

THE FAILURE OF A NATION

THE ELEMENTS OF JUDGEMENT Part Three

DATE: 9/28/2016 Wed.

TEXT: Isaiah 3:9, 11

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 continues 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 continue to 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 for turning the problems around in the right direction

We pick up in **v.9** this evening

Let's stand to read God's Word as we read **vs. 9, 11 ...**

~~~Prayer~~~

Let's review the first 6 Elements 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 ‘Ruin” of Society - v.5**

**The “Requirements” for Responsibility - vs. 6, 7**

**Their “Rebellion” Toward God - v. 8**

The next Element of Judgement is seen in ...

**I. THEIR “REVOLTING” BEHAVIOR - vs. 9, 11**

We see here a Rebellious Behavior and the Reaping of Wickedness

When the people of a nation unashamedly flaunt and declare their wickedness for all to see with no Restraint, no Regret, and no Remorse,

Then that nation is about to Fail!

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This was the case in Israel in Isaiah's day

The people had become Proud of their Perversion

The very expressions upon their faces revealed the Haughtiness of their Hearts

There was no Shame for their Sin

They were not embarrassed at all

In fact, the looks on their faces testified to their Defiance

What was Isaiah talking about here?

### **A. The Rebellious Behavior - v. 9a**

***“The shew of their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not...”***

When people becomes gripped by Perversity and Rebellion,

It changes the countenance or the face of that person

The face becomes Hardened, Hateful, Defiant, Proud, and Haughty

I have seen these looks many times from this pulpit

This is what was happening in Isaiah's day

There is no Remorse in their countenance, just Defiance

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The facial expressions of Isaiah's people revealed what was in their hearts

Facial Expressions reveal a lot about a person

Let me add here as well, that wicked living will age you ahead of your time

It will add years to your face and make you look old

The Bible speaks about the effect of wickedness upon a person's face

**Psalm 10:4 – *“The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts”***

**Proverbs 30:13 – *“There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up”***

**Jeremiah 6:15 – *“Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time that I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the LORD”***

### **B. The Reaping of Wickedness - vs. 9b, 11**

***“...Woe unto their soul! for they have rewarded evil unto themselves” “Woe unto the wicked! it shall be ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him”***

***“Woe” means grief, anguish, and affliction***

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Isaiah says here that the wicked bring upon themselves their own grief, anguish and affliction ...

***“They ... reward evil unto themselves” “for the reward of his hands shall be given him”***

Let me share with you what some of the Sociologists have been saying (These men are not necessarily saved)

1. In 1934, a British anthropologist studied 86 cultures that stretched across 1,000's of years

He found, without exception, when a culture upheld Biblical marriages, their society thrived

Strong families headed up by faithful spouses made for bold, prosperous societies, but not one culture survived more than a generation, after turning permissive

2. Another Sociologist noted in the late 60's that America was committing *voluntary suicide* through unrestrained indulgence

He observed that as individuals began engaging in relationships unrelated to marriage, the birth rate would decline and the nation would slowly depopulate

He predicted an increase in divorce, desertion, and an epidemic of promiscuity resulting in a rise in illegitimate children

His predictions, unfortunately, have come true

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His study of decadent cultures convinced him that a healthy society can only survive if strong families exist and intimate relationships are restricted to that marriage

Promiscuity leads inevitably to cultural decline and eventual collapse

### 3. Another sociologist noted that a decadent culture displays 7 typical characteristics

These traits read like today's newspaper

- Men rejecting their spiritual and moral responsibilities as the leaders of families
- Men begin to neglect their families in search of material gain
- Men begin to engage in adulterous and deviant relationships
- Women begin to devalue the role of motherhood and homemaker
- Husbands and wives begin to compete with each other and families disintegrate
- Selfish individualism fragments society into warring factions

For example the poor are pitted against the rich (Class envy)

Those who are poor demand the wealth of others

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- Men and women lose faith in God and reject all authority over their lives

Soon, moral anarchy reigns

When the family collapses, the society soon follows

4. Even before cultural decay was apparent, a Dr. Carle Zimmerman wrote a book called "Family and Civilization" in 1947.

He also reviewed the decline of multiple civilizations in history, and found 8 patterns of 'domestic' behavior in those societies that signaled the decline of that civilization:

- Marriage lost its sacredness; and was frequently broken by divorce
- The Traditional meaning of the marriage ceremony is lost
- Feminist movements abound
- Increased public disrespect for parents and authority in general
- Acceleration of juvenile delinquency, promiscuity, and rebellion
- Refusal of people with traditional marriages to accept family responsibilities
- Growing desire for and acceptance of adultery

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-- Increasing interest in the spread of perversions and related crimes

This pattern was in Judah and it exists in our nation now

Before their destruction and captivity, the Jewish nation flouted their sin as Sodom

America is not any different now

Sodomites parade their perversion in the streets of our cities

They call them *Gay Pride* parades

**Proverbs 16:18 – “*Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall*”**

Their purpose is to recruit others into their lifestyle

If the media showed everything that went on during these parades, people would be appalled at the behavior

Drunkness, nudity, and immorality are openly displayed in America with little or no repercussions at all

Some cities in our country do all they can to attract college students for Spring Break so they can revel in drunkness and immorality in their streets and on their beaches

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The sins of our nation are a shame unto us and are bringing about judgment

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

The family as we know it, is crumbling to pieces because of divorce and immorality

40% of the children born in the U.S. are born out of wedlock

When the family falls apart, then the nation eventually fails

Children need the stability, example, love, and training from a mother and father that love each other

Children need a Daddy, especially boys

God never intended for Momma to do it all

The absence of the father in almost half of our homes is having devastating consequences on the boys of our country

According to a U.S. Dept. of Health Census ...

- 63% of youth suicides are from fatherless homes - 5 times the average
- 90% of all homeless and runaway children are from fatherless homes - 32 times the average

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- 85% of all children who show behavior disorders come from fatherless homes - 20 times the average
- 80% of rapists with anger problems come from fatherless homes - 14 times the average
- 71% of all high school dropouts come from fatherless homes - 9 times the average
- 70% of all prison and reform school inmates come from fatherless homes

Our nation is Failing as it continues to reap the consequences of its wickedness and defiance toward God's Word and authority

It is, as if, we are bent on destruction and defying God

The critical issue that will affect the destiny of this nation in years to come is being hotly debated right now

One is ... Should gay marriages be legalized in the United States?

If this wickedness is legalized in our country,

The consequences will be devastating to the American people physically, spiritually, morally, and emotionally

The very soul of this country will be dramatically altered

Our children and grandchildren will have to contend with circumstances and situations that we would never have dreamed they would face

Some folks may ask, *How? What do you mean?*

*What are you talking about?*

Let me explain the effects of legalizing same-gender marriage

### **C. The Effects of Legalizing Same Gender Marriages**

1. Taxpayers, consumers, and businesses will be forced to subsidize sodomite relationships

If same-gender marriage is legalized, *all* employers, public and private, large or small, would be required to offer spousal benefits to sodomite couples

You, as a taxpayer, consumer, or small business owner, would be forced to bear the expense of subsidizing sodomite relationships, including their higher health care costs from their diseases such as AIDS

2. Schools / teachers will be forced to teach that sodomite relationships are normal and identical to heterosexual ones

Such teaching is already going on in public schools across the nation

Sodomite marriage is definitely not the same as a marriage between a man and a woman ...

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... Because same-gender couples cannot procreate

Face it, if your parents had a same gender marriage, you would not be here tonight

If everyone in the world believed in this kind of marriage, the human race would eventually disappear

That's not a good idea

### 3. Freedom of conscience and religious liberty is being threatened

Why do you think we are shoring up our Statement of Faith & By-Laws

Churches and Religious non-profit organizations could be stripped of their tax exemptions

Those who speak out may be fined or accused of hate crimes and imprisoned

Individual believers who disapprove of sodomite relationships may face a choice at work between forfeiting their freedom of speech and being fired

It's already happening / Listen to these Examples ...

- A member of France's parliament was fined nearly \$4,000 for stating that homosexuality was inferior to heterosexuality and would be dangerous for humanity if it was pushed to the limit

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- In 2005, a Pastor in Sweden, was arrested for preaching against the sodomites, charged with hate speech, and spent 30 days in jail
- In 2008, the website E-Harmony was sued for not matching same-gender couples
- In July, 2012, the mayor of Chicago, Rahm Emanuel stated that Chick-Fil-A's values were not the same as Chicago values and vowed to block the establishment of this business in that area
- A 14 yr.-old Texas boy who was an honor student and football player, was suspended for telling a friend during a class discussion on sodomy, *I'm a Christian and, to me, being a sodomite is wrong*
- In England, a Bed and Breakfast was sued by a sodomite couple who were refused admission because the owners were Christians and had a conviction that two men should not share the same bed

In other words, society will be forced to accept the lifestyle of the sodomites or be penalized for opposing it

Your right to believe, what you believe, to oppose and disagree with this sin will lead to punishment

Conform or reap the consequences is quickly becoming the rule of the day

#### 4. Fewer people will marry.

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-- In 1989 the Nordic countries legalized same-gender unions and in just 15 years, traditional marriage as we know it, is almost extinct there

More than 85% of their young people cohabit without getting married and the small percentage of those who do marry hide their wedding rings in public for fear of being castigated by their peers

That is pretty sad

-- In Massachusetts, where same-gender marriages became legal in 2004, only 52% of same-gender couples who live together had ever bothered to marry by the end of 2006

But among opposite-gender couples, the comparable figure was 91%

In the Netherlands, the figures are even lower, with only 12% of sodomite couples having entered legal civil marriages

Giving the option of same-gender marriage just tells society that marriage in general is optional, not normal, and fewer people will marry

Once marriage stops being about establishing a family, the need to get married gradually disappears

Convince the public that marriage is not about parenthood, and increasingly, people simply stop getting married

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People also become immoral because of the acceptance of perverse lifestyles

If sodomy, which is condemned in the Bible, is considered acceptable, then pre-marital relationship is considered acceptable, too

The acceptance of sodomy removes the moral footings of a society

The floodgates of perversity are opened wide

Research suggests that children, whose parents live together, but never marry, are at greater risk of domestic violence, child abuse, and neglect

These children are also 3 times more likely to experience their parents' breakup by age five

### 5. Fewer people will remain monogamous and faithful

Among the sodomite crowd, being with multiple partners is tolerated and often expected

One study in the Netherlands showed that sodomite men with a steady partner had an average of eight other partners per year

If these behaviors are incorporated into what society affirms as marriage, then faithfulness among heterosexuals will likely decline as well

### 6. Fewer people will remain married for a lifetime

Even a sodomite psychologist has acknowledged that gay and lesbian couples dissolve their relationships more frequently than heterosexual couples

The same Dutch study that showed the high rate of sodomite promiscuity also showed that the average sodomite male partnership lasts only 1.5 years

### 7. Fewer children will be raised by a married mother and father

The Social sciences have clearly proven that children do best when raised by their own married biological mother and father

Why? Because that is God's plan for the family

Yet, legalizing same-gender marriage will put an official stamp of approval on the deliberate creation of permanently motherless or fatherless families

Legalizing same-gender marriages will have a devastating effect on the children of those families

Understand that the nuclear family as we know it, one man and one woman married to one another, is under attack

And those who are impacted the most are the children

Understand that socialism and communism want your children's minds

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This is why they are taught they came from apes and not God

This is why prayer and the Bible have been removed

This is why they are taught that it's alright to be immoral

Because immorality has devastating spiritual effects upon a person

The socialists in the media today have been pretty brazen in their goals for your kids and grand-kids

They promote a message that says, *Your kids are not your own. They belong to the community*

A statement made on the very liberal MSNBC television station said - *"We have to break through our private idea that kids belong to parents, or kids belong to their families, and recognize that kids belong to the whole community ..."*

Hillary said - *"It takes a village to raise a child"*

### 8. More children will grow up fatherless

Most children who live with only one biological parent will live with their mothers, and lesbian couples are more likely to be raising children than sodomite male couples

Therefore, with same-gender marriage, more children would suffer the specific negative consequences of fatherlessness,

... Which include higher rates of youth incarceration among males and adolescent pregnancy and molestation among females

Research also shows negative outcomes for the children of seed donors, who are used by some lesbian couples

These children grow up not knowing the identity of their father, leaving a big void in their identity and personal history

Important questions they have, go unanswered

### 9. Birth rates will fall

Same-gender marriage would eliminate the incentive for procreation that is implicit in defining marriage as a male-female union

There is already evidence of at least a correlation between same-gender marriage and low birth and fertility rates, both in the U.S. and abroad

While some people still harbor outdated fears about over-population, demographers now understand that declining birth rates harm society

If the entire world embraced sodomite marriages,

Defying God's command to be fruitful and multiply,

The human race would eventually end

### 10. The Defense of the Nation is Weakened

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The Historian Polybius attributed the fall of ancient Rome to pedophilia that progressed from rampant sodomy among the ruling class

During the reign of Justinian, sodomy and bestiality were acceptable as Roman entertainment

However, many historians, including Edward Gibbon, in The Decline and Fall of The Roman Empire,

Suggest that the fall of Rome was assured only when the sodomite depravity of Roman society transcended into the military realm,

Where such self-indulgences replaced the disciplines that made Rome's legions so formidable

Moral corruption of the legions of Rome left the people unprotected from the crude armies that ultimately sacked the city

That is very interesting since there has been such an intense movement to open our military to sodomy

### **11. Same-gender Marriage leads to other bizarre perversions**

Sodomite marriage will open the floodgates to other bizarre arrangements including polygamy and bestiality

The TV push for this has already begun

If a person's choice of a spouse cannot be limited based on the gender,

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...it is hard to see how it could be limited based on the number of spouses or kind either

This argument is already being pressed in the courts and will continue to escalate

When a nation or community opens the door to perversity, it also opens the door to anarchy and failure

### CONCLUSION

If the perversity of sodomy is legalized and considered acceptable behavior, all in the name of rights ...

Then how can a society draw any moral boundaries in the sand?

It can't!

People can make the exact same argument about their rights for their specific form of perversion

Their argument is, *I have the right to satisfy my desires. It's my business and no one else's*

If God's Word is left out of the picture, then the floodgates of corruption saturate every fabric of society, from adults all the way down to little children

Eventually, that society will crumble

God has established for us His Moral Laws that we might be strong, healthy, blessed, and free

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If a nation, however, says that His Word is irrelevant and that a man's rights to do as he wishes are supreme,

Then to be consistent, you set the precedent that men should be allowed to do anything they want to do because it is their right

There has to be some kind of moral restraints and boundaries

If there are no restraints, then every man will do that which is right in his own eyes

This happened before the Flood

That is what happened to Israel during the times of the Judges

That is what was happening to Israel in Isaiah's day

And that is exactly what is going on in America today

That philosophy led to the Judgment of the Flood

That philosophy led to the ruin of Israel

We have laws that state it is wrong to murder someone else

Where did that boundary come from?

It came from God

Yet, if that law is spurned, then there no longer is freedom and liberty because everyone will live in fear for his life

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Trust in others will vanish

At this point, someone will speak up and say -

*“Murder or rape are wrong because they infringe upon the rights and freedoms of others”*

*“They endanger or harm people. That is why these things are forbidden”*

I agree ... That kind of behavior does harm and infringe on the rights of others

So why are we murdering our babies in abortion clinics?

What about their rights?

Abortion proponents argue - *I abort my baby to free myself of responsibility and make my life happier*

What about the happiness of the baby?

Does he or she not have the right to live or to be happy?

The fact that rape and murder are considered wrong demonstrates that society does have a responsibility to draw moral lines and say that certain Behaviors are unacceptable

You have to say NO to destructive behavior, especially when it harms others or corrupts the morals of a society

If that behavior harms people or presents a health risk, then it is to be forbidden

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This is one of the reasons why prostitution is forbidden and should be a reason why sodomy should be also

Because of the contagious diseases produced by such behavior, especially AIDS

Beloved, even if you have gay friends or family members, it does not make their behavior acceptable or right

God is very clear about this sin (Unacceptable Behavior)

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

***Leviticus 20:13 – “If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them”***

***I Corinthians 6:9 – “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind”***

**Romans 1:25-32 ...**