



# SALVATION IS OF THE LORD

*A Study of Isaiah - #13*



WOES AGAINST  
JERUSALEM

Isaiah 28-35

# High-Level Outline

## I. Sovereign Judgment of All (1-39)

A. Judgment on Judah (1-6)

B. Judgment on Judah and Her Invaders (7-12)

C. Judgment against Heathen Nations (13-27)

D. Woes against Jerusalem (28-35)

E. Transition of Threatening Empires (36-39)

## II. God's Salvation of Zion (40-66)

A. Superiority of Jehovah over Idols (40-48)

B. "Things That Make for Peace" (49-57)

C. Establishment of Zion (58-66)



TO REBELLIOUS  
CHILDREN

Isaiah 30:1-33

# Stop Forcing Me to See God!

11) How did these children display their “*rebellious*” character - repeatedly (**30:8-17**)? What lessons can we learn from this?

*Now go, write it before them on a tablet, And note it on a scroll, That it may be for time to come, Forever and ever: That this is a rebellious people, Lying children, Children who will not hear the law of the LORD; Who say to the seers, “Do not see,” And to the prophets, “Do not prophesy to us right things; Speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits. Get out of the way, Turn aside from the path, Cause the Holy One of Israel To cease from before us.” Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel: “**Because you despise this word, ...**” (**30:8-12a**)*

- People had “*itching ears*”, went far beyond “*heaping up for themselves teachers*” (**2 Tim. 4:3**), silencing, rejecting true prophets. Represents total rejection of God (“*God gave them up*” **Rm.1:20-32**).
- What pressures do we place on preachers & teachers of God’s Word?
- We pray for boldness, integrity (**Eph.6:18-19**)?
- Which sermons do we praise (**Exo. 17:11-12**)? Which do we ignore?

# Stop Forcing Me to See God!

*Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel: “**Because you despise this word, And **trust in oppression and perversity**, And rely on them, Therefore this iniquity shall be to you Like a **breach ready to fall**, A **bulge in a high wall**, Whose **breaking comes suddenly, in an instant**. And He shall break it like the breaking of the potter’s vessel, Which is broken in pieces; **He shall not spare**. So there shall not be found among its fragments A shard to take fire from the hearth, Or to take water from the cistern.” For **thus says the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel: “In returning and rest you shall be saved; In quietness and confidence shall be your strength.” But you would not, 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! One thousand shall flee at the threat of one, At the threat of five you shall flee, Till you are left as a pole on top of a mountain And as a banner on a hill. (30:8-17)*****

• Egypt was their original captor, oppressor, deceiver.

• Relying on God was their only hope. God would grant their desire.

# Waiting on Those Who Wait

12) What kind of people did the Lord seek, and what was He willing to do to obtain them and bless them (**30:18-26**)?

***Therefore the LORD will wait, that He may be gracious to you; And therefore He will **be exalted**, that He may have mercy on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; Blessed are all those who wait for Him. For the people shall  **dwell in Zion at Jerusalem**; You shall weep no more. He will be **very gracious** to you at the sound of your cry; **When He hears it, He will answer you**. And though the Lord gives you The bread of **adversity** and the water of **affliction**, Yet your **teachers will not be moved into a corner anymore**, But your eyes shall see your teachers. Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “**This is the way, walk in it**,” Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left. (**30:18-21**)***

God patiently waits for those who “*wait for Him*”! (**Psa. 8:4; 144:3**).

- Will receive His mercy, answered prayers & just judgment → praise.
- Attitudes toward teachers & value will improve (**Deu.5:32; 17:8-20**).

# Waiting on Those Who Wait

*You will also defile the covering of your graven images of silver, And the ornament of your molded images of gold. You will throw them away as an unclean thing; You will say to them, “Get away!” Then He will give the rain for your seed With which you sow the ground, And bread of the increase of the earth; It will be fat and plentiful. ... And on every high hill Rivers and streams of waters, In the day of the great slaughter, When the towers fall. Moreover the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, And the light of the sun will be sevenfold, As the light of seven days, In the day that the LORD binds up the bruise of His people And heals the stroke of their wound. (30:22-26)*

- People will respond in vehement disdain of their idols.
- Likewise, as promised in **Deu. 30:1-10**, the curses of **Deu. 28** will also be reversed (**Hag. 1:5-11; 2:15-19**).
- Beautiful picture of both spiritual and physical blessing, in which God's hand against the nations and for His people will be obvious.



# “Sword from His Mouth”

13) What specific promise does the Lord make against Assyria for Jerusalem (30:27-33)?

*Behold, the name of the LORD comes from afar, Burning with His anger, And His burden is heavy; His lips are full of indignation, And His tongue like a devouring fire. His breath is like an overflowing stream, Which reaches up to the neck, To sift the nations with the sieve of futility; ... You shall have a song As in the night when a holy festival is kept ... The LORD will cause His glorious voice to be heard, And show the descent of His arm, With the indignation of His anger And the flame of a devouring fire, With scattering, tempest, and hailstones. For through the voice of the LORD Assyria will be beaten down, As He strikes with the rod. And in every place where the staff of punishment passes, Which the LORD lays on him, It will be with tambourines and harps; ... For Tophet was established of old, Yes, for the king it is prepared. He has made it deep and large; Its pyre is fire with much wood; The breath of the LORD, like a stream of brimstone, Kindles it. (30:27-33)*

God would directly break the Assyrian king's army in Tophet (Rev. 19:15, 21).

- Ahaz “burned his children in the fire” in valley of Hinnom (2 Chr. 28:3).
- Manasseh would resume the practice of child sacrifice there (2 Chr. 33:6).

# “A Stream of Brimstone”

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Josiah would desecrate it as part of his reforms (2 Kings 23:1-10).

After Babylonian invasion Tophet (situated in the valley) would become a mass grave (Jer. 7:31-34; 19:1-15; 32:35-36).

In Jesus' time it would be a city dump, always burning – “Gehenna” (Mat. 5:29-30).



TO THOSE WHO GO  
TO EGYPT FOR HELP

Isaiah 31:1-9

# “Are Men, and Not God”

14) What was the fundamental problem (or problems) of those trusting in Egypt (**31:1-3**)? What did they need to do (**31:4-6**)?

***5*** ***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 who do not look to the Holy One of Israel, Nor seek the LORD! Yet He also is wise and will bring disaster, And will not call back His words, But will arise against the house of evildoers, And against the help of those who work iniquity. Now the Egyptians are men, and not God; And their horses are flesh, and not spirit. When the LORD stretches out His hand, Both he who helps will fall, And he who is helped will fall down; They all will perish together.*** (31:1-3)

- Relying on weak, fickle, human flesh, instead of the strong, wise, faithful, spiritual, divine God (**19:11-12; Jn. 4:24; 6:63; Eph.6:12**)!
- “***Not call back His words***” contrast, Blow-Hard-Do-Nothing (**30:7**).
- Fleshly focus (**Deu. 17:16; Mt. 26:41; Rm. 8:6-13; Gal. 5:16-17**).
- No help will help, if God is against you (**Psa. 127:1-2**)!

# The Unmoved Lion

14) What was the fundamental problem (or problems) of those trusting in Egypt (**31:1-3**)? What did they need to do (**31:4-6**)?

*For thus the LORD has spoken to me: “As a lion roars, And a young lion over his prey (When a multitude of shepherds is summoned against him, He will not be afraid of their voice Nor be disturbed by their noise), So the LORD of hosts will come down To fight for Mount Zion and for its hill. Like birds flying about, So will the LORD of hosts defend Jerusalem. Defending, He will also deliver it; Passing over, He will preserve it.” Return to Him against whom the children of Israel have deeply revolted. (31:4-6)*

- Image of a strong lion almost daring shepherds to rescue his “prey”.
- Lesson is to repent from both iniquity and seeking help elsewhere to avoid repentance; otherwise, be destroyed with them.
- Critical plea in the midst of condemnation, warning – and hope.

# “Undeniable Miracle”

15) Why would the Jews throw away their idols in that day (**31:7-9**)?  
What would prompt them?

*For **in that day every man shall throw away his idols** of silver and his idols of gold – sin, which your own hands have made for yourselves. **“Then Assyria shall fall by a sword not of man, And a sword not of mankind shall devour him. But he shall flee from the sword, And his young men shall become forced labor. He shall cross over to his stronghold for fear, And his princes shall be afraid of the banner,” Says the LORD, Whose fire is in Zion And whose furnace is in Jerusalem.** (31:7-9)*

God’s obvious action would overwhelm even the most unfaithful, prompting broad repentance within Jerusalem, Judah (**Heb. 12:29**).

Would it last? ... Sadly, no (**2 Chr. 33:1-10, 16-17**).

Some people are so hardened, they would rather kill the “undeniable miracle” that acknowledge its truth (**John 12:9-11; Acts 5:13-22**).

God’s evidence is sufficient (**Lk.16:27-31; Rom.1:20**) – not failed.



THE STANDARD OF A  
RIGHTEOUS KINGDOM

Isaiah 32:1-8

# “Feeble be like David”

- 16) If **Isaiah 32:1-8** refers to the Messianic kingdom, who would be the “princes” who “will rule with justice” (**32:1**)? How would the king and his princes provide the shelter, shade, and healing described in **32:1-4**? If it refers to a future physical king, who might it be?

*Behold, **a king will reign in righteousness, And princes will rule with justice. A man will be as a hiding place from the wind, And a cover from the tempest, As rivers of water in a dry place, As the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. The eyes of those who see will not be dim, And the ears of those who hear will listen. Also the heart of the rash will understand knowledge, And the tongue of the stammerers will be ready to speak plainly. (32:1-4)***

- If Messianic could be apostles (**Mt.19:27-28**) or Christians (**1Pt.2:9**).
- Reflecting Christ provides blessings to others (**19:24; Mt. 5:13-16**).
- Such people would be able to understand & even teach truth (**28:7-13; 29:9-13; Mat. 13:9-15; 1 Pet. 3:15**).
- Physical could refer to Hezekiah – possibly Josiah.



# “Light for Dark”

17) What reversals would occur, especially when compared to Judah’s then current kingdom (**32:4-5**)?

*Also the heart of the **rash** will **understand** knowledge, And the tongue of the **stammerers** will be ready to **speak plainly**. The **foolish** person will **no longer be called generous**, Nor the **miser said to be bountiful**; (**32:4-5**)*

- No longer justifying, excusing sin:

***Woe to those who call evil good, and **good evil**; Who put darkness for light, and **light for darkness**; Who put bitter for sweet, and **sweet for bitter**!** (**5:20**)*

- No longer rationalize foolish, wasteful behavior as just being “generous” (**Luke 15:13**).

No longer rationalize selfish hoarding and oppression as being just richly blessed or “bountiful” (**1 Samuel 25:1-39**).

# “Caught You by Cunning”

18) List the ways in which the “*generous man*” was either opposite of the “*schemer*” or similar to him (**32:6-8**). How can we apply this to us today?

*For the **foolish** person will speak foolishness, And his heart will work iniquity: To practice ungodliness, To utter error against the LORD, To keep the hungry unsatisfied, And he will cause the drink of the thirsty to fail. Also the schemes of the schemer are evil; He devises wicked plans To destroy the poor with lying words, Even when the needy speaks justice. But a generous man devises generous things, And by generosity he shall stand.*

**(32:6-8)**

- Wicked will continue to hatch schemes and oppress through lies.
- Likewise, the generous will also scheme, but with goal to help, be generous and share (compare, **2 Cor. 11:12; 12:13-19; Lk.16:1-12**).
- How diligently are we working at being generous, truly helpful?
  - The generous will be rewarded, but the rest be swept away.

# “Cows of Bashan”

19) What kind of women did Isaiah warn (**32:9-14**)? How would this threat connect to the previously discussed standard set by the citizens of the Messianic kingdom (**32:1-8**)?

**Rise up, you women who are at ease, Hear my voice; You complacent daughters, Give ear to my speech. In a year and some days You will be troubled, you complacent women; For the vintage will fail, The gathering will not come. Tremble, you women who are at ease; Be troubled, you complacent ones; Strip yourselves, make yourselves bare, And gird sackcloth on your waists. People shall mourn upon their breasts For the pleasant fields, for the fruitful vine. On the land of my people will come up thorns and briars, Yes, on all the happy homes in the joyous city; Because the palaces will be forsaken, The bustling city will be deserted. The forts and towers will become lairs forever, A joy of wild donkeys, a pasture of flocks (32:9-14)**

• Women (who are very influential) were not yet impressed message, so their complacency is directly threatened (**3:14-4:1; Am. 4:1-3**).

# “Though fig may not blossom”

20) How can we understand and accept the promises of fruitfulness, peace and assurance in the Messianic kingdom (**32:15-20**), considering that internal strife, false teachers, Jewish persecution and Roman persecution plagued the early church?

***Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, And the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, And the fruitful field is counted as a forest. Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, And righteousness remain in the fruitful field. The work of righteousness will be peace, And the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever. My people will dwell in a peaceful habitation, In secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places, Though hail comes down on the forest, And the city is brought low in humiliation. Blessed are you who sow beside all waters, Who send out freely the feet of the ox and the donkey. (32:15-20)***

- “Spirit poured out on all flesh” (**Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:15-21**).
- Must be spiritual, because peace persists beyond outward conditions (**Hab. 3:16-19**). Transcendent peace (**Phi. 4:4-13; 1Pet.5:6-7**).