

THE FAILURE OF A NATION

THE ELEMENTS OF JUDGEMENT Part Four

DATE: 10/5/16 Wed.

TEXT: Isaiah 3:10; 13 - 26

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

Let's stand to read God's Word as we read **vs. 10, 14-26**

~~~Prayer~~~

Let's review the first 7 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**

**Their “Revolting” Behavior – vs. 9, 11**

We pick up in **v. 10** this evening and ...

**I. THE “REMINDER” TO THE RIGHTEOUS – v. 10**

***“Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him:  
for they shall eat the fruit of their doings”***

The nation of Israel is Falling apart

In the midst of the bad news for the wicked, Isaiah had an encouraging message for those who were living godly ...

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Those who remained faithful to the Lord in the midst of the corruption

In ways not specified, God promised to bless and protect the righteous whilst judgment fell upon the rest of the land

God has had in every age, those who would not bow the knee to Baal

-- In the Book of **I Kings 19:18** we see the 7000

-- In the Book of **Daniel** we see Daniel and the 3 young men

-- In the Book of **Revelation 3:4** we see those in Sardis who would not defile themselves

Those who are determined to live righteous will be blessed

Life will go well for them because they will reap the blessings they have sown

### **A. We Reap what we Sow – Galatians 6:7**

*“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap”*

We often associate this verse with the reaping of sin

This verse not only applies to the reaping of sin,

But also to the reaping of righteousness

It works both ways

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We will eat the Fruit of our own ways

So how is the taste in your mouth?

Is it bitter or sweet?

**Quote:** Billy Sunday used to say, *“Sin’s sweetness soon sours”*

You will have either a sweet or a sour taste depending on your relationship with the Lord

Make your life count for the Lord, even when others will not live for Him

**Ecclesiastes 8:12** – *“Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before Him:”*

**Jeremiah 15:11** – *“The LORD said, Verily it shall be well with thy remnant; verily I will cause the enemy to entreat thee well in the time of evil and in the time of affliction”*

### **B. We Walk by Faith, not by sight – II Corinthians 5:7**

*“(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)”*

No matter how bad the circumstances are around us,

God can Bless and Protect us if He so desires

Let me share with you this great **Illustration** -

Missionaries Dick and Margaret Hillis found themselves caught in China during the Japanese invasion.

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The couple lived with their two children in the inland town of Shenkiu. The village was tense with fear, for every day brought terrifying reports of the Japanese advance. At the worst possible time, Dick developed appendicitis, and he knew his life depended on making the long journey by ricksha to the hospital. On January 15, 1941, with deep foreboding, Margaret watched him leave. Soon the Chinese colonel came with news. The enemy was near and the townspeople must evacuate the area. Margaret shivered, knowing that one-year-old Johnny and two-month-old Margaret Anne would never survive as refugees. So she stayed put. Early next morning she tore the page from the wall calendar and read the new day's Scripture. It was **Psalm 56:3** – ***“What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee”*** The town emptied during the day, and the next morning Margaret arose, feeling abandoned and alone. The new verse on the calendar was **Psalm 9:10** – ***“Thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek Thee”*** The next morning Margaret arose to distant sounds of gunfire and worried about food for her children. The calendar verse for that day was **Genesis 50:21** – ***“I will nourish you and your little ones”*** An old woman suddenly popped in with a pail of steaming goat's milk, and another straggler arrived with a basket of eggs. Through the day, sounds of warfare grew louder, and during the night Margaret prayed for deliverance from danger. The next morning she tore the page from the calendar to read **Psalm 56:9** – ***“When I cry unto Thee, then shall my enemies turn back”*** The battle was looming closer, and Margaret didn't go to bed that night. Invasion by the Japanese seemed imminent, but the next morning, all was quiet in the region. Suddenly, villagers began returning to their homes, and the colonel knocked on her door. For some reason, he told her, the Japanese had withdrawn their troops. No one could understand it, but the danger had passed. They were safe. Margaret glanced at her wall calendar and felt she had been reading the handwriting of God for her life. In spite of the danger, God protected her and her little ones. He can do the same for us.

For we are to Walk by Faith, and not by Sight

***“Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him:  
for they shall eat the fruit of their doings”***

**THE “REMINDER” TO THE RIGHTEOUS**

## II. THE “RANSACKING” OF THE POOR – vs. 13-15

*“The LORD standeth up to plead, and standeth to judge the people” “The LORD will enter into judgment with the ancients of his people, and the princes thereof: for ye have eaten up the vineyard; the spoil of the poor is in your houses” “What mean ye that ye beat my people to pieces, and grind the faces of the poor? saith the Lord GOD of hosts”*

A nation Fails when the Leaders of that nation oppress the people they lead

The Leaders of Israel ruined the nation which God referred to as His *“Vineyard”*

Their houses were filled with that which was stolen from those who were poor

The actions of those in Leadership crushed the common man under heavy oppression

### A. The ‘Spoiling’ of Repression

*“to spoil”* something or someone is to take property by force

America is falling today because of the oppression of its Leadership

We have today, in leadership a group who think they are **elite**

A small group of people within a larger group who have more power, ...

... social standing, wealth, or talent than the rest of the group

One factor for the crush of our country is the wasteful spending and the heavy taxation of the American people to pay for the wasteful spending of this elite

The decisions being made in Albany and Washington are creating a financial burden upon Americans and the people of New York

A Burden people will not be able to bear for long

If Obamacare is not repealed (which it looks like it won't) the financial burden will be so great that people won't be able to continue paying

In fact, the financial effects have already started through higher insurance premiums and the fear of businesses to hire more employees

### **B. The 'Destruction' of Repression**

If the state of New York does not get its financial house in order, then the people of New York are going to continue to be asked to foot the bill to pay for more programs we cannot afford

Heavy taxation leads to the financial collapse of a nation

History has proven this point over and over again in many nations

### **THE "RANSACKING" OF THE POOR**

## THE “REMINDER” TO THE RIGHTEOUS

The Last Element we will look at in **Chapter 3** is ...

### III. THE “REVELRY” OF WOMAN - vs. 16-26 ...

The Revelry of Women would lead to the Removal of their Freedom

Israel’s Female population was making a lot of noise

And God was not too happy about it

I can’t believe how closely this describes America’s Female population

All in the name of Freedom, Rights, and Equality

When the Female population of a nation loses their moral compass (values and standards)

Then mark it down, that nation will fall

It will reap the consequences of immorality through rampant spread of disease and the breakdown of the family

#### A. The ‘Cause for’ their Judgement - vs. 16, 18-24

Why were the women being judged?

For good reason

Two problems are recorded here which always bring Divine retribution - *Arrogance & Allurement*

### 1. 'Arrogance' – v. 16a

***“Moreover the LORD saith, Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks....”***

The women of Judah and Jerusalem were especially Proud

Their Arrogance could be seen in Attitude

-- ***“haughty”*** – *condescending, snobby*

It was also seen in their posture and their detestable Actions

-- ***“stretched forth necks”*** – *noses in the air*

The second reason for their Judgment was the ...

### 2. 'Allurement' – vs. 16b, 18-24 ...

Not only were they Arrogant, but they also were Alluring

-- ***“wanton eyes”*** – *being provocative*

-- ***“mincing”*** – *to walk daintily, attractively*

They were the cause of much of the immoral conduct

Today women dress very Provocatively,

But then if some man makes eyes at them or comments ...

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... They complain that men are evil

Alluring women are so hypocritical

Look at what God says about their Provocative clothing in **vs. 18-24** ...

The day was coming when God would remove the vain beauty of the jewelry, earrings, bracelets, necklaces, headbands, hats, and all the silly trappings which the women used to beautify themselves

**“Mantles”** and **“wimples”** were accessory articles of clothing such as *scarfs and the like*

**“Crisping pins”** most likely refers to *purses*

**“Glasses”** refers to *mirrors*

The greater thought is that of primping, emphasis on clothing, and vanity in general

It is very clear that God is unimpressed, if not displeased by all the glamor

All the emphasis upon glamor would be suddenly dealt with by God

The Bible tells woman that they are to dress modestly

**I Timothy 2:9 – “In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with ...**

*... shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;”*

## The ‘Cause for’ their Judgement

### B. The ‘Curse in’ their Judgement - vs. 17, 24

These following Curses that came upon the women of Judah and Jerusalem in principle are the same judgments that will come upon the ungodly woman in America

#### 1. The ‘Scabs’ – vs. 17a

*“The Lord will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion”*

Use your good looks to cause people to sin, and God will destroy your good looks

#### 2. The ‘Shame’ – v. 17b

*“and the LORD will discover their secret parts”*

Judgment always brings shame

Women do not wear enough clothes, and so God will punish them with nakedness in which they will be greatly embarrassed and ashamed

#### 3. The ‘Separation’ – again look at vs. 18-23 ...

God is going to remove what woman think is most valuable

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Let's look at the little phrase ***“take away”***

The Bible here says that God will *take away* the ...

-- Cosmetics - vs. 18-21

***“Take away the bravery [beauty] of their tinkling ornaments... chains... ornaments of the legs... rings, and nose jewels”***

God will remove all the cosmetic jewelry with which they adorn themselves

The condemnation here is not on the cosmetics but upon their evil use of them

-- Clothes - vs. 18, 22, 23

***“Take away... changeable suits of apparel... mantles... glasses [mirrors]... fine linen”***

God in judgment was going to ruin their wardrobe so they could not dress elegantly

### **4. The ‘Substitution’ - v. 24**

Notice the word ***“Instead”***

When someone refuses to do right, the only alternative is to get what is wrong

When man rejects God's best, there's nothing left but the worst

**v. 24b - *“Instead of sweet smell there shall be stink”***

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Women without perfume are in trouble

Instead of a sweet smell, they, in judgment, will exude a foul, unattractive odor

v. 24c - ***“Instead of a girdle [sash] a rent [rags or scraps]”***

In judgment the women's clothes will be rags instead of lovely apparel

v. 24d - ***“Instead of well set hair...baldness”***

Hair makes or breaks a woman, so they go to the extremes to make sure their hair is just right

But in judgment their hair will fall out, and they will have a scarcity of hair instead of a beautiful hairdo

v. 24e - ***“Instead of a stomacher [fine clothes]...sackcloth” [burlap]***

From riches to rags in clothing

From splendor to sackcloth

v. 24f - ***“Burning instead of beauty”***

***“Burning”*** speaks of sores, scars, disfigurement

Beauty is replaced with ugliness

God can quickly takeaway all the beauty of a woman who refuses to acknowledge Him

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The outward ugliness will correspond with the inward ugliness

### 5. The 'Sorrow' – v.26a

***“Her gates shall lament and mourn”***

Many believe this is in reference to the City of Jerusalem

It's referring to the whole of the city, all the Woman there

The arrogant, proud, alluring woman will be in great sorrow after experiencing Divine judgment

Her joy will be gone; her happiness a thing of the past

Her doom is hopelessness

### 6. The 'Sitting' – v.26b

***“and she being desolate shall sit upon the ground”***

Her position will no longer be high and mighty but low and humble on the ground

Judgment destroys and dooms the sinner to a place of reproach and discomfort

Hollywood and the Red carpet are in for a rude awakening!

## CONCLUSION