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**BIBLE STUDY**

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

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**ADDING SIN TO SIN**

**(Making A Bad Situation Worse)**

**Isaiah 30:1-17**

***Isaiah 30:1 "Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin:"***

The rebellious children, in verse 1, are those belonging to God. In the natural sense, this is speaking of the descendants of Jacob {Israel}. In the spiritual sense, this is speaking of the Church. God does not want them seeking counsel from other people. God wants them to seek His counsel. They are looking for another country {Egypt} to protect them or be their covering. This is a sin and is just adding this sin to those they have already committed. They should seek forgiveness from God and take counsel of Him. Their rebellion had separated them from their God.

***Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.***

Instead of repenting of their sin and returning to God, in rebellion they made their situation worse by seeking counsel and protection from another source. God is a jealous God and is offended when we don’t come to Him.

***Exodus 20:5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;***

***Isaiah 30:2 "That walk to go down into Egypt and have not asked at my mouth; to strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, and to trust in the shadow of Egypt!"***

The worst thing of all is where they are going for help. Egypt is a symbol of the world and worldliness. This would be the blind leading the blind. The only help believers have is in the LORD. We cannot, and should not, look to the world for answers. They will lead us astray with them. Pharaoh is just a man. God had shown the inability of the Pharaoh against God in the 10 plagues he brought on Egypt. This Pharaoh is not a specific person but symbolizes whoever is ruling in Egypt. The Egyptians cannot even take care of themselves, or Egypt how could they help God's people? God will be angry at them for looking for help other than from Him.

***Isaiah 30:3 "Therefore shall the strength of Pharaoh be your shame, and the trust in the shadow of Egypt [your] confusion."***

God had His children's needs first in His mind. The leader of Egypt [probably Tirhakah} had Egypt's interest at heart. They were looking at Pharaoh as if he were god. He is not. Throwing in with Egypt, is like bringing the world into the church. Neither will survive for very long. They are based on worldliness.

***Isaiah 30:4 "For his princes were at Zoan, and his ambassadors came to Hanes."***

***Isaiah 30:5 "They were all ashamed of a people [that] could not profit them, nor be an help nor profit, but a shame, and also a reproach."***

Zoan was at one time a prominent city of Egypt. It, like many other cities of that day, did not survive. The ambassadors are those representing the leader of Egypt. It seems there was a meeting place to discuss all of this. These descendants of Jacob should be ashamed. Egypt thought of Jacob's descendants as being of no help to them. They were a reproach to heathen countries, because of their God.

***Isaiah 30:6 "The burden of the beasts of the south: into the land of trouble and anguish, from whence [come] the young and old lion, the viper and fiery flying serpent, they will carry their riches upon the shoulders of young asses, and their treasures upon the bunches of camels, to a people [that] shall not profit [them]."***

It appears from this that, they were carrying their treasures to give to Egypt in exchange for Egypt protecting them. The place they were to meet and make the deal was thought to be full of evil, such as the lion, flying serpent, and the viper.

***Isaiah 30:7 "For the Egyptians shall help in vain, and to no purpose: therefore have I cried concerning this, Their strength [is] to sit still."***

After all of their plans, Egypt is no help to them at all. It appears from this that, Egypt sits by idly and allows them to be overrun. Even if they did help some, it was to no avail.

***Isaiah 30:8 "Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever:"***

***Isaiah 30:9 "That this [is] a rebellious people, lying children, children [that] will not hear the law of the LORD:"***

This is not to be forgotten. They are to write it down and remember their folly of getting help from Egypt. These children of God have rebelled against God, when they sought help from Egypt. They claim to be children of God, but they do not obey Him. They are not even interested in the law of the LORD given to them to live by. All of their troubles would be over, if they would repent and turn to God. God is their very present help. They should not look to the world for answers.

***Isaiah 30:10 "Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits:"***

These Israelites did not want to hear the truth from the prophets. They wanted to hear things that pleased them, not the truth. That is so much like what people in the church say today. They want to hear that God loves them, but they do not want to hear anything they have to do. They do not want their sins pointed out, so that they can repent and be saved. They wanted even the prophets to prophesy only things they wanted to hear.

***Isaiah 30:11 "Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us."***

Holy One of Israel was a name of God that Isaiah frequently used. Perhaps he used it so much to compare God's holiness with the people's unholiness. They felt so guilty when Isaiah kept reminding them of their failures. They went so far as to say, they did not want God before them anymore.

***Isaiah 30:12 "Wherefore thus saith the Holy One of Israel, Because ye despise this word, and trust in oppression and perverseness, and stay thereon:"***

***Isaiah 30:13 "Therefore this iniquity shall be to you as a breach ready to fall, swelling out in a high wall, whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instant."***

It is obvious they are not interested in the Word of God. They do not want to be led by the Spirit of God, and they do not have respect for His law. Since they have put their trust in the things of this world, such as brute strength and evil, God will not help them. He gave them a free will, and they have chosen oppression and perverseness over Godly things. They can stay in their evil. They have pulled away from God. There is a break {breach} in their relationship with God. Their sin has separated them from God. Their punishment for their sin will come suddenly upon them. They have built a wall separating themselves from God. The wall will crumble and fall. Their handiwork will fail.

***Isaiah 30:14 "And he shall break it as the breaking of the potters' vessel that is broken in pieces; he shall not spare: so that there shall not be found in the bursting of it a sherd to take fire from the hearth, or to take water [withal] out of the pit."***

Judah's fall is compared, here, to the shattering of a fallen pitcher. There will not be anything left of it. There will not even be enough left to get water with, or to pick a piece of fire up with. It is totally shattered.

***Isaiah 30:15 "For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not."***

If the Israelites had just come home and quietly waited upon the Lord in rest and peace, He would have fought for them. They would have been safe. They would not listen to God, and they did not trust His promises. Abraham's faith saved him, not something he did. Placing their complete trust in God would have saved the Israelites.

***Psalms 29:11 "The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace."***

***II Corinthians 12:9 "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."***

***Isaiah 30:16 "But ye said, No; for we will flee upon horses; therefore shall ye flee: and, We will ride upon the swift; therefore shall they that pursue you be swift."***

They are not interested in the help of God. They are depending upon their own strength and the strength of the Egyptians in battle. They are feeling as if these swift horses are all they need. God says, since you depend on that, we will see that your enemies horses are swift, as well.

***Isaiah 30:17 "One thousand [shall flee] at the rebuke of one; at the rebuke of five shall ye flee: till ye be left as a beacon upon the top of a mountain, and as an ensign on an hill."***

We see they will be so frightened that just a handful {5} of the enemy will cause them to run and hide. They will be stripped of all their equipment and will stand helpless in front of the enemy. They will be like a flag that symbolizes their defeat.

**QUESTIONS**

1. What caused the woe in verse 1?
2. Who are the children in verse 1?
3. Who should they take counsel of?
4. What is the worst thing of all that they are doing?
5. How had God shown the Pharaoh's weakness against Him?
6. The strength of Pharaoh shall be your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
7. Who was probably the leader in Egypt at this time spoken of?
8. What was the prominent city of Egypt mentioned in verse 4?
9. They were carrying their treasures to Egypt in exchange for what?
10. What help does Egypt give them really?
11. What are they to do to help them remember their folly?
12. What type of people are the children called in verse 9?
13. What kind of prophecy did they want to hear?
14. What terrible thing did they say in verse 11?
15. What was the name Isaiah frequently used for God?
16. What had they put their trust in other than God?
17. Verse 13 says, their iniquity is like a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ready to fall.
18. God will break Judah like what?
19. Verse 15 says, in what they will be saved?
20. Just a handful of \_\_\_\_\_\_ can cause an army of fearful to flee.