

God's Final Judgment Is an Eternal Raging Fire

Isaiah 30:27-33

Facilitator: Alfreda Chandler

I. Historical Background:

The previous facilitators have pointed out that Israel and Judah, had a propensity to be disobedience and align themselves, with those who God considered their enemies. The judgment of Assyria is a significant theme in the prophetic literature of the Old Testament, reflecting God's sovereignty over nations and His justice against pride and wickedness. Hezekiah sought help from Egypt instead relying on the One who brought them out of Egypt. He was hoping to make an alliance with Egypt to rebel against Assyria, which caused God to see it as being rebellious toward Him. They were basing their hope on what they saw the Egyptians have and not on trusting God who has been their protector for generations. They allowed their fear of the Assyrians to cause them to forget how God has been there for them; how the Law prohibited them from making alliance with the enemies of their people and God. **"They feared man who could kill the body instead of God who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matt10:28).**

II. Biblical Content:

Throughout these lessons, Isaiah has been giving warnings after warnings on the importance of discernment and trust in God (**Is.8:11-22**). Fear and dread should not dictate their actions but instead focus on honoring and following the commands of God. The people decided that they did not want to hear the truth from their prophets that didn't make them feel good. Nor did they want to hear a word from the Holy One of Israel (**Is.30:10-11**). There are dire consequences for those who reject God's wisdom. The word **"woe"** is the fourth one found in this book. So, God is continually trying to give his people warnings to turn from their depending human or foreign nations for their deliverance, especially Egypt. The refuge they and us is found in God (**Ps.91**).

III. Lesson: God's Final Judgment Is an Eternal Raging Fire (Is.30:27-33)

God is letting them know through Isaiah that the Assyrians will be punished. He begins this section with **See** or some translations have **Behold** to show the urgency to be aware. The prediction of Assyria's destruction consists of two cycles (1) one of attack (**vv.27,28&28**) and (2) one of rejoicing (**vv.29&32**); **and then concludes with a notice about the king's funeral pyre (v.33).**

1. vv. 27-28.

After the **Lord extended grace (invitation)** to his people, Isaiah once again returns to the oracle on **punishment for their disobedience**. God is reiterating a promise as to what will happen to the Assyrians and the enemies of God. Please understand that anyone who doesn't follow the commands or think they can take matters in their own hands without consulting God, is His enemy. These people could easily be compared to the prodigal son in the N.T (**Lk.15:11-32**). Like the son, they were ungrateful and wanted things to be done immediately and on their terms. They were false sons because they didn't want to listen God or the prophets. They preferred to look for other saviors and things they thought would protect them.

God's wrath is compared **to an overflowing "torrent"**. A torrent is defined as a strong and fast-moving stream of water. It is an analogy of any kind of sudden violence and terror. It is

imperative for them to pay attention, because out of nowhere or when it is least expected, **God's fury, fire and burning anger** will obliterate his enemies. People think they can come up against God's chosen people anytime and whatever way they desire. They don't believe God sees what going on and that He is just a character in a book. Assyria didn't know they were an instrument used by God but now they are the enemy. But also, His people had decided to seek other means of protection and not consult God.

Some theologians believe the 5th seal in **Rev.6:10-11**, is probably the most terrifying, because it is the one for the martyrs below the altar who are crying out for vengeance. It will motivate the 6th seal to be open when God rises to defend His own as He had done **in 2 King 19:35 (185,000 died)**. We also see who the targets are and how He will shake the nations back and forth in a sieve. God will separate what is meaningless and what is important (**Matt.13:24-30**). We see in **Ps.32** that a bridle is used to make the horse or mule go where they aren't willing to go on their own. God will lead them to their destruction. There will be no mercy for those who attack His people or decide to go their own way without consulting Him. **God's anger is burning, and his lips and tongue is a consuming fire**. History teaches us that God's judgment is inevitable. Just as He uses nations against His own to punish them, God will not let sinful nations not be judged for sin (**2Chr.36:17; Is.10:12**. To think that God is too nice to judge sin would be to underestimate him.

When we read this, it is hard to fathom that a Loving God would exhibit such feelings. But did He not say He was a jealous God (**Ex.20:5-6; 34:14; Deut.4:24**)?

God is a consuming fire means that he can conquer the enemies that are greater than you. God has the power to drive out those who stand against us. He can bring victory over any enemy. What God requires is complete devotion. His consuming fire also helps sustain purity in his people by helping them refuse to follow idols. He will destroy whatever is opposed to His holiness.

2. **V.29.**

This verse shows us what the response of the people should be like, because God has delivered them from the hands of the enemies. It will be a festive occasion with musical instruments and dancing, reminiscence of David, when he danced with all his might, when the Ark was returned (**2Sam.6:14-16**). The day of God's vengeance will not be a sad day for His people. This wrath falls on those who are enemies of God. For those who are unrepentant rebellion towards God will be destroyed. **"The day is near when I, the Lord. Will judge the godless nations... All your evil deeds will fall back on your own heads (Oba.1:15). "They will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life (Matt.25:46).**

Just as God's salvation is only for those who repent, so is His wrath only for those who do not repent and accept His Son Jesus. Would Egypt promise them such deliverance or a time of a lasting celebration? Of course not, but God will. They should certainly repent and return to their Father, God. The Lord longs to be gracious but He is a God of Justice (**v.18**)

3. **vv. 30-32.**

These verses switches back to **God's torrent judgment.** When they thought that God showing up and destroying their enemies was all that would happen, it is not. After God shows up and plummets the enemy, **He will sentence that enemy to the flames of a consuming fire and will continue to beat him for all eternity. Each blow will be to musical instruments and His voice will be heard. Hebrew 10:31 tells us: "It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God".** These statements seem to be out of place. But we must remember **God is reminding His people the benefits they have in God's salvation.** He is calling out to them, to remind them **of his great deliverance.** Egypt will not deliver them; they will not stop the Assyrians and there will be no celebration.

4. **v.33.**

We can find the word Tophet in **2Ki. 23:10; Jeremiah 7:31-32 and 19:6,** which is described as a place located in the valley of the son of Hinnom where high places were built. This was used to sacrifice their sons and daughters to the god Molech. Because of this sin God stop calling it Tophet or the valley of

the son of Hinnom but the place of Slaughter. It literally means a place of fire; also, this was the local dump. **Jesus warned of the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, and it is also the fate for those who do not follow Him in Matt.25:41.** This eternal fire is a depiction of the ultimate separation from God, underscoring the seriousness of sin and the necessity of repentance and faith in Christ.

Topheth has long been ready and has been set ablaze by the Lord's breath and has been made very deep and large. The pyre is fully stocked and will never burn out. In **Mark 9:43-48**, we get a more vivid description of this pit also called hell. **Also Is.66:24**

John 14:1-4 is the hope that believer have knowing that Jesus has assured us that He has prepared a **place for eternity for all who had faith in Him. Just as believers have a home prepared for them so does the non-believers and those who haven't fully accepted the Lord Jesus as Savior.**

God has a fixed day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man, He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead (Acts 17:31). It is appointed unto man to die and after that the judgment (Heb.9:27).

God's judgment is final. Death and Hades are thrown into the lake of fire. God's judgment is finished. The ultimate destination for everything wicked is here: Satan, the beast, the false prophets, death, and all those who are not recorded in the Book of Life. Because they did not place their faith in Jesus Christ (Rev.20:20).

IV. Conclusion.

The biblical truth which we need to understand and believe and live by today is this: a time is coming when every person, based on his or her actions and attitudes, will meet the final judgment of God. Either as eternal life in heaven with God or eternal wrath and fury, separated from Him. (Rom.1:28-2:11) The hope for sinners, is that between us and the wrath of God stands the cross of Jesus. It is their response to the invitation to accept or face the consequence (Ezk.7:8). It is not a threat, but it is a promise from God. There will be no hope, or second chances or appeals (Rev.20:12) on the Day of Wrath.

Salvation = Deliverance from the Wrath of God

