Session 10 The Forerunner Message in Isaiah 30

1. Introduction
   1. Isaiah spoke to the leaders of Jerusalem sometime before Assyria invaded the land in 701 BC. Many Old Testament prophecies have a partial fulfillment in proximity to the generation in which the prophet spoke the prophecy and then have a complete fulfillment at the end of the age.
   2. Note: Five dates that are important to know to better understand the message of the prophets.
      1. 931 BC civil war—the 10 tribes of Israel (north) fought against Judah (south).
      2. 721 BC Israel (north) was destroyed by Assyria (about 200 years after the civil war started).
      3. 586 BC Judah (south)—Jerusalem was destroyed by Babylon (Nebuchadnezzar).
      4. 536 BC The Jews returned from Babylonian captivity to rebuild Jerusalem and temple.
      5. AD 70 Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans (1948 re-established the state of Israel).
   3. Outline for Isaiah 30

30:1-7 The peril of trusting Egypt

30:8-17 Jerusalem rejected God’s word and leadership

30:18-26 God will transform Jerusalem

30:27-33 God will destroy Assyria

* 1. Principle: What happens *in fullness* when Jesus returns occurs *in part* now and in an increasing way.

1. The peril of trusting Egypt (isa. 30:1-7)
   1. Leaders in Jerusalem sent a delegation to Egypt to establish a political alliance (30:1-5; 31:1-3).

1Woe to the rebellious children…who devise plans, but not of My Spirit...2who walk…down to Egypt…to strengthen themselves…3The strength of Pharaoh shall be your shame… (Isa. 30:1-3)

* 1. A delegation was sent from Israel carrying great riches through south or the desert region, an area infested with lions and snakes (30:6-7). A dangerous and expensive diplomatic endeavor to gain an alliance with Egypt for help to protect Israel from an Assyria invasion, it was sure to fail.

6The burden against the beasts of the South. Through a land of trouble and anguish, from which came the lioness and lion, the viper and fiery flying serpent, they will carry their riches on the backs of young donkeys…7for the Egyptians shall help in vain and to no purpose. (Isa. 30:6-7)

1. Jerusalem rejected God’s word and leadership (isa. 30:8-17)
   1. The Lord commanded Isaiah to record the events for the benefit of future generations (30:8-11). The rebellious leaders in Isaiah’s day were mocking him and telling him to prophesy only positive things. Those speaking the forerunner message must know that they will be mocked (2 Pet. 3:3).

8Now go, write it before them on a tablet…that it may be for time to come, [future generations] forever and ever: 9That this is a rebellious people…10who say to the seers, “Do not see,” and to the prophets, “Do not prophesy to us right things; speak to us smooth things…” (Isa. 30:8-10)

* 1. Isaiah prophesied that disaster was coming to Jerusalem. This is the very opposite of what the rebellious leaders asked him to do in 30:10. Isaiah compared the coming disaster to cracks in a wall that would continue to increase until the wall collapsed. The collapse might not happen for some years, but when it occurs, it will be sudden and total, like smashing a potter’s vessel.

12… “Because you despise this word…13Therefore this iniquity [of the leaders of Jerusalem] shall be to you like a breach ready to fall, a bulge in a high wall, whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant. 14And He shall break it like the breaking of the potter’s vessel… (Isa. 30:12-14)

* + 1. The Assyrians took 200,000 Jewish captives from Judah in 701 BC.
    2. About 100 years later in 605 BC, the Babylonians defeated the Assyrian army and became the new “super power” in the Middle East.
  1. Isaiah called the people to return (repent) and to rest by trusting the Lord’s leadership and promises to provide and protect them.

15In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength. But you would not, 16and you said, “No, for we will flee on horses”—therefore you shall flee… those who pursue you shall be swift! 17One thousand shall flee at the threat of one, at the threat of five you shall flee, till you are left as a pole on top of a mountain and as a banner on a hill.   
(Isa. 30:15-17)

* + 1. ***Returning***: The people of Judah was called to repent and rest under His leadership (30:15). They were to repent of rejecting Isaiah’s prophetic word calling them to trust God instead of in a political alliance with Egypt. Such alliances are bad when they are against the revealed will of God and cause God’s people to compromise their relationship with God
    2. ***Rest***: God’s people rest by waiting on the Lord and believing in His promises. In 30:18, Isaiah elaborated on this promise of rest declaring “blessing on all who wait on God.”

18…that He may be gracious to you…blessed are all those who wait for Him. (Isa. 30:18)

* + 1. ***Saved***: To be saved in this context refers to being delivered from the great trouble that would come related to the Assyria military invasion of Judah.
    2. ***Quietness***: To have a quiet spirit is in contrast to a heart agitated with fear and anxiety. Their hearts were not at peace, but were unsettled by fear related to the Assyria invasion. There is power in knowledge—the power to have a calm heart. In knowing the King and His plan, we can walk in peace. Our hearts are quieted by trusting God’s leadership and promises.

4…the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. 5For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves… (1 Pet. 3:4-5)

* + 1. ***Strength***: Those responding in faith find strength in their heart. Strength comes from knowledge—knowing the biblical narrative of the end times strengthens people with confidence. This principle of gaining strength is found in Isaiah 26:3; 30:15; 33:6; 40:31.
    2. A believer with a *quiet and confident spirit* is strengthened to prevail over shame, anxiety, rejection, fear, etc. Jesus quiets the storm in our hearts, speaking, “Peace, be still” (Mk. 4:39). Humanity strives for the quietness and conference, yet without engaging with God for it.

17The work of righteousness will be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever. (Isa. 32:17)

* + 1. ***Flee on horses***: They fled on swift horses to ask Egypt for help rather than trusting in God. People often look for salvation in what they think they can control.
    2. ***One thousand shall flee***: This proverbial statement meant that one Assyrian soldier shouting a war cry would cause 1,000 people from Judah to flee from the battle in fear (Deut. 32:30).
    3. ***Pole on top of a mountain***: A deserted flag on a pole on a mountain or hill indicated that only a few soldiers from Judah had survived the battle.
  1. ***God’s discipline***: God disciplines His people because He loves them. His judgments are to wake His people up so that they live in agreement with Him. God disciples His children like a father who delights in his sons (Prov. 3:12). A parent who delights in their children will correct them.

1. God will transform Jerusalem (Isa. 30:18-26)
   1. The Lord promises to restore people spiritually (30:19-22), bless the agricultural (30:23-25), multiply light (30:26), and remove all enemies of love and righteousness (30:27-33). These blessings are released in part in this age, then in fullness when Jesus returns at the start of the Millennium.
   2. The Lord will be gracious to Jerusalem when He hears their cry (30:18-19).

18Therefore the Lord will wait, that He may be gracious to you and therefore He will be exalted, that He may have mercy on you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for Him. 19For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem: you shall weep no more. He will be very gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you.   
(Isa. 30:18-22)

* + 1. ***Therefore***: This is a transitional statement that concludes the negative message in 30:12-17, yet also introduces the positive message in the next paragraph in 30:19-26. Because of their continuing rebellion they were disciplined by God. “Therefore” reaches back to 30:14, linking the message of God’s discipline (30:12-17) to their future restoration (30:18-27).
    2. ***Gracious***: The Lord desires to be very gracious to Jerusalem and all of His people.
    3. ***He will be exalted***: By showing great mercy, He magnifies or honors His name.

18He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy. (Mic. 7:18)

* + 1. ***The*** ***Lord waits***: He waits on His people to turn to Him and to persist in crying out in prayer with faith and a spirit of obedience for the fullness of His blessings and prophetic promises. He waits for His people to embrace His prophetic words with confidence that they are good. Here we see the Father waiting for His prodigals—children and nation.
    2. ***Sound of your cry***: The Lord waits until His people cry out to Him. There are blessings that God has chosen to give, but He withholds until we ask Him for them. Prayer connects us with His heart in partnership. Asking for *everything* is a kingdom principle (Phil. 4:6). We *ask* and not just *think* about our promises and needs (Jas. 4:2)*.* God requires us to cooperate with Him in the grace of God as an expression of His desire for intimate partnership with us.

6In everything by prayer…let your requests be made known to God… (Phil. 4:6)

2Yet you do not have because you do not ask. (Jas. 4:2)

* + 1. ***Blessed are all who wait***: To wait on God is to be preoccupied with *engaging with Him* and His plan and narrative for our life*.* We wait on God in two ways—by engaging with Him in prayer with faith and not drawing back into passive unbelief when His promises are delayed. Waiting on God presupposes that we renewing our mind to trust in God’s promises.
       1. ***Wait***: Waiting on God is not about just biding time, but is engaging actively with God in contending for His promises and being preoccupied with interacting with Jesus. To wait on God includes refusing to draw back. Some believers become offended, spiritually dull, or ensnared in compromise, then cease to wait on the Lord.
       2. ***Blessed***: Those who wait on God gain new strength to prevail over bitterness, failure, besetting sins, fear, anxiety, and their preoccupation with being mistreated.

31But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength… (Isa. 40:31)

* + - 1. ***All***: The blessing of waiting on God is for all regardless of our state of brokenness.
      2. ***Jesus***: In context to teaching on the end-times, Jesus’ primary exhortation was to watch or wait on God (Mt. 24:42-43; 25:13; 26:38-41; 27:36; Mk. 13:33-38; Lk. 12:38-39; 21:36; Rev. 3:3; 16:15). It seems that He was referring to Isa. 30:18.
    1. ***Zion***: *Jerusalem* and *Zion* are used throughout Isaiah as synonyms (Isa. 2:3; 4:3-4; 31:4-5, 9; 33:20; 40:9; 41:27; 52:1; 64:10, etc.) much like Israel and Jacob. Strictly speaking, Zion is the mountain and Jerusalem is the city built upon it. The city of David in David’s day was approximately 2000 yards, north to south, by 200 yards, east to west.
       1. The Lord is zealous to live in Jerusalem forever (1:16; 2:5, 10). Jerusalem is the city of the great king (Ps. 48:1-5; Mt. 5:35) and will be the political, spiritual, educational, and financial capital of the millennial earth (Isa. 2:2-4; Jer. 3:17).

16…“I am returning to Jerusalem with mercy; My house [temple] shall be built in it…” 17The Lord will again comfort Zion, and will again choose Jerusalem. (Zech. 1:16-17)

* + - 1. The Lord told Solomon that He wanted to put His Name in Jerusalem or Zion (2 Chr. 6:6, 34-38). In Zechariah, the Lord again chooses Jerusalem (1:17; 2:12; 3:2).
    1. ***God of justice***:He is a God of justice in all that He does, so He must confront sin in the midst of His people when it is persisted in. He delights to show mercy but will not overlook sin that is persisted in. He never suspends one attribute to exercise another. He will not give mercy to reinforce as lifestyle that contradicts who He is. Jesus gives His people mercy to bring them into alignment with His love and wisdom. We must not be presumptuous with His mercy.
  1. ***The people shall dwell in Zion***: For many years after the Lord disciplined Jerusalem by the Babylonian captivity in 586 BC and again when the Romans destroyed the city in AD 70, it appeared as if Jerusalem would remain desolate without many people dwelling in her midst.
  2. ***Weep no more***: Even though the tears of affliction and oppression lasted many years in Jerusalem, God promised to restore them. This happened in part when God delivered Jerusalem in 701 BC and when they returned from Babylonian captivity in 536 BC, but its ultimate fulfillment will be at Jesus’ return, when He defeats His enemies (Rev. 19:17-21).
     1. In Isaiah’s day, the people wept because of the tragic events associated with the Assyria invasion of Judah in 701 BC. There have been many seasons of weeping in Israel’s history.
     2. The most dangerous and cruel enemy in Israel’s history is in the future—the Antichrist.
     3. People concluded that God would not protect Jerusalem. The common “Zion theology” was that they had special protection regardless of how they lived since His temple was Jerusalem.
     4. In this passage, Isaiah prophesied to both his generation and the whole earth related to the end-time drama. The attack by and later defeat of the Assyrians in proximity to Isaiah’s day was a prophetic snapshot of what will happen globally in the generation the Lord returns.
  3. God will give understanding of His ways, and His people will reject false religions (30:20-22).

20And though the Lord gives you the bread of adversity…yet your teachers will not be moved into a corner anymore, but your eyes shall see your teachers. 21Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it,” whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left. 22You will also…throw them away [idols] as an unclean thing…! (Isa. 30:20-22)

* + 1. ***Bread of adversity***: For generations Jerusalem endured adversity as though it was their bread. All their affliction, especially by military invasions, will forever be over.
    2. ***Your teachers*:** Godwould reveal Himself through His servants functioning as teachers. The time of Israel rejecting the word of the Lord will one day be over forever. As a nation, in terms of seeing and receiving their teachers, in the future they will be receiving the word of the Lord.
       1. Their teachers had moved into a corner, seeking to avoid being persecuted.
       2. Isaiah and other teachers and prophetic messengers were mocked in that day.
       3. How did Isaiah stay faithful in rejection? Where did he get his motivation? Isaiah 6
    3. ***Hear a word behind you***: The Lord will be gracious to give them direction “in the moment” at the times when they might miss His will by moving to the right or left. Here I picture the hands of a father on shoulders of his child tenderly whispering new directions in their ear.
    4. ***Right and left:*** To correct their steps that went to the right or left of God’s will.
    5. ***Throw idols away***: The Lord will bring an end of idolatry and false religion in Israel and the nations after He returns. His people will walk in loyal love for Him. In the generation Jesus returns, the Spirit will establish the first commandment in first place (Deut. 30:6).
    6. ***Images***: Some idols were covered with metals with greater value, such as gold or silver. These were seen as more powerful or spiritual. It made the people less likely todestroy them. Hezekiah sought to remove all the idols that his father Ahaz had allowed (2 Kgs 16:1-4; 18:4), so some kept their idols a secret instead of removing them as Hezekiah commanded.
    7. ***Defile***: To destroy a thin layer of silver and gold that covered an idol made of wood.
  1. The Lord will heal the land, resulting in abundant food, water, and sunlight (30:23-26). This refers to God restoring the blessing of the garden of Eden and removing the curse on the ground.

23Then He will give the rain for your seed…and bread of the increase of the earth; it will be fat and plentiful. In that day your cattle will feed in large pastures. 24Likewise the oxen and the young donkeys that work the ground will eat cured fodder, which has been winnowed with the shovel and fan. 25There will be on every high mountain and on every high hill rivers and streams of waters, in the day of the great slaughter…26Moreover the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the Lord binds up the bruise of His people and heals the stroke of their wound. (Isa. 30:23-26)

* + 1. ***He will give rain***: There will enough rain for abundant harvests, following the drought in Israel in the final 3½ years related to the ministry of the two witnesses (Rev. 11:6).

6These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood… (Rev. 11:6)

* + 1. ***Bread of the increase***:Godwill bless His people with abundant harvests. Isaiah 30:23-24 assures us that it is in God’s heart to provide water and food for His people. Jesus multiplied bread on two occasions in His ministry (Mt. 14:15-21; 15:32-38). God never changes, so I expect the body of Christ to see miracles of multiplying of food in the end-time persecutions.
    2. ***Your cattle***:The animals that work the fields will enjoy God’s blessing. There will be so much grain related to the abundant rain that even the oxen and donkeys will eat grains that were winnowed. Winnowed grain requires more work and money than grain that is not winnowed. This superior grain is typically reserved for people and not fed to animals.
       1. ***Winnowed*:** Grain is winnowed by throwing it up into the air with shovels and allowing the wind to carry the chaff away, thus separating it from the kernels of grain. Note the double work of winnowing with both a shovel and fan.
       2. ***Cured fodder***: This speaks of fodder that is flavored or seasoned with salt. Fodder is often made of dried hay, straw, or barley (and not from winnowed grain).
    3. ***Rivers of water***: There will be such abundance of water that rivers and streams will flow even on the top of every high mountain and high hill in Israel. This will be supernatural. The mountains there are very dry and barren, but one day waters will flow to the valleys below.

25There will be on every high mountain and on every high hill rivers and streams of waters. (Isa. 30:23)

* + - 1. ***Living water:*** A river with supernatural healing properties will flow out of the temple (Zech. 14:8). Its waters will flow east to the Dead Sea and west into the Mediterranean Sea. It will flow from the temple, even in the summer when most streams in Israel dry up, and in the winter when it is cold.

8In that day it shall be that living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea [Dead Sea] and half of them toward the western sea [Mediterranean Sea]; in both summer and winter it shall occur. (Zech. 14:8)

* + - 1. Ezekiel saw a river with living waters that brought healing (Ezek. 47:1-12).

1Then he brought me back to the door of the temple; and there was water, flowing from…the temple…5it was a river that I could not cross; for the water was too deep …7There, along the bank of the river, were very many trees on one side and the other. 8Then he said to me: “This water flows…when it reaches the sea, its waters are healed. 9And it shall be that…wherever the rivers go, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes. (Ezek. 47:1-10)

* + - 1. The Psalmist saw a river flowing out of the temple in Jerusalem (Ps. 46:4; 65:9).

4There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacle [temple] of the Most High. (Ps. 46:4)

9You visit the earth and water it; You greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; You provide their grain, for so You have prepared it. (Ps. 65:9)

* + 1. ***The great slaughter***: There was a great slaughter of the Assyrian army in 701 BC. Hezekiah listened to Isaiah and repented of going to Egypt. He prayed, and God sent the angel of the Lord to kill 185,000 Assyrian soldiers (37:36)! The context to “the day of a great slaughter” is when rivers flow on every mountain and hill—this detail was not fulfilled Isaiah’s day.

25There will be on every high mountain…rivers and streams of waters, in the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall. (Isa. 30:25)

* + - 1. The day of the “greatest slaughter” in history is yet future. It is slaughter of people in the Antichrist’s empire who take the mark of the Beast and worship the Antichrist. The day when the enemies of God’s people will be completely destroyed.
      2. This great slaughter is in context to the armies of all the nations attacking Jerusalem. Jesus will kill all of these kings and their hostile Gentile armies (Rev. 19:19-21).

19I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered to make war against Him…20Then the beast was captured…21And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him…birds were filled with their flesh. (Rev. 19:19-21)

* + - 1. The bloodiest day in history will occur when Jesus slays the kings of the earth.

5…He [Jesus] shall execute kings…6He shall judge among the nations, He shall fill the places with dead bodies, He shall execute the heads of many countries.   
(Ps 110:5-6)

20And the winepress was trampled [killing the kings] outside the city [Jerusalem], and blood came…up to the horses’ bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs [185 miles]. (Rev. 14:20)

1Who is this who comes from Edom…this One [Jesus] who is… traveling in the greatness of His strength?— “I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.”  
2Why is Your apparel red…? 3I have trodden them [the nations] … in My fury;   
their blood is sprinkled upon My garments..., and I have stained all My robes.”   
(Isa. 63:1-3)

* + 1. ***When the towers fall***: This speaks of the fall of military towers in which many put their trust. These may be the fall of the towers of the enemies who lay siege to Jerusalem or to their “towers” or military forces in general. These towers fall in context to Israel experiencing Jesus’ millennial blessings in the end times. These towers may refer to the towers of the Assyria (in 701 BC or 612 BC), the towers of Babylon (in 538 BC), and of the Antichrist.
    2. ***Light of the moon and sun***: Light will increase in the day and night. The light of the moon will be as bright as the sun. I assume this will be a temporary phenomenon that coincides with Jesus’ return in glory. If the sun was continually seven times stronger no one could live.
       1. Isaiah describes the moon and sun being ashamed when Jesus appears in glorious light in His procession across the earth (Isa. 24:23; 60:1).

8And then the lawless one [Antichrist] will be revealed, whom the Lord will… destroy with the brightness of His coming. (2 Thes. 2:8)

16…His [Jesus’] countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. (Rev. 1:16)

23Then the moon will be disgraced and the sun ashamed; for the Lord of hosts will reign…in Jerusalem and before His elders, gloriously. (Isa. 24:23)

23The city [New Jerusalem] had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God [Jesus] illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. (Rev. 21:23)

* + - 1. There is coming a grand moment in the future that will be supercharged by the most dramatic lightning phenomenon of all time; it will be blended with glorious music.   
         Just before Jesus returns, the light of the sun, moon, and stars become dark. It is like the Father “turns off” all lights in the sky to prepare for Jesus’ grand entrance to the earth. Then suddenly all the lights are turned on and turned up worldwide so that no one misses Jesus’ second coming as they missed His first coming when born in a stable
      2. The light of the sun, moon, and stars will be darkened at the end of the tribulation (Isa. 13:10; Joel 2:10, 31; 3:15; Mt. 24:29; Mk. 13:24; Lk. 21:25; Acts 2:19-20).

29“Immediately after the tribulation…the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light…” (Mt. 24:29)

31The sun shall be turned into darkness…before the…awesome day of the Lord. (Joel 2:31)

* + - 1. Darkness shall come on the Antichrist’s global empire (Rev. 16:10).

10…the throne of the beast [Antichrist], and his kingdom became full of darkness… (Rev. 16:10)

* + - 1. Jesus’ kingship will be announced by miracles of darkness and light (Zech. 14:6). There will be a mysterious and very unique illumination in the night (Zech. 14:7).

6It shall come to pass in that day that there will be no light; the lights will diminish.   
7It shall be one [unique] day which is known to the Lord—neither day nor night. But at evening time it shall happen that it will be light (Zech. 14:6-7)

* + - 1. One application of this truth is that since Jesus is stronger than the sun, His plan to fill the earth with love and righteousness will surely triumph.
    1. ***Binds up the bruise***:God will fully heal the wound caused by His strokes in disciplining His beloved children (Prov. 3:12). The wound of God’s people is caused by several sources—their own sin, the devil’s attack, and the Lord’s loving discipline.
       1. God’s plan to heal the nations includes healing all the breaches in society, the agriculture, and the entire environment.
       2. Since the Lord can heal the land of Israel and of the nations, then we are assured that He can easily heal the wounds in our lives.

1. God will destroy Assyria: A type of end-time judgment (Isa. 30:27-33)
   1. Isaiah prophesied the judgment on Assyria which occurred in 701 BC and 612 BC (30:27-33).   
      The judgment on ancient Assyria is a type of the end-time judgment on the Antichrist’s empire. Here Isaiah gives us important insights into some of what Jesus will do at His second coming.   
      We especially see His zeal to intervene to remove those who oppress His people (30:27).
   2. Isaiah describes God’s coming in power in anthropomorphic imagery—His lips, tongue, breath, voice, etc. Anthropomorphism ascribes human characteristic to non-humans—to God, animals, etc.

27Behold, the name of the Lord comes from afar, burning with His anger, and His burden is heavy; His lips are full of indignation, and His tongue like a devouring fire. 28His breath is like an overflowing stream, which reaches up to the neck, to sift the nations…there shall be a bridle in the jaws of the people, causing them to err. 29You shall have a song as in the night when a holy festival is kept, and gladness of heart as when one goes with a flute…to the Mighty One of Israel. (Isa. 30:27-29)

* + 1. ***Name of the Lord***: The Lord will be involved personally; His name expresses His character.
    2. ***Lord comes from afar***: He will come from heaven to save His people and remove enemies.

6…God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, 7and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who…do not obey the gospel… 9These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord…10when He comes,   
in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe… (2 Thes. 1:6-10)

* + 1. ***Burning anger***: His zeal for His people is expressed in His burning anger that manifest against those who persecute them and corrupt the earth with immorality (Rev. 19:2).

2For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her.” (Rev. 19:2)

* + 1. ***His burden is heavy***: In the end-times the Lord expresses how heavy His heart is burdened by the oppression and persecution of His people. He is not casual about His people being persecuted by the Harlot Babylon (Rev. 17:6; 19:2) and the Antichrist’s empire (Rev. 13:7).

6I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. (Rev. 17:6)

7It was granted to him [Antichrist] to make war with the saints and to overcome them.   
(Rev. 13:7)

* + 1. ***His lips and tongue***: His lips and tongue speak forth His *decrees* that release judgment against the Antichrist. These decrees will be full of indignation and, like a devouring fire, will result in the total and eternal destruction of the Antichrist and his empire.
    2. ***His breath***: Breath can be translated as “wind.” Jesus can blow on the Antichrist and release a destructive power that is compared to man who is overtaken by a rapidly moving stream.

28His breath is like an overflowing stream, which reaches up to the neck, to sift the nations with the sieve of futility; and there shall be a bridle in the jaws of the people [in rebellion], causing them to err. (Isa. 30:28)

* + - 1. Jesus released the power of the Spirit by blowing on the disciples (Jn. 20:22).

22…He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” (Jn. 20:22)

* + - 1. Jesus will release the judgment on God by blowing on the Antichrist (2 Thes. 2:8).

8…the lawless one [Antichrist] will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. (2 Thes. 2:8)

* + - 1. Jesus will release the judgment on God by blowing on the wicked (Isa. 11:4).

4…and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. (Isa. 11:4)

* + 1. ***Overflowing stream***: The judgments that Jesus releases by the breath of His mouth can easily overwhelm the Antichrist’s empire like a flood that totally engulfs and destroys it.
    2. ***To reach to the neck***: A flooding river that reaches the neck of a man speaks of that which is very dangerous since that man might be swept away and drown to death at any moment.
    3. ***To sift***: Grain was winnowed by throwing it up in the air with a shovel. As the chaff is driven away by the wind, so that the armies which are hostile to God’s people will be scattered.
    4. ***Sift the nations***: Jesus will sift or literally separate the nations when He returns. He will put the “sheep nations” on His right side and the “goat nations” on His left side (Mt. 25:31-46). The Lord sifted a few nations when He destroyed the Assyrian army in Isaiah’s day.
       1. The Lord will sift or shake all the nations (Hag. 2:7).

6“…I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; 7and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory.” (Hag. 2:6-7)

* + - 1. TheAssyrian army was made up of people from “several” nations. But the Antichrist will mobilize a military force from “all” nations (Rev. 16:14-16).
    1. ***Sieve of vanity***: This refers to a sieve that violently shakes nations so as to destroy them.
    2. ***Bridle in the jaws***: God will put a “bridle in the jaws” of His enemies who persist in their rebellion against Him. This “bridle” will cause them to embrace error, thus guiding them to their destruction as rider puts a bridle in the mouth of a horse. In other words, Jesus’ enemies will come under a constraining power that will result in them running to what destroys them.
       1. In context, Paul wrote of the Lord sending a spirit of delusion to people in the end-time who persist in rejecting truth and worshiping the Antichrist (2 Thes. 2:3-12).

10…because they did not receive the love of the truth…11And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie… (2 Thes. 2:10-11)

* + - 1. God hardened Pharaoh’s heart only after Pharaoh first chose to harden it against God (Ex. 7-12; Rom. 9:17-18).

17For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you…” 18Therefore…whom He wills He hardens. (Rom. 9:17-18)

* + - 1. The Lord gives people “up” to the sin that they willingly choose (Rom. 1:24-28).

24Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness…to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25who exchanged the truth of God for the lie…26For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 27Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. 28And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting… (Rom 1:24-28)

* + 1. ***Song as in the night***: In the midst of the intensity of God’s activity in releasing His power on His people and judging His enemies, the redeemed shall sing with love and confidence. These songs of gladness are compared to songs heard during one of Israel’s holy feasts.

29You shall have a song as in the night when a holy festival is kept, and gladness of heart as when one goes with a flute…to the Mighty One of Israel. (Isa. 30:29)

* + 1. ***Gladness of heart***: The redeemed will experience gladness in trusting Jesus’ leadership. God’s people will celebrate His victory as He judges His enemies (Rev. 18:20; 19:1-4).
    2. ***To the Mighty One of Israel***: In the end times, the redeemed will overcome fear as they sing with gladness to Jesus and encounter His heart and power as the Mighty One of Israel. Only by waiting on or engaging with Him can they enter into this type of “song and gladness.”
  1. Isaiah emphasized that God, not the Egyptians, would deliver His people from their enemy.

30The Lord will cause His glorious voice to be heard, and show the descent of His arm, with the indignation of His anger and the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, tempest, and hailstones. 31For through the voice of the Lord Assyria will be beaten down, as He strikes with the rod. 32And in every place where the staff of punishment passes, which the Lord lays on him, it will be with tambourines and harps; and in battles of brandishing He will fight with it. 33For Tophet was established of old, Yes, for the king it is prepared. He has made it deep and large; its pyre is fire with much wood; the breath of the Lord, like a stream of brimstone, kindles it.   
(Isa. 30:30-33)

* + 1. ***His glorious voice***: The Lord will cause His voice to be heard across the whole earth.

16The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. (1 Thes. 4:16)

13The Lord shall go forth like a mighty man; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out, yes, shout aloud; He shall prevail against His enemies. (Isa. 42:13)

* + 1. ***Descent of His arm***: The Lord will show the descent of His arm, with the indignation of His anger and the flame of a devouring fire, as a demonstration of His power (Ex. 6:6).
    2. ***Storm, fire, and hailstones***: At the Jesus’ second coming, He will manifest the power of His arm in a force that is far greater than a violent storm (tempest) with 100-pound hailstones (Rev. 16:21) that are accompanied with fire, lightning, thunder, and pounding rain.

21And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. (Rev. 16:21)

22…I will rain down on him [Antichrist], on his troops, and on the many peoples [nations] who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. (Ezek. 38:22)

* + 1. ***Assyria will be beaten down***: Isaiah highlighted God delivering Jerusalem from a present military crisis with Assyria. The Lord, not the Egyptians, will deliver His people.
       1. Assyria will be beaten down as the Lord strikes the empire with the divine rod. Isaiah prophesied that God would defeat Assyria (29:5; 30:31) by a divine sword, not the sword of man (31:8 was fulfilled in 37:36).
       2. Israel’s greatest enemy will be the Antichrist as the “end-time Assyrian.” God’s judgment on Assyria in the past is a type of His final judgment on the Antichrist’s empire when Jesus comes in glory with fire in context to a storm.
    2. ***Strikes with the rod***: The Lord struck Assyria with “the rod.” God used Assyria as “His rod” to strike His people (10:5, 15, 24). The form of the rod that God used against Assyria was in sending His angel to kill 185,000 Assyrian soldiers (37:36).
    3. ***Voice of the Lord***: The voice of the Lord or the “judgment decrees” that Jesus will speak out will result in the total defeat of the Antichrist.
    4. ***In battles of brandishing***: The Lord is compared to a soldier running to a battle while waving or brandishing His weapons over his head with zeal—as He repeatedly strikes those who oppressed and persecuted His people.
    5. ***The staff of punishment***: God’s rod or staff of punishment is released in context to God’s people engaging in worship—playing tambourines and harps. The divine strike on the Assyrian army in the past and on the Antichrist’s empire in the future is in context to intercessory worship declaring God’s victory and singing His decrees against the enemy.
  1. The Lord fights with “it”—the staff of punishment—in context to intercessory worship (Isa. 30:32).

32And in every place where the staff of punishment passes, which the Lord lays on him, it will be with tambourines and harps; and in battles of brandishing He will fight with it. (Isa. 30:32)

* + 1. Believers shall sing songs that partner with God in releasing His power. Isaiah connected every stroke of God’s punishment with the beat of a musical instrument. This was seen when Jehoshaphat defeated the Moabites and Ammonites in a military conflict (2 Chr. 20:13-30).

21…he [Jehoshaphat] appointed those who should sing to the Lord…as they went out before the army…22Now when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir…and they were defeated.   
(2 Chr. 20:21-22)

6Let the high praises of God be in their mouth…7to execute vengeance [judgment] on   
the nations…8To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron…   
(Ps 149:6-8)

10Sing to the Lord a new song, and His praise from the ends of the earth…11Let the wilderness and its cities lift up their voice…let the inhabitants of Sela sing…13The Lord shall go forth [second coming] like a mighty man…He shall prevail against His enemies. (Isa. 42:10-13)

* + 1. The Lord destroyed the Assyrian army in 701 BC in context to King Hezekiah reestablishing the Levites in their priestly role as prophetic singers and musicians (2 Chr. 29; 2 Kgs. 18-20)

25And he [Hezekiah] stationed the Levites…with cymbals, with stringed instruments, and with harps, according to the commandment of David…for thus was the commandment of the Lord…27When the burnt offering began, the song of the Lord also began, with the trumpets and with the instruments of David king of Israel. 28So all the assembly worshiped, the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded…29all who were present…worshiped.   
(2 Chr. 29:25-29)

* 1. ***Tophet***: Tophet was in the valley of Hinnom outside of Jerusalem where children were sacrificed to Molech (2 Kgs. 23:10). Tophet included a pyre or fire to burn corpses.

33For Tophet was established of old, Yes, for the king it is prepared. He has made it deep and large; its pyre is fire with much wood; the breath of the Lord, like a stream of brimstone, kindles it. (Isa. 30:33)

* + 1. ***The Tophet was established of old***: When Israel fell into idolatry, they sacrificed their children to the idols Molech or Baal there (2 Kgs. 23:10; Jer. 7:31; 19:6, 11, 14). The Tophet was a place for burning garbage in the valley of Hinnom just outside of Jerusalem. This valley came to represent eternal punishment. From “of old” or from ancient times the Lord prepared or determined this means of executing the king of Assyria and/or the Antichrist (Rev. 19:20).
    2. ***It is prepared for the king***: A Tophet was prepared for “the king” of Assyria—the corpses of 185,000 of his soldiers needed to be disposed of (37:36). The Assyrian army under King Sennacherib was defeated in Jerusalem, but was killed by two of his sons in Nineveh (Isa. 37:38). Thus, the king of Assyria died in Nineveh, yet he is presented here by Isaiah as being burned in the Tophet in Jerusalem—this prophesies the judgment of the Antichrist.

20Then the beast [Antichrist] was captured, and with him the false prophet…These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. (Rev. 19:20)

* + 1. ***Deep and large***: Some of the booty and 185,000 dead bodies of the Assyrian soldiers were burned in a large pit. Jesus made a large, deep “fire pit” for the Antichrist (Rev. 19:20).
    2. ***Its pyre is fire with wood***: A pyre is a heap of wood that used to burn a corpse in a funeral ceremony. The name *Tophet* comes from the Hebrew word *topteh,* “a place of burning.”

8“Then Assyria shall fall by a sword not of man…” 9Says the Lord, whose fire is in Zion and whose furnace is in Jerusalem. (Isa. 31:8-9)

* + 1. ***Kindled by the Lord***: The Lord’s breath like a stream of brimstone kindles the Tophet.   
       The Lord ignited Assyria’s funeral pyre. He alone will ignite the fire against the Antichrist.