

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 248 – Woe To Rebellious Children Through Tophet (Isaiah 30:1-33)

1. Were the “rebellious children” looking for counsel in the right place?

No: *“(1) Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin: (2) That walk to go down into Egypt, and have not asked at my mouth; to strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, and to trust in the shadow of Egypt! (3) Therefore shall the strength of Pharaoh be your shame, and the trust in the shadow of Egypt your confusion. (4) For his princes were at Zoan, and his ambassadors came to Hanes. (5) They were all ashamed of a people that could not profit them, nor be an help nor profit, but a shame, and also a reproach. (6) The burden of the beasts of the south: into the land of trouble and anguish, from whence come the young and old lion, the viper and fiery flying serpent, they will carry their riches upon the shoulders of young asses, and their treasures upon the bunches of camels, to a people that shall not profit them. (7) For the Egyptians shall help in vain, and to no purpose: therefore have I cried concerning this, Their strength is to sit still” (Isaiah 30:1-7).*

- Israel had a history of rebellion (**Deuteronomy 9:7, Deuteronomy 9:24, Isaiah 1:2, Isaiah 63:10, Isaiah 65:2, and Jeremiah 5:23**).
- Counsel, but not of God (**Isaiah 29:15 and Hosea 4:10-12**; cf. **Psalms 33:10-11 and Proverbs 19:21**).
- Add sin to sin like to when they sought idols (**Hosea 13:1-2**).
- Trusting in Egypt was foolish (**II Kings 18:21, Isaiah 31:1-3, and Isaiah 36:6**).
- For discussion sake, Israel will not learn from their trusting in Egypt during Assyrian evasion, for they shall err in the same way when the Chaldeans come (**Jeremiah 37:5-10**).
- Fact is, you should not trust in men (**Psalms 118:8-9 and Isaiah 2:22**).

2. Did God want His message to His people to be a matter of permanent record?

Yes: *“Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever” (Isaiah 30:8).*

- God did not seek to hide His displeasure with His people (**Jeremiah 36:2**).
- Writing in a permanent form has multiple purposes (**Deuteronomy 31:19, Habakkuk 2:2, Romans 15:4, I Corinthians 10:1-12, etc.**).

3. Did Israel want to hear the word of God (in the context of our study)?

No: *“(9) That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD: (10) Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits: (11) Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us” (Isaiah 30:9-11).*

- There is a tie of dishonesty to rejection of the truth (**Isaiah 59:4** and **Jeremiah 9:3; 5**) and vice versa (**Psalms 119:163**).
- They didn't want to hear what the prophets had to say, which had been a repeated problem for Israel (**II Chronicles 18:1-27**, **II Chronicles 24:19-21**, **II Chronicles 36:14-16**, **Jeremiah 5:31**, **Jeremiah 11:21**, **Jeremiah 26:11**, and **Micah 2:6**).
- They did not want to know God (**Romans 1:28**).

4. Did God give Israel a pass on their trusting in oppression and perverseness?

No: *“(12) Wherefore thus saith the Holy One of Israel, Because ye despise this word, and trust in oppression and perverseness, and stay thereon: (13) Therefore this iniquity shall be to you as a breach ready to fall, swelling out in a high wall, whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instant. (14) And he shall break it as the breaking of the potters' vessel that is broken in pieces; he shall not spare: so that there shall not be found in the bursting of it a sherd to take fire from the hearth, or to take water withal out of the pit. (15) For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not. (16) But ye said, No; for we will flee upon horses; therefore shall ye flee: and, We will ride upon the swift; therefore shall they that pursue you be swift. (17) One thousand shall flee at the rebuke of one; at the rebuke of five shall ye flee: till ye be left as a beacon upon the top of a mountain, and as an ensign on an hill” (Isaiah 30:12-17).*

- This starts with “because ye despise this word” (**I Thessalonians 4:1-8** and **II Thessalonians 2:10-12**).
- Trusting in oppression (**Psalms 62:10**) and perverseness (**Isaiah 47:10**).
- Breach in that high wall (**Ezekiel 13:10-15**).
- He offered the message of salvation, but they refused (**Matthew 23:37**).
- They FOOLISHLY thought they could mount up on fast horses to escape God's Judgment (**Psalms 33:17**).
- It used to be that their small numbers could cause great to flee (**Leviticus 26:8-9**). Now, it is as God warned (**Deuteronomy 28:15-25**).

5. Did God intend a permanent destruction upon His people?

No: *“(18) And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him. (19) For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem: thou shalt weep no more: he will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry; when he shall hear it, he will answer thee. (20) And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers: (21) And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left. (22) Ye shall defile also the covering of thy graven images of silver, and the ornament of thy molten images of gold: thou shalt cast them away*

as a menstruous cloth; thou shalt say unto it, Get thee hence. (23) Then shall he give the rain of thy seed, that thou shalt sow the ground withal; and bread of the increase of the earth, and it shall be fat and plenteous: in that day shall thy cattle feed in large pastures. (24) The oxen likewise and the young asses that ear the ground shall eat clean provender, which hath been winnowed with the shovel and with the fan. (25) And there shall be upon every high mountain, and upon every high hill, rivers and streams of waters in the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall. (26) Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the LORD bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound” (Isaiah 30:18-26).

- God’s “waiting” to be gracious upon those He corrected (**Jeremiah 31:18-20**) to repentance (**Jeremiah 26:13**, **Ezekiel 18:30**, and **II Peter 3:15**).
- Those that wait upon the Lord (**Psalms 62:1-2**, **Psalms 84:12**, and **Lamentations 3:25-26**).
- The return to Zion (**Jeremiah 31:6** and **Zephaniah 3:14-20**) in Jerusalem (**Psalms 135:21**).
- When He shall hear it necessarily infers that they will be changed people at this time, for He did and does not hear sinners (**Proverbs 28:9**, **Isaiah 59:1-3**, **John 9:31**, and **I Peter 3:12**).
- The imagery of bread of adversity and water of affliction (**Psalms 80:4-5**).
- Their teachers had not been around (**Amos 8:11-12**).
- With their teachers back, they’ll have guidance against moving to the left or to the right (**Joshua 23:2-6**).
- They will cast away the idols they turned to (cf. **Ezekiel 20:7-8**) treating them like a menstruous cloth (i.e. **II Chronicles 31:1**).
- The breach repaired (**Amos 9:11**) and the wounds healed (**Jeremiah 30:17**).

6. What was to happen when “the name of the Lord” came from far?

Bring His anger and judgment on the Assyrians who were afflicting Israel: *“(27) Behold, the name of the LORD cometh from far, burning with his anger, and the burden thereof is heavy: his lips are full of indignation, and his tongue as a devouring fire: (28) And his breath, as an overflowing stream, shall reach to the midst of the neck, to sift the nations with the sieve of vanity: and there shall be a bridle in the jaws of the people, causing them to err... For through the voice of the LORD shall the Assyrian be beaten down, which smote with a rod” (Isaiah 30:27-28; 31).*

- God’s anger (**Psalms 18:7-9** and **Ezekiel 22:31**).
- God using a bridle approach on them (**Isaiah 37:29**).
- God beating down the Assyrians (**II Kings 19:35** and **Isaiah 37:32-38**).

7. When the voice of the Lord came, what was Israel going to be doing?

Since the voice of the Lord brought judgment on the Assyrians, Israel was going to be rejoicing. Now they learn where they should have turned instead of to

Egypt: *“(29) Ye shall have a song, as in the night when a holy solemnity is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one goeth with a pipe to come into the mountain of the LORD, to the mighty One of Israel. (30) And the LORD shall cause his glorious voice to be heard, and shall shew the lighting down of his arm, with the indignation of his anger, and with the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, and tempest, and hailstones. (31) For through the voice of the LORD shall the Assyrian be beaten down, which smote with a rod. (32) And in every place where the grounded staff shall pass, which the LORD shall lay upon him, it shall be with tabrets and harps: and in battles of shaking will he fight with it” (Isaiah 30:29-32).*

- The songs of victory were a part of Israel’s history (**Exodus 15:1-21, II Chronicles 20:27-28, Isaiah 26:1**, etc.).

8. What type of place was Tophet?

Torment: *“For Tophet is ordained of old; yea, for the king it is prepared; he hath made it deep and large: the pile thereof is fire and much wood; the breath of the LORD, like a stream of brimstone, doth kindle it” (Isaiah 30:33).*

- A place where people were burned (**Jeremiah 7:31-32**) and slaughtered (**Jeremiah 19:6**).
- Now, God was to kindle a fire and prepare this place to burn those whom He’s preparing it for. This is a side of God He had warned people about (**Deuteronomy 29:19-23**).