THE FAILURE OF A NATION

THE ELEMENTS OF JUDGEMENT Part One

**DATE: 9/7/2016 Wed.**

**TEXT: Isaiah 3:1-4, 12**

**INTRODUCTION**

**Proverbs 14:34 – *“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people”***

Doing what honors God brings His blessings on a country

Rebelling against God, on the other hand, weakens a nation

That is God's promise

In the 3rd chapter of Isaiah, we find a very sobering description of the Failure of a Nation

Isaiah's message of warning describes what is going to happen to Jerusalem and the southern kingdom of Judah in the days ahead

Because of the sin of God's people, the Lord was going to Judge Israel by removing one thing after another from their lives

Turning from God to false gods, and wicked living, was coming back to haunt them

God wasn’t going to put up with their nonsense any longer

He was preparing them for Judgement

By the way, nothing has changed

If a person knows Christ as their Saviour, the Lord will deal with them if they are rebellious and living in sin

The record of the ruin of Israel provides a pattern of what happens when any nation Falls into sin

Many of the Elements of Judgment recorded here can apply to America

As God deal’s with Israel, so God will deal with the U.S.

Our country is Failing Spiritually and Morally

This Failure has weakened us economically and it has weakened our leadership in the world

How can we speak with authority to other nations about human rights and freedom when we deny those same rights to helpless babies and allow them to be slaughtered in abortion clinics before they are ever born?

The same people that cry - *We need to give our children the best education possible and protect them from the sexual predators and bullies,* are the same people that preach they should have the freedom to abort their babies

Something is very wrong with that picture!

When you turn your back on God and His Word, people start making confusing and foolish decisions

As America continues to Fail, you can see the Lord's hand of Judgment upon our country

If we continue on our course of perversity, bloodthirstiness, and foolishness, our nation will end in utter ruin soon

That should be a concern to us because we live here

If our country Falls, we Fall with it

Can a powerful nation Fall into ruin?

Ask people who lived in Germany or Russia and you will get the answer

Can our Failing Nation, State, Homes, Churches, and our Failing Lives, be turn around and brought back on track?

Praise the Lord, they can!

**II Chronicles 7:14 –** ***“If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land”***

As we look at the Failure of the Nation Israel, we will find that many of the Judgments that fell on them are also Falling on us

These Judgments are increasing in severity

We want to address these Elements of Judgement to show the serious condition our own country is in

And also to provide Biblical Solutions on turning the problems around in the right direction

Let’s stand to read God’s Word – **vs. 1- 4, 12**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. THE “REMOVAL” OF SECURITY – v.1**

***“For, behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah the stay and the staff, the whole stay of bread, and the whole stay of water”***

The Judgement of God was about to hit the fan

God’s patience with Israel was about to run out

Isaiah continues to warn them here in **chapter 3**

It is a continuation of the warning he began in **2:6 …**

First, when it comes to **theRemoval of One’s Security**

I’d like to ask …

**A. What are we Really Depending On?**

Isaiah is warning Israel that the Lord Himself was coming quickly to remove from them the *“****stay and staff”***

Today we might use the terms **“stock and Store”**

To *stock up* on (a supply of Goods) or to *store* (something kept for future) … something

It’s speaking about everything that Israel has been relying on for their well-being

Everything that made them feel secure

When God says He is going to Remove this

He is literally talking about *pulling the rug out from under them!”*

God was going to suddenly take away everything these people were depending on to survive

Then He lists what they are, over the next several verses

He would do it to show them who they were, or weren’t really relying on

If we aren’t 100% relying on the Lord, we’re in Trouble!

**B. The Essential Things of Life**

He goes on the say – ***“the whole stay (supply) of bread, and the whole stay (supply) of water”***

Let me share with you some things I found

According to the *Center for Sustainable Systems*,

The U.S. is gradually losing its food supply

Farmers and Family Farms are dying off

Farm acreage is diminishing

From 2002 to 2007, we lost 28 million acres of farmland

Many farm regions of the nation are experiencing groundwater depletion

In spite of a ten-fold increase in insecticides, crop losses due to insect damage have nearly doubled

God uses insects as an army to judge a nation

He did this with Israel

**Joel 2:25 – *“And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, My great army which I sent among you”***

We are also losing our topsoil at a rate of 200,000 tons per hour (Not days, or weeks or even months)

The Mississippi River carries with it and deposits 500 Million tons of sediment a year into the Gulf of Mexico

Then there are Massive floods, drought, hurricanes, pestilence, forest and grass fires

The major water sheds in the west are quickly becoming depleted (climate change) less snow pack

Isaiah warned that whatever the people were relying upon for security, God would remove it

In our nation, many people put their security in their money and jobs

Economically, we are in serious condition right now

*The Free Republic* reported in mid-January of 2013 that the real jobless rate in America was 23%, not 7.8%

Our currency is also dropping in value because we are printing money out of thin air

Our national debt was over 17 trillion dollars as of March, 2013 and is still climbing every day at a rate of $3,700,000,000

This house of cards will eventually crash

Our government leaders in NY and in Washington have no resolve to stop the spending

They don't want to take the heat that goes with the fiscal responsibility of a balanced budget

If our economy crashes, missionaries are going to have to come home

Churches will financially fold and have to close their doors

When God chastens a nation, He yanks the security of that nation right out from under them

Not only are we going to lose our Security

But also, there will be …

**II. THE “LOSS” OF LEADERSHIP – vs. 2, 3**

***“The mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient,” (elder)***

***“The captain of fifty, and the honourable man, and the counseller, and the cunning artificer, (craftsman) and the eloquent orator”***

Not only will God take away everything they have been depending on to maintain their lives

But He will also take away the important people that are a part of their lives

These may not be those that are closely related, but rather play a part in our lives indirectly / socially

When the Lord Judged Israel … He used an invading army to remove all the most important people in Israel

People who were the back bone of that society

People that would now benefit the Nation in which they were being taken captive

He would remove its great men including the great minds in the Armed Forces, Honest Judges, Leaders & statesmen, Great Preachers, wise counselors, and craftsmen (People like Daniel)

Near the end of WW II, America was able get many of the German Scientist to come to America (Wernher von Braun)

Soon there will be no more skilled crafts men, if the liberal has his way he will ship all the good paying jobs overseas

As we look at our own country, we find that we have been blessed in the past with outstanding men that were great

Presidents, Outstanding Military Minds, and tremendous Statesmen

We once built a great economy on Skilled Hard Laborers

But not today

A lot has changed, however, just over the last 30 years

There has been a change in America's men

You have to look long and hard for leaders that have character, integrity, and courage to do what is right

The Sodomite crowd has made men more effeminate

Acting feminine and dressing like a woman is considered acceptable, in style, or funny

Some men are going as far as to get their gender changed by having surgery

It is as if men are afraid to be men

It is no wonder some men act this way as society and the media have launched a campaign against manhood,

Doing their best to make men a bunch of wimps

The Women liberation movements has joined the attack against manhood

Yet, it is so funny that many of these women try to look like, act like, and dress like men / I don't get it

Just because a man is aggressive, strong, responsible, confident, and decisive, does not mean he is a chauvinist, a tyrant, or abusive

He is being a man

Let me talk to the …

**A. Mothers / Wives**

A wise mother will teach her son how to be a strong, confident, yet, gentle, tender, and loving toward others, especially girls

She will let her boy be a boy and also not baby him every time he falls down and hurts himself

Yes, sometimes our boys need a hug when they get hurt playing

But there will also be times when you’ll have to tell him,

*“You’re all right. You'll live. Go back out and play with the kids”*

The world is NOT going to baby our children when they get older

I thank God my dad and mom didn't baby me

Don't baby your boys / don't baby your girls either

If you are a man, enjoy being a man and act like one

If you are lady, then enjoy being a lady and acting like a lady

If you are married, don't resent being a helper to your husband

That’s the way God made us and He did this for a purpose

You have the wonderful role of building up and supporting your husband if you are married,

Or the opportunity to encourage other men in your life

Such as your father, your boss, or other leader in your life

I thank God for our ladies that encourage me as their pastor

Ladies, encourage your husband and let him lead the home / that’s God's plan

A smart wife will build up her husband and not tear him down foolishly

**Proverbs 14:1** says ***– “Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands”***

Now let me talk to the …

**B. Fathers / Husbands**

 Gentlemen, love and cherish your wife …

… as Christ loved the church

Strong nations have strong men of character

If a nation loses its men, it Fails

God is looking for men today that will stand for Him just as He did in Bible times

Just like the great men of Faith of old

**Ezekiel 22:30 - *“And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before Me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none”***

If you want to find out what kind of man you are, then stand and speak up for the Lord

You’ll find that, in most cases you will stand alone

And it’s not easy to stand alone …

But men of courage and conviction stand alone when all others have forsaken them

Stand for Truth, even when that Truth contradicts religious traditions

**THE “REMOVAL” OF SECURITY**

**THE “LOSS” OF LEADERSHIP**

Lastly, let’s look at …

**III. THE “RULE” OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN – vs. 4, 12**

***“And I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them …” “As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy path”***

Another indication of the failure of a Nation is the loss of wise men in leadership positions,

Being replaced by women and children

Many of Israel’s men were killed or taken to Babylon as slaves, leaving women and children to fill the void

The immaturity, inexperience, lack of responsibility, and carelessness of youth caused them to be oppressive, ruthless, and harsh toward others

I think of the Bible illustration of Rehoboam **I Kings 12**

When the government of a nation oppresses its people, mark it down, that nation has Failed

Isaiah states that the leadership of youth and women caused the people to err

The word ***“err”*** means *to wander or go astray; to stagger like a drunkard; to mislead mentally and morally*

The leadership of these women and children led to moral and physical destruction

It is interesting to note that in America today,

The very vocal proponents of abortion and gun control are women

Woman in leadership positions in the United States Congress and Senate

Beloved, any government that legalizes the murder of babies or homosexual marriages is erring

That government is misleading people Mentally and Morally

God will deal with that nation for its corruption sooner or later

**CONCLUSION**

We’ll quit there for now

We have only looked at 3 of the Elements of Judgement found in **Isaiah 3**

We will continue with more in our next message

**THE “REMOVAL” OF SECURITY**

**THE “LOSS” OF LEADERSHIP**

**THE “RULE” OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

May God help America repent and turn back to Him!

Wake-up America!