

## ***Trust in Yahweh and Not in Egypt*** ***Isaiah 30-35***

These chapters in Isaiah anticipate the events of chapters 36-37 which record the threatening invasion of the Assyrians. This threat marks the pivot point in the book between the Assyrian threat and the emerging Babylonian power that will – some 300 years later – actually topple Judah and take her into captivity. Given Isaiah’s judgment oracles – that God had brought Judah into court for her unfaithfulness to him (a theme ultimately played out in the generation of the Messiah) – it would have been understandable for Judah to think that the Assyrians were exactly the judgment that Isaiah is warning of.

Isaiah reveals through further oracles of punishment and the promise of deliverance (new exodus and new creation) that God will deliver his people – so long as they trust in him. Obviously, behind the scenes diplomatic initiatives are underway that will, it is viewed, help Israel against her enemies. These efforts are not only doomed, but also constitute further idolatry that must be forsaken.

### **I. The Diplomatic Initiative Exposed and Rejected**

- A. Isaiah 30:1-7: there can be no help from this “friend” – it is “empty” (v.7).
- B. Isaiah 30:8-14: trust in Egypt and your wall will be broken down and your life shattered.
- C. Isaiah 30:15-17: where true deliverance is found.

### **II. God’s Promise and Power to Save**

- A. The revelation of “the Teacher”: Isaiah 30:20-21
- B. A “healed land”: Isaiah 30:25-26
- C. The Revelation of God’s Power: Isaiah 30:27-33
  - Note the place of music and praise as “warfare” (see also Psalm 149)

### **III. A Recapitulation of the Prophecy – Isaiah 31**

- A. Don’t trust in Egypt – vv.1-3
- B. God will protect and deliver – vv.4-5
- C. Necessity of Repentance – vv.6-7
- D. The Assyrian Menace Destroyed – v.8 (fulfilled in Isaiah 37:33-38)

### **IV. YET – Judgment is Still Going to Come – Isaiah 32**

- A. There will be new leadership – a King of Righteousness whose reign is like streams in the desert and a rock in the barren land – Isaiah 32:1-2
- B. But this occurs after the days of Judgment – Isaiah 32:9 ff
- C. Judgment will last “until the Spirit is poured out,” turning the wilderness into a fruitful field – Isaiah 32:17-17

### **V. Isaiah’s Prayer for Mercy in Judgment – Isaiah 33**

- A. Note the aspect of mercy in the midst of judgment: Isaiah 33:1-2
- B. Note the issue of fire that burns the chaff (thinking again of John the Baptist’s prophecy concerning the ministry of the Messiah – Matthew 3): Isaiah 33:10-12
- C. Note the pattern again – a new King of Righteousness secures the people of God: Isaiah 33:17-24

## **VI. God's Judgment on the Nations Surrounding and Threatening Judah – Isaiah 34**

- A. “Devoted to Destruction” – the “ban”; see Joshua 6:17-21; 7:1. Thus Assyria is to be another Jericho, supernaturally judged and destroyed.
- B. Note the “collapsing heavens” language: Isaiah 34:4-5

## **VII. The Arrival of the Kingdom – Isaiah 35**

- A. “Salvation” - it is personal, cultural, and comprehensive; it is the result of judgment: Isaiah 35:1-4
  - God is “just and the justifier” (Romans 3:21 ff)
  - There is no salvation without just judgment
  - One of the hallmarks of godless antichristian “gospel” is to neglect or deny the wrath of God. This denies the need for atonement and proposes reconciliation apart from judgment on sin.
    - “The idea of substitutionary atonement is nothing more than cosmic child abuse.” So wrote British “evangelist” Steve Chalke
- B. Salvation is New Creation: Isaiah 35:5-7
- C. Salvation leads the “delivered” on the “highway of holiness” and on to Zion: Isaiah 35:8-10
  - Note how this corresponds to a portion of what is generally referred to as “ordo salutis”: justification leads to sanctification and then to glorification. The sum of this is salvation.