

May 13th, 2018
“Plans Not of the Spirit”
Isaiah 30 (ESV)

Focal Passage: Verses 1-11, 20-21

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

May 6 1 Chron. 15-17	May 10 1 Chron. 28-1
May 7 1 Chron. 18-21	May 11 2 Chron. 2-5
May 8 1 Chron. 22-24	May 12 2 Chron. 6-8
May 9 1 Chron. 25-27	May 13 2 Chron. 9-12

Cross References: *Proverbs 16:9, Romans 8:28, Ephesians 1:11, Matthew 6:25-34, 1 Peter 5:7, 2 Timothy 4:3-4, John 14:26, Luke 12:12, 1 John 2:27, 2 Peter 1:20-21, Psalm 119:18, 2 Corinthians 2:14-16*

Lesson Introduction: *Our passage this week speaks to the issue of making plans apart from seeking the Lord. Isaiah rebukes the people of God for turning to the wicked nation of Egypt for help against their enemies, and speaks of the consequences that will come about as a result of trusting in man rather than the Lord (V. 13-17). In looking at Verses 1-11, and 20-21, we will consider the sin of misplaced trust (V. 1-5), the futility of misplaced trust (V. 6-7), what leads to misplaced trust (V. 8-11), and God’s gracious guidance (V. 20-21)*

Key Memory Verse: Isaiah 30:20-21

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS OF THE PASSAGE:

- It is sinful to seek man-made remedies for our problems without seeking the Lord as our guide (V. 1-5).
- It is futile to make plans apart from seeking the Lord (V. 6-7).
- A lack of regard for God’s Word leads to rebellion against God’s plans (V. 8-11).
- The Lord gives clear direction by His Spirit, through His Word (V. 20-21).

Isaiah 30 English Standard Version (ESV)

30 “Ah, stubborn children,” declares the Lord, “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.”

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.”

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 the Lord;

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, prophesy illusions,

11 leave the way, turn aside from the path,

let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel.”

20 And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your 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.

Discussion Section 1: *The Sin of Misplaced Trust*

-What does the end of **V. 1** tell us about how God views His people making plans without consulting Him?

-What are some common ways that we make plans without consulting the Lord first?

Note: *This passage makes clear: It is sinful to go about our lives making plans for our security and wellbeing without consulting and seeking the Lord.* The Scriptures tell us that God directs our path (**Proverbs 16:9, Romans 8:28, Ephesians 1:11**), and that we need not worry or fret, because He cares for us (**Matthew 6:25-34, 1 Peter 5:7**). Yet, our natural tendency is to go about our days, not really seeking His wisdom for our every need, but rather seeking the wisdom of man, and believing that we can figure out our problems on our own.

Consider how often you actually seek the Lord's council when it comes to decision making. Before we buy cars, or take a new job, or decide to get on a certain medication, or seek the wisdom of our friends, or turn to social media etc., it is vital that we seek the wisdom of the Lord, and ask for His guidance. When we fail to do this, we sin against Him.

Discussion Section 2: *The Futility of Misplaced Trust (V. 6-7)*

-What do **verses 6-7** tell us about what will happen when we place our trust in things other than the Lord?

Note: *In this section, we see that the Israelites would seek to purchase the help of Egypt against their adversaries by taking many riches to them on the backs of donkeys and camels. The trip would be treacherous, and ultimately result in Egypt being unable to protect them. From MacArthur's Commentary on Isaiah: "Egypt was unwilling to help, so the prophet called the powerful nation, "Rahab," meaning "strength," or "sitting idle." This same name is used for Egypt in Psalm 87:4, and 89:10." We see here that God is making it clear to His people, no earthly power can be trusted for your security.*

-What of this world have you sought after that has failed you? What things have you looked to for security that were unable to provide it?

Discussion Section 3: *The Heart of Misplaced Trust (V. 8-11)*

-What do these verses tell us about how the people valued the Word of God?

-What is it about God's Word that they did not like? What did they want to hear?

Note: *In verses 8-11, we see a total disregard for God's Word from the Israelites. They do not want to hear the truth, because often times the way of the Lord is a difficult path that requires faith. Instead, they wanted the prophets to say, "smooth things." Essentially, they wanted their ears tickled (2 Timothy 4:3-4). This sort of blatant disregard for the instructions of God are at the heart of our misplaced trust. We do not want to accept the things of Scripture because that requires us to humble ourselves and see God as "the Holy One." We do not like feeling utterly dependent on Him, so we place our trust in man-made prophesy, and attempt to secure ourselves out of rebellion against the One True God.*

Discussion Section 4: *God's Gracious Guidance (V. 20-21)*

-What does **V. 20** tell us about God's grace in the midst of His correction?

-Who is the, "**Teacher**" referenced in **V. 20**? (**John 14:26, Luke 12:12, 1 John 2:27**)

-How does the Lord direct us by His Spirit? How does He speak to us? How do we learn to trust Him? (**2 Peter 1:20-21**)

Note: *When it comes to receiving direction from the Lord, it is important to understand the way He most clearly speaks to us. We receive direction from the Holy Spirit, who is our Teacher and Helper. The primary way the Lord speaks to us is by the Spirit, through His Word. The Scriptures and the Holy Spirit are very closely related (John 6:63, 2 Peter 1:20-21). Often times the reason we have misplaced trust, and struggle to hope in the plans of God is due to the fact that we feel we do not hear from Him. However, the Lord has given us the revelation of His will and His nature through His Word, and if we are in Christ, we have a Teacher who illuminates the Scriptures to us (Psalm 119:18, 2 Corinthians 2:14-16), and causes us to understand and trust the instruction of the Lord.*