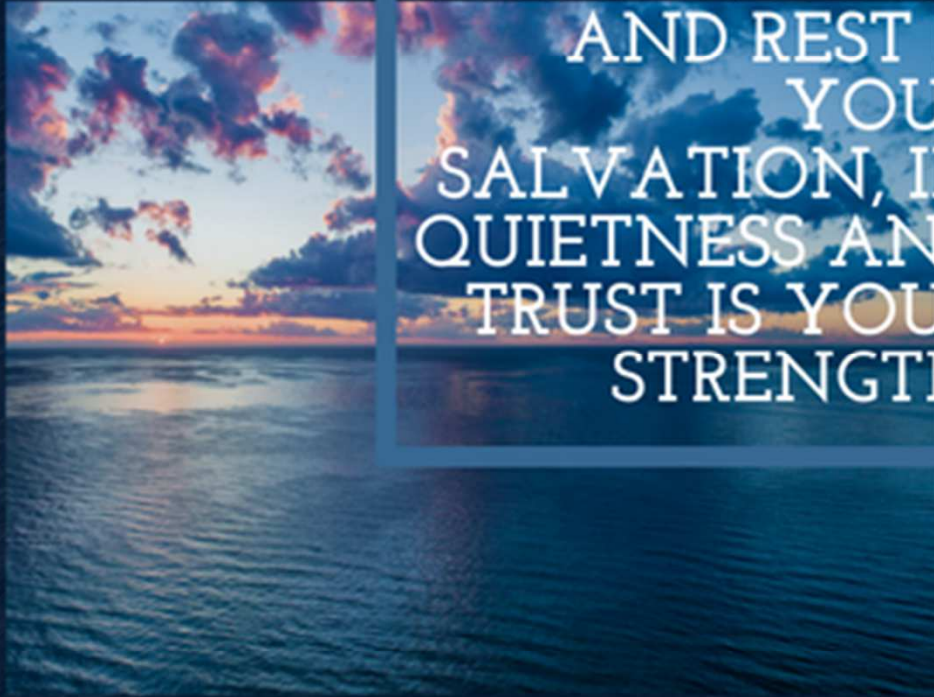




HIS INSCRIPTIONS



IN REPENTANCE  
AND REST IS  
YOUR  
SALVATION, IN  
QUIETNESS AND  
TRUST IS YOUR  
STRENGTH.

ISAIAH 30:15a

A New  
Beginning

Isaiah  
30:15-18

## A New Beginning

- Israel has once again set their God aside
  - God became to them a Sabbath or Festival only God
    - Not that He was no longer on their minds
  - They quoted Scripture verses for rising, eating, and sleeping
  - They remembered what they had been taught
  - It just doesn't really make any authentic difference in how they lived or worshipped

## A New Beginning

- Israel has once again set their God aside
  - They had the light of truth but loved the darkness
  - They brought in alters of false gods
  - They no longer governed their lives by God's Word
  - Their sacrifices were sickly and injured
  - You could see little difference between God's chosen people and the world



## A New Beginning

- Israel has once again set their God aside
  - They never corrected the pattern of pretend worshipping God without realizing each time they go down that road it took them further away from Him
  - They would pretend to change so God would take care of their mess and bless once again
  - But they made no substantial movement toward Him and would once again fall into a sinful pattern of life

## A New Beginning

- Now they find God is assembling the nation of Assyria to conquer them and take the people into captivity
  - God is lovingly patient but there comes a time He must lovingly discipline or lose His people
  - And sometimes that seems harsh to our fleshly eyes
- This is the door we are standing before in our Scripture this morning

## Scripture

- **Isaiah 30:15-18 NIV**, 15 This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: “In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.
  - 16 You said, ‘No, we will flee on horses.’ Therefore you will flee! You said, ‘We will ride off on swift horses.’ Therefore your pursuers will be swift! 17 A thousand will flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you will all flee away, till you are left like a flagstaff on a mountaintop, like a banner on a hill.”
  - 18 Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!



## A New Beginning

- Israel sees the Assyrian army gathering at its northern border and understands they are coming in to destroy them
  - They understand God has orchestrated this
  - They believe God has not kept His word to defend them again
  - So they decide to look to Egypt to support them, since it worked out so well the first time Egypt helped them

## God really does long to be gracious to them

- In spite of how the events in your life seem to be crashing in around you, God really does long to be gracious to His children in the storm
- **Vs. 18**, Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion.
  - Can you hear Israel say, “It doesn’t look like it to me!”
  - “You say you are a God of justice but what is just about a heathen nation destroying the land, cities, people you say you love?”
  - Do we hear this type of questioning God today?
    - Why would God allow or do this..it doesn’t make sense to me
    - A God of love would never do this or allow this to happen



## God really does long to be gracious to them

- Would it be gracious for God to remove the threat so they can go back to their old lifestyles of sin?
  - Would it be gracious for God to allow Israel to continue to spiral downward in sin?
  - As a loving father He must discipline His children in a way that will change their actions
  - God will be gracious to them by bringing them back to the land in 70 years
  - It will take 70 years for the sin they have allowed to be removed
    - Similar to the need for 40 years wandering in the wilderness
- How would it affect you when going through hard times to grasp as truth that your Heavenly Father longs to be gracious to you and will in His time?

## **God allows us to choose our response to life events that threatens us**

- It doesn't matter what the life event is
  - Health issues, Finance issues, Family issues, Unidentified issues
  - We are responsible for how we respond
- Instead of fixing their minds on God, instead of turning towards Him, Israel chose to seek help from other heathen nations

## God allows us to choose our response to life events that threatens us

- **Vs. 16**, You said, 'No, we will flee on horses.' Therefore you will flee! You said, 'We will ride off on swift horses.' Therefore your pursuers will be swift! 17 A thousand will flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you will all flee away, till you are left like a flagstaff on a mountaintop, like a banner on a hill."
  - "We reject you God and your path and choose Egypt and their mighty horses"
  - "We can trust them, but not sure about you"



## God allows us to choose our response to life events that threatens us

- **Vs. 16**, You said, ‘No, we will flee on horses.’ Therefore you will flee! You said, ‘We will ride off on swift horses.’ Therefore your pursuers will be swift! 17 A thousand will flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you will all flee away, till you are left like a flagstaff on a mountaintop, like a banner on a hill.”
- God tells them the only benefit of Egyptian horses will be to help you flee but understand your pursuers will be swifter
  - Your faith in Egypt will fail at the brutality of the Assyrian army”
  - “Until my land will be like an unattended flagstaff on a mountain or an unattended army flag on a hill”

## God allows us to choose our response to life events that threatens us

- **Vs. 16**, You said, 'No, we will flee on horses.' Therefore you will flee! You said, 'We will ride off on swift horses.' Therefore your pursuers will be swift! 17 A thousand will flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you will all flee away, till you are left like a flagstaff on a mountaintop, like a banner on a hill."
- "Does this sound like a just God or a compassionate God?"
  - Israel had been given much, so much was expected from them by God
  - God is not simply destroying Israel but providing them a New Beginning
  - God will have compassion on them while in captivity and then again by bringing Israel back to this land in 70 years
  - God will be just by destroying the Assyrian nation using Babylon
- How they go through this period of discipline is up to them

## There is a place of quiet rest when the world seems to be crashing in around you

- **Vs. 15**, This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: “In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.
  - Israel’s question should have been – How can we be saved or delivered or rescued from this devastating event about to come upon us?
    - God’s answer is through **Repentance + Rest** and **Quietness + Trust**



## There is a place of quiet rest when the world seems to be crashing in around you

- **Vs. 15**, This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: “In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.
- Repentance is built upon the Hebrew meaning, “to return”
  - **Matthew 3:1-2 NIV**, 1 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea 2 and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”
  - **Vs 2 AMP**, 2 “Repent [change your inner self—your old way of thinking, regret past sins, live your life in a way that proves repentance; seek God’s purpose for your life], for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

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- Repentance is built upon the Hebrew meaning, “to return”
  - **Matthew 4:17 NIV**, 17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”
  - **Acts 2:38 NIV**, 38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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- Repentance is built upon the Hebrew meaning, “to return”
  - Repentance is not just sorrow or grief because of your sin or the unexpected results
    - Remember Judas
  - Repentance is also not simply living more Christianly
    - But true repentance will bring a change in your lifestyle



## There is a place of quiet rest when the world seems to be crashing in around you

- **Vs. 15**, This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: “In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.
- Repentance is built upon the Hebrew meaning, “to return”
  - True repentance is returning to the person of Jesus Christ, bowing before Him, and accepting Him as your master
    - It involves a decision of the mind that is led by the Holy Spirit, that is felt in your emotions and seen in your life

## There is a place of quiet rest when the world seems to be crashing in around you

- **Vs. 15**, This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: “In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.
  - Rest – stop fighting God because He controls the events of the lives of His children
  - Choose to rest in His care without your questions being answered or the event going the way you desire
  - Repentance + Rest = God’s deliverance

## There is a place of quiet rest when the world seems to be crashing in around you

- **Vs. 15**, This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: “In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.
- Randy, How? I don't have the strength, faith, power
  - Quietness + trust = strength as you go through the event
  - Satan wants you governed by doubts and fears that always leads to chaos
  - God instructs us to quiet ourselves down by trusting in His character, word, promises
    - Be at peace, be undisturbed even when life is filled with unanswerable questions and events with big scary teeth
- Notice the differences between Peter and Judas



## A New Beginning

- History tells us God kept His word to deliver Israel
  - He did judge them, and He did have compassion on them, and He did deliver them
  - Just not as they wanted or expected
  - Yet Israel is still here today

## A New Beginning

- What God was instructing Israel to do was to start a new beginning with Him
  - Maybe you have been fighting God, rejected Him, or even tried to walk away from Him
  - Maybe you are mad at God
  - Maybe your hope is shot as you fight your own fights in your own way
  - Maybe you feel lonely and rejected
  - Maybe you find yourself in a place this morning you never expected to be and now must deal with it

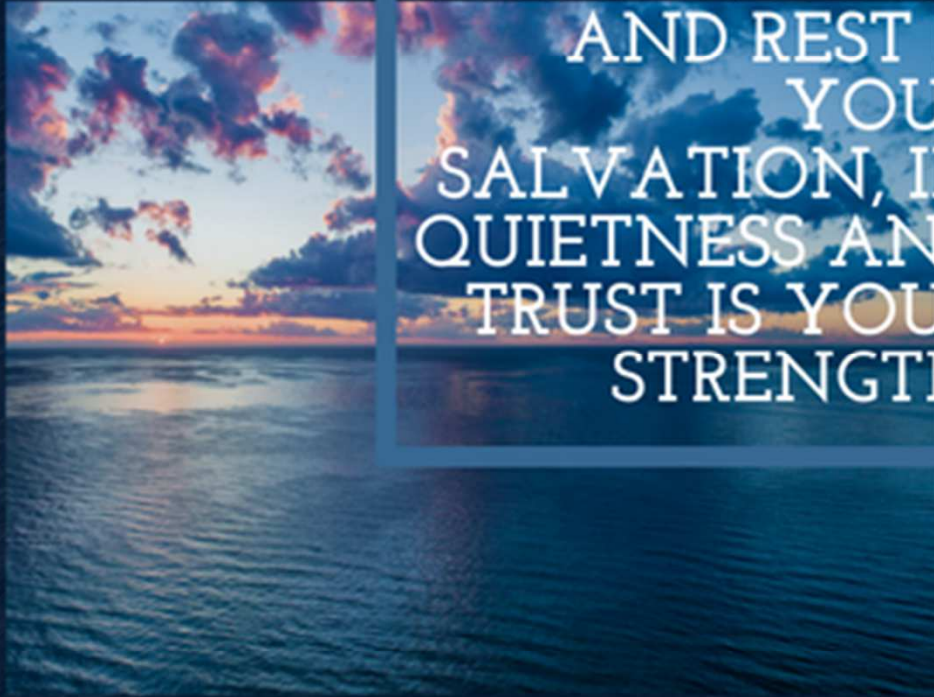
## A New Beginning

- The only response to these kinds of events I know that is true
  - Repentance + Rest = Deliverance
  - Quietness + Trust = Strength
- These are available to you today and can come into your life this morning here this small Baptist Church with an alter open to you





HIS INSCRIPTIONS



IN REPENTANCE  
AND REST IS  
YOUR  
SALVATION, IN  
QUIETNESS AND  
TRUST IS YOUR  
STRENGTH.

ISAIAH 30:15a

A New  
Beginning

Isaiah  
30:15-18