

## Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Book of Woes: Allying With Egypt (c. 704–702 BC)

Isaiah 30

**Woe Against Trusting Worthless Egypt**

1 “Oh rebellious children!” declares Yahweh,

“to make a plan, but not from me,  
and pour out a libation, but not *from* my Spirit,  
so as to add sin to sin.

2 Who go to go down *to* Egypt,  
but they do not ask *of* my mouth,  
to take refuge in the protection of Pharaoh  
and to take refuge in the shadow of Egypt.

3 And the protection of Pharaoh shall be shame to you,  
and the refuge in the shadow of Egypt, humiliation.

4 For his officials are at Zoan,  
and his envoys reach to Hanes.

5 Everyone will start to stink because of a people *that* cannot profit them,

not for help and not for profiting,  
but for shame and also for disgrace.”

6 An oracle of the animals of the Negev:

Through a land of trouble and distress,  
*of* lioness and lion,  
among them *are* snake and flying serpent;  
they carry their wealth on *the* backs of male donkeys  
and their treasures on *the* humps of camels,  
to a people *that* cannot profit *them*.

7 For Egyptians help *with* vanity and emptiness,  
therefore I have called this one “Rahab, they *are* sitting.”

8 Now go, write it on a tablet with them,  
and inscribe it on a scroll,  
that it may be for the time to come,  
forever, forever.

9 For it *is* a people of rebellion, deceitful children,  
children *who are* not willing to hear the instruction of Yahweh,

10 who say to those who do see, “You must not see!”  
and to the seers, “You must not see truth for us;  
speak smooth things to us, see illusions,

11 turn aside from *the* way, turn aside from *the* path,  
put an end to the holy one of Israel from our face.”

12 Therefore the holy one of Israel says this:

“Because you *are* rejecting this word  
and you trust in oppression and cunning  
and you rely on it,

13 therefore this iniquity shall come for you like a breach about to fall,  
bulging out on a high wall that breaks suddenly, *in* an instant.

14 And he breaks it like a vessel of a potter breaks,  
*that* is crushed; he has no compassion,  
and no potsherd is found among its fragments to take fire from *the* hearth,  
or to skim water from *the* cistern.”

15 For the Lord Yahweh, the holy one of Israel, said this:

“In returning and rest you shall be saved;  
your strength shall be in quietness and in trust.”

But you were not willing,  
16 and you said,

“No! For we will flee on horses!” Therefore you shall flee!  
And, “We will ride on swift horses!” Therefore your pursuers shall be swift!

17 One thousand because of a threat of one,  
because of a threat of five you shall flee,  
until you are left like *a* flagstaff on top of *a* mountain,  
and like *a* signal on *a* hill.

#### God’s Future Grace Will Transform Judah

18 Therefore Yahweh waits to be gracious *to* you,  
and therefore he will rise up to show you mercy,  
for Yahweh *is* a God of justice;  
blessed *are* all those who wait for him.

19 For people will live in Zion;  
in Jerusalem, you will surely not weep.  
Surely he will be gracious to you;  
when he hears the sound of your cry, he will answer you.

20 And the Lord will give you *the* bread *of* distress  
and *the* water *of* oppression,  
but your teachers will not hide themselves any longer.  
And your eyes shall see your teachers.

21 And your ears shall hear a word from behind you, saying,  
“*this is* the way; walk in it,”  
when you go to your right  
and when you go to your left.

22 And you will defile the plating of your silver idols  
and the covering of your gold image.  
You will scatter them like contaminated things;  
you will say to it, “Filth!”

23 And he will give rain for your seed *with* which you sow the ground,  
and grain, the produce of the ground, and it will be rich and fertile.  
On that day, your cattle will graze *in* broad pastures;  
24 and the oxen and the donkeys that till the ground will eat fodder,  
sorrel that *has* been winnowed with shovel and pitchfork.

25 And there will be streams on every high mountain and elevated hill,  
watercourses of water, on a day of great slaughter, when towers fall.

26 And the light of the full moon will be like the light of the sun,  
and the light of the sun will be sevenfold,  
like the light of seven days,  
on *the* day *when* Yahweh binds up the breakage of his people,  
and he heals the wound of his blow.

#### God’s Plan to Destroy Assyria

27 Look! The name of Yahweh comes from afar,  
burning *with* his anger and heaviness of cloud.  
His lips are full *of* indignation,  
and his tongue *is* like a devouring fire.

28 And his breath *is* like an overflowing river;  
it reaches up to *the* neck  
to shake *the* nations with *the* sieve of worthlessness;  
and a bridle that leads astray *is* on *the* jawbones of *the* peoples.

29 You shall have a song as *in* *the* night when a holy festival is kept,  
and a gladness of heart like one who goes with the flute,

- to go to the mountain of Yahweh, to the rock of Israel.
- 30 And Yahweh will cause the majesty of his voice to be heard,  
and he will cause the descent of his arm to be seen,  
in furious anger and a flame of devouring fire,  
*with* a cloudburst and a rainstorm and stones of hail.
- 31 Indeed, Assyria will be shattered by the voice of Yahweh;  
he strikes with the rod.
- 32 And every stroke of *the* staff of foundation that Yahweh lays will be on it with timbrels and lyres,  
and he will fight against it with battles of brandishing.
- 33 For Topheth has been prepared from yesterday;  
indeed, it is made ready for the king.  
He makes its pile of wood deep and wide;  
he makes fire and wood abundant.  
The breath of Yahweh burns in it like a stream of sulfur.

### Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Book of Woes: Relying on Egypt (c. 704–702 BC)

Isaiah 31–32

#### Woe Against Reliance on Egypt Rather Than God

31:1 Ah! Those who go down *to* Egypt for help! They rely on horses

and trust in chariots because *they are* many,  
and in horsemen because they are very numerous,  
and they do not look to the holy one of Israel,  
and they do not consult Yahweh.

- 2 And indeed, he *is* wise, and he brings disaster,  
and he does not remove his words,  
and he will rise against *the* house of evildoers  
and against *the* help of workers of iniquity.
- 3 And the Egyptians *are* human and not God,  
and their horses *are* flesh and not spirit.  
And Yahweh stretches out his hand,  
and *the* helper will stumble,  
and *the* one being helped will fall,  
and together all of them will come to an end.

4 For Yahweh said this to me:

“As which *a* lion growls  
and *a* young lion over its prey

when a full group of shepherds is called against him,

it is not terrified by their voice,  
and to their noise it does not respond,  
so Yahweh of hosts will come down to fight upon Mount Zion  
and upon its hill.

5 Like birds flying *overhead*, so Yahweh of hosts will protect Jerusalem;

he will protect and deliver *it*;  
he will pass over and rescue *it*.

6 Turn back to *the one against* whom the sons of Israel have made deep rebellion.

- 7 For on that day, each one will reject his idols of silver  
and his idols of gold which your hands have made *in* sin for you.
- 8 And Assyria shall fall by a sword not *of* a man,

and a sword not *of* a human shall devour him;  
and he shall flee from *the* sword,  
and his young men shall be *put* to forced labor.

- 9 And his rock will pass over because of terror,  
and his officers will be terrified because of *the* flag,"  
declares Yahweh,  
who has a fire in Zion  
and has a furnace in Jerusalem.

### God's Exalting of a Righteous King

- 32:1 See, a king will rule according to righteousness,  
and princes will rule according to justice.
- 2 And each one will be like a hiding place from *the* wind  
and a covering from *the* rainstorm,  
like streams of water in a dry region,  
like *the* shade of a large rock in a weary land.
- 3 And *the* eyes of those who see will not gaze,  
and *the* ears of those who hear will listen.
- 4 And *the* minds of *the* rash will understand knowledge,  
and *the* tongues of stammerers will hasten to speak clearly.
- 5 A fool will no longer be called noble,  
and a scoundrel will not be said *to be* eminent.
- 6 For a fool speaks folly,  
and his mind does iniquity:  
to behave wickedly,  
and to speak error concerning Yahweh,  
to leave *the* throat of *the* hungry empty,  
and he deprives *the* thirsty *of* drink.
- 7 And a scoundrel, his weapons *are* evil;  
he plans evil devices  
to ruin *the* poor with words of deception  
even when the speech of *the* needy *is* right.
- 8 But *the* nobleman plans noble things,  
and he stands upon noble things.

### Complacent Women of Jerusalem Must Lament

- 9 Women *who are* at ease, rise up; hear my voice!  
Carefree daughters, listen *to* my word!
- 10 In a year you will tremble, carefree ones,  
  
for *the* vintage will come to an end;  
*the* harvest will not come.
- 11 Tremble, *you who are* at ease;  
tremble, carefree ones;  
strip, and strip yourself,  
and gird yourself on *your* loins,  
12 mourning over breasts,  
over fields of delight,  
over *the* fruitful vine,  
13 over the soil of my people.  
It goes up *in* thorns *and* briars,  
indeed over all of *the* houses of joy *in* *the* jubilant city.
- 14 For *the* palace will be forsaken,  
*the* crowded city deserted;  
*the* hill and *the* watchtower will become a cave forever,  
*the* joy of wild asses, a pasture for flocks.

**Future Transformation of Israel**

15 Until a spirit is poured out on us from on high,

and *the* wilderness becomes *a* fruitful field,  
and *the* fruitful field is reckoned as the forest.

16 Then justice will dwell in the wilderness,  
and righteousness will live in the fruitful field.

17 And the work of righteousness will be peace,  
and the work of righteousness, quietness and security forever.

18 And my people will dwell in a settlement of peace  
and in a dwelling place of security  
and in undisturbed resting places.

19 And it hails when the forest comes down,  
and the city will become low in humiliation.

20 Happy *are* you who sow by all waters,  
who let the foot of the ox and the donkey go free.

**Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Book of Woes: Assyria (c. 704–702 BC)**

## Isaiah 33

**Woe to Assyria**

1 Ah, destroyer, and yourself not destroyed!  
And treacherous one, and no one has dealt treacherously with him!  
When you cease destroying, you will be destroyed.  
When you stop dealing treacherously, one will deal treacherously with you.

2 Yahweh, be gracious to us, we wait for you.  
Be our arm in the mornings,  
indeed our salvation in *the* time of trouble.

3 At *the* sound of tumult, peoples fled;  
because of your exaltation, nations scattered.

4 And your spoil is gathered,  
*as* the gathering of the locust,  
as a swarm of locusts storming on it.

5 Yahweh *is* exalted, for *he* dwells *on* high;  
he filled Zion *with* justice and righteousness,

6 and he will be the security of your times,  
an abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge.

The fear of Yahweh *is* his treasure.

7 Look! Their heroes cry out *in the* street;  
*the* messengers of peace weep bitterly.

8 Highways are deserted;  
*the* traveler *on the* road ceases.  
One breaks a treaty,  
he rejects *the* cities,  
he does not hold man in high regard.

9 *The* land mourns; it languishes.  
Lebanon feels abashed; it withers.  
Sharon is like the desert,  
and Bashan and Carmel are losing their leaves.

10 "Now I will arise," says Yahweh.  
"Now I will lift myself up proudly;  
now I will raise myself.

11 You conceive dry grass, you bring forth stubble;  
your breath *is* a fire; it will consume you.

12 And *the* peoples will be burning *to* lime—  
they are burned *like* thorns *that have been* cut down in the fire.

- 13 *You who are* far away, hear what I have done;  
and *you who are* near, know my might!”
- 14 Sinners are afraid in Zion;  
trembling has seized *the* godless:  
“Who of us can live *with* devouring fire?  
Who of us can live *with* everlasting consuming hearths?”
- 15 He who walks *in* righteousness  
and speaks uprightness,  
who rejects *the* gain of extortion,  
who refuses *a* bribe,  
who stops up his ears from hearing bloodshed  
and shuts his eyes from seeing evil.
- 16 That one will live *on the* heights;  
*the* fortresses of rocks *will be* his refuge.  
His food *will* be given;  
his waters *will* endure.

### The Reign of the Messiah in Zion

- 17 Your eyes will see *the* king in his beauty;  
they will see a distant land.
- 18 Your mind will meditate *on the* terror:  
“Where *is the* one who counted?  
Where *is the* one who weighed out?  
Where *is the* one who counted the towers?”
- 19 You will not see *the* insolent people,  
*the* people whose language is too obscure to understand,  
*whose* stammering of tongue cannot be understood.
- 20 Look *on* Zion, the city of our appointed festivals!  
Your eyes will see Jerusalem,  
an undisturbed settlement,  
a tent that is not moved.  
No one will ever pull out its tent pegs,  
and none of its ropes will be torn in two.
- 21 Rather, there Yahweh *will be* mighty for us,  
a place of rivers *and* broad streams,  
a galley ship with oars cannot go in it,  
and a mighty ship cannot pass through it.
- 22 For Yahweh *is* our judge; Yahweh *is* our lawgiver.  
Yahweh *is* our king; he *is the one who* will save us.
- 23 Your riggings hang slack;  
they do not hold the base of their mast firm,  
they do not spread out *the* sail.  
Then *the* prey of spoil *in* abundance will be divided;  
*the* lame will take plunder.
- 24 And no inhabitant will say, “I am sick”;  
the people who live in it, *their* iniquity *will be* taken away.

## Isaiah’s Prophecy to Judah—God’s Wrath against the Nations (c. 704–702 BC)

Isaiah 34

### Eschatological Judgment

- 1 Come near, nations, to hear;  
and peoples, listen attentively!  
Let the earth hear, and that which fills it;  
*the* world and all its offspring.
- 2 For *the* anger of Yahweh *is* against all the nations,  
and *his* wrath *is* against all their armies;  
he has put them under a ban,

he has given them up for slaughter.

- 3 And their slain shall be cast out;  
as for their corpses, their stench shall go up.  
And *the* mountains shall melt with their blood,
- 4 and all the host of heaven shall rot.  
And the skies shall roll up like *a* scroll,  
and all their host shall wither  
like the withering of a leaf from a vine,  
or like *the* withering from a fig tree. [[Matt 24:29](#); [Mark 13:25](#); [Luke 21:26](#)]

### Edom Singled Out as an Example of God's Judgment

5 When my sword is drenched in the heavens,

look! It will descend upon Edom,  
and upon the people of my ban, for judgment.

6 Yahweh has a sword;

it is full of blood.  
It is covered with fat,  
with *the* blood of lambs and goats,  
with *the* fat of *the* kidneys of rams,  
for Yahweh has a sacrifice in Bozrah  
and a great slaughter in the land of Edom.

- 7 And wild oxen shall go down with them,  
and steers with strong bulls.  
And their land shall be drenched with blood,  
and their soil shall be fattened with fat.
- 8 For Yahweh has a day of vengeance,  
a year of retribution for the strife of Zion.
- 9 And its streams shall be changed to pitch and its soil to sulfur,  
and its land shall become like burning pitch.
- 10 Night and day it shall not be quenched;  
its smoke shall go up forever.  
From generation to generation it shall be in ruins;  
forever and ever there will be no one who passes through her.
- 11 But *the* large bird and *the* hedgehog shall take possession of it,  
and *the* owl and *the* raven shall live in it.  
And he shall stretch *the* measuring line of confusion out over it,  
and *the* plumb line of emptiness.
- 12 Its nobles—but no kingdom is there—shall call,  
and all its princes shall be nothing.
- 13 And thorns shall go up her citadel fortress,  
weeds and thistle plants in her fortresses;  
and it shall be *the* settlement of jackals,  
green grass for *the* daughters of an ostrich.
- 14 And desert creatures shall meet with hyenas,  
and a goat-demon shall call to his neighbor;  
surely there Lilith shall repose,  
and she shall find a resting place for herself.
- 15 There *the* owl shall nest and lay  
and hatch and care for her chicks in her shadow;  
surely there *the* birds of prey shall be gathered,  
each one *with* her mate.

16 Seek from the book of Yahweh and read;

none of these shall be missing;

none shall miss her mate.

For my mouth is the one that has commanded,  
and his spirit is the one that has gathered them.

- 17 And he is the one that has cast *the* lot for them,  
and his hand has apportioned it to them with the measuring line;  
they shall take possession of it forever,  
they shall live in it from generation to generation.

### Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—God's Glory Will Transform Zion (c. 704–702 BC)

#### Isaiah 35

- 1 Wilderness and dry land shall be glad,  
and desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus.
- 2 It shall blossom abundantly,  
and it shall rejoice indeed with rejoicing and exulting.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They are the ones who shall see the glory of Yahweh,  
the majesty of our God.
- 3 Strengthen *the* weak hands  
and make *the* staggering knees firm. [cf. [Heb 12:12](#)]
- 4 Say to those who are hasty of heart,  
  
“Be strong; you must not fear!  
Look! your God will come *with* vengeance,  
*with* divine retribution.  
He is the one who will come and save you.”
- 5 Then *the* eyes of *the* blind shall be opened,  
and *the* ears of *the* deaf shall be opened.
- 6 Then *the* lame shall leap like the deer,  
and *the* tongue of *the* dumb shall sing for joy,  
for waters shall break forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert.
- 7 And the parched ground shall become *a* pool,  
and *the* thirsty ground springs of water.  
Her resting place *is* in a settlement of jackals;  
*the* grass *shall become* like reeds and rushes.
- 8 And a highway shall be there, and a way,  
and it shall be called the way of holiness.  
*The* unclean shall not travel through it,  
but it *is* for them, he who walks *on the* way;  
and fools shall not wander about.
- 9 No lion shall be there,  
and no ferocious wild beast shall go up it.  
It shall not be found there,  
but *the* redeemed shall walk *there*.
- 10 And the ransomed of Yahweh shall return,  
and they shall come *to* Zion with rejoicing.  
And everlasting joy *shall be* on their head;  
joy and gladness shall overtake *them*,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee.