

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

## Isaiah 30

**Woe Against Trusting Worthless Egypt**

- 1 “The rebellious children are as good as dead,” says the LORD,  
“those who make plans without consulting me,  
who form alliances without consulting my Spirit,  
and thereby compound their sin.
- 2 They travel down to Egypt  
without seeking my will,  
seeking Pharaoh’s protection,  
and looking for safety in Egypt’s protective shade.
- 3 But Pharaoh’s protection will bring you nothing but shame,  
and the safety of Egypt’s protective shade nothing but humiliation.
- 4 Though his officials are in Zoan  
and his messengers arrive at Hanes,  
5 all will be put to shame  
because of a nation that cannot help them,  
who cannot give them aid or help,  
but only shame and disgrace.”
- 6 This is a message about the animals in the Negev:  
Through a land of distress and danger,  
inhabited by lionesses and roaring lions,  
by snakes and darting adders,  
they transport their wealth on the backs of donkeys,  
their riches on the humps of camels,  
to a nation that cannot help them.
- 7 Egypt is totally incapable of helping.  
For this reason I call her ‘Proud one who is silenced.’”
- 8 Now go, write it down on a tablet in their presence,  
inscribe it on a scroll,  
so that it might be preserved for a future time  
as an enduring witness.
- 9 For these are rebellious people—  
they are lying children,  
children unwilling to obey the LORD’s law.
- 10 They say to the visionaries, “See no more visions!”  
and to the seers, “Don’t relate messages to us about what is right!  
Tell us nice things,  
relate deceptive messages.
- 11 Turn aside from the way,  
stray off the path.  
Remove from our presence the Holy One of Israel.”
- 12 For this reason this is what the Holy One of Israel says:  
“You have rejected this message;  
you trust instead in your ability to oppress and trick,  
and rely on that kind of behavior.
- 13 So this sin will become your downfall.  
You will be like a high wall  
that bulges and cracks and is ready to collapse;  
it crumbles suddenly, in a flash.
- 14 It shatters in pieces like a clay jar,  
so shattered to bits that none of it can be salvaged.  
Among its fragments one cannot find a shard large enough  
to scoop a hot coal from a fire  
or to skim off water from a cistern.”
- 15 For this is what the master, the LORD, the Holy One of Israel says:  
“If you repented and patiently waited for me, you would be delivered;  
if you calmly trusted in me you would find strength,

- but you are unwilling.
- 16 You say, 'No, we will flee on horses,'  
so you will indeed flee.  
You say, 'We will ride on fast horses,'  
so your pursuers will be fast.
- 17 One thousand will scurry at the battle cry of one enemy soldier;  
at the battle cry of five enemy soldiers you will all run away,  
until the remaining few are as isolated  
as a flagpole on a mountaintop  
or a signal flag on a hill."

#### **God's Future Grace Will Transform Judah**

- 18 For this reason the LORD is ready to show you mercy;  
he sits on his throne, ready to have compassion on you.  
Indeed, the LORD is a just God;  
all who wait for him in faith will be blessed.
- 19 For people will live in Zion;  
in Jerusalem you will weep no more.  
When he hears your cry of despair, he will indeed show you mercy;  
when he hears it, he will respond to you.
- 20 The sovereign master will give you distress to eat  
and suffering to drink;  
but your teachers will no longer be hidden;  
your eyes will see them.
- 21 You will hear a word spoken behind you, saying,  
"This is the correct way, walk in it,"  
whether you are heading to the right or the left.
- 22 You will desecrate your silver-plated idols  
and your gold-plated images.  
You will throw them away as if they were a menstrual rag,  
saying to them, "Get out!"
- 23 He will water the seed you plant in the ground,  
and the ground will produce crops in abundance.  
At that time your cattle will graze in wide pastures.
- 24 The oxen and donkeys used in plowing  
will eat seasoned feed winnowed with a shovel and pitchfork.
- 25 On every high mountain  
and every high hill  
there will be streams flowing with water,  
at the time of great slaughter when the fortified towers collapse.
- 26 The light of the full moon will be like the sun's glare  
and the sun's glare will be seven times brighter,  
like the light of seven days,  
when the LORD binds up his people's fractured bones  
and heals their severe wound.

#### **God's Plan to Destroy Assyria**

- 27 Look, the name of the LORD comes from a distant place  
in raging anger and awesome splendor.  
He speaks angrily  
and his word is like destructive fire.
- 28 His battle cry overwhelms like a flooding river  
that reaches one's neck.  
He shakes the nations in a sieve that isolates the chaff;  
he puts a bit into the mouth of the nations and leads them to destruction.
- 29 You will sing  
as you do in the evening when you are celebrating a festival.  
You will be happy like one who plays a flute

- as he goes to the mountain of the LORD,  
the Rock who shelters Israel.
- 30 The LORD will give a mighty shout  
and intervene in power,  
with furious anger and flaming, destructive fire,  
with a driving rainstorm and hailstones.
- 31 Indeed, the LORD's shout will shatter Assyria;  
he will beat them with a club.
- 32 Every blow from his punishing cudgel,  
with which the LORD will beat them,  
will be accompanied by music from the tambourine and harp,  
and he will attack them with his weapons.
- 33 For the burial place is already prepared;  
it has been made deep and wide for the king.  
The firewood is piled high on it.  
The LORD's breath, like a stream flowing with brimstone,  
will ignite it.

### 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 Those who go down to Egypt for help are as good as dead,  
those who rely on war horses,  
and trust in Egypt's many chariots  
and in their many, many horsemen.  
But they do not rely on the Holy One of Israel  
and do not seek help from the LORD.
- 2 Yet he too is wise and he will bring disaster;  
he does not retract his decree.  
He will attack the wicked nation,  
and the nation that helps those who commit sin.
- 3 The Egyptians are mere humans, not God;  
their horses are made of flesh, not spirit.  
The LORD will strike with his hand;  
the one who helps will stumble  
and the one being helped will fall.  
Together they will perish.
- 4 Indeed, this is what the LORD says to me:  
"The LORD will be like a growling lion,  
like a young lion growling over its prey.  
Though a whole group of shepherds gathers against it,  
it is not afraid of their shouts  
or intimidated by their yelling.  
In this same way the LORD who commands armies will descend  
to do battle on Mount Zion and on its hill.
- 5 Just as birds hover over a nest,  
so the LORD who commands armies will protect Jerusalem.  
He will protect and deliver it;  
as he passes over he will rescue it.
- 6 You Israelites! Return to the one against whom you have so blatantly rebelled!
- 7 For at that time everyone will get rid of the silver and gold idols your hands sinfully made.
- 8 Assyria will fall by a sword, but not one human-made;  
a sword not made by humankind will destroy them.  
They will run away from this sword  
and their young men will be forced to do hard labor.

- 9 They will surrender their stronghold because of fear;  
their officers will be afraid of the LORD's battle flag."  
This is what the LORD says—  
the one whose fire is in Zion,  
whose firepot is in Jerusalem.

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

- 32:1 Look, a king will promote fairness;  
officials will promote justice.
- 2 Each of them will be like a shelter from the wind  
and a refuge from a rainstorm;  
like streams of water in a dry region  
and like the shade of a large cliff in a parched land.
- 3 Eyes will no longer be blind  
and ears will be attentive.
- 4 The mind that acts rashly will possess discernment  
and the tongue that stutters will speak with ease and clarity.
- 5 A fool will no longer be called honorable;  
a deceiver will no longer be called principled.
- 6 For a fool speaks disgraceful things;  
his mind plans out sinful deeds.  
He commits godless deeds  
and says misleading things about the LORD;  
he gives the hungry nothing to satisfy their appetite  
and gives the thirsty nothing to drink.
- 7 A deceiver's methods are evil;  
he dreams up evil plans to ruin the poor with lies,  
even when the needy are in the right.
- 8 An honorable man makes honorable plans;  
his honorable character gives him security.

#### **Complacent Women of Jerusalem Must Lament**

- 9 You complacent women,  
get up and listen to me!  
You carefree daughters,  
pay attention to what I say!
- 10 In a year's time you carefree ones will shake with fear,  
for the grape harvest will fail,  
and the fruit harvest will not arrive.
- 11 Tremble, you complacent ones!  
Shake with fear, you carefree ones!  
Strip off your clothes and expose yourselves—  
put sackcloth on your waist!
- 12 Mourn over the field,  
over the delightful fields  
and the fruitful vine!
- 13 Mourn over the land of my people,  
which is overgrown with thorns and briars,  
and over all the once-happy houses  
in the city filled with revelry.
- 14 For the fortress is neglected;  
the once-crowded city is abandoned.  
Hill and watchtower are permanently uninhabited.  
Wild donkeys love to go there,  
and flocks graze there.

#### **Future Transformation of Israel**

- 15 This desolation will continue until new life is poured out on us from heaven.

- Then the desert will become an orchard  
and the orchard will be considered a forest.
- 16 Justice will settle down in the desert  
and fairness will live in the orchard.
- 17 Fairness will produce peace  
and result in lasting security.
- 18 My people will live in peaceful settlements,  
in secure homes,  
and in safe, quiet places.
- 19 Even if the forest is destroyed  
and the city is annihilated,
- 20 you will be blessed,  
you who plant seed by all the banks of the streams,  
you who let your ox and donkey graze.

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

#### Isaiah 33

#### Woe to Assyria

- 1 The destroyer is as good as dead,  
you who have not been destroyed!  
The deceitful one is as good as dead,  
the one whom others have not deceived!  
When you are through destroying, you will be destroyed;  
when you finish deceiving, others will deceive you!
- 2 LORD, be merciful to us! We wait for you.  
Give us strength each morning!  
Deliver us when distress comes.
- 3 The nations run away when they hear a loud noise;  
the nations scatter when you spring into action!
- 4 Your plunder disappears as if locusts were eating it;  
they swarm over it like locusts!
- 5 The LORD is exalted,  
indeed, he lives in heaven;  
he fills Zion with justice and fairness.
- 6 He is your constant source of stability;  
he abundantly provides safety and great wisdom;  
he gives all this to those who fear him.
- 7 Look, ambassadors cry out in the streets;  
messengers sent to make peace weep bitterly.
- 8 Highways are empty,  
there are no travelers.  
Treaties are broken,  
witnesses are despised,  
human life is treated with disrespect.
- 9 The land dries up and withers away;  
the forest of Lebanon shrivels up and decays.  
Sharon is like the desert;  
Bashan and Carmel are parched.
- 10 "Now I will rise up," says the LORD.  
"Now I will exalt myself;  
now I will magnify myself.
- 11 You conceive straw,  
you give birth to chaff;  
your breath is a fire that destroys you.
- 12 The nations will be burned to ashes;  
like thorn bushes that have been cut down, they will be set on fire.
- 13 You who are far away, listen to what I have done!

- You who are close by, recognize my strength!”
- 14 Sinners are afraid in Zion;  
panic grips the godless.  
They say, ‘Who among us can coexist with destructive fire?  
Who among us can coexist with unquenchable fire?’
- 15 The one who lives uprightly  
and speaks honestly;  
the one who refuses to profit from oppressive measures  
and rejects a bribe;  
the one who does not plot violent crimes  
and does not seek to harm others—
- 16 This is the person who will live in a secure place;  
he will find safety in the rocky, mountain strongholds;  
he will have food  
and a constant supply of water.

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

- 17 You will see a king in his splendor;  
you will see a wide land.
- 18 Your mind will recall the terror you experienced,  
and you will ask yourselves, “Where is the scribe?  
Where is the one who weighs the money?  
Where is the one who counts the towers?”
- 19 You will no longer see a defiant people  
whose language you do not comprehend,  
whose derisive speech you do not understand.
- 20 Look at Zion, the city where we hold religious festivals!  
You will see Jerusalem,  
a peaceful settlement,  
a tent that stays put;  
its stakes will never be pulled up;  
none of its ropes will snap in two.
- 21 Instead the LORD will rule there as our mighty king.  
Rivers and wide streams will flow through it;  
no war galley will enter;  
no large ships will sail through.
- 22 For the LORD, our ruler,  
the LORD, our commander,  
the LORD, our king—  
he will deliver us.
- 23 Though at this time your ropes are slack,  
the mast is not secured,  
and the sail is not unfurled,  
at that time you will divide up a great quantity of loot;  
even the lame will drag off plunder.
- 24 No resident of Zion will say, “I am ill”;  
the people who live there will have their sin forgiven.

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

### Isaiah 34

#### **Eschatological Judgment**

- 1 Come near, you nations, and listen!  
Pay attention, you people!  
The earth and everything it contains must listen,  
the world and everything that lives in it.
- 2 For the LORD is angry at all the nations  
and furious with all their armies.

- He will annihilate them and slaughter them.
- 3 Their slain will be left unburied,  
their corpses will stink;  
the hills will soak up their blood.
- 4 All the stars in the sky will fade away,  
the sky will roll up like a scroll;  
all its stars will wither,  
like a leaf withers and falls from a vine  
or a fig withers and falls from a tree. [[Matt 24:29](#); [Mark 13:25](#); [Luke 21:26](#)]

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

- 5 He says, "Indeed, my sword has slaughtered heavenly powers.  
Look, it now descends on Edom,  
on the people I will annihilate in judgment."
- 6 The LORD's sword is dripping with blood,  
it is covered with fat;  
it drips with the blood of young rams and goats  
and is covered with the fat of rams' kidneys.  
For the LORD is holding a sacrifice in Bozrah,  
a bloody slaughter in the land of Edom.
- 7 Wild oxen will be slaughtered along with them,  
as well as strong bulls.  
Their land is drenched with blood,  
their soil is covered with fat.
- 8 For the LORD has planned a day of revenge,  
a time when he will repay Edom for her hostility toward Zion.
- 9 Edom's streams will be turned into pitch  
and her soil into brimstone;  
her land will become burning pitch.
- 10 Night and day it will burn;  
its smoke will ascend continually.  
Generation after generation it will be a wasteland  
and no one will ever pass through it again.
- 11 Owls and wild animals will live there,  
all kinds of wild birds will settle in it.  
The LORD will stretch out over her the measuring line of ruin  
and the plumb line of destruction.
- 12 Her nobles will have nothing left to call a kingdom  
and all her officials will disappear.
- 13 Her fortresses will be overgrown with thorns;  
thickets and weeds will grow in her fortified cities.  
Jackals will settle there;  
ostriches will live there.
- 14 Wild animals and wild dogs will congregate there;  
wild goats will bleat to one another.  
Yes, nocturnal animals will rest there  
and make for themselves a nest.
- 15 Owls will make nests and lay eggs there;  
they will hatch them and protect them.  
Yes, hawks will gather there,  
each with its mate.
- 16 Carefully read the scroll of the LORD!  
Not one of these creatures will be missing,  
none will lack a mate.  
For the LORD has issued the decree,  
and his own spirit gathers them.
- 17 He assigns them their allotment;  
he measures out their assigned place.

They will live there permanently;  
they will settle in it through successive generations.

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

## Isaiah 35

- 1 Let the desert and dry region be happy;  
let the wilderness rejoice and bloom like a lily!
- 2 Let it richly bloom;  
let it rejoice and shout with delight!  
It is given the grandeur of Lebanon,  
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon.  
They will see the grandeur of the LORD,  
the splendor of our God.
- 3 Strengthen the hands that have gone limp,  
steady the knees that shake! [cf. [Heb 12:12](#)]
- 4 Tell those who panic,  
“Be strong! Do not fear!  
Look, your God comes to avenge!  
With divine retribution he comes to deliver you.”
- 5 Then blind eyes will open,  
deaf ears will hear.
- 6 Then the lame will leap like a deer,  
the mute tongue will shout for joy;  
for water will flow in the desert,  
streams in the wilderness.
- 7 The dry soil will become a pool of water,  
the parched ground springs of water.  
Where jackals once lived and sprawled out,  
grass, reeds, and papyrus will grow.
- 8 A thoroughfare will be there—  
it will be called the Way of Holiness.  
The unclean will not travel on it;  
it is reserved for those authorized to use it—  
fools will not stray into it.
- 9 No lions will be there,  
no ferocious wild animals will be on it—  
they will not be found there.  
Those delivered from bondage will travel on it,  
those whom the LORD has ransomed will return that way.
- 10 They will enter Zion with a happy shout.  
Unending joy will crown them,  
happiness and joy will overwhelm them;  
grief and suffering will disappear.

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