

ISAIAH 30 Study Questions

CONTEXT OF ISAIAH 30

Almost overnight, Assyria became a dominant power in the Ancient Near East. The Assyrians were a powerful and fearsome people. They were also barbaric, and they used fear like a weapon to enslave people. Naturally, the Children of Judah were afraid of the Assyrians. Judah expected Assyria to attack the city of Jerusalem very soon. Motivated by fear and faithlessness, the people of God relied upon Egypt for help and aid. In Isaiah 30, Yahweh responded to Judah's faithlessness.

OUTLINE OF ISAIAH 30

- 30:1-7: Egypt's Help is Worthless
- 30:8-17: Judah's Heart is Stubborn and Rebellious
- 30:18-33: The LORD is Determined to be Gracious

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. According to Isaiah 30:1-7, was God happy that Judah asked Pharaoh for help?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Not Sure
2. According to Isaiah 30:1-7, how does our LORD describe Egypt's "help"? (Circle all that apply)
 - a. Sinful
 - b. Shameful
 - c. Humiliating
 - d. Useful
 - e. Helpful
 - f. Worthless
 - g. Empty
3. According to Isaiah 30:1, 8-17, how is Judah described? (Circle all that apply)
 - a. Stubborn
 - b. Wise
 - c. Rebellious
 - d. Lying
 - e. Unwilling to receive instruction
 - f. They despise the Word
 - g. Unwilling to listen to the Prophets
 - h. Unwilling to listen to the Holy One of Israel: "Let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel" (30:11).

4. According to Isaiah 30:18, how is disposition of the LORD described? (Circle all that apply)
 - a. The LORD is finished with His people. He is going to reject them forever because of their sin.
 - b. The LORD waits to be gracious to His people.
 - c. The LORD exalts himself to show mercy.
5. According to Isaiah 30:19, when will the LORD be gracious to Rebellious Judah? (Circle all that apply)
 - a. After a time of “proving.”
 - b. At the sound of their cry.
 - c. As soon as He hears their prayer.
6. According to Isaiah 30:22, what will happen to Judah’s idols after they experience God’s grace?
 - a. Keep them
 - b. Sell them
 - c. Defile them and say, “Be gone.”

CONCLUSION

The children of Judah (Israel) were afraid of Assyria. In their fear, they sought help from Egypt. When Judah turned to Egypt for help, they demonstrated a lack of faith in the LORD. So the LORD had to teach His people some very important life lessons. In God’s eyes, Assyria was no real threat, and Egypt was no real help. The real problem was that Judah did not trust the LORD. In spite of their sin, the LORD was gracious to His people. This is the same God that we serve. Please answer the following life application questions.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What is the “Assyria” in your life? In other words, what are the major threats in your life that cause you to be fearful and anxious?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
2. What is the “Egypt” in your life? In other words, where (or how) are you tempted to seek protection and help outside of the LORD?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

DIGGING DEEPER

Isaiah 30:18-33 is filled with wonderful promises to the people of Judah in their day of distress. Beloved church family, can you think of similar promises that God has made to us through Jesus Christ?

1. 2 Corinthians 1:20, “For no matter how many promises God has made, they are ‘Yes’ in Christ. And so through him the ‘Amen’ is spoken by us to the glory of God” (NIV).
2. Romans 10:9-13, “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”
3. Romans 8:32, “He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”

PRAYER OF RESPONSE

Will you take a moment right now and thank God for his amazing mercy and grace through our Lord Jesus Christ? Write a prayer of thanksgiving to God in your journal or in the space provided below:

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- **For adults**, memorize and meditate upon Hebrews 13:5-6: “Keep your life free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” ⁶So we can *confidently* say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”
- **For children**, memorize Psalm 56:3, “When I am afraid, I will trust in you, LORD.” Parents, when your children express their “fears” to you, never belittle them. These moments are providential opportunities to teach your children how to take comfort in the promises of God and entrust their fears to His care.

SO WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CHILDREN OF JUDAH?

The Assyrians did eventually march all the way to the gates of Jerusalem. Their purpose was to pillage and conquer. Below is a summary of what happened. Quotations of Scripture (in blue) are taken from the 2 Kings 18 and 19 (ESV).

The Assyrians encamped around the city of Jerusalem, and the General of Assyrian army (called Rabshakeh), called out to King Hezekiah from the city gates, saying, “Say to Hezekiah, ‘Thus says the great king, the King of Assyria: On what do you rest this trust of yours? Do you think that mere words are strategy and power for war? In whom do you now trust, that you have rebelled against me? Behold, you are trusting now in Egypt, that broken reed of a staff, which will pierce the hand of any man who leans on it. Such is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who trust in him.’”

Then the Rabshakeh addressed those who were sitting on the walls to defend Jerusalem: “Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he will not be able to deliver you out of my hand. ³⁰Do not let Hezekiah make you trust in the Lord by saying, The Lord will surely deliver us, and this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.”

And again, he said, “Do not listen to Hezekiah when he misleads you by saying, “The Lord will deliver us.” ³³Has any of the gods of the nations ever delivered his land out of the hand of the king of Assyria? ³⁴Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivvah? Have they delivered Samaria out of my hand? ³⁵Who among all the gods of the lands have delivered their lands out of my hand, that the Lord should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand?”

When Hezekiah heard this in the midst of his trouble, he humbled himself and prayed these words: “Truly, O Lord, the kings of Assyria have laid waste the nations and their lands and have cast their gods into the fire, for they were not gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone. Therefore they were destroyed. ¹⁹So now, O Lord our God, save us, please, from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you, O Lord, are God alone.”

Now, at this point, the Assyrian history books are fascinatingly silent. They only say that Sennacherib sent a delegation to Jerusalem. But the Assyrian history books do not record anything after the encampment around Jerusalem. Again, their history books are just curiously silent at this point. But the Bible tells the rest of the story!

The word of the Lord was sent to Hezekiah: “Thus says the Lord, the God of Judah: your prayer to me about Sennacherib king of Assyria, I have heard...Therefore thus says the Lord concerning the king of Assyria: He shall not come into this city or shoot an arrow there, or come before it with a shield or cast up a siege mound against it. By the way that he came, by the same he shall return, and he shall not come into this city, declares the Lord. For I will defend this city and save it, for my own sake and for the sake of my servant David.”

“And that night the angel of the LORD went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. Then, Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went home.”

This true story reminds me that God is our refuge and strength. All idols are worthless, especially in a day of trouble. Only God is our faithful and true refuge. In days of fear and uncertainty, we must turn our hearts to the one true and living God.