

## ISAIAH 30

### *Your Master Teacher Will Appear*

#### *The Disgrace of Judahites Who Seek Protection in Egypt*

1 Ah, stubborn children, declares Yahweh, who carry out a plan, but not mine, and who make an alliance, but not of my Spirit, that they may add sin to sin, 2 who set out to go down to Egypt, without asking for my direction, to take refuge in the protection of Pharaoh and to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt! 3 Therefore shall the protection of Pharaoh turn to your shame, and the shelter in the shadow of Egypt to your humiliation. 4 For though his officials are at Zoan and his envoys reach Hanes, 5 everyone comes to shame through a people that cannot profit them, that brings neither help nor profit, but shame and disgrace.

#### *The Beasts of the Negeb*

6 An oracle on the beasts of the Negeb.

Through a land of trouble and anguish, from where come the lioness and the lion, the adder and the flying fiery serpent, they carry their riches on the backs of donkeys, and their treasures on the humps of camels, to a people that cannot profit them. 7 Egypt's help is worthless and empty. Therefore I have called her

Rahab who sits still.

#### *Judah's Breaking Will Be Sudden and Ruthless*

8 And now, go, write it before them on a tablet and inscribe it in a book, that it may be for the time to come as a witness forever. 9 For they are a rebellious people, lying children, children unwilling to hear the instruction of Yahweh, 10 who say to the seers,

Do not see,

and to the prophets,

Do not prophesy to us what is right. Speak to us smooth things. Prophecy illusions. 11 Leave the way. Turn aside from the path. Let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel.

12 Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel,

Because you despise this word, trust in oppression and perverseness, and rely on them, 13 therefore this iniquity shall be to you like a breach in a high wall, bulging out and about to collapse, whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant. 14 And its breaking is like that of a potter's vessel that is smashed so ruthlessly that among its

fragments not a shard is found with which to take fire from the hearth or to dip up water out of the cistern.

15 For thus says Lord Yahweh, the Holy One of Israel,

In returning and rest you shall be saved. In quietness and in trust shall be your strength.

But you were unwilling. 16 And you said,

No! We will flee upon horses.

Therefore you shall flee away. And,

We will ride upon swift steeds.

Therefore your pursuers shall be swift. 17 A thousand shall flee at the threat of one. At the threat of five you shall flee, till you are left like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain, like a signal on a hill.

*Your Master Teacher Will Appear*

18 Therefore Yahweh waits<sup>1</sup> to be gracious (חַנּוּן) to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy (רַחֵם) to you. For Yahweh is a God of justice. Blessed (אַשְׁרֵי) are all those who wait for him.

19 For a people shall dwell in Zion, in Jerusalem. You shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry. As soon as he hears it, he answers you. 20 And though Yahweh give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Master Teacher (מוֹדֵר)<sup>2</sup> will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Master Teacher. 21 And your ears shall hear a word behind you saying,

This is the way, walk in it,

when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left. 22 Then you will defile your carved idols overlaid with silver and your gold-plated metal images. You will scatter them as unclean things. You will say to them,

Be gone!

23 And he will give rain for the seed with which you sow the ground, and bread, the produce of the ground, which will be rich and plenteous. In that day your livestock will graze in large pastures, 24 and the oxen and the donkeys that work the ground will eat seasoned fodder that

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<sup>1</sup> Yahweh waits for us to wait for him.

<sup>2</sup> “[M]aster teacher (of God)” (*HALOT*, 560-61).

has been winnowed with shovel and fork. 25 And on every lofty mountain and every high hill there will be brooks running with water, in the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall. 26 Moreover, the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day when Yahweh binds up the brokenness of his people and heals the wounds inflicted by his blow.

*Yahweh Will Sift the Nations*

27 Behold, the name of Yahweh comes from afar, burning with his anger and in thick rising smoke. His lips are full of fury, and his tongue is like a devouring fire. 28 His breath is like an overflowing stream that reaches up to the neck, to sift the nations with the sieve of destruction and to place on the jaws of the peoples a bridle that leads astray.

29 You shall have a song as in the night when a holy feast is kept, and gladness of heart, as when one sets out to the sound of the flute to go to the mountain of Yahweh, to the Rock of Israel. 30 And Yahweh will cause his majestic voice to be heard and the descending blow of his arm to be seen, in furious anger and a flame of devouring fire, with a cloudburst, storm, and hailstones. 31 The Assyrians will be terror-stricken at the voice of Yahweh when he strikes with his rod. 32 And every stroke of the appointed staff that Yahweh lays on them will be to the sound of tambourines and lyres. Battling with brandished arm, he will fight with them. 33 For a burning place has long been prepared. Indeed, for the king it is made ready, its pyre made deep and wide, with fire and wood in abundance. The breath of Yahweh, like a stream of sulfur, kindles it.

*Notes*