**Abundant Life Church**

**Sunday, Sept. 20, 2020**

**Title: Believe Again!**

**Text:**

18  Therefore 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 all those who long for Him.
19  O 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.
20  Although 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.
21  Your ears will hear a word behind you, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right or to the left.
**Isaiah 30:18-21 (NASB)**

**Intro:**

Judah was facing great international pressure between warring factions between the rising power of Assyria and Egypt to the south. Their brothers, Israel, was destroyed by Assyria and there was great fear that Judah would be next.

The temptation was to seek an earthly deliverance. These plans were driven by fear because of their lack of faith in God’s protection.

Vs. 1- Execute a plan and make alliances with Egypt, but it was not of God.

Vs. 2- Went to Egypt for refuge, seeking shelter in the shadow of Pharoah

Vs. 6-Caravan of donkeys & camels carrying their wealth to Egypt to buy protection

Vs. 10- Tried to remake the prophets into those that speak illusions instead of the truth about repentance and righteousness

When we face, long sustained trials we are tempted to give up an active faith in God.

When we have long periods where prayers appear unheard we are tempted to just get disillusioned.

When we have are facing uncertainty about the future we run to those thing which produce security. Often those things have to do more with our own thinking instead of an active faith in God.

***Vs. 15- Repentance, Quietness, Trust (quote this verse)***

For thus the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, has said, "In repentance and rest you will be saved,

In quietness and trust is your strength." But you were not willing,
**Isaiah 30:15 (NASB)**

Vs. 16- Vain planning of avoiding trouble by running on swift horses

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**Isaiah 30:18-21 (NASB)**

1. **Lift Up Your Eyes to God – See His Great Heart**

Vs. 18 - Therefore 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 all those who long for Him.

* God longs to be gracious
* He waits to have compassion
1. **Stop weeping – The days of your tears will come to an end**

Vs. 19- O people in Zion, inhabitant in Jerusalem, you will weep no longer.

You will weep no longer – The days of your tears are limited

1. **Believe Again - God will answer your prayer**

Vs. 19- He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you.

At the sound of your cry He will hear you, He will answer you

1. **Get Close to Jesus - God will reveal Himself to you**

Vs. 20- *He,* your Teacher will no longer hide Himself, but your eyes will behold your Teacher.

You will have greater and more intimate fellowship with God. You will see His hand at work in your life. Your heart will know God by and through your heart.

1. **Listen! - He will give His direction to you**

Vs. 21-Your ears will hear a word behind you, "This is the way, walk in it,"

He will not leave you by yourself to navigate the uncertainties of this life.

The days of silence are ending. Get close to God & He will open your eyes to hear His voice!