

Trials of Trust

“For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel;

In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not.”

–Isaiah 30:15 KJV

Background

A king's duty – the command of Yahuweh (the Lord)

Deuteronomy 17:16-17– “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. Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold.” -KJV

Psalms 20:7 – “Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.” -KJV

Exodus 14:13-14 – “And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.” – KJV

Through our quiet stillness, trust and obedience, deliverance comes. Compare to Isaiah 53:7

1 Kings 10:27-11:1 – Solomon purchased horses and chariots from Egypt using the wealth his wisdom gained him that Yahuweh gave to him. He brought them to the Syrians and Hittites.

Be careful who you trade and do business with. Unwillingly, we may be taking the good He blessed us with (our talents and gifts even) and give it over to the enemy - arming him to come and destroy us. The meaning of casting your pearls before swine.

Do not give to the enemy what belongs to Yahuweh of which has been entrusted to our precious care – hold onto your salvation!

We cannot do business with what he told us never to do business with again (Egypt), else our eyes will be opened to a deceptive love of harlotry – losing our first Love.

As Solomon was tested greatly with his wealth, So Hezekiah would be.

2 Kings 18:7: “And the LORD was with him; and he prospered whithersoever he went forth: and he rebelled against the king of Assyria, and served him not.” -KJV

However, when the trial came in the form of the siege of Judah and Jerusalem, Hezekiah repented for his revolt and gave great tribute to the Assyrian King.

Isaiah 31:1 - “Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!” -KJV

What appears to bring deliverance will not, for the things which are seen are temporal but the things which are unseen are eternal (2 Corinthians 4:18)

Hezekiah's (Yahuweh is my Strength) The First Years

2 Chronicles 28 – 31 – A revival under Hezekiah's reign.

2 Ch. 28:21 - As we will see, Hezekiah did not learn from his father Ahaz who gave tribute to Assyria for help, but it came to nothing.

2 Ch. 29:1 - First action was to repair the doors of the house of Yahuweh.

2 Ch. 29:35 - The order of worship was re-established (set erect in order – made firm) – Example of Job (Iyob) – the test will come.

2 Ch. 30:1 - Hezekiah uses the Passover to unite all of the tribes. The remnant from the 722 BCE dispersion of the house of Israel were invited. (2 Chronicles 30:11)

2 Ch. 30:15-20 – Second Passover – Many were not ready (set-apart) - then Hezekiah prayed

2 Ch. 30:27 – their voice was heard because the house of Yahuweh was in order

2 Ch. 31:6-12 - The tithes/support of the priesthood came in.

2 Ch. 31:16 - Proper distribution of the funds.

2 Ch. 31:18 - In their trustworthiness (faithfulness to re-establish what Yahuweh originally ordered), they were set-apart in set-apartness

2 Ch. 32:1 – **The attack on trust** - Something happened. A test comes. The enemy will only attack what threatens him. He attacks order in the house (Revelation 20 – Satan seized 1000 years).

2 Ch. 32:10 - **The attack to divide** the people from the king. (divide the house). This is what happened to Solomon and the two house split. The enemy HATES unity in the family of Elohim!

Hezekiah's Sickness

“In those days Hezekiah was sick to the death, and prayed unto the LORD:
and he spake unto him, and he gave him a sign.” -2 Chronicles 32:24 KJV

“In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death.
And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him,
Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live.” -2 Kings 20:1 KJV

“In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death.
And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came unto him, and said unto him,
Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live.” –Isaiah 38:1 KJV

2 Kings 20:6 – The promise of Yahuweh to extend his life 15 years and to deliver him from the hand of the Assyrians. 2 Chronicles 32:22 is the fulfillment of that promise. The sickness precedes the siege. (The timing of the events of Hezekiah vary in interpretation by scholars and even Sennacherib's prism (Assyrian annals found in archaeology)

2 Chronicles 32:31 - Babylon visitors - came to Hezekiah perhaps to seek alliance against Assyria. Yahuweh left him to try Hezekiah to see what was in his heart. Job received a similar test.

Yahuweh will withdraw for a period to find out the effect of His blessings has upon you. Will you rise in pride like Hezekiah and flaunt your wealth to the enemy as though by your own hand you attained it? As a result, the time of testing came with the siege of Assyria as written in 2 Ch. 32:24-25.

2 Samuel 24 and 1 Chronicles 21 – David numbered his kingdom. Verse 10 – David's heart struck him. (Psalm 139:23-24)

2 Kings 18:15-16 – He cut off the doors of the house as part of the tribute. What we are so radical about in the beginning – to walk blameless before our Elohim – will be tested so as to ensure our trust in Him and our loyalty to Him does not fade into a trust of man.

Those that endure to the end will be saved. Trust and loyalty to the Master preserves our rewards from being burned up in the end.

It seems certain that the enemy who demands tribute would leave you alone once he receives it – NOT! Even though you give what is most precious to you to save yourself from the enemy, he is relentless and cannot keep any promises.

The enemy cares nothing for your goods – He is after your surrender!

Trusting in Egypt

2 Kings 18:20-21 – Counsel (Isaiah 30:1 and Psalm 32:9) and Strength (Isaiah 31:1 Psalm 20:7)

2 Kings 19:3 - The children have come to desperation. The strength they relied on with Egypt (arm of the flesh) could not save them. They had come to the point of delivering the baby yet were completely diminished of strength to bring the delivery. Their trust was not in Yahuweh alone.

Yahuweh says, do not trust in what appears strong, yet has been proven weak so as to bring you deliverance at the time where there seems to be no way out. I.e. the arm of man and our own flesh. Our service to the king and His blessings will, at some point, come under trial and testing. Learn from past failed attempts of trusting in ourselves and what appears to be a sure ally. This is why we testify and remember His goodness so that we will not lean on our own understanding when the heat is turned up.

Isaiah 30 speaks of Hezekiah depending on Egypt for their deliverance. What we have been delivered from will not and cannot be the very thing we trust in now to bring us deliverance. People who kick the alcohol or drug addiction often go back to it when the pressure is on, back to the very thing they were delivered from. They find security and safety in that. Just like the children of Israel who wanted to go back to Egypt. We CANNOT go back to Egypt!

It is hard to rest and trust in One we cannot see with our eyes to bring us deliverance. This is why we remember what He does! Our seeing Him in the next life comes only after we have proven Him faithful over and over and over again in this life.

2 Kings 19:4 – When all is near gone and almost all is lost, we must humble ourselves and pray, seeking also someone who will stand with us who knows how to hear from heaven. Find someone who knows how to reach heaven – pray!

2 Ch.32:20 IS the prayer of agreement – and it will save us!

Yahuweh is not concerned about the enemy, but in our trust in His victory over him!

Isaiah 30:1-7 - Rahab (meaning proud) who sits still. Example of Rahab who hid the spies so that they were not destroyed and could be saved to go and give word to Joshua. Egypt is powerfully proud and strong on the surface yet sits still for they cannot deliverer says Yahuweh!

A call to T'shuvah (repent and turn) - Isaiah 30:8-10 and Jeremiah 6:16-17 – return to the good ways – yet they would not.

Isaiah 30:15 – Their strength is in their trust of Yahuweh. Hezekiah (strength) put his trust in Yahuweh (2 Kings 18:5), yet the enemy bearing down hard in the siege would cause his kingdom to seek the protection of Egypt.

Our trust in Yah is more powerful than our own ability to find help in a deliverer.

Isaiah 30:18 – He waits to show us favor – He is waiting on us to wait on Him – diligently seeking Him. He is looking for our waiting.

Isaiah 30:27 to the end - The Teacher (Messiah) is revealed and what He does to His enemies if we trust and wait on Him.

The Pattern of the Enemy

2 Kings 18:21 - No trust in the arm of flesh – man cannot save you.

2 Kings 18:22 - No trust in Yahuweh to deliver – God cannot save you.

Therefore in verse 23, surrender to the enemy – he will spare you and prosper you (deception).

2 Kings 18:20-21 - The dialog of the enemy speaking partial truth as Yahuweh asks the same thing in verse 1 of Isaiah 30 and 31.

2 Kings 18:22 – The enemy speaks, “why would Yahuweh come and rescue you when your own king took away your places to worship Him? Your king angered Yahuweh, so why would He come to the rescue?”

Because Hezekiah called for unity in the worship of Yahuweh in one place, at the Passover, the enemy tried to convince the people not to listen to the deception of the king. The enemy also tried to convince Judah that Yahuweh was simply like any other god who could be worshipped as the people saw fit and that he (the enemy) would dispose of Him like he did with the other gods. Because Yahuweh is angry - He will not defend you!

The enemy is out to divide what Yahuweh has united. The enemy wants you to be convinced that your belief is in vain because Yahuweh is angry with you – LIES!

Do not seek shelter under the shadow of Egypt. Do not rely on the arm of flesh for was it not the weakness of the arm of flesh that drove us in the beginning to seek the true Deliverer?

Many times the enemy wins at the siege before the attack and capture even takes place. He tries to negotiate our surrender!

Trust and alliance on Egypt – It is foolish to go back and rely upon what has already been proven weak. (our flesh)

As with Adam/Eve in the garden, 2 Chronicles 32:1 is an attack on trust, weakening set-apartness, so the enemy tries to breach the faithfulness/trust of the servants of Elohim. Once a foothold is made into trustworthiness, it affects set-apartness and then more onslaught afterwards (wearing down – attacking to destroy the unity) – eventually giving into surrender. The attack is on the mind as the Assyrian nobles taunted the remnant of Judah with a twist of truth thrown in to make their words believable.

Between 2 Chronicles 32 verses 25 and 26 lies the time of testing as stated in verse 31 of the same chapter. This is the pattern of Yahuweh, that when He establishes the blessings, tests will come and are designed to check our hearts of any haughtiness that might say, ‘look what my hand has gained me’ as though we somehow put our chest out against Yahuweh.

However, in the end, He will ensure you know truly whose hand it all really comes from. It happened to Hezekiah, Job and even Nebuchadnezzar.

Despite their trust in the flesh, Yahuweh, by His mercy and faithfulness to His own word to Hezekiah, delivered Judah from the hand of the Assyrians – Even at the time of the Jubilee (2 Kings 19:29) – HalelluYah!!