

Our True Defender

Text: Isaiah 31

Date: 2-6-22 @ 10:30 AM

Jehovah should be sought because He is the perfectly trustworthy, all-wise, completely capable, and powerful God.

I. Will the Egyptians save you (Isa. 31:1)?

While they had military might and strength in numbers, Isaiah continued to pound the message that Egypt would be of no help to God's people.

- **The Egyptians would not satisfy God's people.**
- **The Egyptians would not protect God's people.**
- **The Egyptians numerical advantage and use of horses would give the Jews a false sense of security.**

Isaiah chided the people for choosing the path that was the easiest, yet clearly the hopeless one.

Application: Why is trusting man so foolish?

- When we trust in man, we fail to rely and believe that God can help us in our distress.
- When we trust in man, we fail to give God the credit that He alone can defeat our enemies.
- When we trust in man, we live for the temporal instead of the eternal.
- When we trust in man, we live with fear and not faith.

II. Who is the wisest choice (Isa. 31:2)?

God has infinite wisdom for He hath founded the earth with His wisdom (Prov. 3:19). God's wisdom is before Creation (Prov. 8:22ff). God's wisdom assisted in creation as a master artisan (8:30). God's wisdom has made all things (Ps. 104:24). When a person thinks that their wisdom matches up to God's wisdom, they quickly learn that they are finite and weak compared to the wisdom of the Creator.

God will carry out His wisdom, His word, and His will not only because He knows best, but He will do what is best for His people.

III. Who gives help (Isa. 31:3)?

Egypt cannot help God's people because they are just people who will perish. When the Lord stretches out His hand, they will fall. Nothing can withstand the mighty arm of our God.

Who gives help? Not Egypt! Trusting God was the only answer.

IV. Who will fight (Isa. 31:4-5)?

1. God will punish His people:

Despite any help the Egyptians could offer God's people, God will use their enemies to judge them.

2. **God will protect His people:** While Zion will fall prey to God's judgment, God will show mercy. He attacks His people and yet He will rescue them. Jehovah will flood His people with His mercy and tender care as He protects His own remnant.

V. What should the people's response be (Isa. 31:6-7)?

The people had been rebellious and had apostatized against God, yet He longed for them to return to Him and repent of their wickedness.

God knew that the nation wouldn't repent, yet He also knew that some people would listen and decide to obey and trust God. Remember Isaiah's son's name, Sherar-jashub, which meant *a remnant will return*? Through this remnant salvation would come to the people. How would this happen though? By a repentant people! By obedience and faith.

In order for true repentance to be demonstrated, the people must totally reject all forms of false worship and rid themselves of all idolatry.

Trusting Jehovah alone and not weak, unreliable Egypt would be the catalyst to true repentance.

VI. What happens to God's enemies? (Isa. 31:8-9).

Isaiah now prophesies that the Assyrians would fall and most likely he has in view the whole empire. This destruction of this world power would not come from the hand of a man. This would be of God. While it was the Babylonians and Medes that did the work, it was Jehovah who determined her end (Nah. 3:5-6). It was Jehovah who guided Nebuchadnezzar against Egypt (Ezek. 30:24-25). Those who Assyria had defeated would flee and its young military men would do house work instead of fighting (Nah. 3:17-18).

Conclusion

How much time, energy, and money were wasted in the futile attempts Judah made to trust Egypt? All of the political treaties were worthless. They chose to trust Egypt's words but not the Word of the Lord.

Today our church faces enemies, struggles, and challenges. We are often tempted to follow our flesh for help. "But our first response must be to examine our hearts to see if there is something we need to confess and make right. Then we must turn to the Lord in faith and obedience and surrender to His will alone. We must trust Him to protect us and fight for us".¹ God desires that we live by faith instead of our own devices and blueprints.

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *Be Comforted* (p. 80). Victor Books.