

Isaiah 1:21-31

God Restores His Elect and Burns His Enemies

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The Structure of 1:21-31

- A.** The collapse of Jerusalem (21a)
 - B.** Past and present contrasted: (21b)
 - C.** Metaphor: Morals turned to dross (22)
 - D.** The corrupt rulers (23)
 - D.** The sovereign LORD (24)
 - C.** Metaphor: Dross is purged (25)
 - B.** Past and future identified: (26a)
 - A.** The restoration of Jerusalem (26b)
- (27-31 explain how God restores Jerusalem)

Jerusalem Has Become Wicked

Isaiah 1:21-22 How the faithful city has become a harlot, She who was full of justice! Righteousness once lodged in her, But now murderers. Your silver has become dross, Your drink diluted with water.

The Leaders Forsake The Helpless

Isaiah 1:23 Your rulers are rebels And companions of thieves; Everyone loves a bribe And chases after rewards. They do not defend the orphan, Nor does the widow's plea come before them.

The Sovereign Lord's Reaction

Isaiah 1:24 Therefore the Lord GOD of hosts, The Mighty One of Israel, declares, "Ah, I will be relieved of My adversaries And avenge Myself on My foes.

Yahweh Will Restore His Elect

Isaiah 1:25-26 "I will also turn My hand against you, And will smelt away your dross as with lye And will remove all your alloy. Then I will restore your judges as at the first, And your counselors as at the beginning; After that you will be called the city of righteousness, A faithful city."

Vs. 25 = wu – asheevah "And I will return"
 Vs. 26 = wu – asheevah "And I will return"

Yahweh Saves And Judges

Isaiah 1:27-29 Zion will be redeemed with justice And her repentant ones with righteousness. But transgressors and sinners will be crushed together, And those who forsake the Lord will come to an end. Surely you will be ashamed of the oaks which you have desired, And you will be embarrassed at the gardens which you have chosen.

Yahweh Will Burn His Enemies

Isaiah 1:30-31 For you will be like an oak whose leaf fades away Or as a garden that has no water. The strong man will become tinder, His work also a spark. Thus they shall both burn together And there will be none to quench them.

Application

1. We must know that forsaking Yahweh for pagan religion always leads to the death of the helpless!

Paganism = Religion that worships gods who are in nature.

Isaiah 1:29 Surely they will be ashamed of the oaks which you have desired, And you will be embarrassed at the gardens which you have chosen.

1. Pagans Murder The Helpless

Isaiah 1:21 How the faithful city has become a harlot, She who was full of justice! Righteousness once lodged in her, But now murderers.

Isaiah 1:23b Everyone loves a bribe And chases after rewards. **They do not defend the orphan, Nor does the widow's plea come before them.**

1. Pagans Murder The Helpless

2 Kings 16:2-3 Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem... But he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and even made his son pass through the fire...

Jeremiah 7:31 "They have built the high places of Topheth, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, and it did not come into My mind."

1. Pagans Murder The Helpless

Moral Law Revealed by a Transcendent God:
Genesis 9:6 "Whoever sheds a man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image."

Morals Determined By a Pagan Society:
 "The most merciful thing that a large family does to one of its infant members is to kill it"
 (Margaret Sanger -founder of Planned Parenthood, Eugenics Pub. Co., 1920).

Application

2. We must remember that we repented only because God “returned His hand” upon us first!

Isaiah 1:25 “I will return My hand upon you, And will smelt away your dross as with lye And will remove all your alloy.

Isaiah 1:27 Zion will be redeemed with justice And the ones who return with righteousness.

Application

3. We must believe that hell is a real place where the enemies of God will be judged.

Isaiah 1:31 The strong man will become tinder, His work also a spark. Thus they shall both burn together And there will be none to quench them.

Isaiah 66:24 Then they will go forth and look On the corpses of the men Who have transgressed against Me. For their worm will not die And their fire will not be quenched; And they will be an abhorrence to all mankind.

3. Hell Is a Place of Eternal Torment

Mark 9:47-48 “If your eye causes you to stumble, throw it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, than, having two eyes, to be cast into **hell**, where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.

Reversal:

Pagans slaughtered the innocent at Gehenna.
Pagans get slaughtered (forever) at Gehenna.
