

ISAIAH 3

Yahweh Contends with Jerusalem and Judah

1 For behold, Lord Yahweh of hosts is taking away from Jerusalem and from Judah:

Support and supply, 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 neighbor. The youth will be insolent to the elder, 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 healer. 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, defying his glorious presence. 9 For the look on their faces bears witness against them. They proclaim their sin like Sodom. They do not hide it. Woe to them! For they have brought evil on themselves.

10 Tell the righteous that it shall be well with them, for they shall eat the fruit of their deeds. 11 Woe to the wicked! It shall be ill with him, for what his hands have dealt out shall be done to him.¹ 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.

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

It is you who have devoured the vineyard,² 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 God of hosts.

The Proudful Daughters of Zion

¹ God's judgment/discipline may be direct or indirect, active or passive. Personal sins have their own built-in consequences (e.g., self-induced misery).

² Is 5:1-10; 27:2.

16 Yahweh said:

Because the daughters³ 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.⁴

18 In that day Yahweh will take away:

the finery of the anklets, the headbands, and the crescents; 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; 22 the festal robes, the mantles, the cloaks, and the handbags; 23 the mirrors, the linen garments, the turbans, and the veils.⁵

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.⁶ 25 Your men shall fall by the sword and your mighty men in battle.⁷ 26 And her gates shall lament and mourn. Empty, she shall sit on the ground.⁸ 4:1 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 reproach.

³ The demeanor and dress of Jerusalem's women reflects their pride.

⁴ Here are five bad things that the women have done and two bad things that will happen to them, for a total of seven things.

⁵ Here are 21 items of women's clothing and accessories.

⁶ This is a makeover in reverse. Yahweh will humiliate these women, robbing them of their beauty and depriving them of the sources of their vain pride.

⁷ The deaths in battle of the city's men would leave the women to mourn and compete desperately for husbands.

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Biblical Worldview

1. Yahweh will humiliate the women of Jerusalem, whose demeanor and dress reflects their pride in their status, achieved at the expense of the oppressed.
 - a. Yahweh punishes those who take pride in their status when their wealth is acquired at the expense of others.

Notes