

**GOD’S WONDERFUL PROMISE
TO THE REBELLIOUS
AND ALL OTHERS WHO REPENT:
A GLIMPSE INTO CHRIST’S KINGDOM
ISAIAH 30: 18–33**

Introduction (Isaiah 30: 01–33)

Nothing cuts the human heart more than rejection. And nothing damages a group of people more than rebellion. Rejection and rebellion are two of the most destructive forces on earth. If one person in a family rebels, rejecting the other family members, the inevitable result is suffering. Sometimes the result is even divorce, a division that rips a family apart and causes unbearable pain, especially for children.

Rebellion within a nation often has tragic consequences: injury, bloodshed and sometimes the slaughter of untold thousands. In addition, rebellion often causes unbelievable suffering through destruction of property, rape and theft. Due to the violence and cruelty of many who rebel against governments, thousands are often forced to leave their homes and flee for their lives. Television reports of the wars around the world routinely depict scenes of fleeing refugees.

The subject of this important Scripture is the result of rebellion *against the LORD*. In fact, the great book of Isaiah begins and ends with the prophet levying the serious charge of rebellion against all who continually disobey and reject God.

Isa 1:20 “But if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword.” For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Isa 1:2 Hear me, you heavens! Listen, earth! For the LORD has spoken: “I reared children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me.”

Isa 1:23 Your rulers are rebels, companions of thieves; they all love bribes and chase after gifts. They do not defend the cause of the fatherless; the widow’s case does not come before them.

Isa 63:10 Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit. So he turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them.

Isa 65:2 “All the day long I have held out my hands to an obstinate people, who walk in ways not good, pursuing their own imaginations.”

The Jews of Isaiah’s day were facing a critical problem, the threat of an Assyrian invasion. Assyria’s evil ambition was to build an empire and subject the nations of the world to its authority. To meet this threat, some of the leaders of Judah wanted to form an alliance with Egypt. Instead of turning to the Lord, they chose to turn to a nation of unbelievers who had always engaged in wickedness and false worship. Within Judah there was a strong Egyptian faction, a large number of leaders who felt that the nation’s only hope lay with Egypt. But the Lord continually warned the Jews against forming such an alliance. They needed to repent of their sins and trust Him, not the

military power of Egypt. This is, *Woe — A Strong Warning to the Rebellious, the Stubborn, and the Hard-Hearted: A Message to All Who Rebel Against God.*

- I. God's pronouncement of judgment on the rebellious: a result of rejecting God and His help (vv. 1-14).
- II. God's invitation to the rebellious, those who reject Him (vv. 15-17).
- III. God's wonderful promise to the rebellious and all others who repent: a glimpse into Christ's kingdom (vv. 18-33).

Introduction (Isaiah 30: 18–33)

God makes some wonderful promises to the rebellious who truly repent. Even while God's people are rebelling against Him, He reaches out in mercy to them, longing to pour out His blessings upon them. Note how many of these blessings cannot be completely fulfilled in this present, corrupted world. They can be partially fulfilled, but this passage refers primarily to the Messiah's kingdom, that period of history lying in the future when the Lord Jesus Christ will return to establish His kingdom on earth. These wonderful promises of salvation were given to the Jews who truly trusted the Lord in Isaiah's day. However, keep in mind that they were also given to encourage true believers of every generation, whether Jew or Gentile.

I. *Isaiah 30: 18 God Longs to be Gracious*

God's heart reaches out to all who reject and rebel against Him. The Lord longs to show mercy. It is true that God is just, a God who will execute justice and judgment against all who continue in rebellion. But it is also true that He is a God of grace and compassion, a God who will show mercy to all who *wait* for Him. To wait for God means to trust Him for salvation and for deliverance from all the enemies and trials of life. As the psalmist says:

Psa 2:12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

II. *Isaiah 30: 19–26 God's Promise to the Rebellious*

God's promises of salvation will be given to all those who trust Him (vv. 19-26). The *LORD* stirred Isaiah to proclaim the promises of salvation to the Jews of his day. Obviously, the *LORD* had the hope that the promises would appeal to the hearts of some. Perhaps they would be moved to repent and trust Him as their Saviour. Imagine how reassuring these promises must have been to the few who already believed and trusted in the *Lord*. The prophet declared that a day was coming when God would pour out His richest blessings upon all who repented of their rebellion against the *Lord*. Nine blessings of salvation were spelled out by the prophet.

1. Comfort is the *first* blessing of salvation (v. 19). When the Messiah sets up His kingdom on earth, there will be no more weeping, sorrow or grief whatsoever. God's people will never again weep. Keep in mind, however, that God also promises to comfort His people while they are still living on earth.

John 14:1-2 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.”

2 Cor 1:3-4 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

Heb 2:14-15 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil – and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

1 Pet 5:7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Rev 21:4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

2. Answered prayer is the *second* promise of salvation (v. 19). In the Messiah's kingdom, the prayers of believers will be answered immediately. But even today when genuine believers need the *Lord's* help, all they have to do is cry for help. The *LORD* always hears their cry and meets their needs.

Luke 11:9 “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”

John. 15:7 “If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.”

Psa 91:15 He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honour him.

Isa 65:24 Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.

Isa 58:9 Then you will call, and the *LORD* will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

Jer 33:3 ‘Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.’

3. The *third* promise is twofold: the deliverance from adversity and the gift of godly teachers (v. 20). In this evil world believers suffer adversity and affliction. Sometimes the prophets of God are persecuted and forced to flee for safety. When the prophets are forced to flee, the people lose their teachers who instruct and guide them in the ways of the *Lord*. But in the day of the Messiah's kingdom, all believers — layperson and prophet alike — will be delivered from all trouble. God's people will no longer be persecuted, never again have to fear the threats of evil oppressors nor the loss of godly teachers.

2 Cor 1:8-10 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened

that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us.

1 Cor 10:13 *No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.*

2 Tim 4:18 *The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

2 Pet 2:9 *If this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.*

Rev 2:10 *Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

Psa 7:1 *O LORD my God, I take refuge in you; save and deliver me from all who pursue me.*

Psa 91:1 *He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.*

Psa 119:157 *Many are the foes who persecute me, but I have not turned from your statutes.*

Psa 119:161 *Rulers persecute me without cause, but my heart trembles at your word.*

Jer 1:8 *“Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the LORD*

4. A fourth promise of salvation is that of God's personal presence and guidance (v. 21), This is an obvious reference to the Spirit of God speaking to the hearts of believers, guiding and leading them as they go about their daily affairs. In the Messiah's kingdom believers will be able to hear the voice of God's Spirit more clearly. When the wicked are taken out of the way, nothing will hinder the clear sounds of the Holy Spirit's voice. But even in this corrupt world today, those who study God's Word and walk in constant communion with Him can hear the voice of God's Spirit.

John 14:26 *“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”*

John 16:13 *“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.”*

Rom 8:14 *Because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.*

Rom 8:16-17 *The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit, that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*

1 Cor 2:12-13 *We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.*

Gal 4:6 *Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."*

1 John 3:24 *Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.*

1 John 4:13 *We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.*

5. Genuine worship is the *fifth* promise of God's salvation (v. 22). In the Messiah's kingdom every citizen will be a true worshipper of the *LORD*. All idols and false gods will be cast away and purged from the minds and hearts of the people. Only the *LORD*, the one living and true God (Yahweh, Jehovah), will be worshipped.

Mat 4:10 *Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan: For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"*

John 4:22-23 *"You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks."*

2 Cor 2:17 *Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.*

1 Cor 5:8 *Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth.*

1 Jn 5:20-21 *We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true — even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.*

Exo 20:3-6 *"You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments."*

Deu 11:16 *Be careful, or you will be enticed to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them.*

Josh 24:14 *"Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness."*

Psa 96:9 *Worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.*

Isa 42:8 *"I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols."*

6. Prosperity is the *sixth* promise of salvation in the Messiah's kingdom (vv. 23-24). In this present evil world, believers may be called upon to suffer adversity, affliction and financial

poverty. But in the coming day of Christ's kingdom, everyone will be prosperous and have food, water, clothing, housing and all the other necessities of life. The land itself will be restored and become fruitful, which means there will be plenty of pasture and grain for livestock. But note the wonderful promises given to believers who live in this present evil world:

Mat 6:33 *"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."* (Also see Mt. 6:25-34).

Phil 4:19 *And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.*

Exo 23:25 *Worship the LORD your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you.*

Psa 68:19 *Praise be to the Lord, to God our Saviour, who daily bears our burdens.*

Mal 3:10 *"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."*

7. God's *seventh* promise is that the earth will become a peaceful paradise during the Messiah's kingdom (v. 25). Note the reference to *the day of great slaughter*. This is a clear reference to Armageddon, the day when the Lord will return to execute judgment against all the rebellious nations and people of this earth (29:5-8; 63:1-64:12; see notes, Rev. 14:17-20; 16:16-21; 19:11-21). But after the terrifying day of Armageddon, the Lord will turn the earth into a glorious paradise.

Streams of water will flow from every high mountain and hill on the earth. The term *streams of water* is a picture of peace and rest — being free from all pressure, distress, grief, oppression, lawlessness, violence and wicked behaviour. It is a picture of paradise, where only peace and tranquillity will be experienced. Yet even in this present evil world where believers must walk through the trials and temptations of this life, the *LORD* promises us the wonderful gift of His peace.

John 14:26 *"But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."*

John 16:33 *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

Phil 4:6-7 *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Psa 29:11 *The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace.*

Psa 119:165 *Great peace have they who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble.*

Isa 26:3-4 *You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal.*

8. The *eighth* promise of the Messiah's kingdom is astounding: the universe will be filled with the splendour of a far greater light than that of the sun (v. 26). Both the sun and moon will shine far more brightly than they ever have. In fact, Isaiah declares that the moon will shine as brightly as the sun and that the sun will be seven times brighter than usual, as bright as seven full days of light. Will this be literally fulfilled? Unquestionably. Just picture the blazing glory of the Holy One who created the entire universe and any other universes that may exist. Imagine the splendour and brilliance of His holiness. Scripture makes this astonishing declaration: *in that day* people will not need the light of the sun to give them daylight. The glory of God will provide the light for day, and there will be no more night.

1 John 1:5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

Rev 22:5 There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

Isa 60:20 Your sun will never set again, and your moon will wane no more; the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of sorrow will end.

9. Healing and health will be the *ninth* blessing of the Messiah's kingdom (v. 26). In Isaiah's day most people suffered illness due to hardship, poverty, disease and a host of other causes. Both heart and body were often broken and in need of healing. In the coming days of the Messiah's kingdom, the Lord will heal all wounds and diseases. But now, even in this present evil world, the Lord promises to strengthen His people. He either heals them directly or gives them the power to walk through the suffering.

Luke 4:18 "The Spirit of the LORD is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed."

1 Pet 1:6-7 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith — of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire — may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Heb 12:11 No discipline [trials] seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

1 Pet 4:12-13 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

Rev 22:2 Down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Psa 28:7 The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song.

Psa 40: 17 Yet I am poor and needy; may the Lord think of me. You are my help and my deliverer: O my God, do not delay.

Isa 41:10 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isa 48:10 See, I have refined you, though not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.

Isa 63:5 I looked, but there was no one to help, I was appalled that no one gave support; so my own arm worked salvation for me, and my own wrath sustained me.

Hosea 6:1 "Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds.

III. Isaiah 30: 27–33 God's Assurance of Deliverance

There is yet another promise of God's salvation that will be a blessing to some and a curse to others. That promise is the assurance of victory over all enemies. During the Messiah's kingdom, there will be complete victory over all who rebel against the *LORD* and persecute His people (vv. 27-33).

1. The *LORD* will return to earth full of wrath, speaking words of consuming fire (v. 27). Note the reference to *the name of the LORD*, which always indicates that a full revelation of the *LORD* is about to take place. (H.C. Leupold. *Exposition of Isaiah*, Vol. 1, p. 480). This is a clear reference to the return of the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. When He returns to execute justice and to establish His kingdom on earth, He will descend from the sky radiating all the glory and holiness of His deity. He will simply speak the words of judgment, and the consuming power of His Word will sweep the earth like a flooding stream (vv. 27-28). He will shake the unbelievers of the world as if they were in a large sieve, battering them to death. It will be as though He put a bridle on them to lead them to destruction.
2. Once the wicked have been judged and removed from the earth, God's people will rejoice and worship Him (v. 29). They will go up to the mountain of the *LORD* (Jerusalem) to worship the Rock of Israel, the foundation and security of their lives.
3. In the day of coming judgment the *LORD* will demonstrate His awesome power and justice (v. 30). The people will hear His majestic voice and witness the raging anger and consuming fire of His power. His judgment will strike with devastating force, hammering the earth with terrifying thunderstorms and fierce hailstorms.
4. The *LORD* promised to shatter the cruel Assyrians through the sheer might of His voice (vv. 31-32). With the sceptre of His power, He would strike them down with punishing strokes of justice. The execution of His justice would cause great joy and rejoicing among God's people.
5. God promised that He would doom the evil king of Assyria and his followers (v. 33). Note that a specific place was prepared for them, a place called Tophet or Topheth. This was a site in the Valley of Hinnom just south of Jerusalem where the worshippers of the false god Molech sacrificed their children. This particular site became the garbage dump for Jerusalem and was

named *Gehenna*. In the New Testament *Gehenna* means hell, a place of burning fire. The breath of the *LORD*, like a stream of brimstone, would set this site aflame. This is a clear picture of torment in the lake of fire, the destiny of all who reject and rebel against the *LORD* (Rev. 20:15).

Mat 3:11-12 *“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”*

Mat 13:41-42 *“The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”*

Mat 18:8-9 *“If your hand or your foot causes you to sin cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire.”*

Mat 25:41 *“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’”*

Rev 20:11-15 *Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

Rev 21:8 *But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars — their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulphur. This is the second death.*

Isa 66:24 *“And they will go out and look on the dead bodies of those who rebelled against me; the worms that eat them will not die, the fire that burns them will not be quenched, and they will be loathsome to all mankind.”* ■