

Isaiah 31
My Help Comes from the LORD

Worthless help (1-3) – Egypt = the world

Foolish verses Wise (Proverbs 9:10-18)

Flesh verses Spirit (Galatians 5:16-18)

Failure when we choose wrong (Deuteronomy 30:15-20)

Those who help will stumble (Luke 6:39/II Corinthians 4:4/II Peter 2:19-22)

Those who are helped will fall (Jeremiah 46:25)

Waiting for His deliverance (4-5) – (Psalm 27:1-3, 5, 20-21)

Like a lion growling over his prey

The LORD can face any odds (II Chronicles 32:7-8, 20-21)

Th LORD is not frightened (Psalm 2:1-6)

LORD Almighty shall come down – His Presence visiting His people

The Angel of the LORD (II Kings 19-35)

The Holy Spirit (John 14:16; 16:7-11)

The Lord Jesus Christ (Revelation 19:11-16)

Like a bird hovering (Luke 13:34)

The LORD will shield (Psalm 3:3)

The LORD will 'pass over' and rescue (Exodus 12:12-13 / I Corinthians 5:7)

Whom then shall we seek? (6-9) -

Returning to God means rejecting our idols (Luke 16:13-15 / Ephesians 5:3-7)

Retreating from the One whose furnace is in Jerusalem (Zechariah 12:1-5)

Discussion questions for Isaiah 31

For what kind of troubles would it be appropriate to seek help from the world? When is it not appropriate? (II Chronicles 16:12 / Mark 5:25-29 / I Corinthians 6:1-8 / II Peter 1:3-4)

What can cause believers to “cave in” and seek the world’s help? (I Samuel 8:1-5 / I Peter 3:1-6)

When do you notice God’s presence in your life? When does He seem absent? What does His Word teach us about His presence? (II Peter 1:8-11 / Deuteronomy 31:8 / Joshua 1:8-9 / Matthew 28:18-20 / Hebrews 13:5-6)

What are some common idols in our culture? How should we deal with the idols that tempt us? (Matthew 5:29-30 / Mark 9:42-48 / I Peter 4:1-5)

Isaiah 31
My Help Comes from the LORD

Worthless help (1-3) – Egypt = the world ***Like putting a band-aid on a shark bite***

Foolish verses Wise (Proverbs 9:10-18)

We can easily be drawn into the lusts of the world (I John 2:15-17)

Flesh verses Spirit (Galatians 5:16-18)

With every temptation, we must make this choice

Failure when we choose wrong (Deuteronomy 30:15-20)

There are consequences for our choices

Those who help will stumble (Luke 6:39/II Corinthians 4:4/II Peter 2:19-22)

Those who are helped will fall (Jeremiah 46:25) ***The blind leading the blind***

Waiting for His deliverance (4-5) – (Psalm 27:1-3, 5, 20-21)

He is watching – we must be willing to wait on Him – not take things on ourselves

Like a lion growling over his prey

The Lord is not concerned over the enemy's attacks

The LORD can face any odds (II Chronicles 32:7-8, 20-21) ***Nothing is too hard***

Th LORD is not frightened (Psalm 2:1-6) ***He laughs at the foolish nations***

LORD Almighty shall come down – His Presence visiting His people

The Angel of the LORD (II Kings 19-35) ***His presence in the past***

The Holy Spirit (John 14:16; 16:7-11) ***His presence with us now***

The Lord Jesus Christ (Revelation 19:11-16) ***His future presence on earth***

Like a bird hovering (Luke 13:34) ***He longs to gather His people to Himself***

The LORD will shield (Psalm 3:3) ***He is the lifter of my head***

The LORD will 'pass over' and rescue (Exodus 12:12-13 / I Corinthians 5:7)

Jesus is our Passover Lamb – He has rescued us by His blood

Whom then shall we seek? (6-9) – ***not ourselves, not the world – only God can deliver***

Returning to God means rejecting our idols (Luke 16:13-15 / Ephesians 5:3-7)

You cannot have two masters – God must be first in our lives (Exodus 20:1-4)

Retreating from the One whose furnace is in Jerusalem (Zechariah 12:1-5)

No one dare attack "the apple of His eye" (Deuteronomy 32:10 / Psalm 17:8)

Discussion questions for Isaiah 31

For what kind of troubles would it be appropriate to seek help from the world? When is it not appropriate? (II Chronicles 16:12 / Mark 5:25-29 / I Corinthians 6:1-8 / II Peter 1:3-4)

If my car or water heater breaks down – a mechanic or a plumber would be someone to seek help from. However, things regarding my soul or my spirit, I should seek the Lord for help. Worldly counselors – be they doctors, psychologists, etc. – unless they know the Lord, will often give counsel that is contrary to the teaching of His Word. Is His Word sufficient?

What can cause believers to “cave in” and seek the world’s help? (I Samuel 8:1-5 / I Peter 3:1-6)
Fear – not willing to trust or wait on God for help. Taking matters into our own hands, and turning from the counsel of His Word. Uncertainty about the future and unbelief concerning the faithfulness of our God.

When do you notice God’s presence in your life? When does He seem absent? What does His Word teach us about His presence? (II Peter 1:8-11 / Deuteronomy 31:8 / Joshua 1:8-9 / Matthew 28:18-20 / Hebrews 13:5-6) ***Often in corporate worship or personal devotions or when I see His hand in my life as I respond in obedience to His call. When I am too busy with things in my life to acknowledge Him or when I am down or discouraged because I am not walking with Him. Disobedience and/or not growing in Him, forgetting who He is and what He has done for me, leads to discouragement and doubt. But His Word assures me that He is always with me – to accomplish His will, to be a witness for Him, and to face any situation.***

What are some common idols in our culture? How should we deal with the idols that tempt us? (Matthew 5:29-30 / Mark 9:42-48 / I Peter 4:1-5) ***Money, fame, power, education, pride. When anything distracts from or leads me away from God, it needs to be removed from my life. Often we try to manage our idols, not being willing to give them up completely. Those who participate in idolatry will be judged. (I Corinthians 10:14-24)***