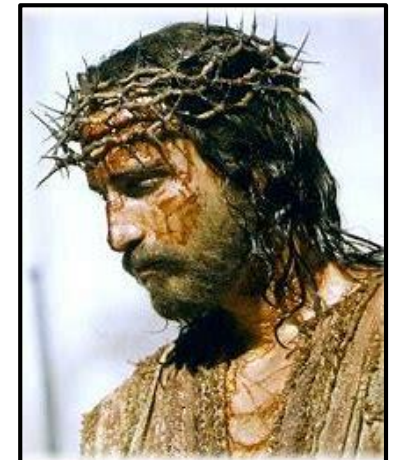
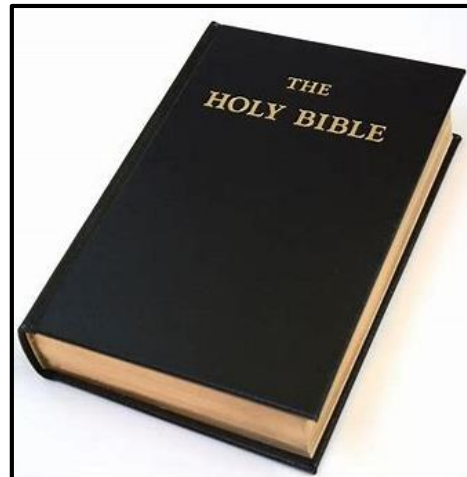
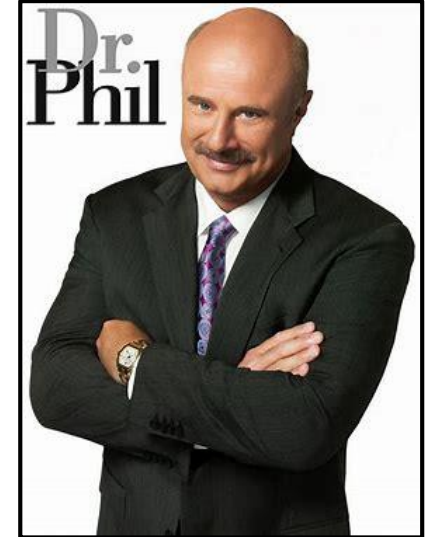
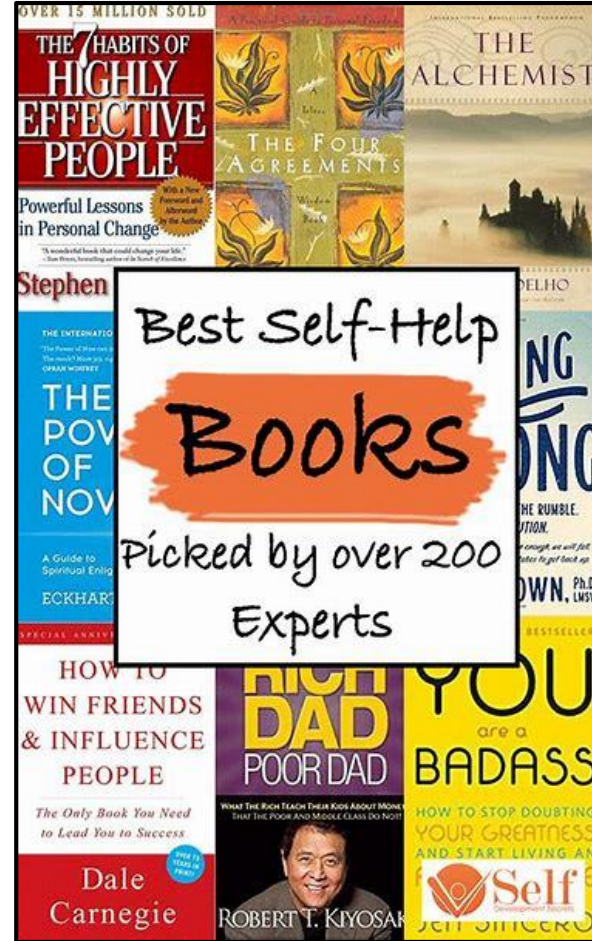
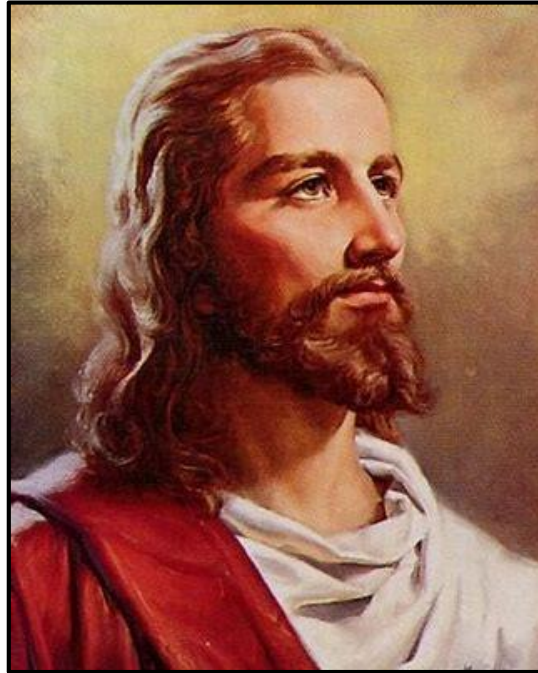


Isaiah Outline

Focus	Prophecies of Condemnation								Historical Parenthesis		Prophecies of Comfort					
	1:1				35:10				36:1	39:8	40:1			66:24		
Divisions	Prophecies Against Judah		Prophecies Against the Nations		Prophecies Against the Day of the Lord		Prophecies of Judgement and Blessing		Sickness and Sin	Hezekiah's Salvation	Israel's Deliverance	Israel's Deliverer		Israel's Glorious Future		
	1:1	12:6	13:1	23:18	24:1	27:13	28:1	35:10	36:1	39:8	40:1	48:22	49:1	57:21	58:1	66:24
Topics	Prophetic Judgement								Historic Transition		Messianic Hope					
Place	We are here!								Israel & Judah							
Time	740 - 680 B.C.															

Where does our help come from?



Where does our help come from?

**“The gods help them that help themselves.” -
Aesop’s Fables**

**“God helps those who help themselves.” -
Popularized by Benjamin Franklin**

Does Franklin’s phrase reflect Biblical teaching?


**What does the Bible say? (Proverbs 28:26; Isaiah 25:4;
Psalm 121:1-2)**

✧ Poor Richard’s Almanac

gathering around him he proceeded as follows:

Friends and neighbours, the taxes are indeed very heavy, and if those laid on by the government were the only ones we had to pay, we might the more easily discharge them; but we have many others, and much more grievous to some of us. We are taxed twice as much by our IDLENESS, three times as much by our PRIDE, and four times as much by our FOLLY; and from these taxes the commissioners cannot ease or deliver us by allowing an abatement. However, let us hearken to good advice, and something may be done for us. “God helps them that help themselves,” as Poor Richard says in his almanac of 1733.

It would be thought a hard govern-



“The New Spirituality worldview has also inched its way into Christian ethics; one-third of practicing Christians (32%) strongly agree that “if you do good, you will receive good, and if you do bad, you will receive bad.” This karmic statement, though not explicitly from scripture, appeals to many Christians’ sense of ultimate justice. For example, another Barna study found that 52 percent of practicing Christians strongly agree that the Bible teaches “God helps those who help themselves.”

Competing Worldviews Influence Today’s Christians

Research Releases in Culture & Media • May 9, 2017

Overview | Isaiah 31-32

“The woe against rejecters of God’s help”

- Constable

“The Lord never merely reacts to events as if sprung on him. He has prepared all beforehand and is totally master of the situation. The merest movement of his hand (31:3) is sufficient to dispose Judah and its supposed helper, Egypt.”

– Motyer



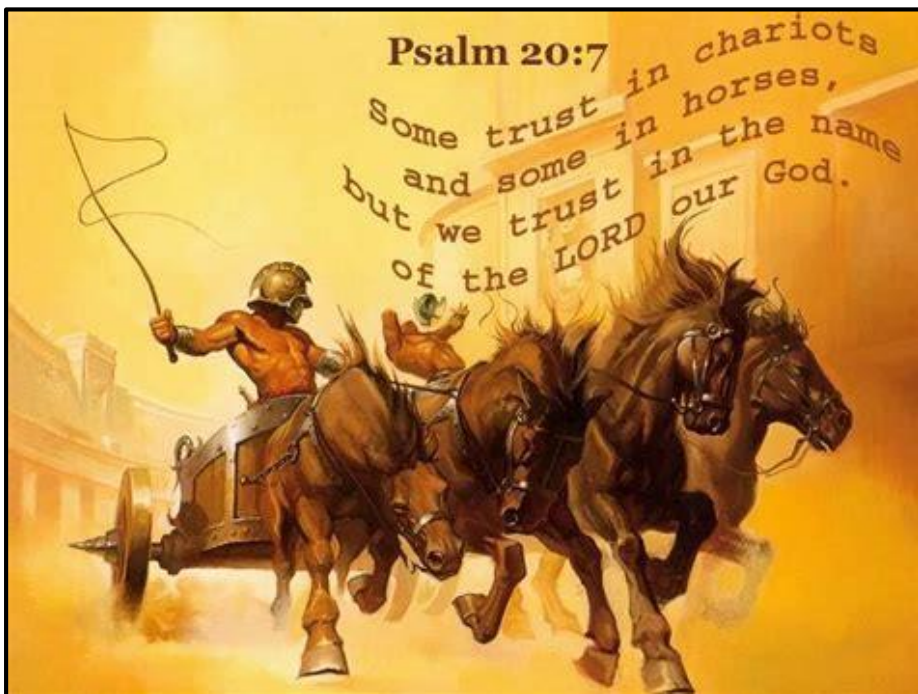
Isaiah 31:1-3

Misplaced Trust in a Weak King



- Stray **spiritually** - stray **physically**
- Judah/Jerusalem placed their trust in **might, mount, and men (worldly security)**
- The LORD is sovereign, supreme, holy, immutable, reliable, trustworthy, incomparable, unequaled, perfect, all-powerful, just, and righteous

- We too place more trust in man than God and more trust in flesh than spirit



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 man**, 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.

Isaiah 31:1-3

Trust Flesh or Spirit?

“To us **‘flesh’** seems so substantial, because its visible and tangible, while **‘spirit’** may seem ethereal. ...**Nothing could be further from biblical thinking**, as a glance at passages like Zechariah 4:6 and John 3:5-8 will disclose.” – Geoffrey W. Grogan

Thus says the LORD: “**Cursed** is the man **who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD.**” – Jeremiah 17:5

“It is **better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man.**” – Proverbs 118:8

“The fear of man brings a snare, but **he who trusts in the LORD will be exalted.**” – Proverbs 29:25

“**Stop regarding man** in whose nostrils is breath, for **of what account is he?**” – Isaiah 2:22



Isaiah 31:1-3

Trust Flesh or Spirit?



THE FLESH vs THE SPIRIT

THE FLESH

Galatians 5:19-21, "19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God."

brain & senses

Galatians 5:24-25,
"24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."

THE SPIRITUAL SOUL

Galatians 5:22-23, "22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

mind, will & emotions





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Isaiah 31:4-5

Misplaced Trust In a Weak King



- Lion = **LORD**, prey = **Zion**, and the shepherds = **Egypt**
- The **LORD comes to down to fight**
- The **LORD would pass over** Jerusalem to **protect it** from its predator = Assyria (Exodus 12:23, 27, 19:4)



4 *This is what the Lord says to me:*

*“As a **lion growls**, a **great lion over its prey**—
and though a whole band of **shepherds**
is called together against it,
it is **not frightened** by their shouts
or disturbed by their clamor—
so the **Lord Almighty** will come down
to do battle on Mount Zion and on its heights.*

5 ***Like birds hovering overhead**,
the **Lord Almighty** will **shield Jerusalem**;
he will **shield it and deliver it**,
he will **‘pass over’ it** and will **rescue it.**”*



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Isaiah 31:6-9

Misplaced Trust in a Weak King



- Isaiah calls for **repentance** – “turn or burn”
- “**In that day**” points to the eschatological revival of Israel
- **Idols** tossed because they don’t work
- **Assyria’s promised defeat** (2 Kings 19:32-35)

For In That Day Every One
Of You Will Reject The
Idols Of Silver And Gold
Your Sinful Hands Have
Made.

Isaiah 31-7

6 **Return**, you Israelites, to the One you have so greatly revolted against. 7 For **in that day** every one of you will **reject the idols of silver and gold** your sinful hands have made.

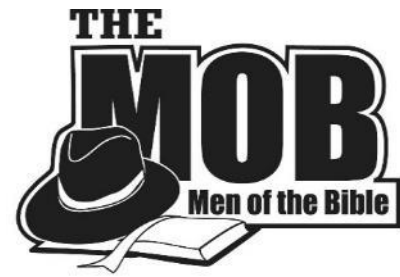
8 “**Assyria will fall** by no human sword; a sword, not of mortals, will devour them.

They will **flee before the sword** and their young men will be put to forced labor.

9 Their stronghold will fall because of terror; at the sight of the battle standard their commanders will panic,” declares the Lord, whose fire is in Zion, whose furnace is in Jerusalem.

Isaiah 31:6-9

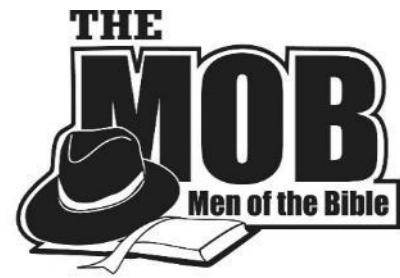
Trust the Righteous King



“The destruction of the Assyrian army points prophetically to the final world conflict, which will usher in the rule of Christ, the perfect King of Israel. Christ’s kingdom will fulfill God’s ideal of a holy commonwealth, administering a perfect righteousness throughout the earth. God’s King will provide complete shelter to all who seek refuge in him, and he will satisfy their thirsty souls with living water.” - Archer

Isaiah 32:1-4

Trust the Righteousness King



- **Rule of a righteous kings** (Isaiah 7, 9, 11; Jeremiah 23:5-6; 1 Peter 1:11)
- **Protection from the dangers of wind and water and provision and refreshment via water and shade** (Genesis 7:4; Exodus 13:21; Job 1:18-19; John 7:37)
- Restored **eyes** that see, **ears** that hear, **hearts** that know, and **tongues** that speak clearly. (Isaiah 6:9-10)



- 1 See, **a king will reign in righteousness** and rulers will rule with justice.
- 2 Each one will be like a **shelter from the wind** and a **refuge from the storm**, like **streams of water** in the desert and the **shadow of a great rock** in a thirsty land.
- 3 Then the **eyes** of those who **see** will no longer be closed, and the **ears** of those who **hear** will listen.
- 4 The fearful **heart will know and understand**, and the stammering **tongue will be fluent and clear**.



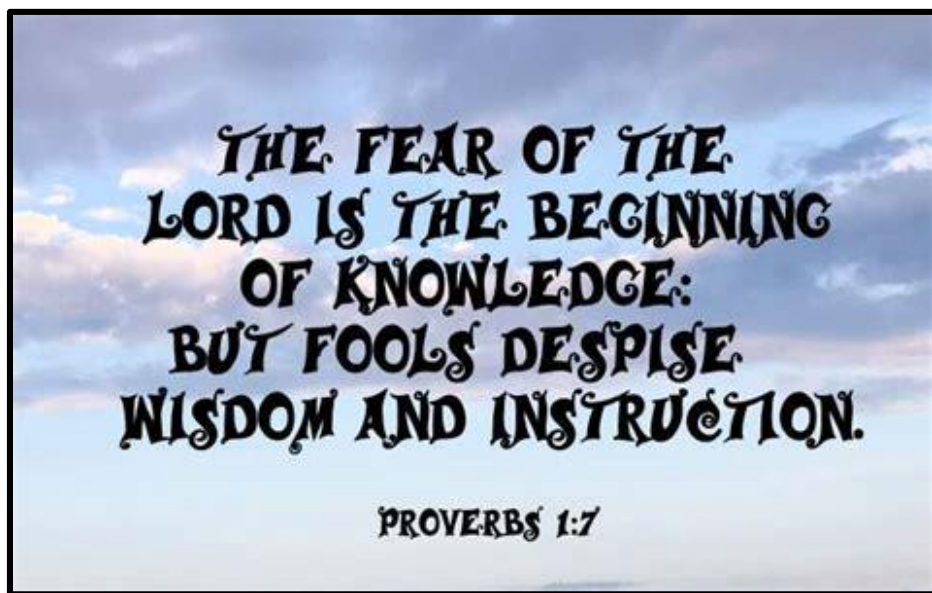
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Isaiah 32:5-8

New Society = New Values



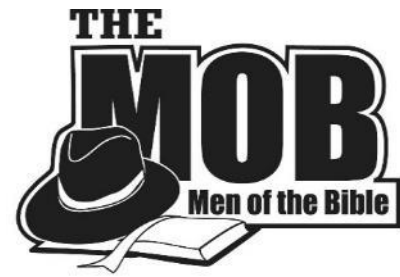
- Isaiah looks to a **new society** grounded in truth
- **Fools**, live without acknowledging moral or spiritual obligations, are **no longer called noble** (1 Samuel 25:25)
- **Scoundrels**, plotting evil against the poor and needy, are **no longer considered honorable** (Jeremiah 5:26-28)
- Those who are **noble display personal, spiritual, and social characteristics that merit commendation** (Proverbs 11:25)



*5 **No longer** will the **fool be called noble** nor the **scoundrel be highly respected**. 6 For fools speak folly, their hearts are bent on evil: They practice ungodliness and spread error concerning the LORD; the hungry they leave empty and from the thirsty they withhold water. 7 Scoundrels use wicked methods, they make up evil scheme to destroy the poor with lies, even when the plea of the needy is just. 8 But the **noble** make **noble plans**, and by **noble deeds** they stand.*

Isaiah 32:9-14

Trouble on the Horizon



- **Women** reflect the heart, soul, and glory of the city – **at ease, careless, not troubled** (Isaiah 3:16)
- **Trouble on the horizon** – no grape nor fruit harvest
- **Trouble in the city** – lamentation, desolation, and forsaken
- **Vines, land, and city gone**
- **“Strip and go bare”** not a sign of mourning but of enslavement or captivity
- **Images of a land once cultivated but now laid waste** - over grown with thorn and briers, abandoned, a vibrant bustling city will have become a wasteland

*9 You women who are so **complacent, rise up and listen to me; you daughters who **feel secure**, hear what I have to say! 10 In little more than a year **you who feel secure will tremble**; the grape **harvest will fail**, and the **harvest of fruit will not come**. 11 Tremble, you complacent women; Shudder, you daughters who feel secure! **Strip off your fine clothes and wrap yourselves in rags**. 12 Beat your breasts for the pleasant fields, for the fruitful vines 13 and for the land of my people, **a land overgrown with thorns and briers**—yes, **mourn for all houses of merriment and for this city of revelry**. 14 The **fortress will be abandoned**, the noisy **city deserted; citadel and watchtower will become a wasteland forever**, the delight of donkeys, a pasture for flocks,***



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Isaiah 32:15-20

Spirit of God Poured Out



- As life-giver, **God's Spirit is poured out** from above
- **New Earth** – from desert to fertile field
- “When that which is perfect comes, what now seems like ordered cultivation will look like scrub!”
- Motyer
- **Messiah's rule will be just and righteous** (Isaiah 32:1)
- **God's people are restored and dwell** in peaceful, secure, undisturbed places of rest (Ezekiel 34:22-27, 36:24-31)

*15 till **the Spirit is poured on us from on high**, and the **desert becomes a fertile field**, and the **fertile field seems like a forest**. 16 The LORD's **justice** will dwell in the desert, his **righteousness** live in the fertile field. 17 The **fruit** of that righteousness will be **peace**; its effect will be **quietness and confidence** forever. 18 My people will live in **peaceful dwelling places**, in **secure homes**, in **undisturbed places of rest**. 19 Though hail flattens the forest and the city is leveled completely, 20 how **blessed you will be**, sowing your seed by every stream, and letting your cattle and donkeys range free.*

Conclusion

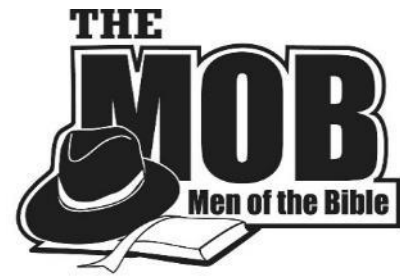
God helps those who place their trust in Him
God provides a king to reigns righteously
God leverages suffering to inspire repentance

Discussion & Application

1 of 2

- 1. What is the significance of Egypt in the Bible? What had God previously instructed Israel regarding Egypt?**
- 2. Like Judah, where are you tempted to return for comfort or safety? Where does your help come from?**
- 3. What decision(s) do we make without seeking God's input? Where do you draw the line between when you resolve something or when you involve God?**
- 4. From Isaiah 31 verses 1-3, where did Judah and Jerusalem place their trust besides God? Why was Judah's return to Egypt such an affront to God?**
- 5. Besides lions and birds, what other animals or insects does God use to describe Himself? What do we learn about God from these descriptions?**
- 6. Verses 4-5 describe God's protection of Judah and Jerusalem, when or where have you experienced His protection?**

Discussion & Application



2 of 2

- 7. Through Isaiah, God called Israel to repent and turn back to Him. Where are you revolting against Him and need to repent?**
- 8. What historical event did Isaiah prophesy in verses 8 and what does it allude to in the future? (2 Chronicles 32:16-22)**
- 9. Verse 2 of chapter 32 mentions shelter, refuge, water, and shade, who can you pray for this week who struggles from the storms of life?**
- 10. What does it mean to be a noble man, make noble plans, or engage in noble deeds? How can you live a nobler life this week?**
- 11. Verse 15 cites the pouring out of the Spirit, where has the indwelling Holy Spirit drastically changed your life?**