

# Isaiah 30:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They were all ashamed of a people that could not profit them, nor be an help nor profit, but a shame, and also a reproach.

## Analysis

**They were all ashamed of a people that could not profit them** (הִבִּישׁ עַל-עַמּוֹ לֹא-לָמוֹ / hovish al-am lo-yo'ilu lamo)—The ambassadors' shame when they discovered Egypt's worthlessness. Hovish (from bosh) means to be ashamed, disappointed, confounded. Lo-yo'ilu means "cannot profit/benefit." Egypt was a people who couldn't help—militarily impotent despite impressive appearances.

**Nor be an help nor profit, but a shame, and also a reproach** (לֹא-לְעֵזֶר וְלֹא-לְחֵרֶפָה וְגַם-לְחֵרֶפָה / lo-le'ezer velo leho'il ki levoshet vegam-lecherpaah)—Emphatic repetition: not help (ezer), not profit (ho'il). Instead: shame (boshet) and reproach (cherpah, disgrace). Five negative outcomes contrasted with zero positive ones. The alliance brought only humiliation. Cherpah implies taunting, the disgrace of being mocked by enemies for trusting a failed ally.

## Historical Context

When Assyria invaded in 701 BCE, Egypt's promised military aid proved worthless. Sennacherib's Rabshakeh mocked Judah's Egyptian alliance: "Now on whom dost thou trust, that thou rebellest against me? Now, behold, thou trustest upon the staff of this bruised reed, even upon Egypt, on which if a man lean, it will go into his hand, and pierce it: so is Pharaoh king of Egypt unto all that trust on him" (2 Kings 18:20-21). Judah suffered the shame of public mockery for their failed political gambit. This fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy exactly: Egypt brought shame and reproach, not help and profit.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How do worldly alliances and securities often promise much but deliver only shame when tested?
2. What does it feel like to be 'ashamed' of trusting something that failed, and how does this drive us back to God?
3. How can the reproach of failed human plans turn us toward the unfailing help of divine providence?

## Interlinear Text

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כָּל	הֵבְּ אִישׁ	עַל	עַם	לֹא	לְהוֹעֵץ יֵל	לְ מוֹ	לֹא
H3605	<b>They were all ashamed</b>	H5921	<b>of a people</b>	H3808	<b>nor profit</b>	H0	H3808
	H3001		H5971		H3276		
	לֵעֹזֶר	וְלֹא	לְהוֹעֵץ יֵל	כִּי	לִבִּי שָׁת	וְגַם	
	<b>them nor be an help</b>	H3808	<b>nor profit</b>	H3588	<b>but a shame</b>	H1571	
	H5828		H3276		H1322		
	לְחִרְפָּה:						
	<b>and also a reproach</b>						
	H2781						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 2:36** (Parallel theme): Why gaddest thou about so much to change thy way? thou also shalt be ashamed of Egypt, as thou wast ashamed of Assyria.

**Isaiah 30:7** (Parallel theme): For the Egyptians shall help in vain, and to no purpose: therefore have I cried concerning this, Their strength is to sit still.

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