

## Isaiah 3:1-15 No Rule of Law without the Rule of God

When God's people reject God's law He punishes them by their lawlessness.

- The Penalty: Leaderless People (3:1-7).
  - The Crime: Defying God (3:8-9a).
  - The Standard of Judgment (3:9b-11): *Lex Talionis*.
  - The Evidence: Devastation of the Weak (3:9-15).
- 1) When God is rejected as the lawgiver, tyranny and lawlessness ensue (3:8-9, 12, 14b-15).
    - a) Have we rejected God as our lawgiver (as a church, families, vocations, citizens)?
      - i) “because their speech and their deeds are against the LORD, defying His glorious presence”
      - ii) “they proclaim their sin”: removing godly restraints—libertinism/antinomianism
    - b) Are we subject to tyranny?
      - i) “infants are their oppressors and women rule over them”—figurative “infantile decision-making” and “effeminate leadership”—incompetence
      - ii) “mislead” and “swallow up your paths”—imposing ungodly restraints-- legalism
      - iii) How are the poor, the weak, treated? “devoured” “despoiled” “crushing” “grinding the face”—How do we address the poor in the church?
  - 2) When human tyranny persists, God judges with leaderless chaos (3:1-7, 9b-11, 13-14a).
    - a) God is lawgiver and judge: “He stands to judge peoples”—“Peoples” is OT reference to foreign nations; suggests that the application of these principles are broader than the church; “The LORD will enter into judgment with the elders and princes of His people” (vv. 13-14)—appointed leaders of God's people have a stewardship
    - b) God judges justly: “they have brought evil on themselves” (v. 9); “the righteous . . . shall eat the fruit of their deeds” (v. 10); “the wicked . . . what his hands have dealt out shall be done to him” (v. 11); just penalties and just rewards
    - c) Godless Government is punished with Leaderless Chaos (vv. 1-7).
      - i) Verses 2-3 mention military, religious, administrative, and business leaders
      - ii) What will the “leaders” be? childish, capricious (not infants) (v. 4), arbitrary qualifications; no one wants the job (v. 6); anarchy (v. 5)
  - 3) Orderly government can only be restored under the rule of the Divine King (3:8; 4:2).
    - a) “stumbled and fallen” (v. 8)—consequence of rejecting God's rule
    - b) “the Branch” (4:2)—Messiah is the “pride and honor” of the remnant of God's people
    - c) A well-ordered anything comes from faith in Christ and obedience to His commands.