

Woe To Those Who Seek Shelter In Egypt

Isaiah 31: 1-9

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I. Biblical context

Now as a backdrop to these scriptures in 31:1-9, is the impending invasion of Assyria. Assyria is the world conquering power at the moment. Assyria has destroyed the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Assyria destroyed Syria, has conquered over Babylon. And now the Assyrian troops are moving in a massive invasion of the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Having taken some of the cities of Judah already, and there is pressure against Hezekiah and the pressure groups are seeking to have him to make an alliance with Egypt and to go down to Egypt and seek the help of the Egyptians against the Assyrian invasion. So Isaiah is saying: no, your strength is in standing still and doing nothing. God is going to deliver you from the hand of the Assyrians. Don't trust in the arm of flesh, trust in the Lord. And so as a backdrop to this pressure group that is moving toward an alliance with Egypt to withstand this Assyrian invasion. So, Isaiah speaks against it in this lesson.

II. The Lesson

1. Verse 1.

The Israelites looked at the great weapons Egypt had and their great horseman and many chariots, not realizing that God is Greater than all that. Did they forget how GREAT God is? or did they get persuaded by the material things they saw? and took their eyes off of God. May that be a lesson to us. May we learn to trust in the Lord, for," its better to put your trust in the Lord than your confidence in man. Its better to put your trust in the Lord than your confidence in princes (psalms 118:8,9).

2. **Verses 2 & 3.**

God not only hate evil doers, but those who help evildoers, they all will go down. He said the Egyptians were mere mortals and not God, and

horses are flesh and not spirit. They put much trust in material things.

Don't trust in the arm of Egypt, they're only flesh. The sin of those that trusted in Egypt, with reason of their trust, and not looking to the Lord and seeking Him, is their folly. The Lord described as wise, will not withdraw His word or His judgement against those who trust in their understanding and their allies. The greater strength, the greater help is in the spirit of God, for God is able when He stretches out His hand to do the job completely.

3. **Verse 4.**

Jesus is the Lion of Judah. Isaiah describes how God will protect Jerusalem and fight on Mt Zion. The passage uses the image of a Lion to illustrate Gods power and protection. When the lion comes out to his prey, a multitude of shepherds come out against him; for it becomes neighbors, to help one another when persons or goods are in danger . These shepherds dare not come near the lion; all they can do is make a noise, and with that, they think to frighten him off. but does he regard it? No, he will not be afraid of their voice, nor abase himself so far as to be in the least moved by it, to quit his prey or to make any more haste than otherwise he would do in seizing it. Thus will the Lord of host come down to fight for Mt Zion, with such an unshaken undaunted resolution not to be moved by any opposition; and he will as easily and irresistibly destroy the Assyrian army as a lion tears a lamb in pieces.

4. **Verse 5.**

God is our savior and protector. The Lord hovers over his people to protect them. This scripture is a reminder of Gods constant and active care, just as He watches over Jerusalem, He watches over His children now. Like birds hovering overhead, the Lord almighty will shield Jerusalem. As an eagle stirs up her young when they are in

danger, takes them and bears them on her wings, so the Lord led Israel out of Egypt (Deu. 32: 11,12); and He has the same tender concern for them that He had then , so that they need not flee into Egypt again for shelter. Defending them, He will deliver them.

5. **Verse 6.**

Isaiah is asking the Israelites to repent and return to honoring God. They have revolted against God. A gracious call to repentance. This was the Lords voice crying in the city, the voice of the rod, the voice of the sword, and the voice of the prophets interpreting the judgement: Turn you, oh turn you now, from your evil ways, unto God , return to your allegiance to Him from whom the children of Israel have deeply revolted, from whom you O children of Israel! have revolted.” He reminds them of their birth and parentage, that they were children of Israel, and therefore under the highest obligations imaginable to the God of Israel, as an aggravation of their revolt from him as an encouragement to them to return to Him. They have been backsliding children, yet children; therefore, let them return, and their backsliding will be healed.

6. **Verse 7.**

In that day, every man shall cast away his idols, in obedience to Hezekiah’s orders, which, till they were alarmed by Assyrian invasion, many refused to do. That is a happy fright which frightens us from our sins.

a) It shall be a general reformation.

Every man shall cast away his own idols, shall begin with them before he undertakes to demolish other people’s idols, which there will be no need of when every man reforms himself.

b) It shall be a thorough reform.

They shall part with their idolatry, their beloved sin, with their idols of silver and gold, their idols that they are most fond of. Many

made an idol of their silver and gold, and by the love of that idol are drawn to revolt from God; but those who turn to God cast out of their hearts and will be ready to part with it when God calls.

c) It shall be a reformation upon the right principle.

A principle of piety, not of politics. They shall cast away their idols. Because they have been unto them for a sin, an occasion of sin; therefore they will have nothing to do with them, though they have been the work of their own hands, and upon that account they had a particular fondness for them. Sin is the work of our hands, but in working it we have been working our own ruin, and therefore we must cast it away; and those who are strangely wedded to it who will not be persuade upon to cast it away, when they see that otherwise they themselves will be castaways.

7. Verses 8 & 9.

God addresses the people of Judah, reminding them that Assyria will not fall by sword or human strength, but it will be the Lord. No matter how powerful Assyria or Egypt seem to be with all their horses and chariots, God surpass all of that. Not by power or by might, but it's the spirit of God and his power, Whose fire is in Zion, whose furnace is in Jerusalem.

III. CONCLUSION

God will oppose the help sought from workers of iniquity, sinners may be convinced of folly by plain and self-evident truths, which they cannot deny, but will not believe. There is no escaping the judgement of God for those who pursue evil. The Lord of host will come down to fight for Mount Zion.