Woe to the Rebellious!

(Isaiah 30:1-18)

6-5-2024

Introduction: v.1

Characteristics of rebellion against God:

When people are in rebellion against the LORD…

I. They prefer <u>"Egypt"</u> over <u>God</u> (v.1-8)

When people are in rebellion against the LORD…

II. They prefer <u>Lies</u> over <u>Truth</u> (v.9-11)

When people are in rebellion against the LORD…

III. They prefer <u>Ruin</u> over <u>Rescue</u> (v.12-17)

Conclusion: v.18

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It is the ultimate heartbreak to pour your life into your children and then to have them "stab you in the back" for it. To pour your life's sweat, blood and tears into rearing your children and to have them rebel after all that is the height of inequity.

But this is what God's people did to Him.

Consider all that God has done for you:

1) He gave you life
2) He sustained you by provision and protection
3) Along the way, He gave you whatever health you had
4) He put people into your life who took care of you and tried to teach you
5) He tugged at your heart and drew you to Himself
6) He opened your eyes to the Gospel and then saved your soul when you called upon Him
7) He has patiently put up with our immaturities and has forgiven us over and over again when we asked Him to

Rebellion is a theme in Isaiah:

Isa 1:2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have <u>rebelled</u> against me.

Isa 1:20 But if ye refuse and <u>rebel</u>, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

Isa 1:23 Thy princes are <u>rebellious</u>, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them.

Isa 30:1 Woe to the <u>rebellious</u> 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:

Isa 30:9 That this is a <u>rebellious</u> people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD:

Isa 36:5 I say, sayest thou, (but they are but vain words) I have counsel and strength for war: now on whom dost thou trust, that thou <u>rebellest</u> against me?

Isa 50:5 The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not <u>rebellious</u>, neither turned away back.

Isa 63:10 But they <u>rebelled</u>, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them.

Isa 65:2 I have spread out my hands all the day unto a <u>rebellious</u> people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts;

Isaiah was a prophet who would go and preach to the nation of Judah, yet they would not listen to him (Chapt. 6:9-11); Tradition says that Isaiah would eventually die by being cut in half by a saw (cp. Heb. 11:37).

1Samuel 15:23 – "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft,
and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry"

See: Isaiah 30:1

Context: Judah's sister Israel has already been conquered and captured by Assyria (2 Ki. 17), and Judah was next on the list. Battle plans have been made by Assyria. Threats have been made. . . . The enemy is out to get you. What do you do? Our natural reaction is to get help. But from whom?

- Today, we need to examine our hearts for stubborn rebellion against God

Characteristics of rebellion against God:

When people are in rebellion against the LORD…

I. They prefer "Egypt" over God (v.1-8)

v. 1
"Woe" – The fourth "woe" in Isaiah; a repeated theme heading each chapter in Isaiah (28:1, 29:1, 31:1, 33:1).

When people are in rebellion against God, they make plans without seeking God for advice.

Judah was getting counsel and making plans, but not God's plans. She was seeking a shield ("covering") – an alliance – but not with God.

"Add sin to sin" – To rebel against God and to turn your back on Him is sin, but to make a forbidden alliance is to add sin to sin.

v. 2
They did not want God as their refuge, but wanted someone tangible (to hold on to) – like Pharaoh.

A "shadow" appears to be something but is in fact nothing.

It is a natural tendency for people in trouble to prefer human advice and help over God's advice and help.

People's preference is often:

--The tangible over the intangible
--The physical over the spiritual
--The "seen" over the "unseen"
--Human plans over prayer

When Israel left Egypt (under Moses), they were to leave for good (never to return).

Deut. 17:16
But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the Lord hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way.

Even Joseph made request that his bones be carried out of Egypt. In the Bible, Egypt is a picture of the world. Just as Israel left Egypt for the Promised Land, so the believer has left the world for God, heaven, salvation, and newness of life. But often, there is a temptation to return to "Egypt."

SONG: "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus - No turning back, no turning back"

Don't go to Egypt for help! SEE: Isaiah 31:1-3

v. 6
"Isaiah then uttered an oracle (burden) concerning the caravan that was then traveling from Jerusalem to Egypt with treasures to buy protection against Assyria (Is. 30:6-7). He saw the burdened animals making their way through the difficult and dangerous terrain of the Negev (the south), and he cried, "It is all to no profit! It is useless! The Egyptians will help in vain!" (Wiersbe, p. 77).

v. 8
God told Isaiah to make a placard that said, "This is a rebellious people, lying children, children who will not hear the Law of the Lord." He carried this sign as he walked around Jerusalem (Wiersbe, p. 77).

When people are in rebellion against the LORD…

II. They prefer <u>Lies</u> over <u>Truth</u> (v.9-11)

v. 9
Rebels do not care too much about hearing God's Word. Lack of interest in spiritual things is the first sign of a heart that is not right toward God.

When your heart is right with God, you love to hear His Word; but when rebellion (due to a love for sin) has seeped into your heart, you will ignore God's Word with great effort. Old Saying: "This Book will keep you from sin, but sin will keep you from this Book."

v. 10
People often despise truth when truth requires faith in an <u>unseen God</u>.

People often despise truth when truth goes <u>contrary</u> to the <u>whims and wishes</u> of sinful people.

Rebels don't like truth.

They prefer "illusions" over substantive preaching; easy to swallow sermonettes over confrontational, hard-hitting challenges. They want to be stroked with the words, "I'm okay and you're okay." People will go to great lengths to twist Scripture to suit their sinful lifestyle.

2 Tim. 4:3-4
For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; [4] And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

In the Last Days, many will seek teachers who will tell them what they want to hear.

v. 11
They tell the prophet (like Isaiah) to get out of the way. "Don't tell us any more about the Holy One of Israel; we're sick of it."

America's general rejection of God (He is no longer allowed in our public schools or public life) has become the catalyst behind much of the chaos, confusion, disorders we find today in family life, education, the legal system (court system etc.), etc.

- If there is no God (and we are a product of chance or evolutionary cause, as Darwinism)
- Then there is no Lawgiver to whom we are accountable.
- If there is no Lawgiver then there is no law or standard by which to measure right & wrong.
- If there is no Law or standard by which to measure right & wrong, there is no absolute truth.
- And if there is no absolute truth, there is no basis for morality.
- Each person can determine the "rules for life" and man can be his own god.

The problem with this reasoning is this: If everyone can make his own rules for life, then when my rules and your rules conflict, there is no structure to society to determine how to resolve the issue.

Each will be out for what he wants at the expense of anyone else's property or life. There is no basis for common law, if there is no basis for truth. If God is "dead" or non-existent then everything becomes permissible.

Interestingly enough, God said "lawlessness" would mark the last days, prior to Christ's return. And the Antichrist will be called the "lawless" one as he will embody the lawless spirit that will engulf the world in the end times. (2 Th. 2:8 – "Wicked one" = anomos; lit. without law). The stage is being set today for his arrival.

Our culture is committed to attaining its vision of radical liberation from all authority. Authorities are viewed by many as the enemy of individual freedom. There is an underlying current today to do away with all authority structures. Whether it be authority in the home, church, or government. Authority is a bad word today. It flies in the face of humanism (man being the measure of all things) and relativism (anything goes). Therefore any Authority, such as a supreme God or The Bible must be eradicated from society.

"Preachers are tolerated so long as they stick to therapeutic messages of enhanced self-esteem, and resisted whenever they inject divine authority or universal, absolute truth claims in their sermons." (Burggraff, p.7)

Whether you are aware of it or not there is an agenda to "deconstruct" the literal or normal meaning of significant texts of Law and Literature.

"This new hermeneutical method explains much of the current debate in literature, politics, law, and theology. All texts—whether the Holy Scripture, the United States Constitution, or the works of Mark Twain – are subjected to criticism and dissection, all in the name of liberation.

"Therefore, the Bible is subjected to radical reinterpretation, often with little or no regard for the plain meaning of the text or the clear intention of the human author. Texts which are not pleasing to the postmodern mind are rejected as oppressive, patriarchal, heterosexist, homophobic, or deformed by some other political or ideological bias.

"While we claim that the Bible is not the mere words of men, but the Word of God, our claim to divine revelation is written off by the postmodernist as only one more projection of oppressive power." (David Burggraff)

Everyday there is less and less respect given to the Bible or to any written Law for that matter.

Why would truth be discarded? The answer is simply this: John 3:19 “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”

One reason why men do not believe the truth is because they love their sin.

II Thes. 2:12 - "That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

Cp. II Tim. 3:7, 8 - "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith."

People dodge truth to preserve their sin. Mankind’s basic self-centered nature will very often ignore truth, deny truth, or even fight the truth in order to gain or maintain some pleasure or selfish ambition.

The question lurking in most hearts today is not: “What is True?” but “What makes me feel good?” The issue for most people in our society today is not: “What is right”, but “I want my rights.”

“The “feel good” religions are replacing the “negativity” of offensive biblical texts, and thus the Bible is dispensed altogether.” (David Burggraff, p.6)

Rejecting the truth about . . .

- God sets you up for the lie and enslavement of idolatry
- Man sets you up for the lie and enslavement of humanism
- Creation sets you up for the lie and enslavement of evolution
- Salvation sets you up for the lie and enslavement of false religion
- Love sets you up for the lie and enslavement of self-centeredness
- Marriage sets you up for the lie and enslavement of divorce and adultery
- Church sets you up for the lie and enslavement of the cults

When people are in rebellion against the LORD…

III. They prefer <u>Ruin</u> over <u>Rescue</u> (v.12-17)

v. 13

God is warning of a sudden judgment to come to those who trust falsehood.

Calamity will drop suddenly on the rebel.

"He that being often reproved and hardeneth his neck shall suddenly be destroyed and that without remedy."

Conclusion: v.18

"In God's laboratory of building men, strengthening character, healing spirits and restoring confidence, He has a very important area called: The Waiting Room!

"Impatient…nervous…fidgety…we often enter unwillingly, hating to admit that a great deal of life's time is made up in waiting." (Robert D. Foster, <u>Building Life on the Promises</u>, 1978, p. 18).

In verses 18 and following, Isaiah now turns from the subject of "rebellion to restoration." (Wiersbe, p. 78)

King Hezekiah does come to the Lord in prayer (despite all odds and threats – 36:13-15, 18). SEE: 37:14-17, 37:36-38, 38:1-8).