

Isaiah 30:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book,
that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever:

Analysis

Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book (עֲתָה בּוֹא כְתֹבָה) *attah bo khotvah al-luach itam ve'al-sefer chuqah*)—Divine command to Isaiah: write this prophecy publicly and permanently. Luach means tablet (like stone tablets of the Law)—public display for immediate witness. Sefer means book/scroll—permanent record for future generations. Chuqah means inscribe, engrave. God wants this prophecy documented in writing as legal testimony.

That it may be for the time to come for ever and ever (וְתִהְיֶה לְיוֹם אַחֲרֹן לְעַד עַד) *utehi leyom acharon la'ad ad-olam*)—Threefold emphasis on permanence: "the time to come" (yom acharon, latter day), "forever" (la'ad), "and ever" (ad-olam, unto eternity). This written testimony will vindicate God's word and indict the people's unbelief. Future generations will read and know: God warned them, they refused, He was right, they were wrong.

Historical Context

Writing prophecies for permanent record was crucial in Israel. Moses wrote the Law (Exodus 24:4); Joshua wrote in the book of the Law (Joshua 24:26); prophets' words were recorded (Jeremiah 36; Habakkuk 2:2). These written testimonies served multiple purposes:

1. public witness—everyone knew what God said

2. future vindication—when prophecy came true, it proved God's reliability
3. perpetual warning—later generations could learn from ancestors' failures.

Isaiah's written prophecy concerning Egypt's worthlessness and Judah's folly became permanent Scripture, teaching believers for 2,700 years about the danger of trusting human helps rather than divine providence. We read it today as "witness forever" to choose faith over political calculation.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does writing down God's word (Scripture) serve as permanent witness to His truth and our accountability?
2. What does it mean that this prophecy is "for the time to come forever"—how do ancient warnings apply today?
3. How should knowing our choices are recorded 'for ever and ever' affect our decisions?

Interlinear Text

עַתָּה	בּוֹא	כָּתוּבָה	עַל	לִפְנֵי	אֶתְּ	וְעַל
H6258	Now go	write	H5921	it before them in a table	H854	H5921
	H935	H3789		H3871		
סֵפֶר	חֶזֶק	וְתֵהִי	לִי	אֲחֵר	לְעַד	עַד
it in a book	and note	H1961	that it may be for the time	to come	ever	for
H5612	H2710		H3117	H314	H5703	H5704
עוֹלָם:						
and ever						
H5769						

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 8:1 (Parallel theme): Moreover the LORD said unto me, Take thee a great roll, and write in it with a man's pen concerning Maher-shalal-hash-baz.

Deuteronomy 31:22 (Parallel theme): Moses therefore wrote this song the same day, and taught it the children of Israel.

Habakkuk 2:2 (Parallel theme): And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

Jeremiah 36:2 (Parallel theme): Take thee a roll of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee against Israel, and against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spake unto thee, from the days of Josiah, even unto this day.

Jeremiah 51:60 (Parallel theme): So Jeremiah wrote in a book all the evil that should come upon Babylon, even all these words that are written against Babylon.

Deuteronomy 31:19 (Parallel theme): Now therefore write ye this song for you, and teach it the children of Israel: put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for me against the children of Israel.

Numbers 24:14 (Parallel theme): And now, behold, I go unto my people: come therefore, and I will advertise thee what this people shall do to thy people in the latter days.

Deuteronomy 4:30 (Parallel theme): When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice;