

Isaiah

The Lord Is Salvation

**The
Book Of
Woes
Part Four**

Isaiah 31

Lesson Thirty-Three

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum

Isaiah

The Lord Is Salvation

The Book Of Woes, Part Four

Things were looking pretty bad for Judah. Assyria was taking over the world. They had already conquered and destroyed Israel, the northern kingdom. Remember that scary picture back in Isaiah ten? The army was coming down south and God was giving a city by city report of their advance. Jerusalem could hear and see them coming.

That is what was going on here. The enemy was coming and Judah was desperate. So, they sent a negotiating team down to Egypt to get a treaty which would guarantee some protection from Egypt if Judah was attacked. Read Isaiah 31: 1-3.

The people of Israel were fascinated by the armies of Egypt. They saw lots of horses. These military horses were big and powerful. They had chariots pulled by the horses and driven by trained soldiers. Judah probably had no chariots. For one thing, they were poor, and for another they lived in hilly country and horses and chariots were not the way to do battle there. As a matter of fact there is only one mention, after Solomon, of Israel having chariots and that was during the reign of Joram, son of Ahab. (II Kings 8:21) So the leaders of Judah, looking at the strong armies of Egypt, thought that they could be great help.

What they didn't do was to look to the only One who could save them from the Assyrians. They didn't look to the Holy One of Israel. Even though the Egyptians were previously their enemies and had enslaved the Hebrews, they chose to ask for their help instead of asking God for His help. God had said, in chapter 30, verses one and two that they carried out plans that were not His, formed treaties without His leadership and went to Egypt without consulting Him.

Because of that, and because God has wisdom that Judah doesn't, God will be loyal to His words of judgment. Because they are evil and wicked, God will punish them and will also punish those who help them. In this case it is Egypt.

God said that the Egyptians were only human and their horses were not supernatural. When they are defeated, those who should be protected by them would also be defeated. The Judeans were being given a choice. They could depend on Egypt to help them or they could depend on God. Now, that seems to be a no-brainer. Egypt or God...who would choose Egypt in that contest? Well, Judah would. They went with what they could see...those horses, chariots, those strong armies.

How often do we do the same thing that the Judeans did? How often do we try to do things our way...do things in our own strength...do things with the help of other humans? We have the same choice that Judah did. We can depend on our own strength and wisdom, or depend on God who is far stronger and much wiser.

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Then, God draws another picture. He pictures a young lion, king of the beasts, that has killed a lamb. He gnaws on the animal...eating his dinner. A bunch of shepherds came by and tried to chase the lion away from the lamb. The lion just ignored their shouts and the waving of their staffs. He's not threatened by them at all. So it is with God. He will not be chased away from His purpose. Read Isaiah 312:4-9.

The picture is a little hard to explain. We can find different persons or nations to be the lion and the shepherds. However, let's look at it as God, the lion, protecting what is His, Jerusalem. The Assyrians, or even the Egyptians, could be the shepherds threatening Jerusalem. But, nothing and no one can threaten God; God will protect His people. He will be in place on Mount Zion (Jerusalem) and fight off the enemy there. Also, like a great bird, He will hover over Jerusalem and swoop down on anyone threatening that city.

Isaiah calls Judah to repentance. He challenges them to turn to God, which will result in God preserving, or saving, them from the Assyrians. Egypt can't save them, but God can. One of the results of this turning back to God will be the destruction of the false gods. God calls them idols of silver and gold. He says that they are just creations of humans, made with their own hands, which has led them to sin. Then, God will attack the Assyrians.

Again, we see a prophesy of the defeat of the Assyrians in 701 BC. You will remember that the Assyrian army camped outside Jerusalem, sealing it off and keeping the people in the city from having food and other necessities. Their goal was to starve them out, but one morning those who were alive found that in the night 185,000 soldiers died. The Judean nor Egyptian armies could claim credit for the defeat of Sennacherib and his army.

The picture here is of an army that is scared to death. Those who were alive would run away. They would be scattered, confused and in panic.

We should be encouraged by the fact that God wants to be our protector and we should look into our lives and see what idols we are putting before the true God.

*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

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Scripture Memory: "Return to Him you have so greatly revolted against, O Israelites.
Isaiah 31:6

Lesson Goal: To remind students that God is our protector and that we should choose him instead of all the people and things of this world.

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Student Worksheet

The Book of Woes Part Four—Isaiah 31

As the teacher goes through the lesson, listen for answers to these:

1. What did Judah do when they became frightened of the advancing Assyrian army?
2. Why were the people of Judah fascinated by the army of Egypt?
3. To whom should the people of Judah looked, instead of Egypt?
4. What reason does God give that the Egyptians can be defeated?
5. Nothing and no one can _____ God; God will _____ His people.
6. We should be encouraged by the fact that God wants to be our _____ and we should look into our lives and see what _____ we are putting before the _____ God.

Scripture Memory: “Return go Him you have so greatly revolted against, O Israelites.
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How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.