

THE FAILURE OF A NATION

THE ELEMENTS OF JUDGEMENT Part Two

DATE: 9/14/2016 Wed.

TEXT: Isaiah 3

INTRODUCTION

Proverbs 14:34 – *“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people”*

Doing what honors God blesses a Nation

Rebelling against God, on the other hand, weakens a Nation

That’s the Promise of God

In the 3rd chapter of Isaiah, we find a very sobering description of the Failure of a Nation

Isaiah's message of warning describes what is going to happen to Jerusalem and the southern kingdom of Judah in the days ahead

Because of the sin of God's people, the Lord was going to start removing things from their lives (on a societal level)

Turning from God to false gods, and wicked living was coming back to haunt them

God wasn’t going to put up with their nonsense any longer

He was preparing them for Judgement

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By the way, nothing has changed

If a person knows Christ as their Saviour, the Lord will deal with them if they are rebellious and living in sin

The record of the ruin of Israel provides a pattern of what happens when any nation Falls into sin

Many of the Elements of Judgment recorded here can apply to America

As God deal's with Israel, so God will deal with the U.S.

Our country is Failing; both Spiritually and Morally

This Failure has weakened us economically and it has weakened our leadership in the world

How can we speak with authority to other nations about human rights and freedom when we deny those same rights to helpless babies and allow them to be slaughtered by the thousands?

The same people that cry - *We need to give our children the best education possible and protect them from the sexual predators and bullies* are the same people that preach we should have the freedom to abort their babies

Something is very wrong with that!

When you turn your back on God and His Word, people make confusing and foolish decisions

As America continues to Fail in its relationship with God

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You can see the Lord's hand of Judgment upon our country

If America continue on its course of perversity and foolishness, our nation will end in utter ruin soon

That should concern us because we live here

If our country Falls, we Fall with it

Can a powerful nation Fall into ruin?

Ask people who live in Germany or Russia and you will get the answer

Can our Failing Nation, State, Homes, Churches, and our Failing Lives, be turn around and brought back on track?

Praise the Lord, they can!

II Chronicles 7:14 – “If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land”

As we look at the Failure of the Nation Israel, we will find that many of the Judgments that fell on them are also Falling on America

These Judgments are increasing in severity

We want to address these Elements of Judgement to show the serious condition our own country is in

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And also to provide Biblical Solutions on turning the problems around in the right direction

We pick up in v.5 this evening

Let's stand to read God's Word as we read vs. 5- 8 ...

~~~Prayer~~~

Let's review the first 3 points that we have covered

**The “Removal” of Security – v.1**

**The “Loss” of Leadership – vs. 2, 3**

**The “Rule” of Woman and Children – vs. 4, 12**

The next Element of Judgement we see is ...

### **I. THE “RUIN” OF SOCIETY – v. 5**

v. 5 describes more of the terrible conditions that will prevail upon Judah and Jerusalem when God's judgements are set forth

According to v. 4 civil Authority would break down and the young (inexperienced) would become the leaders

***“And I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them”***

All social order will break down

We see 2 thoughts here in v. 5

### A. The ‘Oppression’

v. 5a - ***“And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his neighbour:”***

A nation is falling apart *when* the people of that nation violate and lose their concern for their neighbors

Isaiah not only mentioned the Loss of Leadership

But also the Oppression that comes from the citizens because of this void

A dog-eat-dog mentality leads to a dog's life

**Psalm 59 ...**

People would turn against each other

Anarchy would prevail in that day

The chaotic conditions in the major cities of Judah are being detailed here

These clearly refer to the conditions in Jerusalem while under siege by the Assyrians and later the Babylonians

It will be a time people will do whatever it takes to survive

**II Kings 6:25 - *“And there was a great famine in Samaria: and, behold, they besieged it, until an ass's head was sold for fourscore pieces of silver,***

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*...and the fourth part of a cab (vessel) of dove's dung for five pieces of silver”*

Things got so bad at this point that the people were eating their children!

**II Kings 6:28, 29** – *“And the king said unto her, What aileth thee? And she answered, This woman said unto me, Give thy son, that we may eat him to day, and we will eat my son to morrow” “So we boiled my son, and did eat him: and I said unto her on the next day, Give thy son, that we may eat him: and she hath hid her son”*

### **B. The ‘Proud’**

**v. 5b** – *“the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable” (respectable)*

Young people will defy their elders

The dregs of society would rise up against those trying really hard to get by

Another indication of the fall of a nation is when the youth of the nation become rebellious and rude toward those who are elderly or in authority, and when those who are shameful and disgraceful, dishonor those who are honorable

Rebellion undermines the civility of a society

It replaces Calm with Confusion, Peace with Pandemonium, Happiness with Hate, ...

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... Delight with Destruction, and Beauty with Blood

America is now reaping the rebellion of the 60's

The same student rebels of the 60's are now the militate judges residing in our courts

And these justices' are now establishing judicial rulings that rebel against God and His Word

The courts in this country have revised the First Amendment, thus erecting a wall of atheism around every public school in America, where God is not allowed to be mentioned

1. On June 17, 1963, eight of the nine judges on the Supreme Court ruled that prayer and Bible reading in our schools was unconstitutional

That was a very bizarre conclusion since our Founding Fathers, who wrote the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, sent their own children to schools that had prayer and Bible reading

The conclusion of the 1963 Supreme Court was in essence saying that our Founding Fathers must not have understood the government they had just created

You see, from 1620 until 1963, (a span of 343 years) school prayer and Bible reading had been an everyday part of American life, which was suddenly declared unconstitutional

**III.** Only One judge on the court, Justice Potter Stewart spoke up against the ruling. A man by the name of Leonard Kerpelman addressed the court saying prayer in the public schools had been tolerated for so long that it had become traditional and that anything that is unconstitutional does not become constitutional through tradition. He went on to say the Constitution had erected a "wall of separation" between church and state, at which point Justice Potter Stewart interrupted, asking where this wording appears in the Constitution. Mr. Kerpelman was stumped and an embarrassing silence followed. When he regained his composure, he stated that the text was not explicit on the point but that it had been interpreted to mean so.

There is nothing in the U.S. Constitution that talks about the separation of church and state

You just won't find it

The Supreme Court reasoned that being *neutral* or not favoring one religion over another, was the same as not allowing religious practices in school

They believed that Christianity should be forbidden

Justice Potter Stewart, the one dissenting vote blasted the ruling saying, *"It has not led to true neutrality with respect to religion, but to the establishment of a religion of secularism"*

True neutrality would not favor one religion over another, but the court's ruling favored atheism over all the religions of the world that believe in God

Atheism has been declared a religion by the U.S. Supreme Court, so the Court did not act neutrally, instead it favored one religion over another

The court's actions were not neutral at all

After the ruling, the **Wall Street Journal** commented that atheism was now *“the one belief to which the state's power will extend its protection”*

Senator Sam Ervin of North Carolina said, *“I should like to ask whether we would be so wrong in saying that in this decision the Supreme Court has held that God is unconstitutional and for that reason the public school must be segregated against Him?”*

### 2. What are the results from this 1963 Ruling?

David Barton of Wall Builders has studied the statistical records for the past 60 years; and said ...

In each study you can clearly see a negative impact when prayer in school was removed!

- Teen pregnancies have sky rocketed 500% since this decision
- Unmarried mothers have risen dramatically
- The divorce rate is so high that many young children don't really understand what a family is
- Violent crimes have risen steadily since the early 60's, and our prison system are now bursting at the seams
- The SAT scores have steadily declined each year and continue to decline

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We once had the best school system in the world, and we are now ranked about 15<sup>th</sup> among the industrialized nations

This is despite us spending more money than any other nation in the world on our school system

Total expenditures for public elementary and secondary schools in the United States amounted to \$620 billion in 2012-13, or \$12,296 per student enrolled

3. We have gone from public schools which taught moral principles and good citizenship with high scholastic achievement ...

To schools that have plummeted into disrespect for authority, sexual immorality, rape, robbery, drunkenness, drugs, anger, knives, guns, murder, massacres, no moral teachings, the propagation of homosexuality, no mention of God, and lousy SAT scores

It seems there is a shooting at a high school almost every week now

In fact our Public schools are war zones and pits of violence with about 16,000 crimes occurring on or around school campuses every day!

4. ***“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”***

It's no wonder that many of our young people have no wisdom, no common sense, no character, no discipline, and no responsibility

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When you leave the Lord and His Word out of the educational equation, this is the result

Educators need to get an education on how to educate the kids

They need to flush their foolishness and get God's wisdom back into the schools and their lives

5. The Founding Fathers knew that the only way this nation was going to survive was the fact that God and His Word had to play a major role in the foundation of society

Many of these men loved the Lord Jesus Christ

In fact, 24 of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence held seminary or Bible college degrees

6. Most Americans don't realize that religious issues were an important motivation behind our separation from Great Britain

Men like Samuel Adams and Charles Carrol cited religious freedom as the reason they became involved in the American Revolution, but you won't hear that in today's public schools

That has been conveniently left out

The king of England in 1762, vetoed the charter for America's first missionary society and prevented Americans from printing an English language Bible

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These Christian men decided it was time to make a break

They also wanted to break from England because of the issue of slavery

Most Americans don't know this either

Did you know that several of the American colonies moved toward abolishing slavery in 1773, but in 1774, the king of England vetoed the anti-slavery laws and continued slavery in America

When the king did this, men such as Benjamin Franklin and Benjamin Rush founded America's first abolition society

This was a great desire of many of these men, but they had to separate from Great Britain first

Following the separation, six of the thirteen colonies began abolishing slavery

The Founding Fathers were men that realized the importance of following God's Word

John Adams is a signer of the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights and our second President

In a speech to the military in 1798, he warned his fellow countrymen stating, *"We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion ..."*

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*... Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other”*

7. As Americans become more wicked, the cry for abolishing our Constitution becomes louder

Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration of Independence said, *“The only foundation for a useful education in a republic is to be aided in religion. Without this there can be no virtue, and without virtue there can be no liberty, and liberty is the object and life of all republican governments. Without religion, I believe that learning does real mischief to the morals and principles of mankind”*

Rush realized the Detriment and Destructiveness of leaving God out of education

8. Noah Webster, author of the first American Speller and the first American Dictionary stated, *“The moral principles and precepts contained in the Scriptures ought to form the basis of all our civil constitutions and laws ... All the miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery, and war, proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible”*

Webster confirmed the truth that turning your back on the Bible leads to a boat-load of problems

9. Robert Winthrop, former Speaker of the U. S. House said, *“Men, in a word, must necessarily be controlled either by a power within them or by a power without*

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*them; either by the Word of God or by the strong arm of man; either by the Bible or by the bayonet”*

Winthrop attested to the fact that the Lord is the One who restrains our wicked nature

10. George Washington, General of the Revolutionary Army, president of the Constitutional Convention, First President of the United States of America, and Father of our nation said, *“Religion and morality are the essential pillars of civil society”*
11. Benjamin Franklin, Signer of the Declaration of Independence said, *“Only virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters”* Why?

Masters are needed to control the vileness of men that violate the freedoms, security, and liberties of others

### THE “RUIN” OF SOCIETY

## II. THE “REQUIREMENTS” FOR RESPONSIBILITIES – vs. 6, 7

### A. A Weak Requirement - v. 6

***“When a man shall take hold of his brother of the house of his father, saying, Thou hast clothing, be thou our ruler, and let this ruin be under thy hand:”***

A nation will fall apart when it can't discern good Leadership

When God's Judgement Fell, if a person owned anything (clothing) ...

They were viewed as a viable leader

That made him a candidate

The economy of that nation was shattered / shot

The people were begging for Capable Leadership

### **B. Their Refusal to Lead – v. 7**

***“In that day shall he swear, saying, I will not be an healer; for in my house is neither bread nor clothing: make me not a ruler of the people”***

The person being begged would decline because he understood he was having a hard time taking care of himself

Let me say that just because a person has wealth does not mean he would be a good candidate for leadership in government

Yet, our political system in America demands a lot of money to run for office, especially in congressional or presidential races

We have some good folks that are in leadership positions in Albany and in Washington

We also have some absolute fools who have no business being in leadership

Some are promoting the acceptance of corruption and perversion

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The blame for such leaders falls back upon the shoulders of those who voted them into office

Beloved, you will give an account for your vote or for not voting when you had the opportunity to make a difference for good

Our responsibility as Christians is to vote for candidates that embrace and believe biblical principles

We are to study their beliefs and where they stand on issues of the day

Our votes are not to be based on party affiliation, on skin color, on how handsome, pretty, or popular the candidates may be,

But on what they believe and what they stand for

If they stand for issues that contradict God's Word, don't vote for them

Be informed about what is going on in our cities, the state, and the nation

Take your stand and let your voice be heard by those who have the power and authority to make decisions in government

Call and write these people

**THE “RUIN” OF SOCIETY**

**THE “REQUIREMENTS” FOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

III. THEIR “REBELLION” TOWARD GOD – v. 8

*“For Jerusalem is ruined, and Judah is fallen: because their tongue and their doings are against the LORD, to provoke the eyes of His glory”*

Jerusalem forsook God and was ruined

Judah had fallen, Why?

*“because their tongue and their doings are against the LORD”*

The people had become rebellious toward the Lord

Their words and their actions offended God

They **“provoked”** the Lord to anger by their disobedience and depravity

Why did they behave this way?

The answer is because they did not care what God thought

They were totally unconcerned about how the Lord felt about their actions

And they were determined to live their own way with no regard for God and His commands

**Zechariah 7:12** - *“Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant (set in opinion) stone, lest they should hear the Law, and the Words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in His spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of Hosts”*

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**Isaiah 47:10 – “For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me”**

Our own nation is on a toboggan run to destruction because we have adopted the same attitudes as Israel

Our courts have tried to flush the Lord out of the fabric of our history and society

They continuously rule against prayer in school, Bible reading, and the Ten Commandments being displayed in public

They have legalized abortion and now they are trying to change what constitutes gender

Who would have ever dreamed that these views would be an issue in America?

This is what happens, however, when perversion becomes accepted in a nation

Perversion clouds common sense and promotes confusion

It turns everything around / upside down

**Isaiah 5:20 – “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!”**

**Proverbs 17:15 – “He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD”**

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God has made it very clear what He feels about homosexuality and the abortion of babies

**Leviticus 18:22 – “*Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination”***

**Proverbs 6:16, 17 – “*These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto Him:” “A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood.”***

God declared that both of these atrocities are an abomination to Him

That should end the discussion

Some may ask, *If the Supreme Court has legalized abortion, then how can it be changed?*

Can it be corrected?

The answer is Yes

It is not easy, but it can be overturned

The ruling of the court can be changed

It has happened 10 times in our history

It can be done in one-of-two ways

**1. The states can amend the Constitution itself**

This requires approval by 3/4 of the state legislatures

It is no easy feat

However, it has happened several times

It's good to see the States standing up for their rights again of late

The Fed's are always trying to leverage their money

### 2. The Supreme Court can overrule itself

This happens when a different case involving the same constitutional issues as an earlier case is reviewed by the court and seen in a new light, typically because of changing social and political situations

The longer the amount of time between the cases, the more likely this could occur

Any nation, that is unwilling to obey God's Word, that nation will Fail and reap the judgement of the Lord

There is no exemption for the United States

Any nation that defies God Almighty by its wickedness, will be put in its place if it does not repent and turn from its wicked ways

***Ecclesiastes 8:11 – “Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil”***

God has not changed, He is still holy!

Do you know where He begins His judgment?

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It's with you and I, as Christians

As Christians, we should know better than to do that which is wrong

It is sad that a great deal of opposition toward those who take a biblical stand against homosexuality is coming from people who profess to be Christians

When people who profess to be believers condone corruption that God opposes,

Then those same so-called believers have put themselves on the opposite side of God

No wonder the Lord said that friendship with the world is enmity with Him

***James 4:4 – “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God”***

When so-called Christians defend perversity, they are the first contributors to the Failure of a Nation

This is why the Lord stated that revival must begin with us

They have to get their act together and get their lives straightened out on what is right and wrong

I think of how God phrases **II Chronicles 7:14**

***“If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, ...***

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***... and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land”***

If we do not deal with our own sin, God will

God will deal with sin in the life of any Nation

Remember what He said to the Churches in Rev. 2, 3

***I Peter 4:14 – “For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?”***

### **CONCLUSION**

We'll quit there for now

We have now looked at 6 of the Elements of Judgement found in **Isaiah 3**

We will continue with more in our next message

### **THE “RUIN” OF SOCIETY**

### **THE “REQUIREMENTS” FOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **THE “REBELLION” TOWARD GOD**

May God help America repent and turn back to Him!

We need to Wake-up America!

Before it is Too Late