

entirely turned away from idolatry and unbelief and will gladly follow the leading of the Spirit of God. It is to be a day of plenty and prosperity, a day of light and joyfulness. Verse 25 shows that this day is also to be introduced by great slaughter and falling of towers. The Millennium is not to come in gradually through the slow continuous spread of the Gospel, but is to be introduced by a great sudden act of God's power.

The final section of the chapter looks back again to the immediate situation. The terrible judgments predicted in verse 17 would have suggested that the Assyrian attack would cause the overthrow of Jerusalem. This, however, is not to be the case. The destruction there predicted remains in the more distant future. For the present God is determined to show His great power by delivering the people through His own strength alone. In chapter 29 it was indicated that the misery of the siege by the Assyrians would come to an end suddenly with a marvelous intervention of God. Here, this thought is stressed again. When the people are helpless to deliver themselves from Assyria, God is going to come with mighty power. "Through the voice of the LORD shall the Assyrian be beaten down, which smote with a rod" (v. 31). Verse 33 declares the terrible doom prepared for the king of Assyria. It is from God's voice and God's determination alone, and no credit for it is to go to human plans or human efforts. As we noticed in connection with chapter 29, this was marvelously fulfilled when the angel of the Lord destroyed the hosts of Sennacherib and delivered Jerusalem from him, as described in Isaiah 37.

Isaiah 31

Isaiah 31 might be described as a summary of Isaiah 30. Many of the same thoughts are repeated, with a few details added. The chapter begins where chapter 30 began, with rebuke upon those who seek their help from Egypt instead of from God. Verses 1-3 cover the ground dealt with in 30:1-7.

The remainder of the chapter deals particularly with the subject covered in the last section of Isaiah 30. Using many vivid figures of speech, the Lord shows how He is going to