#### Isaiah Week 22



#### Isaiah 29: 10 (NIV)

The Lord has brought over you a deep sleep:

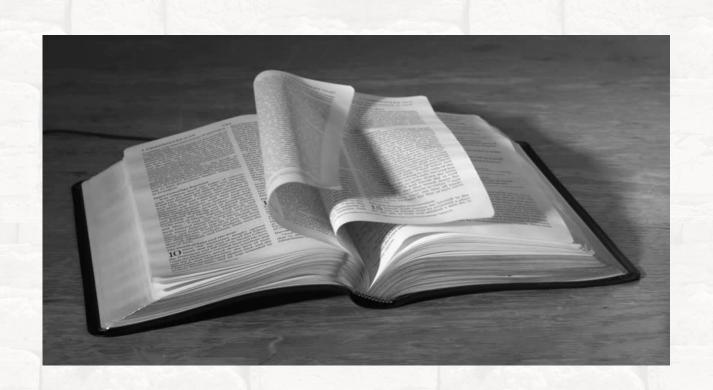
He has sealed your eyes (the prophets);

he has covered your heads (the seers).

# The Israelites have become drunk on false doctrines & manmade traditions

#### Please turn to:

Mark 7: 8-13



#### Mark 7: 8-13 (NIV)

You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions."

And he continued, "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!

#### Mark 7: 8-13 (NIV)

For Moses said, 'Honor your father and mother,' and, 'Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.' But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is Corban (that is, devoted to God) -

#### Mark 7: 8-13 (NIV)

then you no longer let them do anything for their father or mother. Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that."

#### Isaiah 29: 10 (NIV)

The Lord has brought over you a deep sleep:

He has sealed your eyes (the prophets);

he has covered your heads (the seers).

#### Isaiah 29: 11 (NIV)

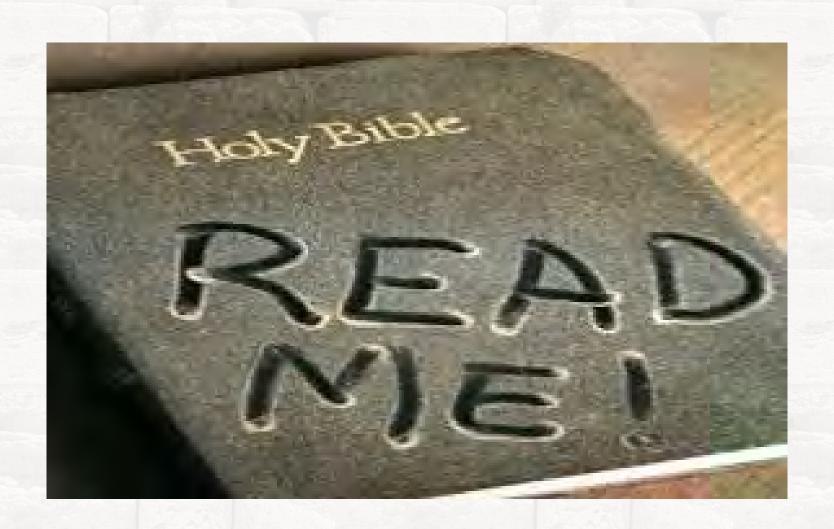
For you this whole vision is nothing but words sealed in a scroll. And if you give the scroll to someone who can read, and say, "Read this, please," they will answer, "I can't; it is sealed."

## What does it mean when something is sealed?

Do we have people today who feel the Bible does not apply to us today?



Do we have people today who have a Bible but keep it sealed?





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THE BIBLE IS IN 87% OF AMERICAN HOUSEHOLDS

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☐ 05 APR 2017 
☐ POSTED BY ALISON LESLEY

If the Bible is in 87% of the homes in America, then why is our nation in the spiritual condition it is in?

#### Isaiah 29: 12 (NIV)

Or if you give the scroll to someone who cannot read, and say, "Read this, please," they will answer, "I don't know how to read."

### Do we have people today who are Bible illiterate?



Have you ever heard someone say that they don't read the Bible because they cannot understand it?

What would happen if everyone were to open the Bible and read it?

#### Isaiah 29: 13 (NIV)

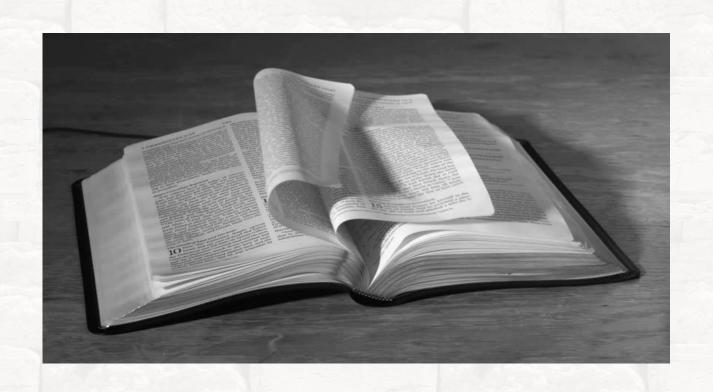
The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught.

What does it mean to honor God with your mouth and lips but not your heart?

Do we see this today?

#### Please turn to:

James 1: 21-26



Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it — not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it — they will be blessed in what they do.

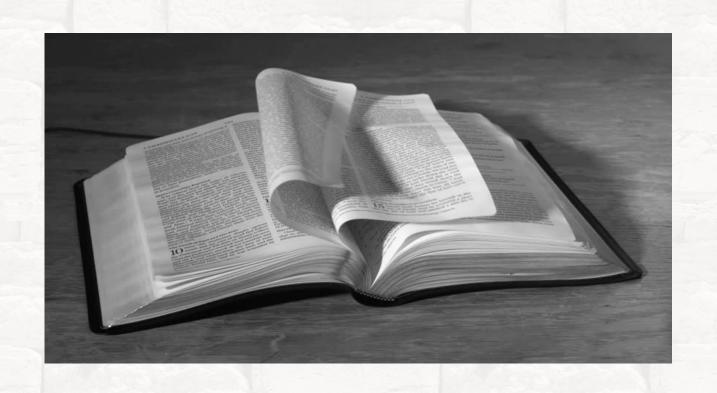
Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.

#### Isaiah 29: 13 (NIV)

The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught.

What happens when people worship God based solely on what others have told them?

### Please turn to: 2 Timothy 4: 1-5



#### 2 Timothy 4: 1-5 (NIV)

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge:

#### 2 Timothy 4: 1-5 (NIV)

Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction.

If we are never to judge if someone is right or wrong then how can we correct and rebuke?

#### 2 Timothy 4: 1-5 (NIV)

For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

# 2 Timothy 4: 1-5 (NIV)

They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

# Who are these people listening to?

Do we see this today?

What are some examples?

# 2 Timothy 4: 1-5 (NIV)

For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

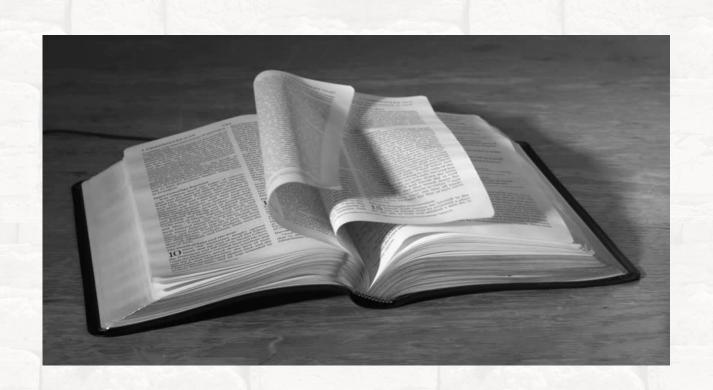
# Isaiah 29: 13 (NIV)

The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught.

Where do we find the Truth?

# Please turn to:

Acts 17: 11



# Acts 17: 11 (NIV)

Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

What happens when you do not fact check what you are taught to see if it is the Truth?

Who masquerades as truth?

### Isaiah 29: 14 (NIV)

Therefore once more I will astound these people with wonder upon wonder; the wisdom of the wise will perish, the intelligence of the intelligent will vanish."

Do you ever feel like wisdom and intelligence has vanished?

What is the sign that you are a hypocrite?

# Isaiah 29: 15 (NIV)

Woe to those who go to great depths to hide their plans from the Lord, who do their work in darkness and think,
"Who sees us? Who will know?"

# Isaiah 29: 16 (NIV)

You turn things upside down, as if the potter were thought to be like the clay! Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, "You did not make me"? Can the pot say to the potter, "You know nothing"?

# What is going on with these people?

# Isaiah 29: 16 (NIV)

You turn things upside down, as if the potter were thought to be like the clay! Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, "You did not make me"? Can the pot say to the potter, "You know nothing"?

Do we see this today?

## Isaiah 29: 17 (NIV)

In a very short time, will not Lebanon be turned into a fertile field and the fertile field seem like a forest?

# Isaiah 29: 18 (NIV)

In that day the deaf will hear the words of the scroll, and out of gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see.

#### Isaiah 29: 19 (NIV)

Once more the <u>humble</u> will rejoice in the Lord; the <u>needy</u> will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

# Isaiah 29: 20 (NIV)

The ruthless will vanish, the mockers will disappear, and all who have an eye for evil will be cut down

# Isaiah 29: 21 (NIV)

those who with a word make someone out to be guilty, who ensnare the defender in court and with false testimony deprive the innocent of justice.

### Isaiah 29: 22 (NIV)

Therefore this is what the Lord, who redeemed Abraham, says to the descendants of Jacob:

"No longer will Jacob be ashamed; no longer will their faces grow pale.

# Isaiah 29: 23 (NIV)

When they see among them their children, the work of my hands, they will keep my name holy; they will acknowledge the holiness of the Holy One of Jacob, and will stand in awe of the God of Israel.

# Isaiah 29: 24 (NIV)

Those who are wayward in spirit will gain understanding; those who complain will accept instruction."

# **Isaiah 30: 1 (NIV)**

"Woe to the obstinate children," declares the Lord, "to those who carry out plans that are not mine, forming an alliance, but not by my Spirit, heaping sin upon sin;

# Isaiah 30: 2 (NIV)

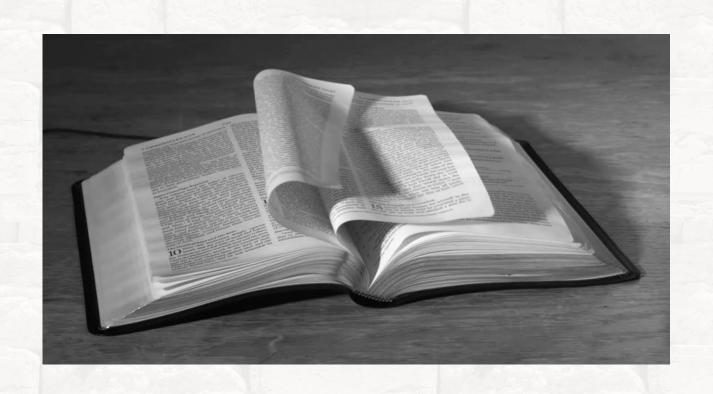
who go down to Egypt without consulting me; who look for help to Pharaoh's protection, to Egypt's shade for refuge.

# Who are they putting their trust in?

# **Isaiah 30: 3 (NIV)**

But Pharaoh's protection will be to your shame,
Egypt's shade will bring you disgrace.

# Please turn to: 2 Kings 17: 4



# 2 Kings 17: 4 (NLT)

But Hoshea stopped paying the annual tribute and conspired against the king of Assyria by asking King So of Egypt to help him shake free of Assyria's power. When the king of Assyria discovered this treachery, he seized Hoshea and put him in prison.

# Isaiah 30: 4 (NIV)

Though they have officials in Zoan and their envoys have arrived in Hanes,



# **Isaiah 30: 5 (NIV)**

everyone will be put to shame because of a people useless to them, who bring neither help nor advantage, but only shame and disgrace."

#### **Isaiah 30: 6 (NIV)**

A prophecy concerning the animals of the Negev: Through a land of hardship and distress, of lions and lionesses,

#### Isaiah 30: 6 (NIV)

of adders and darting snakes, the envoys carry their riches on donkeys' backs, their treasures on the humps of camels, to that unprofitable nation,

# **Isaiah 30: 7 (NIV)**

to Egypt, whose help is utterly useless.

Therefore I call her Rahab the Do-Nothing.

# Rahab means proud and is an old name for Egypt

#### Isaiah 30: 8 (NIV)

Go now, write it on a tablet for them, inscribe it on a scroll, that for the days to come it may be an everlasting witness.

#### Isaiah 30: 9 (NIV)

For these are rebellious people, deceitful children, children unwilling to listen to the Lord's instruction.

#### Isaiah 30: 10 (NIV)

They say to the seers, "See no more visions!" and to the prophets, "Give us no more visions of what is right! Tell us pleasant things, prophesy illusions.

#### Question

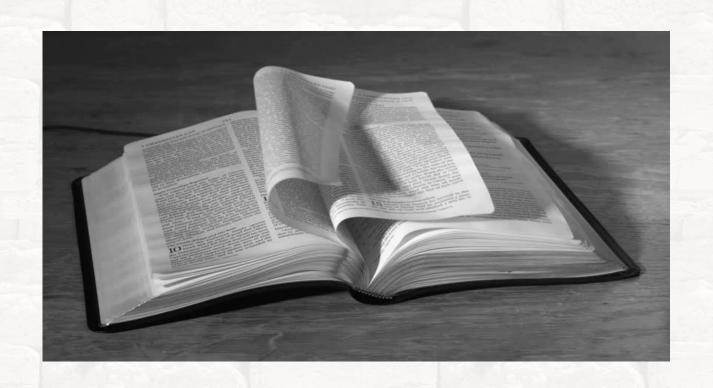
What is the world really saying when they only want to hear what their itching ears want to hear, when they only want lies and not Truth?

#### Isaiah 30: 11 (NIV)

Leave this way, get off this path, and stop confronting us with the Holy One of Israel!"

# Please turn to:

Psalm 2: 1-6



Why are the nations so angry? Why do they waste their time with futile plans?

The kings of the earth prepare for battle; the rulers plot together against the Lord and against his anointed one.

"Let us break their chains," they cry, "and free ourselves from slavery to God."

But the one who rules in heaven laughs.

The Lord scoffs at them.
Then in anger he rebukes them,
terrifying them with his fierce
fury.

For the Lord declares, "I have placed my chosen king on the throne in Jerusalem, on my holy mountain."

#### Question

What happens to those who listen to the lies and not the Truth?

#### Isaiah 30: 12 (NIV)

Therefore this is what the Holy One of Israel says:

"Because you have rejected this message, relied on oppression and depended on deceit,

Isn't it interesting that when the people of a nation wants to only hear what their itching ears want to hear it becomes a nation of oppression and deceit.

#### Isaiah 30: 11 (NIV)

Leave this way, get off this path, and stop confronting us with the Holy One of Israel!"

#### Isaiah 30: 12 (NIV)

Therefore this is what the Holy One of Israel says:

"Because you have rejected this message, relied on oppression and depended on deceit,

#### Isaiah 30: 13 (NIV)

this sin will become for you like a high wall, cracked and bulging, that collapses suddenly, in an instant.

#### Isaiah 30: 14 (NIV)

It will break in pieces like pottery, shattered so mercilessly that among its pieces not a fragment will be found for taking coals from a hearth or scooping water out of a cistern."

#### What Sin Does to Us Spiritually



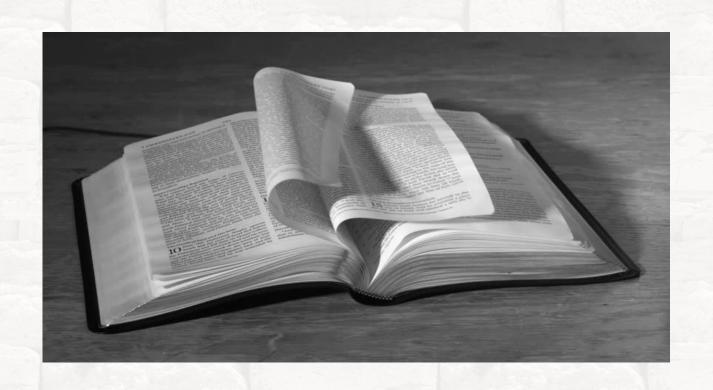
#### Isaiah 30: 15 (NIV)

This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says:

"In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.

### Please turn to:

Matthew 11: 28-30



#### Matthew 11: 28-30 (NIV)

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

#### The Choice is Ours

God gives everyone a choice:

Repentance and Grace Or Lack of Repentance and Rejection of God's Grace

# Repentance/Accepting God's Grace



#### Lack of Repentance/Rejection of Grace



#### Isaiah 30: 15 (NIV)

This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says:

"In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.

#### Isaiah 30: 16 (NIV)

You said, 'No, we will flee on horses.' Therefore you will flee! You said, 'We will ride off on swift horses.' Therefore your pursuers will be swift!

#### Question

Instead of trusting in God and repenting, what are these people putting their trust in?

#### Sound Familiar

They are saying "No we will trust in our government and our military to bring us peace and protect us.

We will do it our own way, without God."

# Isaiah 30: 17 (NIV)

A thousand will flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you will all flee away, till you are left like a flagstaff on a mountaintop, like a banner on a hill."

# When a nation departs from God they become fearful.

I believe God is trying to get our nation's attention with this election, the unrest, coronavirus, terrorist attacks, anarchy in the streets and overall lack of peace.

We must not make the same mistakes as the Israelites by thinking that our government can save us.

# Only God can save us!