

ISAIAH 3 | Judah's Leadership Breakdown

Male Leadership Breakdown

1 For behold, Lord Yahweh of hosts is about to remove from Jerusalem and from Judah:

Support and staff, all support of bread,¹ and all support of water;

2 the mighty man and the soldier;²

the judge and the prophet;

the diviner and the elder;

3 the captain of fifty and the man of rank;

the counsellor, the skilful magician, and the expert in charms.³

4 And I will make boys their princes, and infants shall rule over them.⁴ 5 And the people will oppress one another, every one his fellow and every one his neighbour.⁵ The youth will be insolent to the elder,⁶ and the despised to the honorable. 6 For a man will take hold of his brother in the house of his father saying:

You have a cloak. You shall be our leader, and this heap of ruins shall be under your rule.

7 In that day he will speak out saying:

I will not be a binder of wounds.⁷ In my house there is neither bread nor cloak. You shall not make me leader of the people.

¹ **Le 26:26** 26 When I break your supply of bread, ten women shall bake your bread in a single oven and shall dole out your bread again by weight, and you shall eat and not be satisfied. **Eze 4:16** 16 Son of man, behold, I will break the supply of bread in Jerusalem. They shall eat bread by weight and with anxiety, and they shall drink water by measure and in dismay.

² **2 Ki 24:14** 14 [Nebuchadnezzar] carried away all Jerusalem, all the officials, all the mighty men of valour, 10,000 captives, and all the craftsmen and the smiths. None remained except the poorest people of the land. **Eze 17:12** 12 Say now to the rebellious house, Do you not know what these things mean? Tell them, behold, the king of Babylon came to Jerusalem, and took her king and her princes and brought them to him to Babylon. 13 And he took one of the royal seed and made a covenant with him, putting him under oath (the chief men of the land he had taken away).

³ The number of categories of items and people removed is 15.

⁴ **Ec 10:16** 16 Woe to you, O land, when your king is a child, and your princes feast in the morning!

⁵ **Mic 7:3-5** 3 Their hands are on what is evil, to do it well. The prince and the judge ask for a bribe, and the great man utters the evil desire of his soul. Thus they weave it together. 4 The best of them is like a brier, the most upright of them a thorn hedge. The day of your watchmen, of your punishment, has come. Now their confusion is at hand. 5 Put no trust in a neighbour. Have no confidence in a friend. Guard the doors of your mouth from her who lies in your arms.

⁶ See *Respect for Authority*.

⁷ **Is 1:6** 6 From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but bruises, sores, and raw wounds. They are not pressed out, bound up, or softened with oil.

8 For Jerusalem has stumbled, and Judah has fallen, because their speech and their deeds are against Yahweh, rebelling against (מרה) the eyes of his glory (עֵינֵי כְבוֹדוֹ).⁸ 9 For the look on their faces testifies against them. They proclaim their sin like Sodom.⁹ They do not hide it. Woe to them! For they have brought evil/destruction (רָעָה) on themselves.¹⁰

10 Tell the righteous (צַדִּיק) that it shall be well with them, for they shall eat the fruit of their deeds.¹¹ 11 Woe to the wicked (רָשָׁע)! It shall be ill with him, for what his hands have dealt out shall be done to him.¹² 12 My people—infants are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, your guides mislead you, and they have confused the course of your paths.

13 Yahweh has taken his place to contend. He stands to judge (דִּן) the peoples. 14 Yahweh will enter into judgment with the elders and princes of his people:¹³

It is you who have grazed over the vineyard,¹⁴ the spoil of the poor is in your houses.¹⁵ 15 What do you mean by crushing my people, by grinding the face of the poor?¹⁶ declares Lord Yahweh of hosts.

Female Leadership Breakdown

16 Yahweh said:

Because the daughters¹⁷ of Zion are prideful and walk with outstretched necks, glancing wantonly with their eyes, mincing along as they go, tinkling with their feet,

⁸ **Ps 73:9-11** 9 They set their mouths against the heavens, and their tongue struts through the earth. ... 11 And they say, How can God know? Is there knowledge in the Most High?

⁹ See *Sodom*.

¹⁰ **Ro 6:23** 23 For the wages of sin is death.

¹¹ **Ps 128:2** 2 You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands. You shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you. **Ec 8:12** 12 Though a sinner does evil a hundred times and prolongs his life, yet I know that it will be well with those who fear God, because they fear before him.

¹² God's judgment/discipline may be direct or indirect, active or passive. Personal sins have their own built-in consequences ("self-induced misery"). **Ec 8:13** 13 But it will not be well with the wicked, neither will he prolong his days like a shadow, because he does not fear before God.

¹³ **Hos 4:1** 1 Hear the word of the Lord, O children of Israel, for Yahweh has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land. There is no truth or loyal love, and no knowledge of God in the land. **Mic 3:1** 1 Hear, you heads of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel! Is it not for you to know justice? See *God as Judge*.

¹⁴ **Ps 14:4** 4 Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread...? **Ex 22:5** 5 If a man causes a field or vineyard to be grazed over, or lets his beast loose and it feeds in another man's field, he shall make restitution from the best in his own field and in his own vineyard.

¹⁵ **Am 3:10** 10 They do not know how to do right, declares Yahweh, those who store up violence and robbery in their strongholds.

¹⁶ **Ps 94:5** 5 They crush your people, Yahweh, and afflict your heritage.

¹⁷ The demeanour and dress of Jerusalem's women reflects their pride.

17 therefore Yahweh will strike with a scab the heads of the daughters of Zion, and Yahweh will lay bare their secret parts.¹⁸

18 In that day Yahweh will remove:

the finery of the anklets, the headbands,¹⁹ and the crescents;²⁰

19 the pendants, the bracelets, and the scarves;

20 the headdresses, the armlets, the sashes, the perfume boxes, and the amulets;

21 the signet rings and nose rings;²¹

22 the festal robes,²² the mantles, the cloaks, and the handbags;

23 the mirrors, the linen garments, the turbans, and the veils.²³

24 Instead of perfume there will be rottenness;

instead of a belt, a rope;

instead of well-set hair, baldness;²⁴

instead of a rich robe, a skirt of sackcloth;²⁵

¹⁸ There are five bad things the daughters of Zion have done and two bad things that will happen as a result, for a total of seven things. **Is 32:9-11** 9 Rise up, you women who are at ease, hear my voice. You complacent daughters, give ear to my speech. 10 In little more than a year you will shudder, you complacent women. For the grape harvest fails, the fruit harvest will not come. 11 Tremble, you women who are at ease. Shudder, you complacent ones. Strip and make yourselves bare, and tie sackcloth around your waist.

¹⁹ **1 Pe 3:3-4** 3 Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair, the putting on of gold jewellery, or the clothing you wear— 4 but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious.

²⁰ **Jdg 8:21** 21 Gideon arose and killed Zebah and Zalmunna, and he took the crescent ornaments that were on the necks of their camels. **Jdg 8:26** 26 The weight of the golden earrings that [Gideon] requested was 1,700 shekels of gold, besides the crescent ornaments, the pendants, and the purple garments worn by the kings of Midian. . . .

²¹ **Ge 24:47** 47 Then I asked her, Whose daughter are you? [Rebekah] said, The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor’s son, whom Milcah bore to him. So I put the ring on her nose and the bracelets on her arms. **Eze 16:12** 12 I [Yahweh] put a ring on your [Israel’s] nose and earrings in your ears and a beautiful crown on your head.

²² **Lk 15:22** 22 The father said to his servants, Bring quickly the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet.

²³ Here are 21 items of women’s clothing and accessories.

²⁴ **Is 15:2** 2 He has gone up to the temple and to Dibon, to the high places to weep. Over Nebo and over Medeba Moab wails. On every head is baldness. Every beard is shorn. **Is 22:12** 12 In that day Lord Yahweh of hosts called for weeping and mourning, for baldness and wearing sackcloth. **Eze 27:31** 31 They make themselves bald for you and put sackcloth on their waist, and they weep over you in bitterness of soul, with bitter mourning. **Am 8:10** 10 I will turn your feasts into mourning and all your songs into lamentation. I will bring sackcloth on every waist and baldness on every head. I will make it like the mourning for an only son and the end of it like a bitter day. **Mic 1:16** 16 Make yourselves bald and cut off your hair, for the children of your delight. Make yourselves as bald as the eagle, for they shall go from you into exile.

²⁵ **Is 15:3** 3 In the streets they wear sackcloth. On the housetops and in the squares everyone wails and melts in tears. **Ge 37:34** 34 Then Jacob tore his garments, put sackcloth on his loins, and mourned for his son many days. **La 2:10** 10 The elders of the daughter of Zion sit on the ground in silence. They have thrown dust on their heads and put on sackcloth. The young women of Jerusalem have bowed their heads to the ground.

and instead of beauty, branding.²⁶

25 Your men shall fall by the sword and your mighty men in battle.²⁷ 26 And her gates shall lament and mourn.²⁸ Empty she shall sit on the ground.²⁹ 4:1 And seven women shall take hold of one man in that day saying,

We will eat our own bread and wear our own clothes, only let us be called by your name. Take away our disgrace (תְּרַפָּהּ).

²⁶ **Le 19:28** 28 You shall not make any cuts on your body for the dead or tattoo yourselves. I am Yahweh. This is a makeover in reverse. Yahweh will humiliate these high-class women, robbing them of their beauty and depriving them of the sources of their arrogant pride.

²⁷ The deaths in battle of the city's men would leave the women compete desperate.

²⁸ **Jer 14:2** 2 Judah mourns, and her gates languish. Her people lament on the ground, and the cry of Jerusalem goes up. **La 1:4** 4 The roads to Zion mourn, for none come to the festival. All her gates are desolate. Her priests groan. Her virgins have been afflicted, and she herself suffers bitterly.

²⁹ **Job 2:13** 13 They sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great. **La 2:10** 10 The elders of the daughter of Zion sit on the ground in silence. They have thrown dust on their heads and put on sackcloth. The young women of Jerusalem have bowed their heads to the ground.

Commentary

1. Isaiah at a Glance.

- a. Isaiah 3 continues the indictment against Judah and divides into two main parts.
 - (1) Is 3:1-15 addresses God's response to ungodly male leadership in Judah.
 - (2) Is 3:16-4:1 addresses God's response to ungodly female leadership in Judah.
- b. Of Lindsay's five Rs (Rebellion, Retribution, Redemption, Restoration, Revelation), the focus in ch. 3 is Rebellion and Retribution.

2. Male Leadership Breakdown (Is 3:1-5).

- a. **Is 3:1-3** 1 For behold, Lord Yahweh of hosts is about to remove from Jerusalem and from Judah: Support and staff, all support of bread, and all support of water; 2 the mighty man and the soldier; the judge and the prophet; the diviner and the elder; 3 the captain of fifty and the man of rank; the counselor, the skillful magician, and the expert in charms. 4 And I will make boys their princes, and infants shall rule over them. 5 And the people will oppress one another, every one his fellow and every one his neighbour. The youth will be insolent to the elder, and the despised to the honorable.
- b. The "for" in v. 1 links back to the previous verse, Is 2:22.
 - (1) **Is 2:22** 22 Stop regarding man in whose nostrils is breath, for of what account is he?
 - (2) The big question is: How does God respond to a nation that places its trust in its elite leadership class?
 - (3) God is saying, "Don't trust in human leaders to solve your problems. I'm going to take all those leaders away. They are of no account." In other words, the people of Judah are to stop trusting in their leadership class because God is going to remove that leadership class.
 - (4) "To make great men the source of a nation's greatness is always to end up with a dearth of great men" (Oswalt, *NICOT*, 1:131).
- c. God is taking away wise, godly leadership from Judah.
 - (1) Military leaders (*mighty man, warrior, captain of fifty*).
 - (2) Political leaders (*judge, elder, man of rank, counselor*),
 - (3) Religious leaders (*prophet, diviner, enchanter*); and
 - (4) Economic leaders (*skilled craftsman*).
 - (5) God causes an across the board leadership vacuum, a total collapse of the authority structure of Judean society.
- d. With godly, wise leaders removed, the inexperienced will rule, and oppression and disrespect for authority result (vv. 4-5).
 - (1) Because Judah's male leaders have failed, God will remove them and put "boys" and "infants" in charge. God is saying, "If you want to trust in incompetent leaders then I will give you some really bad ones."
 - (a) **Ec 10:16** 16 Woe to you, O land, when your king is a child, and your princes feast in the morning!
 - (2) My observation is there is lack of godly male leadership in New Zealand among Baby Boomers and Gen X. Biblically, this has happened because of New Zealand's general turning away from God since WWII.

- (3) Respect for authority seems to have declined in New Zealand over the decades. Consider New Zealand's public schools and the attitude of students.
- (4) In the West, many in the Gen Y and Gen Z generations are progressives who generally look down on most everything from the past. They characterise everything in the past as backwards and in many cases reject the beliefs, wisdom, and authority of parents and grandparents. There never was a time when teenagers knew so little and yet had such enormous power. We are not a society led by wise elders but by immature, inexperienced, but very brash children.

3. No Real Leaders to Be Found (Is 3:6-9)

- a. **Is 3:6-9** 6 For a man will take hold of his brother in the house of his father saying: You have a cloak. You shall be our leader, and this heap of ruins shall be under your rule. 7 In that day he will speak out saying: I will not be a binder of wounds. In my house there is neither bread nor cloak. You shall not make me leader of the people. 8 For Jerusalem has stumbled, and Judah has fallen, because their speech and their deeds are against Yahweh, rebelling against (מרה) the eyes of his glory (עֵינֵי כְבוֹדוֹ).
- b. Judah's leadership crisis will become so great, no one will want to lead (vv. 6-7).
 - (1) Few Christians today desire to get involved in New Zealand politics and government. They have no interest in being part of the trend away from the biblical worldview.
 - (2) "The reversal of the natural social order will cause the young no longer to respect their elders, but to scorn them. Those having no redeeming qualities will oppose the honorable. Real competent and godly leaders will be very rare and the social situation will be so bad...that no one will want to serve in a position of leadership (3:6-7). In a deliberate mockery of the situation, Isaiah predicted that the only qualification for a leader will be: Do you own a coat? Even with these minimal ridiculous qualifications people will strenuously resist positions of leadership, making the claim 'I do not own a coat' in order to avoid leadership responsibility. No one will have any answers to alleviate or heal the situation, and consequently, the least qualified will end up as leaders. This can even happen today, for when godly people fail to step into positions of leadership, then people with poor leadership or questionable moral qualifications get appointed or elected to positions of responsibility" (G. Smith, *NAC*, 1:146-47).
- c. The reason for the leadership crisis is because Judah has rebelled against Yahweh and his glory (v. 8).
 - (1) From a biblical perspective, New Zealand political leaders so often misdiagnose the real problems in society. Their view of human nature is faulty. Their trust in government solutions is out of step with the reality of sinful human nature. They often do the opposite of what should be done to address problems. What the Bible says on issues of human moral responsibility is ignored. No major political party in New Zealand addresses the fundamental issues of personal responsibility, marriage, family, and church. Certainly no politician talks about our sin nature that is at the root of every problem.
 - (2) "Isaiah is in reality describing a breakdown in national character and seriousness; the spirit which treats national welfare, politics and leadership as a joke" (J. A. Motyer, 60).

- d. If the West falls, it will be because of spiritual factors, not primarily political, economic, or military factors. National breakdown is not caused by a failure of political, economic, or military policy but by moral and spiritual factors.

4. Justice for the Righteous and the Wicked (Is 3:9-12)

- a. **Is 3:9-12** 9 For the look on their faces testifies against them. They proclaim their sin like Sodom. They do not hide it. Woe to them! For they have brought evil (הַצָּר) on themselves. 10 Tell the righteous (קִיֵּץ) that it shall be well with them, for they shall eat the fruit of their deeds. 11 Woe to the wicked (עֲשֵׂר) ! It shall be ill with him, for what his hands have dealt out shall be done to him. 12 My people—infants are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, your guides mislead you, and they have swallowed up the course of your paths.
- b. Those who sin brazenly, defying God to his face, bring destruction on themselves (v. 9).
- (1) **Ps 73:9-11** 9 They set their mouths against the heavens, and their tongue struts through the earth. ... 11 And they say, How can God know? Is there knowledge in the Most High?
- (2) Here is no occasional lapse or shameful secret but a public and unabashed way of life against God's design (Motyer, 61).
- (3) The "the eyes of his glory" may be paraphrased as "defying God to his face." In the face of the God whose glory is everywhere manifested, the people of Judah persist in brazen rebellion (Oswalt, *NICOT*, 1:136).
- (4) Like Sodom and Judah, if the West continues to rebel, she will fall.
- c. God treats the righteous and the wicked with perfect justice (vv. 10-11).
- (1) This is our only ray of hope in this chapter of judgment.
- (2) We all get to decide whether we are to be among the righteous or the wicked.
- (3) The righteous are those who believe; the wicked are those who do not believe.
- (a) **Jn 3:18** 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.
- (4) We desperately need the imputed righteousness of Jesus.
- (a) **Is 61:10** 10 I will greatly rejoice in Yahweh. My soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation. He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
- (5) Ultimately, the righteous and the wicked will get what they deserve.
- (a) **Ec 8:12-13** 12 Though a sinner does evil a hundred times and prolongs his life, yet I know that it will be well with those who fear God, because they fear before him. 13 But it will not be well with the wicked, neither will he prolong his days like a shadow, because he does not fear before God.
- (b) **Ga 6:7** 7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.
- (c) "While we may wrestle, as did Job and the Preacher, with the short-term paradoxes which such a doctrine raises..., its ultimate truth [of blessing and cursing] must be the cornerstone of the whole biblical message. God is consistent and his ways are consistent. To live according to those ways is to

reap blessing in part now, but especially ultimately. To live in defiance of those ways is to reap evil, if not now, then certainly ultimately” (J. Oswalt, *NICOT*, 1:137).

- d. When a nation rebels, God allows the elite to lead the masses astray (v. 12)
 - (1) God gives nations the leaders they deserve. A wicked nation gets foolish leaders. A righteous nation gets wise leaders. This is God’s justice at work.

5. God Contends with Leaders Who Crush the Poor (Is 3:13-15).

- a. **Is 3:13-14** 13 Yahweh has taken his place to contend. He stands to judge (יָד) peoples. 14 Yahweh will enter into judgment with the elders and princes of his people: It is you who have stripped over the vineyard, the spoil of the poor is in your houses. 15 What do you mean by crushing my people, by grinding the face of the poor? declares the Lord Yahweh of hosts.
- b. It was the responsibility of Judah’s leaders treat the poor with justice.
 - (1) **Dt 24:21** 21 When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not strip it afterward. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow.
 - (2) **Is 5:7** 7 For the vineyard of Yahweh of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting. And he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed. For righteousness, but behold, an outcry!
- c. Instead, Judah’s leaders crushed the poor and took advantage of them.
 - (1) **Dt 27:19** 19 Cursed be anyone who perverts the justice due to the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow. And all the people shall say, Amen.
 - (2) In Jesus’ day, the Jewish leaders were continuing to crush the poor.
 - (a) **Jn 2:13-16** 13 The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. 15 And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. 16 And he told those who sold the pigeons, Take these things away! Do not make my Father’s house a house of trade!
- d. Leadership is a trust from God. Abuse of that trust will result in punishment.
 - (1) “Today God still has high standards for people in positions of leadership in government, business, the family, religious institutions, and the church (Matt 24:45-51; 2 Tim 4:1-2; Jam 3:1). Deeds that involve the misuse of authority in business or the church are always despicable in God’s eyes. ...Let all leaders beware; God knows your deeds! There will be a day of accountability” (G. Smith, *NAC*, 1:148-49).
- e. Godly male leadership differs greatly from what we see in this chapter.
 - (1) **Mt 20:26-28** 26 Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, 28 even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.
 - (2) **Eph 5:25** 25 Husbands, love your wives, as Messiah loved the church and gave himself up for her.

6. Justice for Judah’s Pideful Women (Is 3:16-17).

- a. **Is 3:16-4:1** 16 Yahweh said: Because the daughters of Zion are prideful and walk with outstretched necks, glancing wantonly with their eyes, mincing along as they go, tinkling with their feet, 17 therefore Yahweh will strike with a scab the heads of the daughters of Zion, and Yahweh will lay bare their secret parts.
- b. Isaiah's uses three lists to make his point about Judah's women.
 - (1) In vv. 16-17, there are five bad things the daughters of Zion have done and two bad things that will happen as a result, for a total of seven things.
 - (2) In vv. 18-23, there are 21 women's accessory items.
 - (3) In v. 24, there are five sets of before and after statements.
- c. Centuries before, Moses had issued a warning to Israel's upper-class women.
 - (1) **Dt 28:56-57** 56 The most tender and refined woman among you, who would not venture to set the sole of her foot on the ground because she is so delicate and tender, will begrudge to the husband she embraces, to her son and to her daughter, 57 her afterbirth that comes out from between her feet and her children whom she bears, because lacking everything she will eat them secretly, in the siege and in the distress with which your enemy shall distress you in your towns.

7. Fashionable Finery Removed (Is 3:18-23).

- a. **Is 3:18-23** 18 In that day Yahweh will remove: the finery of the anklets, the headbands, and the crescents; 19 the pendants, the bracelets, and the scarves; 20 the headdresses, the armbands, the sashes, the perfume boxes, and the amulets; 21 the signet rings and nose rings; 22 the festal robes, the mantles, the cloaks, and the handbags; 23 the mirrors, the linen garments, the turbans, and the veils.
- b. There are several Hebrew words here that are found nowhere else in the OT. Just as people from many different walks of life today are familiar with specialized dress and clothing terms, the same was true then (J. Oswalt, *NICOT*, 1:141).
- c. "This is a judgment on the upper class ladies.... Since the time of Uzziah [or Ahaz] was a period of independence and prosperity, the wives of many government officials, businessmen, and military leaders gained the financial resources to spend excessively on themselves so that they could dress lavishly. ... Their looks, jewellery, makeup, and demeanour all called attention to themselves as very special and important people. ... Isaiah noticed these elite women in Zion; that is, in the temple area in Jerusalem, the very place where God should be glorified and exalted. This was the last place these wealthy women should be lifting themselves up as spectacles to behold. ... The haughty attitude was evident from the women's pompous demeanour (the stretched out neck put their nose in the air) and flirtatious glances as well as their provocative manner of walking with short hops or steps that jingled the jewellery on their ankles (3:16). This high society look drew attention to these women and communicated their importance. The way they carried their heads breathed sophistication as they flirtatiously looked from side to side and down their noses at the lower class. These exhibitionists, who boldly strutted in their finest attire, displayed a proud heart that God hates. On account of this (3:17), God was determined to remove everything that made these women beautiful and in the end leave them humiliated, shamed, and repulsive" (G. Smith, *NAC*, 1:151).
- d. This is like "putting lipstick on a pig."

8. Women in Desperation (Is 3:24-4:1).

- a. **Is 3:24-4:1** 24 Instead of perfume there will be rotteness; instead of a belt, a rope; instead of well-set hair, baldness; instead of a rich robe, a skirt of sackcloth; and branding instead of beauty. 25 Your men shall fall by the sword and your mighty men in battle. 26 And her gates shall lament and mourn. Empty, she shall sit on the ground. 4:1 And seven women shall take hold of one man in that day saying, We will eat our own bread and wear our own clothes, only let us be called by your name. Take away our disgrace (הַרְפָּה).
- b. With few men left. Judah's women will be desperate for a husband.
 - (1) "Warfare has always meant destruction of the male population (Germany and France are said to have lost 1,000,000 men each and Britain 500,000 in World War I)." (J. Oswalt, *NICOT*, 143).
- c. Years later, Jerusalem's women ate their own children during the siege.
 - (1) **La 2:20** 20 Look, O Lord, and see! With whom have you dealt thus? Should women eat the fruit of their womb, the children of their tender care?
 - (2) **La 4:10** 10 The hands of compassionate women have boiled their own children. They became their food during the destruction of the daughter of my people.
- d. Women are just as susceptible to pride as men are. The pride of both men and women will be humbled.
 - (1) It is fashionable to blame white men for our problems today. Don't fall for it. Focus on yourself. Humble yourself. Let God take care of humbling the prideful.
- e. Godly female leadership differs greatly from what we see in this chapter.
 - (1) **Pr 31:30** 30 Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears Yahweh is to be praised.
 - (2) **1 Ti 2:9-11** 9 Women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold, pearls, or costly attire, 10 but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works. 11 Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness.
 - (3) **Tit 2:3-5** 3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good 4 and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.