

## **The Unfaithful City and The Faithful God**

### **Isaiah 1:21-31**

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Intro -

Augustine's great work "The City of God" was written to contrast the People of God from the people of the world.

The City of God = God's People

The City of the world = The People of the World

In this passage the prophet states that the City of God, Jerusalem, had become the world.

Outline -

1 - A Fatal Change - verses 21-23

2 - A Faithful God - verses 24-27

3 - A Fearful Judgment - verses 28-31

## 1 - A Fatal Change - verses 21-23

Isa 1:21 How is the faithful city become an harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers.

Isa 1:22 Thy silver is become dross, thy wine mixed with water:

Isa 1:23 Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them.

### Note - The Four Contrasts in verses 21-22

#### **How is the faithful city become an harlot!**

Imagine for a moment, in a literal sense, this image in an actual person.

**it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers.**

Matthew Poole - [that horrid crime of murder is noted, to assure us that Other crimes of a lower nature were not only unpunished, but even encouraged.](#)

**Thy silver is become dross,**

Young - [The thought is not that here and there specks appear upon the metal but that the metal itself has turned into dross.](#)

**thy wine mixed with water:**

Young - [so much water had been added that its unique character had been lost.](#)

Note - Six damning Indictments against the Rulers - verse 23

**Thy princes are** - (Who they are - what they should be)

**1 - What they actually are - in reality and fact  
rebellious,**

It is dreadful when the Rulers become the Rebels. (as the sin of witchcraft)

**2 - Who they associate with  
companions of thieves:**

App - Who do you like to spend time with? (Psalm 1)

**3 - What they love  
every one loveth gifts,**

Rather than being lovers of God, they were lovers of things!

**4 - What they follow (Not the Lord)  
and followeth after rewards:**

What should they have been pursuing? Psa 34:14 Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

Illus - Des Smyth - if Ten million euro was on a roof, what would you do to get it?

How unlike God they had become -

Deu 10:17 For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward:

Deu 10:18 He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment.

**Consequently - (because they are so unlike God)**

**they judge not the fatherless,**

**neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them.**

## 2 - A Faithful God - verses 24-27

Isa 1:24 Therefore saith the Lord, the LORD of hosts, the mighty One of Israel, Ah, I will ease me of mine adversaries, and avenge me of mine enemies:

Isa 1:25 And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin:

Isa 1:26 And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city.

Isa 1:27 Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness.

Note - He is Faithful

### 1 - Because of Who He is

Therefore saith the Lord, the LORD of hosts, the mighty One of Israel,

Consider - Here we have a Triple designation of who God is.

He is Adon - Sovereign Ruler

He is Jehovah of hosts - covenant name - self existent one

The Mighty one of Israel - Israel's champion.

Young - [The heaping together of names lends a tremendous force to the announcement.](#)

### 2 - He is Faithful in Judgment

Ah, I will ease me of **mine adversaries**, and avenge me of **mine enemies**:

Consider - The personal nature of these descriptions

App - On the day of judgment it will be personal between God and his enemies.  
(in contrast - The judge who condemned 16 year old - not personal but official)

Young - [The sinner, and not merely the sin, is like a wearisome burden to God,](#)

### 3 - He is Faithful in Preservation

Isa 1:25 And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin:

Isa 1:26 And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city.

Note - God's purpose is not total and utter destruction, but purification.

He is Personal in his dealings **And I will turn my hand upon thee** whereas, they had become distant from their God - He would not be distant.

Also - It will be a total work! - **and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin:**

It will be a Reforming Work - **And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning:**

(See Ezra and Nehemiah)

It will be a Recognised Work - **afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city.**

App - Do others notice God's Work in your Soul?

### 4 - He is Faithful in the Means of his Promises of Redemption.

Isa 1:27 Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness.

Note - Redemption is always by the same means!

Man Rebels by Waywardness and Sin.

God Redeems by Judgment and Righteousness!

Consider - The Cross of Christ is the supreme revelation of this truth.

### 3 - A Fearful Judgment - verses 28-31

Isa 1:28 And the destruction of the transgressors and of the sinners shall be together, and they that forsake the LORD shall be consumed.

Isa 1:29 For they shall be ashamed of the oaks which ye have desired, and ye shall be confounded for the gardens that ye have chosen.

Isa 1:30 For ye shall be as an oak whose leaf fadeth, and as a garden that hath no water.

Isa 1:31 And the strong shall be as tow, and the maker of it as a spark, and they shall both burn together, and none shall quench them.

1 - A Collective Judgment

2 - A Consuming Judgment

3 - A Confounding Judgment

Then in verses 30-31 the Collective, Consuming and Confounding Judgment is described -

By these illustrations -

For ye shall be as an oak whose leaf fadeth,  
and as a garden that hath no water.

And the strong shall be as tow, (tinder - that which is used at the start)  
and the maker of it as a spark,

and they shall both burn together, and none shall quench them.

(illus - what happens when you mix a firelighter with a lighted match?)

App - This is what we are by nature without Christ. How we need him!!!

Do you feel your need for Christ?

Only he can quench the power and penalty of sin.

May the Lord bless His Word to our Souls.

Amen.