

## “Extraordinary Longing” Isaiah 30:1-33

**Context:** This set of prophecies begins by decrying Judah’s trust in Egypt for their deliverance. Their reliance on Egypt instead of on God is in obstinate rebellion against Him and His revelation. Judah’s punishment for rejecting God’s exhortations and seeking only self-satisfying teachings are the swords of Sennacherib and Esarhaddon as Egypt fails to deliver Judah. Yet hope remains for those who trust in the Lord God, as He promises to appear from ‘out of the blue.’ He promises the eventual deliverance of the Remnant from her enemies and the utter destruction of the Assyrians. In the midst of this prophecy the revelation of God’s ‘feelings’ toward His own arises.

**Life Principle:** The heart that turns toward God to seek His understanding and to move in the currents of His purpose will experience the working of God’s favor and kindness (cf. Isaiah 30:15, 18).

### 1. God’s longing revealed – Isaiah 30:18

Isaiah discloses God’s extraordinary longing to bring His favor of everlasting security upon the Remnant, which is portrayed in verse 17 as a lone flag pole on a hill. The Lord’s longing is spoken of in terms of His ‘rising’ to show compassion on the Remnant, like that of a mother for her child in the womb. His mercy, ‘rising,’ and claim for justice seem to fit with Jesus’ leaving His throne, coming to earth, dying, and being raised up. God’s favor and mercy are received by all who long for His compassion and transformation.

### 2. God’s longing received – Isaiah 30:19-22

The Lord answers the cry of repentance with grace. He opens the eyes of the sojourner to His path and opens the traveler’s ear to hear His words in order to follow His path.

### 3. God’s longing assured – Isaiah 30:23-26

When this world crashes on God’s Day of Judgment, the Remnant will find deliverance and healing. God’s liberation is so great that it will extend beyond the Remnant to all that is under their care, such as the crop of the fields and the livestock in their pastures.

## Study questions:

- Scripture, as in Isaiah 30:18, often reveals God’s emotion toward us in human terms called anthropomorphisms, to which we can relate. As a **Bible study method**, look up the word ‘longs’ or ‘longing’ in a dictionary. What is the object of God’s longing? What are two instances where God was gracious to you? What favor do you long for from God? Is it biblical?
- Isaiah 30:15 speaks of being saved “in” repentance and rest. Does the preposition “in” mean that repentance and rest (1) are the means of salvation, (2) cause salvation, or (3) perhaps indicate a mental state or condition where salvation occurs? How does this fit in with our doctrinal statement that “salvation is received only by God’s grace unto repentance through faith” (see footnotes 11-12 ‘**On Salvation**’ in our **doctrinal statement** under **what we believe** at [www.gracepointfellowship.org](http://www.gracepointfellowship.org))? How does this fit in to where you are in your life story?
- Reread 2 Kings 19:14-20; 30-37. What example of repentance does Hezekiah offer us (cp. Isaiah 30:19)? How did Hezekiah move in harmony with God’s purpose for him? What favor did Hezekiah experience from God which demonstrated that he was repentant and obedient?

## Transformation exercise:

Memorize Isaiah 30:15, 18. Have you repented? Is there peace, revealing that you are moving in harmony with God’s purpose for you? What evidence of God’s favor are you experiencing to demonstrate your repentance and obedience?