

Note: Isaiah 24-27 dealt with visions of the heavenly Jerusalem. In Isaiah 30, Isaiah returns to focus on current political problems of King Hezekiah of Judah, such as how to protect Jerusalem from Assyrian invaders. The king did not trust the Lord's advice and instead chose to seek a political/military alliance with Egypt. Isaiah reports from God that this alliance will do no good for Jerusalem because the city and the whole nation are already corrupt within and is disintegrating.

1. Isaiah sees his king sinning in forming an alliance with Egypt. Name the different sins being committed by the king. (Is 30:1-5)
2. What two things does Isaiah's prophecy say will result from Judah's king sending envoys to Egypt to form a military alliance? (Is 30:3-5)
3. In his prophecy, Isaiah uses animals to describe the differences between what Judah gives to Egypt and what Egypt, using animals as symbols, has to offer in return. (Is 30:6-7)
 - a. What animals does Isaiah use to represent Egypt, and what does each animal symbolize?
 - b. What animal does Isaiah use to symbolize Judah and her king?
4. What does God tell Isaiah to do so that God's position will remain a permanent testimony and witness? (Is 30:8)
5. How does Isaiah describe the Israelites' behavior in Is 30:9-11?
6. Isaiah 30:9-11 mentions the people's response to Isaiah.
 - a. How do you think the people regarded Isaiah?
 - b. What do they want him to stop doing and saying, and why?
 - c. What would they prefer to hear from him, and why?
 - d. Why do you think the people responded to him in this way?
7. *Reflection:* Has there ever been a time in your life when, like the people of Jerusalem, you found it difficult to trust in God, or did not want to hear what God was asking of you?
8. Instead of trusting God's messages of protection, the people chose another strategy to try to save themselves.
 - a. What two forms of strategy did the Israelites use instead of trust in God? (Is 30:12)
 - b. What different images did Isaiah use to describe the weakness of the people's strategy? (Is 30:13-14)
9. God tells the people, "In repentance and rest is your salvation; in quietness and trust is your strength." (Is 30:15)
 - a. How did the people respond to this advice from God? (Is 30:16)
 - b. How did the Lord respond to them? (Is 30:16)
 - c. What does Isaiah say about the price of refusal to trust God? (Is 30:16-17)
10. Isaiah 30:19-26 is an oracle about Israel's future prosperity. Isaiah offers three images of God's promise of help.(Is 30:19-21)
 - a. Name the three images.
 - b. Which of the three do you find most comforting and why?