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**Ecclesiastes 10:16: “Woe to thee, O land, when thy king is a child, and thy princes eat in the morning!”**

There were indeed some very young kings to come to the throne in Judah and Jerusalem: Uzziah-16, Manasseh-12, Josiah-8, and yet, I do not believe Solomon (here in Ecclesiastes 10:16) pronounced this “WOE” to a nation whose king was a child in age, but of a king or prince who was immature, inexperienced, and unwise.

The Prophet Isaiah actually warned the people of Judah and Jerusalem about days that would come “when children would be their princes, and babes would rule over them.” *Isaiah 3:1-5*

This “taking away” of every wise man among them was because they had cast God aside for their idols, and when they did come before the True God to worship and offer their sacrifices, it was completely corrupted by their sin, therefore, it was abhorrent to God. *(Isaiah 1:10-15, 21-23)*.

And then, when distress and anguish came upon them, they did not acknowledge their transgressions and sins against God and repent, but rather trusted in the vain helps of man.

*We know this because of what is written in: Isaiah 2:22*

Therefore, God’s judgment on Judah and Jerusalem (for their sins), was that He would “TAKE AWAY from them the stay and the staff”. *(Every support, every advantage, everything that they trusted in)*

Since you put your trust in man and refuse to trust me, saith the LORD, I will take away the mighty, valiant, and noble men from among you. I will take away the faithful and true prophets, I will take away the prudent, the ancient, and wise from within your society and from your Christian assemblies.

And if that wasn’t bad enough, those that sit on the throne of leadership, your kings and princes will be immature and inexperienced fools.

When Isaiah wrote, “and I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them”, he wasn’t speaking of their literal age, but because they possessed no wisdom. *Ecclesiastes 10:5-7*

Solomon wrote: I have seen “this evil” of “folly set positions of great dignity”; of leaders who were immature, immoral, unwise, and childish ruling over nations and peoples! *Proverbs 14:34*

*Amazingly, Solomon’s own son Rehoboam came to the throne as a immature and inexperienced fool. 2 Chronicles 13:1-7*

**Beloved we live in a nation that becomes increasingly godless by the day.**

Of the many who are in the highest positions of authority, (in our government) there is little to no wisdom, no prudence or discernment, no honor or integrity and certainly no fear of God or reverence for His great Name. Isaiah prophesied of a terrible judgment against the people of God, NOT against a secular nation such as America! Though our nation had its underpinnings in Christianity and in the truths and law of God, it has departed from those principles.

Beloved of God, it is judgment to a nation when God takes away wise from among its leaders and sets up fools to rule and lead that nation.

Daniel 4:17

Let it never be (beloved of God) that God “takes away” the wise from among us and from our Christian assemblies! Let us NEVER put our confidence in man, but ALWAYS Trust in the LORD! Psalms 118:8-9

What Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes 10:16 is the reality of what has happened in our nation and in many of our leaders. (Not absolutely), God has given us some good and wise leaders, but they are very few, and they must be held up in prayer by us!

And then: (V16B): “Woe unto thee, O land, when thy princes eat (feast or indulge themselves inordinately) in the morning”

1 Kings 12:1-14, 2 Chronicles 12:14, 13:4-7

When they should be attending to their responsibilities of leading, governing, and caring for their people, they are instead, sensually and selfishly feasting and filling their sinful appetites to please themselves. Woe unto thee, O land, when this is the conduct of your king or prince.

Daniel 4:17, 1 Corinthians 13:11

**Next Time: Ecclesiastes 10:17: Blessed art thou, O land, when thy king is the son of nobles, and thy princes eat in due season, for strength, and not for drunkenness!**

Blessed/Happy is that nation and people whose God is the LORD, who sets up over them wise and noble men to lead and rule their people.

Men who are wise and noble in character