

# 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

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**Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book** (עתה בוא כתבה) /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** (ותהי ליום אחרון לעד עד) /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

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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

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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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

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וְעַל	אֹתֶם	לִזְמָן	עַל	כְּתָבָה	בְּזַאת	עַתָּה	וְעַתָּה
H6258	H854	H3871	H5921	H3789	H1961	H5921	
Now go	write	it before them in a table					

עַד	לְעַד	אֶתְרָיו	וְלִזְמָן	וְעַתָּה	וְעַתָּה	וְעַתָּה	וְעַתָּה
H5612	H2710	H1961	H3117				
it in a book	and note	that it may be for the time	to come	ever	for		

עוֹלָם:

and ever

H5769

## Additional Cross-References

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**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;

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