Lesson Nine: **Isaiah 30:1-18** Who Can You Trust?

*(extracted from Isaiah – Trusting God in Troubled Times by Howard Peskett)*

1. Why does God object to Judah’s taking shelter under the shadow of Egypt (vv. 1-5)?
2. How do verses 6-7 emphasize the utter futility of seeking Egypt’s help?
3. What moral direction might someone who wants to work in foreign affairs derive from this passage?
4. From verses 8-11 describe the Israelites’ behavior.
5. How is the metaphor Isaiah uses to depict God’s judgment particularly appropriate to their sin (vv. 12-14)?
6. From verses 10-11, how do you think Isaiah was regarded by the people?

Why do you think the people responded to him in this way?

1. Describe a time when it has been difficult for you to trust in God.
2. Describe a time when you have experienced the kind of contentment verse 15 promises.
3. How do verses 16-17 depict the price of unbelief.
4. Consider some particular trouble you are facing at this time. What steps do you need to take in order to trust that God will be gracious to those who wait for him, as verse 18 promises?
5. Isaiah’s listeners would have nothing to do with his message of repentant rest and quiet trusting (v. 15). “Out of the way!” they said (and no doubt other things as well). How may we so hear these words of Isaiah that their fragrance lingers over our whole lives?

*Sometimes prayers like “Lord, help me not to be so anxious, so nervous” are so focused on the anxiety and nervousness that we end up worse rather than better! To prevent this we should turn some scriptural promises into affirmations:*

 *Lord, I turn quietly to you for salvation;*

 *Lord, I trust quietly in you for strength:*

 *For you are full of compassion and grace.*

 *I praise you.*

**Now or Later**

Chapters 31-33 are further oracles from the time of the Assyrian crisis. Just as chapters 24-27 left chapters 13-23 far behind, so the visions of judgment and salvation in chapters 34 and 35 leave the detailed historical situation of 28-33 far behind. Read chapter 35 against the dark background of chapter 34. Ponder the joy of the new exodus; the transformation of the desert; the way of holiness, which even fools cannot miss; and the pilgrims returning to Zion “crowned with never-fading gladness.”