



Reflections & Revelations Newsletter
(June 26, 2006)

A GOD OF JUSTICE

Isaiah 30:15: "In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength" (KJV).

This was my devotional scripture this morning. There was something in this scripture that really spoke to my heart, so I decided to look it up in context and ended up reading the entire Chapter. It was good! I read three different versions to capture a broader vision than just what I was seeing in the King James Version. The New American Standard Bible (NASB) version really brought it alive for me. So, what I would like to do is to break down the things from that version that hit my spirit the most. I pray it will bless you as much as it is blessing me.

First, let's begin by clarifying that while God is speaking to the nation of Israel, I find the things He is speaking are very relevant to me as well. The chapter starts out with:

¹"Woe to the rebellious children," declares the Lord,
"Who execute a plan, but not Mine,
And make an alliance, but not of My Spirit,
In order to add sin to sin."

That really caught my eye! I can well remember times I have been rebellious, making and executing plans that were not God's plan for my life. Even as I sit here and try to capture everything that is going on inside of me, I find myself a little overwhelmed. That scripture truly stirs the fear of the Lord in my heart. When I am rebellious, when I make my own plans, when I ally myself with someone or something other than God and His Spirit, I add sin to sin. My heart grieves behind that one scripture, for it is truly not my desire to so sin against the Lord. Father, forgive me for the times I have been rebellious. I ask for Your grace and Your mercy to lead me on the path of righteousness.

One of the things I love most about the Word of God is how He tells us the things we do. In these particular verses He talks about going "down to Egypt without consulting [Him], to take refuge in the safety of Pharaoh and to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt!" (v2). What struck me here is the representation of Egypt. Going back to Exodus, Egypt was a place of bondage for the Israelites, representing our bondage to the world. And, just as the Israelites were delivered from Egypt, we are delivered from the world when we accept Jesus as our Lord. So, I found it quite odd that having been delivered, they would be going back to Egypt to seek an alliance. I wish I knew the full history of this, but without even understanding that, what stirred in my heart are the times I go back to the world's ways seeking a solution to my circumstances. That is the

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vision of what I see in this. And, the consequences He describes are exactly what happen.

Whenever I “go back to Egypt,” I find shame and humiliation (**v3**). The people I associate with are those who “cannot profit [me]” (**v5**), because they have no knowledge of the Lord or His ways. They “are not for help or profit, but for shame and also for reproach (**v5**).” So, why do I listen to them? He gives me the answer in verse 9:

⁹For this is a rebellious people, false sons,
Sons who refuse to listen
To the instruction of the Lord;
¹⁰Who say to the seers, “You must not see visions”;
And to the prophets, “You must not prophesy to us what is right,
Speak to us pleasant words,
Prophesy illusions.”

Those are strong words from our Lord God. Very strong words. But, also very true words. Whenever I choose to listen to any voice other than His and any Spirit other than His, I am in rebellion. That is a hard Word to receive, but a truth that can set me free. He goes on to tell me how. It starts with the devotional scripture.

In verse 15, He tells me that if I repent and rest, I will be saved. What I hear in my heart is my rest must be in Him and my salvation is from my circumstances. I have to admit that He has been making this scripture come alive in my life in tremendous ways lately, and I did not even know it existed! The more I give up my rebellious nature and rest in Him, the more the circumstances around me begin to change. When I am quiet and trust in Him, I find a strength that is hard to describe, yet here He tells me in verse 15 “in quietness and trust is [my] strength.” He also tells me the alternative choice I can make, which is to flee (**v16**). What do I flee from? His truth; His path; His ways. I sorrow at how many times I have done just that. And, I thank Him for the few times lately, I have not! I truly thank my Father that He is a God of justice.

¹⁸Therefore the Lord longs to be gracious to you,
And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you.
For the Lord is a God of justice;
How blessed are those who long for Him.

¹⁹O people in Zion, inhabitant in Jerusalem, you will weep no longer. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you.

²⁰Although the Lord has given you bread of privation and water of oppression, *He* your Teacher will no longer hide Himself, but your eyes will behold your Teacher.

²¹Your ears will hear a word behind you, “This is the way, walk in it.” whenever you turn to the right or to the left.

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²²And you will defile your graven images overlaid with silver, and your molten images plated with gold. You will scatter them as an impure thing, and say to them, “Be gone!”

²³Then He will give you rain for the seed which you will sow in the ground, and bread from the yield of the ground, and it will be rich and plenteous.”
(Bold and underline emphasis added)

I find that to be one of the absolutely most encouraging scriptures I have ever read!! The promises therein are tremendous. The very fact that my God is a God of justice thrills me. The fact that He does not change for me excites me. I am even more thrilled that He gives me the opportunity to change for Him that His justice can be executed in my life! Just think what would happen to the world if God changed because of us. The chaos and the confusion that would exist. There would be nothing finite. There could be no promises of God, for His word would mean absolutely nothing! But, because He is a God of justice, we can rely on His word to do what He sends it forth to do, and to not come back void (**Isaiah 55:11**). I can't even begin to describe what I feel right now or the understanding that He has brought me in these scriptures! He can't change; otherwise, we would all be hopelessly lost!

Thank You Father for being unchangeable! Thank You Father for having compassion! Thank You Father for being just and true to Your word! If God were not a God of justice, it would mean that He would make His decisions based on a whim. Our laws are intended to impute justice, yet they fail. But, God's laws never, ever fail! His justice is true. His justice is sure. His justice ensures me that when I do wrong, I will be corrected. And when I do right, I will receive a blessing. The most important blessing for me right now is not what He can give me, but to be allowed in His presence! Father, hear my cry!

A couple of weeks ago, we were in a time of worship at choir rehearsal. We were singing a song about glorifying God. I heard in my spirit that “If we want to glorify Him, we must put away the idols in our heart.” There was more to it than that, but that's all I can remember. That is enough. Here He tells me that if I put away my idols THEN He will give me rain for my seed (His Word) that has been sown in the ground of my heart. THEN I will yield bread (nourishment) from that Word, and my nourishment will be rich and plenteous. Lord, may I be rich in Your Word. May it overflow in abundance and to the full where it is a consuming fire burning in my soul!

Father, I thank You for this Word You have spoken to me this day. I pray it will bless every soul that reads it, setting the captives free. I thank You for the bondage that has already been released from my life, and I thank You for the continued deliverance You are still working in me. Father, Your Word is truth, and it is life. I thank You for it. I ask that by Your Word, You would show me the idols that still exist in my heart that I must put away! May I have a good and honest heart to receive what You would speak to me and to receive Your Word? May I have a heart that will count it as joy when Your Word

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is tested in my life? And, may I have the patience to bring forth the fruit from it. These things I pray for myself and every soul that reads this writing. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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