride** on **swift horses**,”
Therefore those who **pursue you** shall be **swift**.

¹⁷ **One thousand will flee** at the threat of **one man**;

You will **flee** at the **threat** of five,
Until you are left as a **flag** on a *mountain top*
and as a **signal** on a **hill**.

Personal Application The Peril of *Unhealthy Alliances*

1. As *believers*, we too are **warned** against making **unwise, unhealthy alliances** that are **contrary** to the **instruction of God**. (30:1-2)

“**Woe** to the **rebellious children**,” declares the **LORD**,
“Who execute a **plan**, but **not Mine**,
and make an **alliance**, but **not of My Spirit**,
In order to add **sin to sin**;..” (30:1)

Be sure to observe what I am **commanding you** this day: behold,
I am going to **drive out** the Amorite before you, and the Canaanite,
the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Hivite and the Jebusite.

Watch yourself that you **make no covenant** with the **inhabitants** of the land
into which you are going, or it will become a **snare** in your **midst**. (Exodus 34:11-12)

It is better to **take refuge** in the **LORD** than to **trust in man**.
It is better to take **refuge** in the **LORD**
than to **trust in princes**. (Psalm 118:8-9)

He who **walks** with **wise men** will be **wise**,
But the **companion** of **fools** will **suffer harm**. (Proverbs 13:20)

Do not be bound together with **unbelievers**;
for what **partnership** have **righteousness** and **lawlessness**,
or what **fellowship** has **light** with **darkness**? (II Corinthians 6:14)

Do not be **deceived**:
“**Bad company corrupts good morals**.” (I Corinthians 15:33)

2. As *believers*, we should **never** become **rebellious** and **refuse** to listen to the **instruction of the Lord**. We should **never reject God’s message** of what is **right**, in preference of a **message and words** that are more **agreeable** to *our will*, and “**pleasant**” to *our hearing*. (30:9-11)

For this is a **rebellious people, false sons**,
sons who **refuse** to **listen** to the **instruction of the LORD**;

Who say to the **seers**, “You must **not see visions**”;
and to the **prophets**, “You must **not prophesy** to us what is **right**,
speak to us **pleasant words, prophesy illusions**.”(30:9-10)

The prophets prophesy *falsely*,
And the priests rule on their *own authority*;
And My people **love it so!**
But what will **you do** at the *end of it?* (Jeremiah 5:31)

For the **time** will come when they will **not endure sound doctrine**;
but *wanting* to have their **ears tickled**, they will accumulate
for themselves **teachers** in accordance to their **own desires**,
and will **turn away** their **ears** from the **truth** and will **turn aside** to **myths**.
(II Timothy 4:3-4)

3. As *believers*, we must **take heed** and **be warned** about choosing to do **iniquity**. For like a “breach” about to fall, a **bulge** in a **high wall**, its **destructive collapse** comes *suddenly*. (30:13-14)

Israel has *rejected* the **good**;
the **enemy** will **pursue him**...

For they **sow the wind**
and they **reap** the **whirlwind**.

The standing **grain** has **no heads**; it yields **no grain**.
Should it **yield**, **strangers** would **swallow it up**.

Israel is **swallowed up**;
they are now among the **nations**
like a **vessel** in which **no one delights**. (Hosea 8:3, 7-8)

“According to what I have seen, **those** who **plow iniquity**
and **those** who **sow trouble harvest it**. (Job 4:8)

His **own iniquities** will **capture the wicked**,
and he will be **held** with the **CORDS** of **his sin**. (Proverbs 5:22)

4. As *believers*, when we make **poor choices** and **walk contrary** to the **will of God**, if **we are willing**, we can always **repent** and **quietly trust God** for **deliverance** and **strength**.

“In **repentance** and **rest** you will be **saved**,
In **quietness** and **trust** is your **strength**.”
But you were **not willing**...” (30:15)