

# The Failure and Folly of Following Man

Text: Isaiah 30:1-10

Date: 11-14-21 @ 10:30 AM

## Judah was foolish to trust Egypt and to not listen to God.

It is always a foolish mistake for God's people to trust in the ungodly world instead of trusting in the Lord for help.

### I. The woe on the rebellious children for following Egypt and not God (Isa. 30:1-5).

Judah was an obstinate, stubborn people who chose above all else to take counsel with Egypt.

Judah devised plans and coalitions of their own accord but not according to the Lord or His prophets.

Rebellion does not begin one day. Rebellion begins with small sins and quickly multiplies.

**God had told them to not make covenants with Egypt or their gods for it would be a snare to them in the land (Ex. 23:32). This would cause them to serve their gods and sin against Jehovah (v. 33). They did not consult the mouth of God (Num. 27:21). When the people failed to consult God, their situations often ended in disaster (Josh. 9:14).**

To look to the foreign power of Egypt, an enemy of God's people, a nation of false gods and immoral practices, was to then seek counsel from men and not the Divine.

Egypt refused, either because they didn't think the people of Judah were worth their time, or because they didn't dare to engage with the Assyrian army who was threatening to overthrow Judah.

### Visions of protection would soon turn into emptiness and waste.

What Judah found then is what we find when we live like this: placing trust in Egypt, in man, in the arm of the flesh will sooner or later bring shame and humiliation. Conversely, trusting in the Lord never does, now or in the future to come. Prov. 3:5-6; Ps. 37:3, 5. Trusting God always brings stability, strength, guidance, wisdom, and spiritual prosperity.

**The truth remains that no man, no army, nor power, can take the place of the true refuge and deliverance that God can only offer. Psalm 118:8 says, "It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man." When we place our dependence on frail man, we will always come to a place of utter fruitlessness.**

If we trust in others for spiritual security and contentment, we will find that over and over stuff and people will fold and falter.

### II. The oracle illustrates the utter foolishness of the people to follow man (Isa. 30:6-8).

The people will risk this arduous journey to only come to a place of emptiness and obstruction. What a picture of a wasted and useless journey. Fools are willing to risk life and money to gain favor with man and protection of others.

**"Like the Sphinx, Egypt looked strong but was helpless to act. She was a nation that could not live up to her past glory and power; she boasted in that past glory but did nothing" (Hailey 252).**

### **III. Jehovah charges the people with three accusations (Isa. 30:9).**

How had the people lied? They were living lives of hypocrisy (29:16), they had knowingly trusted in man-made refuges, and they worshipped hypocritically (29:13). Worse, they did not hear God's law. This doesn't just mean they didn't physically hear it because they most certainly did! In this word, there is an element of obedience (Ex. 24:7 – many times the same Hebrew word for obedience is used). Instead of following and obeying their Heavenly Father, they chose their own path (Isa. 42:24). They were disobedient sons who could have eaten of the good of the land (1:19), but were denied it because of their rebellion.

### **IV. Isaiah reveals the true feelings of the people (Isa. 30:10).**

Instead of listening to the prophets of God, Judah wanted to tell the prophets what to do and in turn command God what to do.

They were asking the prophets to change their message. Don't declare what the LORD tells you to declare; speak pleasant things and prophesy illusions. Don't speak the truth. But Isaiah refused to speak to them what they wanted to hear, and this made them angrier.

### **Conclusion**

**God will not be held in contempt or mocked for long. He will act in justice. If the prophets didn't prophesy the truth, what hope would be left? Certainly the nation's fate would be sealed as Jehovah would be forgotten. "When the truth is no longer proclaimed, the God of truth disappears from the hearts of men. This is what the people desired" (Young 247).**