

Three Stages of Rebellion and Return

Isaiah 30-33

In Isaiah 30, there is a clear outline of the progression through **THREE STAGES OF REBELLION**. In each stage, there is a clear statement of *Rebellion*, with its *Result*, followed by God's *Reproof*. Divide the chapter in your Bible according to this outline:

Stage 1 – Section A (Isaiah 30:1-7) – COUNSEL – SEEKING COVERING/WRONG SOURCE

1. Rebellion -- Vss. 1,2
2. Result -- Vss. 3-7a
3. Reproof -- Vs. 7b

Stage 2 – Section B (Isaiah 30:8-15c) – DECEPTION -- BREAKING

1. Rebellion -- Vss. 8-12
2. Result -- Vss. 13-14
3. Reproof -- Vs. 15c (through *strength*)

Stage 3 – Section C (Isaiah 30:15d-18) – REVOLT – RUNNING AWAY

1. Rebellion -- Vss. 15d, 16a, 16c
2. Result -- Vss. 16b, 16d, 17
3. Reproof -- Vs. 18

Following this will be THREE STAGES OF REPENTANCE AND RETURN, but first of REBELLION:

I. THREE STAGES OF REBELLION

A. COUNSEL -- SEEKING COVERING FROM WRONG SOURCE (30:1-7) -- STAGE 1

1. Rebellion -- Vss. 1,2 -- Rebellious children
 - a. Take counsel, but not of Me
 - b. Cover with a covering, but not of My Spirit
 - c. Add sin to sin
 - d. Walk to go down into Egypt, and have not asked at My mouth
 - e. Strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh
 - f. Trust in the shadow of Egypt
2. Result -- Vss. 3-7a -- Therefore:
 - a. SHAME: The strength of Egypt shall be your shame
 - b. CONFUSION: The trust in shadow of Egypt [shall be] your confusion
 - c. DISAPPOINTMENT, NO PROFIT: All ashamed of a people that could not profit them;
 - d. NO HELP, NO PROFIT: Not a help nor a profit
 - e. SHAME, REPROACH: but a shame and reproach
 - f. LOSS, NO PROFIT; "SELL OUT" AND GIVEAWAY OF VALUES:
Burden of beasts: carry riches and treasures on donkeys and camels to a people who will not profit them
 - g. TROUBLE AND ANGUISH: Into the land of trouble and anguish
 - 1.) Devourer: Young and old lion
 - 2.) Death: Fiery flying serpent
 - h. USELESS, PURPOSELESS HELP: Egyptians shall help in vain and to no purpose
3. Reproof -- Vs. 7b -- THEREFORE:
 - a. I have cried concerning this,
 - b. "Their strength is to sit still."

B. DECEPTION -- BREAKING (30:8-15c) -- STAGE 2

1. Rebellion -- Vss. 8-12 -- Write it: “This is a rebellious people”:
 - a. Lying children
 - b. Children that will not hear the law of the Lord
 - c. Say to the seers, “See not.”
 - d. Say to the prophets,
 - 1.) “Prophesy not unto us right things,
 - 2.) Speak unto us smooth things,
 - 3.) Prophesy deceits.
 - 4.) Get out of the way;
 - 5.) Turn aside out of the path;
 - 6.) Cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us.”
 - e. Despise this word;
 - f. Trust in oppression and perverseness, and trust thereon.

2. Result -- Vss. 13-14
 - a. Wherefore, the Holy One of Israel says,
 - b. “Therefore this iniquity shall be to you as a **breach** ready to fall,
 - 1.) **Swelling** out in a high wall,
 - 2.) Whose **breaking** cometh suddenly at an instant.”
 - c. And He shall **break** it as the **breaking** of the potters’ vessel that is **broken** in pieces;
 - d. He shall not spare;
 - e. So that there shall not be found in the **bursting** of it a sherd
 - 1.) To take fire from the hearth
 - 2.) To take water out of the pit.

3. Reproof -- Vs. 15c (through *strength*)
 - a. For thus saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel:
 - b. “In returning and rest shall ye be saved;” -- (Repentance and resting)
 - c. “In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength.” (Stillness and trust)

C. REVOLT -- RUNNING AWAY (30:15d-18) -- STAGE 3

1. Rebellion -- Vss. 15d, 16a, 16c
 - a. And ye would not.
 - b. But ye said, “No;
 - 1.) For we will **flee** upon the horses;
 - 2.) We will **ride** upon the swift.”

2. Result -- Vss. 16b, 16d, 17
 - a. Therefore shall ye **flee**.
 - b. Therefore shall they that **pursue** you be swift.
 - c. One thousand shall **flee** at the rebuke of one; [but] at the rebuke of five shall ye **flee**: till ye be **left**
 - 1.) As a beacon upon the top of a mountain,
 - 2.) As an ensign on a hill.

3. Reproof -- Vs. 18
 - a. Therefore will the LORD [Jehovah] **wait**, that He may be **gracious** unto you;
 - b. Therefore will He be **exalted**, that He may have **mercy** upon you.
 - 1.) For the LORD is a God of **judgment**.
 - 2.) Blessed are all they that **wait** for Him.

II. THREE STAGES OF “RETURNING AND REST”

A. REPENTANCE -- CRYING OUT (30:19) -- **STAGE 1**

1. He will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry.
2. When He shall hear it, He will answer thee.

B. REDEMPTION -- WAITING FOR GOD (30:18, 19) -- **STAGE 2**

1. Blessed are all they that wait for God.
2. The people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem;
3. Thou shalt weep no more.

C. RESTORATION -- RECEIVING FROM GOD (30:19 - 33:6) -- **STAGE 3**

1. The Lord's Response to Repentance (30:19-33; 31:5)
 - a. Hearing and Answering Cry (30:19)
 - b. Profitable Discipline (30:20a)
 - c. Instruction in Truth (30:20b)
 - d. Guidance in the Way (30:21)
 - e. Holiness unto the Lord (30:22)
 - f. Rain and Harvest (Food for Man/Beast) (30:23-24)
 - g. Rivers and Streams (Water of Life) (30:25)
 - h. Light --> Understanding (30:26a)
 - i. Healing and Restoration (30:26b)
 - j. Wrath of God Against Enemy Nations (30:27-28)
 - k. Restoration of Joy, Song, Worship (30:29)
 - l. Defeat of Enemies (30:30-33)
 - m. Defense of Capital City (31:5)
2. The Lord's Rulership
 - a. Reign of Righteousness (32:1)
 - b. Covering (32:2)
 - c. Clear Understanding (32:3-4)
 - d. Restoration of Values (32:5-14)
 - e. Outpouring of Spirit --> Fruit (32:15)
 - f. Righteous Judgment (32:16, 33:5)
 - g. Peace and Security (32:17-18)
 - h. Stability and Strength (33:6)