

son Esarhaddon, whose armies overran Philistia and Egypt, and Esarhaddon was succeeded by his son Ashurbanipal, who again led destructive raids through Philistia into Egypt.

Verse 30 shows a contrast between the future state of the wicked Philistines and that of God's own people. God's people would enjoy peace and prosperity for a long period after the deliverance, but Philistia's respite would be only temporary. Its root would be killed by famine and its remnant slain. After the famine conditions of the years when Sennacherib's army threatened Jerusalem (cf. Isa. 37:30), the nourishment promised in verse 30a (and in Isa. 37:30-31) must have been very welcome to God's people, but Philistia would face renewed suffering and destruction (v. 30b-31).

Verse 32 assures the messengers who ask the meaning of what has happened, that God worked marvelously in order to save His own people. Zion is His foundation and only through Zion can salvation be found.

God handles all the affairs of the world in accordance with His purposes. He works mightily in order to bring His will to pass in the life and experience of those who trust in Him. Often others, who do not believe in Him, receive temporary blessings as a by-product.

All the wonderful prosperity which our nation has enjoyed is a result of the fact that it was founded by men who were seeking to serve God in accordance with the teachings of His Word. Roger Babson brings out clearly in one of his books the puzzlement of a certain South American president over the contrast between the condition of his own country and that of the United States. The South American president pointed out to Mr. Babson that his own country had been settled by Europeans while North America was still a wilderness. It had printing presses and higher education while the United States was still peopled by savages. Its resources in minerals and in fertile acres compared favorably with those of the United States. There was no visible reason why the United States should have developed a prosperity many times as great as that of his nation. "Why," he asked, "has the United States gone so far ahead of my nation in prosperity and material advancement?" Babson answered somewhat as follows: "South America was colonized by