

## Isaiah 3 God's Portrait : wicked rulers

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In this chapter God shows the prophet that the nation will face judgment due to their provocation as described in verses 8 and 12. Leadership is important : in a nation, in a church, and in the family.

### A. Divine Punishment on Leadership

v 1 - 15

Since the children of Israel were trusting in man rather than God, God will remove their sources of security.

v 1 A famine of bread and water

v 2-3 A famine of solid leaders : military, political, religious

v 4 A divine curse of 'childish' leaders ~ Eccl 10:16

Societal immorality and decadence leads : (1) to a dearth of great men and (2) to an abundance of ambitious, selfish, pleasure-seeking, greedy, bride-taking, 'touchy-feely', effeminate, overgrown babies ... in adult bodies (pony-tails optional).

America used to have wooden ships with iron men .... today it has iron ships with wooden men. This is the judgment of God.

v 5 *the child... and the base...behave proudly...*

*against the ancient and the honourable*

hx - this was experienced by Elisha, 2 K 2:23-25; and Job 10:1, 8, 10

spir - this is experienced in our day

doctr - this will be increased in the tribulation

v 6-7 The ruin and desolation is readily apparent to all and results in men both neglecting duty and refusing positions of leadership; Judges 5:23

v 8 A key verse explaining why God brought judgment.

*...their tongue (Rev 2:15) and their doings (Rev 2:5) are against the LORD.*

v 9 *they declare their sin* : Decadence and shamelessness is the norm.

Sin is out in the open and 'acceptable'.

What used to be done 'under cover' and in the dark is now, declared, performed and defended openly.

When a nation reaches the place where people "come out of the closet", rather than clean it ... the end is near. Psalm 9:17 Jer 6:15

v 10-11 A Vital Bible Theme : the contrast between the righteous, v10  
and the wicked, v 11.

Psalm 1 describes this vital, eternal truth. God has left the choice up to us; we have *freewill*, Lev 22:18. We must choose the right. Godliness is profitable and blessed. Sin brings misery and 'ill'ness.

v 12 Another key verse that declares the consequences of rejecting God's order. God has chosen men to be the head of the family and to hold leadership positions in the family, religion and government.

But feminism, women's "liberation" and so-called children's "rights" movements (e.g. U.N. convention on children's rights) have resulted in civil disorder, confusion, (Ecc 10:6-8) chaos, and oppression (Ecc 4:1, 7:7; Isa 5:7). Today: children are born out of wedlock, raised without fathers, left to themselves with mothers at work. The result: juvenile delinquency, school dropouts, illiteracy, increasing gang membership, substance abuse, crime and prison. Pr 29:15

Women and children are poor leaders. They are lambs and sheep who need good shepherds. They make poor shepherds and lead people astray, Isa 9:16.

v 13-15 God's warning: He will personally bring judgment on all greedy, oppressive, merciless leaders who abuse their office and their subjects. Leadership is a privilege that comes with responsibility 1 Tim 3:1-3, 1 Pet 5:1-3. God will severely punish unjust, abusive leaders, Luke 12:48.

## B. Fashionable Harlots

v 16 - 26

In this section, the prophet shows that women of Israel contributed to the nation's sin and guilt. He reminds them that God takes notice of things that go on outside of the Temple: like behavior and attire, both at home and in public.

v 16 *the daughters...haughty...and wanton* note Prov 6:17

e.g. superior attitudes, show-boating, strutting, high-society status, excess jewelry and numerous status symbols, trendy designer brands

The root of the problem : an evil heart of vain glory and self conceit.

This behavior is offensive to God's design for His "little girls".

God's plan for women; they're to be : *tender and delicate* Deu 28:56

*help meets* Gen 2:18, 1 Tim 2:9-15

v 18 - 23 Describes 20 articles of clothing that the women of that time coveted.

*cauls & round tires* = astrological jewelry shaped like sun, moon, and stars

*mufflers* = veils

*tablets* = little flat square perfumed pendants

*whimples* = hoods with designs

*crisping pins* = for styling hair

*glasses* = mirrors (i.e. a looking glass)

truth: Women's clothing is a barometer of society.

Modest clothing reflects a modest society.

A right attitude leads to the right attire. see 1 Peter 3:1-4

As a nation degenerates, so does its dress.

The enemy uses the "fashion" industry to corrupt women.

Leading magazines (*Vogue, Glamour, Cosmopolitan, Elle...*) entice and bully women to wear fewer articles, lower neck lines, higher hem lines, etc...yet buy more.

Annual changes and "the latest fashion" increases covetousness and a waste of family resources on a *superfluity of naughtiness*, James 1:21.

fact: Women spend ~ 76% more than men on clothing each year.

The Bible says : *the fashion of this world passeth away*, 1 Cor 7:31.

v 17 & 24-26 Ungodly behavior brings Divine punishment; including :

- female baldness, scalp infections: ringworm, psoriasis, lichen planus, fungal inf.
- venereal diseases: gonorrhea, syphilis, chlamydia, crabs, HPV, HIV, Herpes
- death in the family
- desolation : with the anguish, sadness and despair that accompanies it.

hx: These *haughty women* were humiliated in the siege (606-588 BC). Their expensive clothes were exchanged for *sackcloth* and their physical attributes of *beauty* were marred by *burning* (i.e. branding by their invading captors).

references :

- *Matthew Henry's Commentary, Vol. 4* 1992, Hendrickson publ.
- *Thru the Bible, Vol. 3* J. Vernon McGee, 1982, Th. Nelson publ.
- *Holman KJV Study Bible* 2012, Holman Bible publ.