

YET, THE LORD LONGS TO BE GRACIOUS TO YOU!
THE GRACIOUS AND RIGHTEOUS GOD HEALS THE AFFLICTED.

SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 30:12-26

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I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Did you know that God longs to be gracious to you! Yes, the Book of Isaiah continues to remind us through many warnings from His prophet Isaiah for his people that are called by His Name. He has used so many illustrations from Chapters 1-30 showing Time after time how the people have persistently and continually disobeyed the Lord. Woe after woe repeatedly, disappointment and rebelliousness avail against God, not seeking counsel, adding sin after sin and making alliances with foreigners without inquiring of God and depending on Egypt for help and trusting in the enemy. Yet, God proves Himself to be gracious. A people who are disobedient do so out of shame, confusion, reproach and to no purpose. This is a historical fact about the life of a wayward person or people who believe in God. The essence is to learn lessons from being rebellious and take a step toward God to seek His help. God wants us to be repentant so He can be gracious to us, individually and as a nation.

II. BIBLICAL CONTEXT

The essence of those who believe in God is explicitly expressed in Isaiah 30:1-25. Can the clay tell the Potter what to do? How can you go forward looking backward? Don't you know that God longs to be gracious to you and that He heals the afflicted when they call out to Him to save us! This is God's plan of salvation for the whole world—to be gracious and have mercy. This is a rebel generation – as the record is here to instruct the coming generations. They tell their spiritual leaders, “Don't bother us with irrelevancies. They tell their preachers, “Don't waste our time on impracticalities”-tell us what makes us feel better, don't bore us with obsolete religions. That stuff means nothing to us, quite hounding us about the Holy One (Isaiah 30:8- 11). God wants to be gracious to us. So, being a rebellious person or nation, they scorn the Prophet with a message and prefer living unjustly. They mesh to pieces the godly message and throw it into the trash.

God speaks to the Prophet Isaiah saying in so many words—I want to be a gracious and righteous God and to heal the afflicted. We all have a choice – to not choose to obey the Lord is to reject Him, even to despise His message (Isa. 30:12). Thus, here in Isaiah 30:12-26 the Lord still gives counsel, return to me

which entails repentance; trust in me and find true rest. God desire to be gracious to us!

THE LESSON “YET, THE LORD LONGS TO BE GRACIOUS TO YOU! THE GRACIOUS AND RIGHTEOUS GOD HEALS THE AFFLICTED”.

SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 30:12-26

1. Verses 12-14. Don't reject the Message -Judgement is coming!

¹² Therefore this is what the Holy One of Israel says: “Because you have rejected this message, relied on oppression and depended on deceit, ¹³ this sin will become for you like a high wall, cracked and bulging, that collapses suddenly, in an instant. ¹⁴ It will break in pieces like pottery, shattered so mercilessly that among its pieces not a fragment will be found for taking coals from a hearth or scooping water out of a cistern.”

Don't scorn the Message! Who is saying this? God, the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel! OMG – this is an outright rejection of the Word of God. To reject God is a sin-relying on oppression and depending on deceit. How can the clay tell the Potter what to do? Prophet Isaiah is bold and brazen with the Message of God... which when it is seen as repulsive, it will break in pieces like pottery, shattered so mercilessly that it falls to the ground like coals in a fireplace! It becomes a useless pile of dust- like a high wall with cracks in it. What a portrait of God's word from the voice of the prophet. So poignant broken into pieces! How much clearer is that – when no one acknowledges that this is God's doing! We as believers must not deface God's precepts, commands, degrees-we are accountable and responsible for living moral lives – judgement is coming! There is nothing of the likes of Rome today or Babylon – all we tour are ruins!

2. Verse 15. A Gracious Promise of Protection if we repent!

¹⁵ This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: “In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.

God is just like a father to us! He is our Comforter, Healer, Deliverer and many other names! Here God offered deliverance to Judah if they would only return to Him and rest and be saved; but they would not. How deliberate and obstinate some of us are! Return! Rest! Be Saved! In quietness! In confidence! Strengthen! Yet we remain obstinate and stubborn! People fled from Jerusalem, Judah and those horrible kings-historically and biblically they are no more. Luke 221:12-24: All these signs Jerusalem must fall, and Israel be

dispersed among all nations! Some things are still yet to come and remain to be fulfilled at the second coming of Christ. I don't like to think of such, but Christians will be persecuted, betrayed by kinfolks, friends, and some be put to death. This almost inconceivable, but it depicts the power of demon religions – it was done to John who was beheaded. Paul was hung upside down for his devoted ways. Would you believe the lowest of deeds were done by those who think they were doing God service, and their inhuman deeds were righteous. Antisemitism-hatred for Jews is on the rise today, but the fact of its success in the face of such difficulties is proof of its divine origin. Look what happened to Jesus – the very religious order of the day – crucified by the Pharisees and Sadducees. Yet, God was gracious, and Jesus rose through it all and soon to come again. It is urgent that we listen!

3. Verses 16-17. Yet, God waits for us to repent; judgment must come, there is still time to change! But you said no!

¹⁶ You said, 'No, we will flee on horses.' Therefore, you will flee! You said, 'We will ride off on swift horses.' Therefore, your pursuers will be swift! ¹⁷ A thousand will flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you will all flee away, till you are left like a flagstaff on a mountaintop, like a banner on a hill."

But you said no! NO...I don't want to repent or change. for you will flee on horses and chariots and be swift in doing it. But you can't outrun God! 1000 shall flee at the threat of one, at the threat of five you shall flee, you will be left as a pole on top of a mountain and as a banner on a hill...left all alone! The point is that the nation will be utterly routed (Deut. 32:30). But God waits for us! But, yet, God takes the time to do everything right! Returning entails rest to the weary. Your salvation requires you to turn back to God! If you come back to me and trust me, you will be saved; if you will be calm and trust me, you will be strong. But you don't want to do that! God says – **I want to be gracious to you!**

4. Verses 18-22. Yet, the Lord longs to be gracious to you!

¹⁸ Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him! ¹⁹ People of Zion, who live in Jerusalem, you will weep no more. How gracious he will be when you cry for help! As soon as he hears, he will answer you. ²⁰ Although the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, your teachers will be hidden no more; with your own eyes you will see them. ²¹ Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it." ²² Then you will desecrate your idols overlaid with silver and your images covered with gold; you will throw them away like a menstrual cloth and say to them, "Away with you!"

If my people who are called by my name change their wicked ways, be humble, confess your wrong and change, then I will hear from heaven and answer your prayers! God is challenging us to change our ways. He is the God of justice. We move from why to how? He is giving us strength to show mercy to you. God takes the time to do everything right-everything. He is fair and everyone who waits for his help-trusting and relying on Him will be blessed, happy!! Your time of tears is over. Cry for help and you will find its grace and more grace. He will comfort you. He is our teacher; he will not continue to hide from you, but you will see with your own eyes. If you go the wrong way-to the right or to the left-you will hear a voice behind you saying, "This is the right way. You should go this way." Throw those wrongs away like filthy rags and say, "Go away!" Though the Lord gives you (vs. 20) the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet you will see your teachers right there beside you with compassion, urging you to scrap your expensive and fashionable false images. You will throw them in the trash! God waits to be gracious to all who repent and surrender to Him for His blessing. God will not force His grace and mercy on people but will give them to anyone who meets His terms of repentance and faith toward Jesus Christ (John 1:11-12; 3:16-18). The kingdom is with God!

5. Verses 23-26. You will be blessed! The Lord longs to be gracious to you!

²³ He will also send you rain for the seed you sow in the ground, and the food that comes from the land will be rich and plentiful. In that day your cattle will graze in broad meadows. ²⁴ The oxen and donkeys that work the soil will eat fodder and mash, spread out with fork and shovel. ²⁵ In the day of great slaughter, when the towers fall, streams of water will flow on every high mountain and every lofty hill. ²⁶ The moon will shine like the sun, and the sunlight will be seven times brighter, like the light of seven full days, when the LORD binds up the bruises of his people and heals the wounds he inflicted.

God will always bless an obedient people. There are material and spiritual blessings when you obey HIM. Material blessings yet to come: rain, good sowing, increased seed, fat and plenty, large pastures, good food for stock, plenty of water. Whatever you sow will be abundant; you will be well feed. The Day of God when he comes and now for those that believe, spiritually – God will heal his afflicted people from the wounds and bruises from the times of punishment. Your blessings will be like rain that comes from trust in God. Jehovah God is coming to destroy the Anti-Christ. God is in control!

III. CONCLUSION.

Repent!! Be calm and be at rest; trust Him. Yet the Lord longs-yearns to be gracious to you, God, will rise up in your life today and show you compassion and mercy; blessed are all who wait hopefully, expectantly, prayerfully trusting in Him (vs. 18)! Amazing Grace how sweet the sound!