

TRUSTING IN CHARIOTS

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TEXT:

“Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD! Yet he also is wise, and will bring evil, and will not call back his words: but will arise against the house of the evildoers, and against the help of them that work iniquity. Now the Egyptians are men, and not God; and their horses flesh, and not spirit. When the LORD shall stretch out his hand, both he that helpeth shall fall, and he that is holpen shall fall down, and they all shall fail together. For thus hath the LORD spoken unto me, Like as the lion and the young lion roaring on his prey, when a multitude of shepherds is called forth against him, he will not be afraid of their voice, nor abase himself for the noise of them: so shall the LORD of hosts come down to fight for mount Zion, and for the hill thereof. As birds flying, so will the LORD of hosts defend Jerusalem; defending also he will deliver it; and passing over he will preserve it. Turn ye unto him from whom the children of Israel have deeply revolted. For in that day every man shall cast away his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which your own hands have made unto you for a sin. Then shall the Assyrian fall with the sword, not of a mighty man; and the sword, not of a mean man, shall devour him: but he shall flee from the sword, and his young men shall be discomfited. And he shall pass over to his strong hold for fear, and his princes shall be afraid of the ensign, saith the LORD, whose fire is in Zion, and his furnace in Jerusalem” (Isaiah 31:1-9).

Purpose: To show that our trust must be in God, and to show the folly of trusting in anything or anyone else.

INTRODUCTION:

- 1) Assyria was on the move militarily
- 2) Judah was seeking help -but not from God (going to Egypt).
- 3) God pronounces a "woe" unto them. Apply to us.

I. THE FOLLY OF TRUSTING IN CHARIOTS

- 1) Chapter 31 is a continuation of Chapter 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: 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! Therefore shall the strength of Pharaoh be your shame, and the trust in the shadow of Egypt your confusion” (Isaiah 30:1-3).

(2) They were counting on people that would not be of help to them.

(3) Judah did not want to hear the law of God.

(4) “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: That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD: Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth

things, prophesy deceits: Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us. Wherefore thus saith the Holy One of Israel, Because ye despise this word, and trust in oppression and perverseness, and stay thereon: 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. 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" (Isaiah 30:8-14).

(5) Calls upon them to repent - offers great blessing

(6) The Lord would beat down the Assyrians.

(7) "For through the voice of the LORD shall the Assyrian be beaten down, which smote with a rod" (Isaiah 30:31).

2) Chapter 31 - Judah trusts in chariots.

(1) "Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD" (Isaiah 31:1).

(2) God is wise!

(3) "Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy" (Proverbs 31:9).

(4) "O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches" (Psalm 104:24).

(5) Here is man pitting his wisdom against God's (Imagine!)

3) Egypt compared to God. "Now the Egyptians are men, and not God; and their horses flesh, and not spirit. When the LORD shall stretch out his hand, both he that helpeth shall fall, and he that is holpen shall fall down, and they all shall fail together" (Isaiah 31:3).

(1) They are men, horses are flesh - not spirit. can fail, can be killed.

(2) But God is all powerful.

4) God is not afraid of the Assyrians. "For thus hath the LORD spoken unto me, Like as the lion and the young lion roaring on his prey, when a multitude of shepherds is called forth against him, he will not be afraid of their voice, nor abase himself for the noise of them: so shall the LORD of hosts come down to fight for mount Zion, and for the hill thereof. As birds flying, so will the LORD of hosts defend Jerusalem; defending also he will deliver it; and passing over he will preserve it" (Isaiah 31:4-5).

5) Isaiah calls upon them to turn. "Turn ye unto him from whom the children of Israel have deeply revolted" (Isaiah 31:6).

II. CHARIOTS WHICH SOME TRUST IN TODAY

l) Could be danger in chariot of military might.

(1) America is advanced militarily. (good! Technology seen in recent war).

(2) But this is not our source of strength.

(3) Egypt had chariots; Babylon had a wall, Assyrian had might, but fell).

(4) "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God" (Psalm 9:17).

(5) "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom

he hath chosen for his own inheritance” (Psalm 33:12).

2) Some trust in chariots of materialism.

(1) “Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see” (Revelation 3:17-18).

(2) “And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God” (Luke 12:15-21).

(3) “From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm. But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully; Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;” (1Timothy 1:6-10).

(4) “Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen” (1Timothy 1:17).

3) Some trust in chariots of chemical substance (alcohol, drugs).

4) Some trust in chariots of doctrines of men.

(1) “But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men” (Matthew 15:9).

(2) Faith only, once saved always saved.

5) Some trust in the chariot of "I've still got plenty of time".

(1) “Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth” (Proverbs 27:1).

(2) “Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away” (James 4:13-14).

CONCLUSION:

1) Judah placed her trust in the chariots of Egypt, not in God.

2) In Whom or what do you place your trust?

3) "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

4) "trust & obey"