

The election...

Isaiah 31:1-3 says, **“Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD! Yet he also is wise, and will bring evil, and will not call back his words: but will arise against the house of the evildoers, and against the help of them that work iniquity. Now the Egyptians are men, and not God; and their horses flesh, and not spirit. When the LORD shall stretch out his hand, both he that helpeth shall fall, and he that is holpen shall fall down, and they all shall fail together.”** As we move to the end of this historic election cycle Americans continue to demonstrate to the world that the system of Democracy, though not perfect, is still the best earthly government organism for change and equality. In this euphoria and hope for peace we must be very careful that we do not become careless and swept up in the parade of the world system and start to expect our next president to be a type of Messiah and an answer to our prayers. The text above gives explicit warnings to Gospel children that there will be a great temptation in these evil days, as before, to abandon God’s system when times get hard. There is the word **Woe** which has the foreboding promise of despair, disappointment and delusion to those who forget that the Lord does not need help from creation and does not reside in the palaces and state houses of men. Troubles often come as heralds to remind us that the true controller of human destiny is not elected or appointed by governments or counsels of people. Egypt was a symbol of the most powerful and most dominant empire of the ancient world. They had the highest forms of technology and agriculture and their brand of currency and economic influence was felt at least one thousand miles from their own home borders from all directions of their empire. Pharaoh was not viewed to be a human man of natural and learned intellect but was believed to be divine in his origin and was perceived to be the answer to all problems as far as his global reach. They gave him great shows of affection and love because he was believed to be the person chosen from among the immortals to lead mortality to prosperity and peace, not just in Egypt but globally. When socio-economic troubles begin to arise in Israel the people called on God as they were accustomed. To their disappointment, He answered with His insistence on their trust in Him and in His system of faithful prayer and sacrificial offerings. He told them that he did not need to imitate pharaoh because pharaoh was, in fact, trying to imitate Him. When God did not yield to their form of deliverance they begin to look for someone tangible to trust in who would deliver them in ways they understood, agreed, and expected. They felt vulnerable to their enemies because of their military inferiority and hopeless to change it. Famine was eating up the crops and the religious leaders seemed as confounded as the people and that simply heightened their lack of faith in Gods system (way). Believe it or not, Israel was not even being attacked when it was at it lowest point and decided that Egypt was a better answer than Jehovah. Many of Gods people are in fear and doubt not from actual physical attacks but from fear and rumor. After hearing rumors of destruction, pictures and videos of world crisis, global disease pandemics and horrible predictions of wars on the horizon, people start to give in to despair and paranoia. We are afraid of old enemies like Cuba, North Korea, Iran and Russia and are not even sure of our old friends like Mexico, France or China. Matthew 24:6-8 says **“And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in diverse places. All these are the beginning of sorrows”**

Friends, this is the time for the faith of the believers to shine. We have too much knowledge of history to know that no human empire can last forever and that if men are the cause of the problem then men can not be expected to be the cure. There is no need for deliverance because these things must become apart of the legal and historic fabric of the world before judgment is made. God is making His case for the defense of those who trust him and for the prosecution of those who doubt. The famine and pestilence is a lie detector test that will weed out the Christian walkers from the Christian talkers. The children of Israel did not know that this temporary giant called Egypt, would one day have to be pulled out of the sand of the desert and that its great Kings and monuments would be silly mummified corpses who have proved not to be divine but all too human. The monuments were not eternal tributes to a king's greatness but are simple brick and mortar that sand and time did wear away and distort. The great monument that was worshipped called the Sphinx now has no nose from sand damage with the graffiti of Alexander the Great and Napoleon written alongside the undignified doodles of some pale tourist with an itchy ink pen. King Tut can be viewed on display but is disappointingly like any other corpse in the morgue just about 3,000 years older. He is not a God but a dead man. The world is in for a great fall and every man and woman must choose a side. Whose report will you believe? Joshua 24: 15 puts it this way **"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, we will serve the LORD."**