**Four Questions as We Read Isaiah**

1. Do we see *Jesus* ***revealed*** in these verses?
2. Does a *thread* ***connect*** any of these verses to New Testament verses?
3. Do these *words* ***speak*** to us (personally, nationally, as the church)??
4. Are there verses that might have *given* ***revelation*** to Jesus about Himself?

**Chapter 30**

**The Futility of Reliance on Egypt**

**1**“Woe to the rebellious children,” says the Lord,  
    “who carry out a plan, but not mine;  
and who make a league, 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 counsel,  
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 Zo′an  
    and his envoys reach Ha′nes,  
**5**every one 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 viper and the flying serpent,  
they carry their riches on the backs of asses,  
    and their treasures on the humps of camels,  
    to a people that cannot profit them.  
**7**For 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 for ever.  
**9**For they are a rebellious people,  
    lying sons,  
sons who will not hear  
    the instruction of the Lord;  
**10**who say to the seers, “See not”;  
    and to the prophets, “Prophesy not 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 of the Holy One of Israel.”  
**12**Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel,  
“Because you despise this word,  
    and trust in oppression and perverseness,  
    and rely on them;  
**13**therefore this iniquity shall be to you  
    like a break in a high wall, bulging out, and about to collapse,  
    whose crash comes suddenly, in an instant;  
**14**and its breaking is like that of a potter’s vessel  
    which is smashed so ruthlessly  
that among its fragments not a sherd is found  
    with which to take fire from the hearth,  
    or to dip up water out of the cistern.”

**15**For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel,  
    “In returning and rest you shall be saved;  
    in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.”  
And you would not, **16**but you said,  
“No! We will speed upon horses,”  
    therefore you shall speed 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.

**18**Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you;  
    therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you.  
For the Lord is a God of justice;  
    blessed are all those who wait for him.

**19**Yea, O people in Zion who dwell at Jerusalem; you shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when he hears it, he will answer you. **20**And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself any more, 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. **22**Then you will defile your silver-covered graven images and your gold-plated molten images. You will scatter them as unclean things; you will say to them, “Begone!”

**Chapter 31**

**Alliance with Egypt Is Futile**

1 Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help  
    and rely on horses,  
who trust in chariots because they are many  
    and in horsemen because they are very strong,  
but do not look to the Holy One of Israel  
    or consult the Lord!  
**2**And yet he is wise and brings disaster,  
    he does not call back his words,  
but will arise against the house of the evildoers,  
    and against the helpers of those who work iniquity.  
**3**The Egyptians are men, and not God;  
    and their horses are flesh, and not spirit.  
When the Lord stretches out his hand,  
    the helper will stumble, and he who is helped will fall,  
    and they will all perish together.

**4**For thus the Lord said to me,  
As a lion or a young lion growls over his prey,  
    and when a band of shepherds is called forth against him  
is not terrified by their shouting  
    or daunted at their noise,  
so the Lord of hosts will come down  
    to fight upon Mount Zion and upon its hill.  
**5**Like birds hovering, so the Lord of hosts  
    will protect Jerusalem;  
he will protect and deliver it,  
    he will spare and rescue it.

**6**Turn to him from whom you[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+31-66&version=RSV#fen-RSV-18256a)] have deeply revolted, O people of Israel. **7**For in that day every one shall cast away his idols of silver and his idols of gold, which your hands have sinfully made for you.

**8**“And the Assyrian shall fall by a sword, not of man;  
    and a sword, not of man, shall devour him;  
and he shall flee from the sword,  
    and his young men shall be put to forced labor.  
**9**His rock shall pass away in terror,  
    and his officers desert the standard in panic,”  
says the Lord, whose fire is in Zion,  
    and whose furnace is in Jerusalem.