

**I. False Hope - Isaiah 31:1-3**

1. Woe is a danger word (**verse 1**)
  - the danger is to go down to Egypt
  - relying on Egypt instead of relying on God
2. "Trust" is so important
  - verse 1
  - the contrast points out the "trust"
  - contrast between trusting Egypt (and their chariots) and trusting God
  - Rea -Egypt had a significant "war machine"
  - chariots were state of the art military weaponry
3. They should have looked to the Holy One of Israel
  - Rea -the sin might be to leave God out - very common in our lives that we just leave Him out of our reckoning
  - Rea -we often trust in politicians instead of trusting God
4. He is too wise (**verse 2**) - they thought that trusting Egypt was the right way
  - God will "rise up" against evil doers
  - He can bring disaster
  - Rea -once again, is God involved in our political/ military reckoning? Or is He a God who just "watches?"
5. The Egyptians are "mere mortals" (**verse 3**)
  - the Egyptians would look after their own interests
  - Rea -therefore they are no "trustable"
  - the contrast is given in a different way - "flesh" vs "spirit"
  - Rea -our writer uses the word "default" for where we turn in trouble. A great analogy!
  - Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
    1. Does this make Egypt an idol?
    2. We trust what we can see?
    3. What if the king had just said we're going to trust God - what do you think his generals and other politicians would have said?
    4. This is not saying that military confederacies are always wrong - necessarily

**II. True Faithfulness - Isaiah 31:4-5**

1. God is faithful, they are not (**verse 4**)
2. God is a lion who is not threatened by the great forces that do battle
  - the shepherds shout to scare the lion away - God is not moved
3. Mount Zion - in its heights
  - He will serve as defender there
4. He is not only a "lion" (4) but also a "shield" (**verse 5**)
  - He will deliver
  - He will "pass over" it
  - like birds He hovers over them
5. The Lord will protect them
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
  1. Discuss how God's favor is better than military might

2. Discuss places an average Christian puts trust - in science/ technology - in military strength - in politicians (leaders) - in American ingenuity - in our psychologists - in our medical professionals (in a pandemic?)
3. The writer is comparing weaponry - fleshly and eternal

### **III. Repentance Demonstrated - Isaiah 31:6-9**

1. Return to God (**verse 6**)
  - they had revolted against Him
- Rea      -the fact that they had left God came out in a time of trouble
2. You will reject your idols (**verse 7**)
  - they will recognize who is a real God
  - the sin is independence from God
- Rea      -commonly seen - leaving God out. We leave Him out of our homes... and we divorce. We leave Him out of our classrooms... and there is chaos. We leave Him out of our government... and there is a crisis in the halls of leadership.
3. Assyria will fall (**verse 8**)
  - by no human sword
  - all based on their repentance
4. The Assyrians “strength”
  - strongholds (**verse 9**)
  - young men (soldiers) (verse 8)
  - commanders (verse 9)
5. By contrast the Lord is a “furnace”
  - in Zion
  - in Jerusalem
- Rea      **Ideas and Questions:**
  1. We lean on that which we feel is secure - military, alliances, etc
  2. Instead we ought “trust in the Lord” (Proverbs 3:5-6)
  3. Leaning on the everlasting arms
  4. True strength as a nation (United States) lies in the arms that uphold us - those of God
  5. Last but not least (again) “trust” is involved
    - what do you trust?

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