

**Isaiah 3:1-15**

Yahweh Hands His People Over  
To Pagan Leadership

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**Outline of Isaiah 3:1-15**

A. Yahweh acts by removing leadership: vs. 1-5  
 B. Vignette: Leadership debased: vs. 6-7  
 C. Jerusalem's collapse explained: vs. 8  
 C. Jerusalem's judgment foretold: vs.9-11  
 B. Vignette: Leadership on trial: vs. 12-15a  
 A. Yahweh has spoken: vs. 15b

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**God Will Remove Judah's Leadership**

Isaiah 3:1-3 For behold, the Lord GOD of hosts is going to remove from Jerusalem and Judah both supply and support, the whole supply of bread and the whole supply of water; The mighty man and the warrior, the judge and the prophet, the diviner and the elder, the captain of fifty and the honorable man, the counselor and the expert artisan, and the skillful enchanter.

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### The Honorable Will Be Dishonored

Isaiah 3:4-5 And I will make mere lads their princes, and capricious children will rule over them, and the people will be oppressed, each one by another, and each one by his neighbor; The youth will storm against the elder and the inferior against the honorable.

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### A Nation Desperate For Leadership

Isaiah 3:6-7 When a man lays hold of his brother in his father's house, saying, "You have a cloak, you shall be our ruler, and these ruins will be under your charge," he will protest on that day, saying, "I will not be your healer, for in my house there is neither bread nor cloak; You should not appoint me ruler of the people."

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### Judah Sinned Before God's Face

Isaiah 3:8-9 For Jerusalem has stumbled and Judah has fallen, Because their speech and their actions are against the LORD, to rebel against His glorious presence. The expression of their faces bears witness against them, and they display their sin like Sodom; They do not even conceal it. Woe to them! For they have brought evil on themselves.

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### Ultimate Judgment Will Come

Isaiah 3:10-12 Say to the righteous that it will go well with them, for they will eat the fruit of their actions. Woe to the wicked! It will go badly with him, for what he deserves will be done to him. O My people! Their oppressors are children, and women rule over them. O My people! Those who guide you lead you astray and confuse the direction of your paths.

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### The Lord Brings His Charges

Isaiah 3:13-15 The LORD arises to contend, and stands to judge the people. The LORD enters into judgment with the elders and princes of His people, "It is you who have devoured the vineyard; The plunder of the poor is in your houses. "What do you mean by crushing My people And grinding the face of the poor?" Declares the Lord GOD of hosts.

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### Application

1. We must not elevate ruthless leaders and youthful ways as pagan society does.

Isaiah 3:3,5 ...capricious children will rule over them, and the people will be oppressed... The youth will storm against the elder and the inferior against the honorable...

Isaiah 3:12a Their oppressors are children, and women rule over them.

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1. The Folly In Elevating Youth

“Don’t trust anyone over 30” (Jack Weinberg, University California Berkley).

Proverbs 1:4 ...to give prudence to the naive, to the youth knowledge and discretion,

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child **in the way he should go**, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22:15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of discipline will remove it far from him.

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1. How Should We Be Different?

1. **We must remember that Godly leaders serve:** Luke 22:25-27 And He said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them... But it is not this way with you, but the one who is the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the servant. For who is greater, the one who reclines at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at the table? But I am among you as the one who serves.”

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1. How Should We Be Different?

2. **We are to revere and be subject to elders:**

1 Peter 5:5 You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

3. **We must submit to authority:**

Romans 13:1 Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

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### Application

2. We must understand that the void in godly leadership for Israel (Judah) necessitates the coming King.

Isaiah 3:6b-7a "You have a cloak, you shall be our ruler, And these ruins will be under your charge," He will protest on that day, saying, "I will not be your healer..."

Isaiah 1:6 From the sole of the foot even to the head There is nothing sound in it, Only bruises, welts and raw wounds, Not pressed out or bandaged, Nor softened with oil.

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### 2. The Coming King Is A Suffering Servant!

Isaiah 53:5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.

Luke 22:29-30 ...and just as My Father has granted Me a kingdom, I grant you that you may eat and drink at My table in **My kingdom**, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

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