

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

## Isaiah 30

**Woe Against Trusting Worthless Egypt**

- 1 “Woe to the rebellious children,” declares the LORD,  
 “Who execute a plan, but not Mine,  
 And make an alliance, but not of My Spirit,  
 In order to add sin to sin;
- 2 Who proceed down to Egypt  
 Without consulting Me,  
 To take refuge in the safety of Pharaoh  
 And to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt!
- 3 “Therefore the safety of Pharaoh will be your shame  
 And the shelter in the shadow of Egypt, your humiliation.
- 4 “For their princes are at Zoan  
 And their ambassadors arrive at Hanes.
- 5 “Everyone will be ashamed because of a people who cannot profit them,  
*Who are* not for help or profit, but for shame and also for reproach.”

6 The oracle concerning the beasts of the Negev.

- Through a land of distress and anguish,  
 From where *come* lioness and lion, viper and flying serpent,  
 They carry their riches on the backs of young donkeys  
 And their treasures on camels' humps,  
 To a people who cannot profit *them*;
- 7 Even Egypt, whose help is vain and empty.  
 Therefore, I have called her  
 “Rahab who has been exterminated.”
- 8 Now go, write it on a tablet before them  
 And inscribe it on a scroll,  
 That it may serve in the time to come  
 As a witness forever.
- 9 For this is a rebellious people, false sons,  
 Sons who refuse to listen  
 To the instruction of the LORD;
- 10 Who say to the seers, “You must not see *visions*”;  
 And to the prophets, “You must not prophesy to us what is right,  
 Speak to us pleasant words,  
 Prophecy illusions.
- 11 “Get out of the way, turn aside from the path,  
 Let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel.”

12 Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel,

- “Since you have rejected this word  
 And have put your trust in oppression and guile, and have relied on them,
- 13 Therefore this iniquity will be to you  
 Like a breach about to fall,  
 A bulge in a high wall,  
 Whose collapse comes suddenly in an instant,
- 14 Whose collapse is like the smashing of a potter's jar,  
 So ruthlessly shattered  
 That a sherd will not be found among its pieces  
 To take fire from a hearth  
 Or to scoop water from a cistern.”

15 For thus the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, has said,

“In repentance and rest you will be saved,  
In quietness and trust is your strength.”

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 those who pursue you shall be swift.

17 One thousand *will flee* at the threat of one *man*;  
You will flee at the threat of five,  
Until you are left as a flag on a mountain top  
And as a signal on a hill.

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

18 Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you,  
And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you.  
For the LORD is a God of justice;  
How blessed are all those who long for Him.

19 O people in Zion, inhabitant in Jerusalem, you will weep no longer. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you.

20 Although the Lord has given you bread of privation and water of oppression, *He*, your Teacher will no longer hide Himself, but your eyes will behold your Teacher.

21 Your ears will hear a word behind you, “This is the way, walk in it,” whenever you turn to the right or to the left.

22 And you will defile your graven images overlaid with silver, and your molten images plated with gold. You will scatter them as an impure thing, *and* say to them, “Be gone!”

23 Then He will give *you* rain for the seed which you will sow in the ground, and bread *from* the yield of the ground, and it will be rich and plenteous; on that day your livestock will graze in a roomy pasture.

24 Also the oxen and the donkeys which work the ground will eat salted fodder, which has been winnowed with shovel and fork.

25 On every lofty mountain and on every high hill there will be streams running with water on the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall.

26 The light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be seven times *brighter*, like the light of seven days, on the day the LORD binds up the fracture of His people and heals the bruise He has inflicted.

#### God’s Plan to Destroy Assyria

27 Behold, the name of the LORD comes from a remote place;  
Burning is His anger and dense is *His* smoke;  
His lips are filled with indignation

And His tongue is like a consuming fire;

28 His breath is like an overflowing torrent,  
Which reaches to the neck,

To shake the nations back and forth in a sieve,  
And to *put* in the jaws of the peoples the bridle which leads to ruin.

29 You will have songs as in the night when you keep the festival,  
And gladness of heart as when one marches to *the sound of* the flute,  
To go to the mountain of the LORD, to the Rock of Israel.

30 And the LORD will cause His voice of authority to be heard,  
And the descending of His arm to be seen in fierce anger,  
And *in* the flame of a consuming fire  
In cloudburst, downpour and hailstones.

31 For at the voice of the LORD Assyria will be terrified,  
*When* He strikes with the rod.

32 And every blow of the rod of punishment,  
Which the LORD will lay on him,  
Will be with *the music of* tambourines and lyres;  
And in battles, brandishing weapons, He will fight them.

33 For Topheth has long been ready,  
Indeed, it has been prepared for the king.  
He has made it deep and large,

A pyre of fire with plenty of wood;  
The breath of the LORD, like a torrent of brimstone, sets it afire.

### 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 Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help

*And* rely on horses,  
And trust in chariots because they are many  
And in horsemen because they are very strong,  
But they do not look to the Holy One of Israel, nor seek the LORD!

2 Yet He also is wise and will bring disaster  
And does not retract His words,  
But will arise against the house of evildoers  
And against the help of the workers of iniquity.

3 Now the Egyptians are men and not God,  
And their horses are flesh and not spirit;  
So the LORD will stretch out His hand,  
And he who helps will stumble  
And he who is helped will fall,  
And all of them will come to an end together.

4 For thus says the LORD to me,

“As the lion or the young lion growls over his prey,  
Against which a band of shepherds is called out,  
*And* he will not be terrified at their voice nor disturbed at their noise,  
So will the LORD of hosts come down to wage war on Mount Zion and on its hill.”

5 Like flying birds so the LORD of hosts will protect Jerusalem.  
He will protect and deliver *it*;  
He will pass over and rescue *it*.

6 Return to Him from whom you have deeply defected, O sons of Israel.

7 For in that day every man will cast away his silver idols and his gold idols, which your sinful hands have made for you as a sin.

8 And the Assyrian will fall by a sword not of man,  
And a sword not of man will devour him.  
So he will not escape the sword,  
And his young men will become forced laborers.

9 “His rock will pass away because of panic,  
And his princes will be terrified at the standard,”  
Declares the LORD, whose fire is in Zion and whose furnace is in Jerusalem.

#### **God's Exalting of a Righteous King**

32:1 Behold, a king will reign righteously  
And princes will rule justly.

2 Each will be like a refuge from the wind  
And a shelter from the storm,  
Like streams of water in a dry country,  
Like the shade of a huge rock in a parched land.

3 Then the eyes of those who see will not be blinded,  
And the ears of those who hear will listen.

4 The mind of the hasty will discern the truth,  
And the tongue of the stammerers will hasten to speak clearly.

5 No longer will the fool be called noble,  
Or the rogue be spoken of as generous.

6 For a fool speaks nonsense,

And his heart inclines toward wickedness:  
 To practice ungodliness and to speak error against the LORD,  
 To keep the hungry person unsatisfied  
 And to withhold drink from the thirsty.

- 7 As for a rogue, his weapons are evil;  
 He devises wicked schemes  
 To destroy *the* afflicted with slander,  
 Even though *the* needy one speaks what is right.
- 8 But the noble man devises noble plans;  
 And by noble plans he stands.

#### Complacent Women of Jerusalem Must Lament

- 9 Rise up, you women who are at ease,  
 And hear my voice;  
 Give ear to my word,  
 You complacent daughters.
- 10 Within a year and *a few* days  
 You will be troubled, O complacent *daughters*;  
 For the vintage is ended,  
 And the *fruit* gathering will not come.
- 11 Tremble, you *women* who are at ease;  
 Be troubled, you complacent *daughters*;  
 Strip, undress and put *sackcloth* on your waist,
- 12 Beat your breasts for the pleasant fields, for the fruitful vine,  
 13 For the land of my people *in which* thorns *and* briars shall come up;  
 Yea, for all the joyful houses *and for* the jubilant city.
- 14 Because the palace has been abandoned, the populated city forsaken.  
 Hill and watch-tower have become caves forever,  
 A delight for wild donkeys, a pasture for flocks;

#### Future Transformation of Israel

- 15 Until the Spirit is poured out upon us from on high,  
 And the wilderness becomes a fertile field,  
 And the fertile field is considered as a forest.
- 16 Then justice will dwell in the wilderness  
 And righteousness will abide in the fertile field.
- 17 And the work of righteousness will be peace,  
 And the service of righteousness, quietness and confidence forever.
- 18 Then my people will live in a peaceful habitation,  
 And in secure dwellings and in undisturbed resting places;
- 19 And it will hail when the forest comes down,  
 And the city will be utterly laid low.
- 20 How blessed will you be, you who sow beside all waters,  
 Who let out freely the ox and the donkey.

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

#### Isaiah 33

#### Woe to Assyria

- 1 Woe to you, O destroyer,  
 While you were not destroyed;  
 And he who is treacherous, while *others* did not deal treacherously with him.  
 As soon as you finish destroying, you will be destroyed;  
 As soon as you cease to deal treacherously, *others* will deal treacherously with you.
- 2 O LORD, be gracious to us; we have waited for You.  
 Be their strength every morning,  
 Our salvation also in the time of distress.
- 3 At the sound of the tumult peoples flee;

- At the lifting up of Yourself nations disperse.
- 4 Your spoil is gathered *as* the caterpillar gathers;  
As locusts rushing about men rush about on it.
- 5 The LORD is exalted, for He dwells on high;  
He has filled Zion with justice and righteousness.
- 6 And He will be the stability of your times,  
A wealth of salvation, wisdom and knowledge;  
The fear of the LORD is his treasure.
- 7 Behold, their brave men cry in the streets,  
The ambassadors of peace weep bitterly.
- 8 The highways are desolate, the traveler has ceased,  
He has broken the covenant, he has despised the cities,  
He has no regard for man.
- 9 The land mourns *and* pines away,  
Lebanon is shamed *and* withers;  
Sharon is like a desert plain,  
And Bashan and Carmel lose *their foliage*.
- 10 "Now I will arise," says the LORD,  
"Now I will be exalted, now I will be lifted up.
- 11 "You have conceived chaff, you will give birth to stubble;  
My breath will consume you like a fire.
- 12 "The peoples will be burned to lime,  
Like cut thorns which are burned in the fire.
- 13 "You who are far away, hear what I have done;  
And you who are near, acknowledge My might."
- 14 Sinners in Zion are terrified;  
Trembling has seized the godless.  
"Who among us can live with the consuming fire?  
Who among us can live with continual burning?"
- 15 He who walks righteously and speaks with sincerity,  
He who rejects unjust gain  
And shakes his hands so that they hold no bribe;  
He who stops his ears from hearing about bloodshed  
And shuts his eyes from looking upon evil;
- 16 He will dwell on the heights,  
His refuge will be the impregnable rock;  
His bread will be given *him*,  
His water will be sure.

### **The Reign of the Messiah in Zion**

- 17 Your eyes will see the King in His beauty;  
They will behold a far-distant land.
- 18 Your heart will meditate on terror:  
"Where is he who counts?  
Where is he who weighs?  
Where is he who counts the towers?"
- 19 You will no longer see a fierce people,  
A people of unintelligible speech which no one comprehends,  
Of a stammering tongue which no one understands.
- 20 Look upon Zion, the city of our appointed feasts;  
Your eyes will see Jerusalem, an undisturbed habitation,  
A tent which will not be folded;  
Its stakes will never be pulled up,  
Nor any of its cords be torn apart.
- 21 But there the majestic *One*, the LORD, will be for us  
A place of rivers *and* wide canals  
On which no boat with oars will go,  
And on which no mighty ship will pass—

- 22 For the LORD is our judge,  
The LORD is our lawgiver,  
The LORD is our king;  
He will save us—
- 23 Your tackle hangs slack;  
It cannot hold the base of its mast firmly,  
Nor spread out the sail.  
Then the prey of an abundant spoil will be divided;  
The lame will take the plunder.
- 24 And no resident will say, "I am sick";  
The people who dwell there will be forgiven *their* iniquity.

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

#### Isaiah 34

##### Eschatological Judgment

- 1 Draw near, O nations, to hear; and listen, O peoples!  
Let the earth and all it contains hear, and the world and all that springs from it.
- 2 For the LORD's indignation is against all the nations,  
And *His* wrath against all their armies;  
He has utterly destroyed them,  
He has given them over to slaughter.
- 3 So their slain will be thrown out,  
And their corpses will give off their stench,  
And the mountains will be drenched with their blood.
- 4 And all the host of heaven will wear away,  
And the sky will be rolled up like a scroll;  
All their hosts will also wither away  
As a leaf withers from the vine,  
Or as *one* withers from the fig tree. [[Matt 24:29](#); [Mark 13:25](#); [Luke 21:26](#)]

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

- 5 For My sword is satiated in heaven,  
Behold it shall descend for judgment upon Edom  
And upon the people whom I have devoted to destruction.
- 6 The sword of the LORD is filled with blood,  
It is sated with fat, with the blood of lambs and goats,  
With the fat of the kidneys of rams.  
For the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah  
And a great slaughter in the land of Edom.
- 7 Wild oxen will also fall with them  
And young bulls with strong ones;  
Thus their land will be soaked with blood,  
And their dust become greasy with fat.
- 8 For the LORD has a day of vengeance,  
A year of recompense for the cause of Zion.
- 9 Its streams will be turned into pitch,  
And its loose earth into brimstone,  
And its land will become burning pitch.
- 10 It will not be quenched night or day;  
Its smoke will go up forever.  
From generation to generation it will be desolate;  
None will pass through it forever and ever.
- 11 But pelican and hedgehog will possess it,  
And owl and raven will dwell in it;  
And He will stretch over it the line of desolation  
And the plumb line of emptiness.
- 12 Its nobles—there is no one there

- Whom* they may proclaim king—  
And all its princes will be nothing.
- 13 Thorns will come up in its fortified towers,  
Nettles and thistles in its fortified cities;  
It will also be a haunt of jackals  
*And* an abode of ostriches.
- 14 The desert creatures will meet with the wolves,  
The hairy goat also will cry to its kind;  
Yes, the night monster will settle there  
And will find herself a resting place.
- 15 The tree snake will make its nest and lay *eggs* there,  
And it will hatch and gather *them* under its protection.  
Yes, the hawks will be gathered there,  
Every one with its kind.
- 16 Seek from the book of the LORD, and read:
- Not one of these will be missing;  
None will lack its mate.  
For His mouth has commanded,  
And His Spirit has gathered them.
- 17 He has cast the lot for them,  
And His hand has divided it to them by line.  
They shall possess it forever;  
From generation to generation they will dwell in it.

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

#### Isaiah 35

- 1 The wilderness and the desert will be glad,  
And the Arabah will rejoice and blossom;  
Like the crocus
- 2 It will blossom profusely  
And rejoice with rejoicing and shout of joy.  
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,  
The majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They will see the glory of the LORD,  
The majesty of our God.
- 3 Encourage the exhausted, and strengthen the feeble. [cf. [Heb 12:12](#)]
- 4 Say to those with anxious heart,  
"Take courage, fear not.  
Behold, your God will come *with* vengeance;  
The recompense of God will come,  
But He will save you."
- 5 Then the eyes of the blind will be opened  
And the ears of the deaf will be unstopped.
- 6 Then the lame will leap like a deer,  
And the tongue of the mute will shout for joy.  
For waters will break forth in the wilderness  
And streams in the Arabah.
- 7 The scorched land will become a pool  
And the thirsty ground springs of water;  
In the haunt of jackals, its resting place,  
Grass *becomes* reeds and rushes.
- 8 A highway will be there, a roadway,  
And it will be called the Highway of Holiness.  
The unclean will not travel on it,  
But it *will* be for him who walks *that way*,

- And fools will not wander *on it*.  
9 No lion will be there,  
Nor will any vicious beast go up on it;  
These will not be found there.  
But the redeemed will walk *there*,  
10 And the ransomed of the LORD will return  
And come with joyful shouting to Zion,  
With everlasting joy upon their heads.  
They will find gladness and joy,  
And sorrow and sighing will flee away.

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