

## A Trek Through Isaiah 06 - Is 3:1 - 4:1

Bruce Pike

Jun 19, 2016

---

Prayer

### **Introduction (to 9:35)**

For today

- 3:1-12 Disintegration of the civil government
- 3:13-15 Condemnation of the elders & princes
- 3:16 - 4:1 Condemnation of the women of Jerusalem

No longer walk as the Gentiles do (to 9:41)

Elements of worship: (1) See (2) Know (3) Respond

**Eph 4:17-19 alienated from the life of God**

Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. (18) They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God ...

- alienated from the life of God
  - a. Eph 2:1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins..
  - b. Who are examples of dead people? What indicates that they are dead?
    - Adam & Eve Ge3:7-13
      - Ashamed
      - Hiding from God
      - Afraid
      - Blaming others
    - Cain Ge 4:13
      - Selfishness
    - Lamech Ge 4:24
      - Arrogance
    - The fool Ps 14:1
      - No God
    - Nebuchadnezzar Da 4:30
      - Built by my mighty power...for the glory of my majesty
    - Pilate Jn 18:38
      - What is truth?
    - Roman soldiers Jn 19:2-3
      - Crown of thorns
    - Jews Jn 19:15
      - Crucify Him!
  - c. Who are examples of live people? What indicates that they are alive?
    - Heroes of faith (Heb 11): Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, the prophets
    - Samaritan woman Jn 4
      - Left her water jar
    - Peter Mt 16:16
      - You are the Christ
    - Paul Eph 3:7-8
      - Minister to the Gentiles
    - Jesus Jn 14:6
      - I am the life.
  - d. Rom 8:5-6 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. (6) For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.
    - Living according to the flesh = dead. Living according to the spirit = alive
  - e. Let us live as alive.

### **3:1-12 Disintegration of the civil government (to 9:50)**

#### V1-4 Removal of civil necessities

Isa 3:1 For behold, the Lord GOD of hosts is taking away from Jerusalem and from Judah support and supply...

- Removal of everything necessary for a civil society.
  - Support and supply: masculine + feminine = totality.
- Lists what is removed
  - All necessities (bread & water) v2a
  - All kinds of competence: military, administrative, prophets, elders. V2b-3
  - Mature leadership. V4
- CALVIN notes the comprehensive description of a well-regulated state: necessities, military, governance, prophecy, mechanical arts. All these are from God and their removal is an indication of God's judgment on a nation.
- Haggai 1:5-6 Now, therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways. 6 You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes.

#### V5 Resulting anarchy.

Isa 3:5 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.

- Oppressive relationships.
- Insolence.
- HENRY God removes the spirit of unity and justice from among the people. Also He removes the spirit of the young honoring the old and the people honoring the honorable among them.

#### V6-7 Abdication of leadership.

Isa 3:6-7 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....in that day he will speak out, saying: ...you shall not make me leader of the people."

- Society is in ruins: leaderless and ungovernable.
- The people seek a leader but all refuse.
- HENRY: a desperate situation. People seek a ruler but none can be found. Each chooses their own relative. The criteria is merely that the candidate has a cloak. The chosen one refuses. Contrast Christ coming to rule a world ruined by sin.

#### V8 The reason: Being an enemy of the LORD

Isa 3:8 For Jerusalem has stumbled, and Judah has fallen, because their speech and their deeds are against the LORD, defying his glorious presence.

- Has stumbled...has fallen. Down to an earthly level. Re 2:9 humbled...brought low.
- their speech and their deeds. by words and deeds.
- Defying his glorious presence. To His face.
- HENRY God would not hurt them if they did not provoke Him
  - Jeremiah 25:6 Do not go after other gods to serve and worship them, or provoke me to anger with the work of your hands. Then I will do you no harm.'

#### V9 Self condemnation

Isa 3:9 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.

- Look on their faces: Not ashamed; not hiding their sin; their eyes declare plainly that they cannot cease from sin.
  - 2 Pt. 2:14 describing false teachers: They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin.
- They proclaim their sin. Boasting of their sin.
  - Like Lamech in Gen 4:24 If Cain's revenge is sevenfold, then Lamech's is seventy-sevenfold."
- Woe to them.
  - HENRY "Those that are past shame (we say) are past grace, and then past hope."
- Brought evil upon themselves.
  - Jer 2:19 Your evil will chastise you, and your apostasy will reprove you. Know and see that it is evil and bitter for you to forsake the Lord your God;

#### V10-11 Sowing and reaping.

Isa 3:10-11 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.

- Both the wicked and the righteous will reap what they sow.
  - Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.
- God is just
  - Gen 18:25 Abraham appealing to God about Sodom and Gomorrah: Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?"
- CALVIN God is able to distinguish between the good and the bad: wellness for the good, misery for the wicked, so He may reward each appropriately.
  - 2 Pet 2:9 speaking of righteous Lot: ... the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment,

### **3:12-15 Condemnation of the elders & princes (to 9:54)**

V12 Lament about weak and capricious leaders

- My people. 2x. Not disowned.
- Children. Weak capricious leaders.
- Women = harem.
- CALVIN God's judgment shown in weak leaders and in weak people willing to submit to them.

V13-14a Courtroom

Isa 3:13-14a The LORD has taken his place to contend; he stands to judge peoples. (14) The LORD will enter into judgment with the elders and princes of his people...

- The LORD enters the courtroom to confront the elders and princes of his people. They were not exempt from judgment.

V14b-15 Charges

Isa 3:14b-15 ..."It is you who have devoured 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 GOD of hosts.

- Devoured the vineyard. Plundering the poor. As keepers, they should have tended rather than plundered.
- in your houses. The spoil taken from the poor is a witness against them.
  - Genesis 4:10 The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground.
    - Abel's blood witnessing against Cain.
- Crushing...grinding. Violent oppression.
- declares the Lord God of hosts. With the authority of the LORD.
- HENRY: The LORD Himself was conducting the proceedings so there would be no escape. The charges would be proved by the evidence. The judgment had already begun with weak rulers over them.

### 3:16 - 4:1 Condemnation of the women of Jerusalem (to 10:00)

#### V16 Charges

Isa 3:16 The LORD said: Because the daughters of Zion are haughty and walk with outstretched necks, glancing wantonly with their eyes, mincing along as they go, tinkling with their feet,

- Haughty Much pride and concern about their own looks and getting attention for themselves; no concern for the poor.
- Glancing wantonly...mincing...tinkling. Looks and behavior that show no fear of the LORD.
- Like the strange woman in Pro 7:10-18 And behold, the woman meets him, dressed as a prostitute, wily of heart. (11) She is loud and wayward; her feet do not stay at home; ...She seizes him and kisses him, and with bold face she says to him, .... Come, let us take our fill of love till morning; let us delight ourselves with love.
  - Dressed as a prostitute
  - Wily of heart
  - Loud and wayward
  - Bold face
- Contrast 1 Timothy 2:9-10 women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, 10 but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works
  - Respectable apparel...modesty...self-control...good works.
  - proper for women who profess godliness. Showing a heart that fears the LORD.
- The problem is not the articles of dress but their heart attitude.
  - Mat 15:19-20 Jesus explaining to the disciples His statement about eating with unwashed hands: For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. (20) These are what defile a person....

#### V17-25 Sentence

Isa 3:17-25 therefore the Lord will strike with a scab the heads of the daughters of Zion, and the LORD will lay bare their secret parts. (18) In that day the Lord will take away the finery of the anklets, the headbands, and the crescents...(24)...instead of a belt, a rope; and instead of well-set hair, baldness; and 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.

- Sentence
  - Affliction
  - Nakedness
  - Removal of finery
  - Sackcloth & Branding (slavery)
  - Men fallen
- HENRY: number and variety of ornaments indicates the extent of their pride. The consequences fit the sin. All the finery is to lure men but the men are gone.

## V26 the desolate city

Isa 3:26 And her gates shall lament and mourn; empty, she shall sit on the ground.

- The view widens to the city
- Jeremiah describes this: Lam 1:1-5 How lonely sits the city that was full of people! How like a widow has she become, she who was great among the nations! ...(4) The roads to Zion mourn... all her gates are desolate... (5) Her foes have become the head; her enemies prosper, because the LORD has afflicted her for the multitude of her transgressions...

## 4:1 a picture of desperation

Isa 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 reproach."

- Disproportion between the sexes. Most of the men have been killed.
- In desperation women take the lead.
- HENRY: marriage altered.
  - Women seeking men, willing to share them, willing to provide for themselves.
  - To be single would be the greatest reproach.
- Contrast Paul's attitude in 1 Corinthians 7:26-35 I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is. ... the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit...I say this for your own benefit, ... to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

## **Worship (to 10:15)**

1. Three stations are posted for passages from today's text:
  - 3:1-12 Disintegration of the civil government
  - 3:13-15 Condemnation of the elders & princes
  - 3:16 - 4:1 Condemnation of the women of Jerusalem

Go to the station that seems significant. Must be at least three people at each station. Select one person to scribe.

2. In your group, discuss your passage and identify
  - Something about God that you see in the passage
  - The effect that this view of God has upon you.
  - A way to respond to what you have seen and come to know.

Each group will report to the class what they found.

Caution: Please focus on personal effects and responses.

- 2Co 13:5 Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves....

For next week: Is 4:2 - 5:7

Scripture quotations are from The ESV Bible® (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publications. Used by permission, all rights reserved.