

ISAIAH



THE WOES OF THE WORLD - PART 3

ISAIAH 30

The Rebellious Kids!

- Woe to the obstinate children, God's kids, Israel for sure, ***but to all His obstinate ones***. Hard heads lead down hard roads for us as His kids of grace if we fail to heed His ways.

"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly." **Ps. 1:1**

- It is very sad that Christians today are seeking counsel from worldly counselors before they even ask God to touch and heal them.
- Let me be very clear—psychiatrists/ psychologists are not evil as unfortunately some pastors purport. There are many who are believers and view their practice as ministry and it is, so if you need that specific **kind of help**, seek out Christian counselors.

THE WORLD IS NOT YOUR FRIEND v. 2-7

Unlike their leaders of old—Moses, Joshua, David, Jehoshaphat—the rulers of Jerusalem did not seek the will of God. They went straight to the world/Egypt:

- Egypt/the world was a shadow of power, and what could a shadow do against the great Assyrian army? Nothing, because they are nothing.
- As we are told in **Prov. 3:5-6**, instead we must trust in the Lord. Don't lean on Egypt or anyone else for that matter.
- Oh how we need the message today to simply and completely trust the Lord! Do what you can do as you are led by the Spirit, of course.
- But don't ever attempt to take God out of the picture with raw logic, worldly counsel, and human effort.

HEY, DON'T MOVE MY CHEESE

Only tell me good things about me. Don't tell me the truth, I don't want to hear the truth. I want you to agree with me—validate my feelings.

- Don't even mention sin or biblical morality. I want to be made to feel good; I want to be agreed with.
- Church, our nation is a mess and being led down a path that leads to destruction, and the pastors' pulpits better start speaking the truth to the Church, specifically the truths of God's word, or we will be facing much the same fate as Israel did in trusting in the strength of the Egyptians.
- It may sound good, it may even be legal, we might have a SCOTUS ruling, or constitutional amendment for it—but if it disagrees with God's Word, it is anything but good. We need our cheese moved if it starts to stink!

THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES IN LIFE v.12-21

Ultimately, this passage takes you to the future and the book of Revelation where it talks about the reign of Jesus Christ, who as with an iron, will pop the clay vessels and shatter them to pieces. **Rev 2:27, 19:15**

- Decisions have consequences, and Isaiah told the people what would happen to Judah and Jerusalem because they were trusting in lies.
- Their wall of protection would suddenly collapse, shattered to pieces like a clay vessel. **Isa. 30:12-14.**
- Their only hope was to repent, return to the Lord, and, by faith, rest only in Him. (**Isa. 30:15; 8:6-7; 26:3; 28:12**) But they would not listen and obey.
- The only hope for all of mankind when Jesus comes is that they be found in Him—not trusting in the allegiances and alliances of this world—the logic and reason of the political geniuses in Washington, D.C.

THE COMING RESTORATION AND RETRIBUTION

v.22-33

- Isaiah turns from the subject of His kids' *rebellion* to the subject of *restoration* for a few verses. (30:18-26) “Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you,” he told the people; “He rises to show you compassion.” v. 18 NIV
- Isaiah described that future day when Israel would be fully restored to the land—that has still not fully occurred to enjoy God’s blessings.
- They would be like liberated prisoners of war (v. 19). Instead of scoffing, they would listen to God’s Word and put away their foolish idols.
- The land would be restored and become prosperous again, and God would bind up the bruises and heal the wounds of His people. v. 26; see 1:5-6
- However, the “great slaughter” of verse 25 is referring to the battle of Armageddon, which will occur just before the return of the Lord to deliver His people and establish His kingdom. Rev. 19:11-21; 16:8-9; 14:10

GOD ALWAYS HAS THE LAST SAY!

Practically, we're coming back to the local situation at the time of Isaiah—***God's going to wipe out the Assyrian army.***

- Isaiah used several images to describe God's judgment of Assyria: a storm of fire and hail, a flood, the sifting of grain (**Amos 9:9**) and the harnessing of a horse so that the enemy is led off like a farm animal.
- Just as **Sheol**—the **Abusso**, the abode of the dead—was prepared for the king of Babylon, Satan (**Isa. 14:9**), so **Topheth**—hell—was prepared for the king of Assyria. ***Both Kings are types of Satan—and destined for hell!***
- Jesus said that **Tophet**, hell, was prepared by God initially only for the devil and his angels. (**Matt 25:41**) ***Rejecting Christ is the only way to get there!***
- Hades is **Sheol**, the abode of the Dead. **Luke 16:19-26**

Hades/**Sheol** and Hell/**Tophet** are not the same place!

THE BIBLICAL REALITY OF HELL FOR THE REBELLIOUS

Many cults like Mormons and JW's say, "Well, hell is not a place of eternal punishment" because it is called in some places *Hades*. Actually, the Mormons believe you can be prayed out of Hades by faithful Mormons.

- They will say, "Oh, but the Bible says..." and they show you a scripture where hell is not a place of eternal punishment like in **Luke 16**, but they are misinterpreting *Hades* or *Sheol* rather than *Gehenna* or *Tophet*.
- They are correct: biblically, *Sheol/Hades* is not a place of eternal punishment. But *Gehenna/Tophet*—the "final Hell"—absolutely is!
- From *Hades*, the abode of the unjudged dead—where all who have died without Christ currently reside—death and hell are going to give up their dead which are in them at the Great White Throne Judgment of **Rev 20**.
- Jesus in **Mark 9:42-50** made it clear—you don't want to go to Hell! All you need to do to avoid it is receive Him as Savior and Lord—and you won't.