

Monday, 23 January 2017 Isaiah 28:14-17

Therefore, listen to this message from the LORD, you scoffing rulers in Jerusalem. You boast, "We have struck a bargain to cheat death and have made a deal to dodge the grave. The coming destruction can never touch us, for we have built a strong refuge made of lies and deception." Therefore, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "Look! I am placing a foundation stone in Jerusalem, a firm and tested stone. It is a precious cornerstone that is safe to build on. Whoever believes need never be shaken. I will test you with the measuring line of justice and the plumb line of righteousness. Since your refuge is made of lies, a hailstorm will knock it down. Since it is made of deception, a flood will sweep it away.

Here's my choice. Do I want to believe the Father of Lies, a proven deceiver or will I trust the LORD, God the Almighty, whose Word has never failed? The proof of the inherent deception of the first premise is seen all around us as our culture crumbles into chaos. The second premise stands on the firm and tested Cornerstone, the One who conquered death for all who trust in Him.

Tuesday, 24 January 2017 Isaiah 30:8-11

Now go and write down these words. Write them in a book. They will stand until the end of time as a witness that these people are stubborn rebels who refuse to pay attention to the LORD's instructions. They tell the seers, "Stop seeing visions!" They tell the prophets, "Don't tell us what is right. Tell us nice things. Tell us lies. Forget all this gloom. Get off your narrow path. Stop telling us about your 'Holy One of Israel.'"

Nothing has changed in 3000 +/- years. Tickle my ears with a nice story about an indulgent god who would not dream of denying me anything. You Christians always harping about sin and claiming that all the fun things of life have bad consequences. Go away with your gloom and punishment mentality. I want to believe in Candy Land!

Wednesday, 25 January 2017 Isaiah 30:12-15

This is the reply of the Holy One of Israel: "Because you despise what I tell you and trust instead in oppression and lies, calamity will come upon you suddenly—like a bulging wall that bursts and falls.

In an instant it will collapse and come crashing down. You will be smashed like a piece of pottery—shattered so completely that there won't be a piece big enough to carry coals from a fireplace or a little water from the well." This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: "Only in returning to Me and resting in Me will you be saved. In quietness and confidence is your strength. But you would have none of it.

Isaiah was addressing the LORD's people before the Exile and calamity came like a bulging wall. His words are as timely now as they were then. When will those who call themselves by His Name, return to Him and rest in His Word? When will we notice that the wall is bulging and the Church needs to return to obedience to the Word. When we will see that our compulsion to pick and choose the words we like from the Word is not trusting in the LORD, God, the Almighty.

Thursday, 26 January 2017 Isaiah 30:16-17

You said, 'No, we will get our help from Egypt. They will give us swift horses for riding into battle.' But the only swiftness you are going to see is the swiftness of your enemies chasing you! One of them will chase a thousand of you. Five of them will make all of you flee. You will be left like a lonely flagpole on a hill or a tattered banner on a distant mountaintop."

What's today's equivalent to the swift horses of Egypt? Is it that I trust in the permanency of the social security system? Or the Affordable Care Act? Or the benevolence of a state agency to provide an income if I'm laid off? Or is it the ??????

Or do I need to place my faith in Your promise to meet my needs if my first priority is to seek Your kingdom and Your righteousness? Am I living according to Your desire for me to live justly, love mercy and walk humbly before You?

Friday, 27 January 2017 Isaiah 30:18-19

So the LORD must wait for you to come to Him so He can show you His love and compassion. For the LORD is a faithful God. Blessed are those who wait for His help. O people of Zion, who live in Jerusalem, you will weep no more. He will be gracious if you ask for help. He will surely respond to the sound of your cries.

Why is it that man thinks that the LORD owes him mercy? Why do we think that we do not have to come to Him in repentance and seeking forgiveness for our sins? Or even a step deeper into the morass when we claim that we have not sinned, at least in any significant way? Well, I'm certainly not the sinner like that poor tax collector down there in the corner making a spectacle of himself with all that weeping, hair tearing and ripping his clothes. No, in His graciousness and love, He knows that I must get to that point where I know that I have sinned, that I need someone to stand between me and His just wrath. He waits patiently for that day to arrive. I must become that tax collector.

Saturday, 28 January 2017 Isaiah 30:20-22

Though the Lord gave you adversity for food and suffering for drink, He will still be with you to teach you. You will see your teacher with your own eyes. Your own ears will hear Him. Right behind you a voice will say, "This is the way you should go," whether to the right or to the left. Then you will destroy all your silver idols and your precious gold images. You will throw them out like filthy rags, saying to them, "Good riddance!"

What a precious passage. To see and hear my teacher; to know that He is right behind me guiding my every step. As that day comes, the day where all my idols (addictions and other false gods) are as filthy rags, then I will truly revel in that peaceful harvest of righteous living.

Hebrews 12:11 No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.

Lord's Day, 29 January 2017 Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

In all this turmoil and testing, I must depend upon Your word to guide me and to illuminate the path. There is no other other guide.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



January 23-29, 2017

I was dealing with a very difficult and perplexing problem in the spring of 1989 and tackling it by trying to learn everything I could on the subject. One evening, as I continued my studies, God told me very clearly that the root of the problem was that I did not know Him. I put down the book I was reading and picked up a Bible figuring that was where I was going to find Him. That began what has been an ongoing search to know, really know in a John 17:3 way, the LORD, God, the Almighty.'

Voices Together has and continues to be, a very important part of that search. It is extracted from my daily meditations and is shared in the hope that others will be encouraged to turn to the Scriptures as a rich source of guidance for prayer and meditation.

It is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, www.ailbe.org; along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ.

These messages can also be received as daily emails or in a monthly printed version by sending a request to:

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Realizing the presence, promise and power
of the Kingdom of God.

*LORD or LORD, God the Almighty always refers to the Trinitarian God.