



STARTING POINT: DAY FOUR

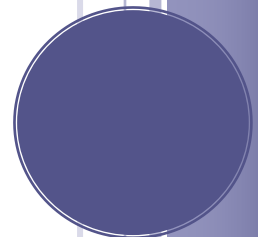
DO NOT GO DOWN TO EGYPT

Isaiah 30:1-22

Each day of this seven day Devotional Study we will read a specific passage three times with the intent to get the most out of it. We will ask questions and learn from the passage and finally apply the lessons learned personally to our own lives.

by pastor Adam Portal

Devotional THURSDAY For 1/11/2018



STARTING POINT: DAY FOUR

Isaiah 30:1-22

1ST READING: LEARN. SIMPLY FAMILIARIZING YOURSELF WITH THIS PASSAGE.

2ND READING: IMPRESS. NOTICE WHAT WORD OR PHRASE JUMPS OUT AT YOU OR MAKES THE BIGGEST IMPRESSION.

Isaiah 30 English Standard Version (ESV)

Do Not Go Down to Egypt

- 30** "Ah, stubborn children," declares the Lord,
"who carry out a plan, but not mine,
and who make an alliance,^[a] 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,
everyone comes to shame
through a people that cannot profit them,
that brings neither help nor profit,
but shame and disgrace."

⁶An 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."



The Lord Will Be Gracious

- 18** Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you,
and 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 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 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. 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!"

A Rebellious People

- 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.^[b]
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,
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
and 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 said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel,
"In returning^[c] 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.

DEVOTIONAL: DO NOT GO DOWN TO EGYPT

Things to notice:

1. Who is God speaking to? God speaks to his own people. People like you and like me. However, in this case, some of us have become "stubborn" in the worst of way and have made up our minds to do our own thing. The stubborn choice to go down to Egypt is not by mistake. It is a deliberate choice to walk in the ways of our own choosing.

"Stubborn Children... who set out to go down to Egypt"

Stubborn Children are commonplace. So many believers will at some point or another go down to Egypt. Are you one of these? Is God speaking to you? Have you had thoughts to go down to Egypt, even just to see what is going on down there? (Time to learn about your own heart)

2. What Is God saying? God is removing the blanket hiding the intentions of the heart and revealing why rebellious children go down to Egypt and where they will end up as a result.

Down to Egypt (vs 1) is a way of saying, "back to the world." A believer who chooses to return to living his/her life like an unbeliever. Egypt always represents the lost world and all of its apparent enticing and alluring temptations. Egypt appears to have much to offer, but in reality it has nothing more than emptiness.

To Take Refuge (vs 2) is the first and only reason we go there. The stubborn heart is always seeking comfort, protection. The stubborn heart is dead set on getting what it wants and it always wants to be comforted and protected to live out its own desires. Notice How God declares this a desire to "Add sin to sin" (vs 1)

Receiving Shame and Disgrace (vs 3-5) is always where these downward steps end. After enjoying "sin for a season" (Heb. 11:25 KJV) it always catches up with you. Instead of getting pleasure and receiving protection for our sinful hearts, we get to experience deep shame(inwards pain) and disgrace (outward embarrassment.)

Think about the word picture we find in verses 6-7: Going through a troubled land, a deserted empty wilderness we believers carry our riches (**Christ in you the hope of glory** -Col. 1:27) on our backs to trade Him off for Egypt's fleeting pleasures. We trade our holiness for what is profane.

Notice: God is not speaking to shame us, but to deliver us from going down to Egypt.

3. What is truly behind this Stubbornness? (vs 8-11,12-17)

Their stubbornness of heart is outwardly seen in their rebellion and God will deal with their rebellion swiftly.

The Rebellious People (vs 8-11) This entire section reveals the actual thoughts and intentions of the heart of the Stubborn/Rebellious children. They do not want to see. they do not want to hear what God has to say. They are lying children, unwilling to hear God's instructions.

The Discipline of the Lord (vs 12-17) The disciplinary hand of the Lord is described here. He does not want to hurt His children. He desires to restore them, but they are unwilling. How sad to see how stubbornness leads to so much unnecessary pain.

In the end, the stubborn/rebellious children are left all alone like a solitary flag sitting on a hill after the battle is over. Everyone and everything you trusted in other than God will run away from you. You will find yourself all alone (But God will not leave you.)

"In returning and rest you shall be saved"

Notice vs 15: God tells us how to avoid this shame and disgrace. In Returning/Repentance and in quietly waiting and trusting (faith). Verse 15 is to be coupled with vs 7 to show us the picture of Rahab the harlot, waiting with her family in her house while the entire city of Jericho is ransacked by the Israelites. She had to trust in God alone that she would be spared, not be destroyed with the rest of the city and its inhabitants.

4. Final Things To Know: "The Lord is Gracious" (vs 18-21)

He will do for you what no other will. He will rescue you and receive you back when no other would. He will answer you "at the sound of your cry." From the very second you cry out to Him, he is a loving father ready to console, receive and restore you after you have learned from your mistake.

He Brought about your discipline. He brought to you the "bread of adversity" and "water of affliction". You were getting a daily portion of both from God's good hand so that you would learn the evil of your ways. He was teaching you though you did not know it at the time ("your Teacher - Capital T - will not hide himself anymore")

He makes you to truly hear His Instructions. Now you will truly hear "This is the way, walk in it" and you will willingly obey Him.

He brings about a full end to your sin (Idolatry). Idolatry is to desire and place anything in the place of God. Because of all that He has graciously done for you, you will come to a place of hating your sinful idolatry, and your desire to go down to Egypt. Those idols will be forever destroyed. **"Be Gone"!**... You will say.

3RD AND FINAL READING: LIVE. READ THIS PASSAGE ONE FINAL TIME.

This last time, return to asking questions of God... what should I learn from this?

Ask God for a quiet resting and waiting on Him. Only He can deliver you from a stubborn rebellious heart. He can keep you from ever going down to Egypt.

And if your heart is already showing signs of stubbornness, you don't have to go down to Egypt to be delivered. Learn the lesson of this passage. Ask God for a heart that is in tune to its Teacher - God. Ask God for a heart that is listening and can hear Him saying ...

"This is the way, Walk in it"