

Isaiah 3

Just as Isaiah 2:9-22 describes events that transpire during the Tribulation, Isaiah 3:1-4:1 does so as well. This is obvious due to the fact that Isaiah 4:2-6, verses that describe the Messianic Kingdom, begin with the phrase, “*In that day*” (v.2). Therefore, the events of Isaiah 4:2-6 soon follow the events of Isaiah 3:1-4:1 since the Millennium follows the Tribulation. Consequently, what is described in Isaiah 3:1-4:1 occurs in the future, during the Tribulation.

Is. 3:1 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 weak leadership within the Jewish nation, along with any competent leadership that remains, will be removed through famine—a lack of *bread* and *water*. Note: We know that there will be at least some competent leadership remaining (note the phrase “*honorable man*” in verse 3, but they will be very much in the minority.)

Is. 3:2 The mighty man and the warrior, The judge and the prophet, The diviner and the elder,

The types of leaders which God will remove are listed in verses 2 and 3. Verse 2 states that the *mighty man and the warrior, The judge and the prophet, The diviner and the elder* will be taken away.

Is. 3:3 The captain of fifty and the honorable man, The counselor and the expert artisan, And the skillful enchanter.

The captain of fifty and the honorable man, The counselor and the expert artisan, And the skillful enchanter will also be removed. (Note the phrase, “*honorable man.*” There will be a few *honorable men* left; but they, being in the minority, will be removed as well.) It is obvious that those in charge of occult practices will be removed.

Is. 3:4 And I will make mere lads their princes And capricious children will rule over them,

When a land chooses to walk in sin, and weak leadership results, God raises up even less capable leaders. These less capable leaders (rulers) during the Tribulation will be *capricious children, children* who are so self-centered, rebellious, and egotistical that they will have no respect for anyone or anything. All of this will come about as a result of dad refusing to lead in his home.

Is. 3:5 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.

When a nation walks in sin, the youth refuse to submit to authority. Lawlessness and mutiny follow—one of the curses when quality male leadership is nonexistent. Sound familiar?

Is. 3:6 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,"

The prerequisite for leadership will be as small a thing as possessing clothing.

Is. 3:7 On that day will he protest, 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."

No man will desire to lead—one of the final blows to a society that rejects the truth. Remember that these are conditions that will exist during the Tribulation.

Is. 3:8 For Jerusalem has stumbled, and Judah has fallen, Because their speech and their actions are against the Lord, To rebel against His glorious presence.

This judgment will fall on the land because of the *speech* and *actions* of the people. They will *rebel against God's glorious presence*, just as they had done at Mt. Sinai in Exodus 20:18-21.

Is. 3:9 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.

The Jews will not be concerned about concealing *their sin*, much like *Sodom* before her destruction. This will bring *evil* on the nation, since the fruit of sin is destruction.

Is. 3:10 Say to the righteous that it will go well with them, For they will eat the fruit of their actions.

It will go well with those who are *righteous*, even in the midst of the chaos brought about by the evil inhabitants of the land. *The righteous...will eat the fruit* (receive the positive benefits) *of their actions*.

Is. 3:11 Woe to the wicked! It will go badly with him, For what he deserves will be done to him.

It will go badly for the wicked, for he will receive *what he deserves*—read God's promises spoken through Moses in Deuteronomy 28:15-68.

Is. 3:12 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.

Because the male leadership goes passive during the Tribulation, both at home and in the workplace, *children* will oppress the people, *women* will *rule over them*, and the general population will be led *astray*. There is nothing politically correct about this verse, for it confirms that women are incapable of taking up the slack when men fail to fulfill their God-given responsibility as leaders. Every child needs a dad who is willing to lead in the home, not a dad who is present and goes passive when the heat is on. Only then will children grow up to realize their full potential, entering into marriage with a healthy view of what life can look like when dad not only desires to lead, but is encouraged and allowed to lead by those placed under his care. (This is not to say that a single mom or dad can't train their offspring to be godly men and women. God's sovereignty rules over all, and it can rule in this case as well when the single parent lives a lifestyle characterized by submission to, and compassion for, the Lord!)

Is. 3:13 ¶ The Lord arises to contend, And stands to judge the people.

God will *judge His people* for their sin, but it is the leaders that He blames for the conditions within the land, as verses 14-15 confirm. Remember, we are dealing with conditions that will exist within Israel during the Tribulation.

Is. 3:14 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.

The leaders will *have devoured the vineyard*, the *vineyard* being the nation of Israel (as Isaiah 5 confirms). It is interesting how well Matthew 21:33-46 applies to what Isaiah is addressing here.

Is. 3:15 "What do you mean by crushing My people, And grinding the face of the poor?" Declares the Lord God of hosts.

The leaders (the majority of which will be women and children) will crush God's *people*, abusing the *poor* in the process. In fact, in Isaiah 59:15 we discover that the believing remnant of Jews toward the end of the Tribulation will be greatly persecuted by the unbelieving segment of Israel.

Is. 3:16 ¶ Moreover, the Lord said, "Because the daughters of Zion are proud, And walk with heads held high and seductive eyes, And go along with mincing steps, And tinkle the bangles on their feet,

Isaiah indicts the Jewish women in Isaiah 3:16 through Isaiah 4:1 because of their pride (v.16), a pride which drives them to rule over their husbands. (Isaiah 3:12 confirms that the women will rule over the men during the Tribulation.) These women, whose passion will be personal beauty and pleasure, will cause (force) their husbands to commit the sins addressed in verses 14 and 15.

Is. 3:17 Therefore the Lord will afflict the scalp of the daughters of Zion with scabs, And the Lord will make their foreheads bare."

Because personal beauty will take precedence over godliness, God will remove the beauty of the *daughters of Zion*. As is addressed earlier in Isaiah 3, it seems best to view these events as occurring during the Tribulation.

Is. 3:18 In that day the Lord will take away the beauty of their anklets, headbands, crescent ornaments,

Isaiah, in verses 18-23, lists the material possessions that God will remove from these ungodly women. He will do so because the monetary resources needed to purchase such items will be gained through their husbands' abuse of orphans and widows—actions that are contrary to God's will (read Isaiah 1:17).

Is. 3:19 dangling earrings, bracelets, veils,

Is. 3:20 headdresses, ankle chains, sashes, perfume boxes, amulets,

Is. 3:21 finger rings, nose rings,

Is. 3:22 festal robes, outer tunics, cloaks, money purses,

Is. 3:23 hand mirrors, undergarments, turbans, and veils.

Is. 3:24 Now it will come about that instead of sweet perfume there will be putrefaction; Instead of a belt, a rope; Instead of well-set hair, a plucked-out scalp; Instead of fine clothes, a donning of sackcloth; And branding instead of beauty.

Along with the loss of the items listed in verses 19-24, the women will be branded by their captors.

Is. 3:25 Your men will fall by the sword, And your mighty ones in battle.

One of the judgments that results will be a deficiency of *men* in the land. This is confirmed again in Isaiah 4:1.

Is. 3:26 And her gates will lament and mourn; And deserted she will sit on the ground.

Obviously, these women will be subjected to rape and physical abuse once the land is overthrown.

Isaiah 4

Is. 4:1 For seven women will 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.

There will be a severe reduction in the male Jewish population during the Tribulation. In fact, the ratio will be *seven women* to *one man*. As a result, *women* will ask men to marry them and, at the same time, offer to provide their own food and clothing. This is intriguing when you consider that, according to Exodus 21:10, the woman had the legal right of having her husband provide not only *food*, but *clothing* as well.

These women will state what is recorded in verse 1, which is quite a contrast to the mindset of the women described in Isaiah 3. It is amazing what adversity can accomplish in the area of humility (Jeremiah 48:11).