

CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Isaiah Chapter 3 — Judgment on Jerusalem's Leaders and the Proud Daughters of Zion

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Isaiah Chapter 3 describes the collapse of a society that has rejected God's order.

The judgment is not limited to one area.

It reaches:

Food.

Water.

Leadership.

Justice.

Social stability.

Public morality.

National dignity.

Personal pride.

The chapter begins with God removing the supports Judah depends upon.

Bread is removed.

Water is removed.

Capable leaders are removed.

Military strength is removed.

Wise counselors are removed.

Experienced elders are removed.

What remains is instability.

Inexperienced people rule.

Neighbors oppress one another.

The young rise against the old.

The dishonorable rise against the honorable.

Leadership becomes so undesirable that people refuse responsibility.

Isaiah then exposes the deeper reason for the collapse:

“Their words and actions are against the Lord.”

Judah’s problem is not merely political.

It is spiritual.

Their rebellion against God has corrupted:

Leadership.

Justice.

Social relationships.

Personal conduct.

The leaders exploit the poor.

The people flaunt sin openly.

Pride dominates the wealthy.

Outward appearance becomes more important than inward character.

Then God announces judgment.

He removes what they trusted.

He strips away what they gloried in.

Beauty becomes shame.

Luxury becomes loss.

Strength becomes defeat.

The chapter ends with Jerusalem sitting on the ground in mourning.

The central truth of Isaiah 3 is:

When a people reject God, leadership weakens, justice collapses, pride increases, social order deteriorates, and false securities fail; yet God still distinguishes between the righteous and the wicked and judges every person according to their deeds.

I. GOD REMOVES THE BASIC SUPPORTS OF JUDAH

Isaiah 3:1 — Bread and Water Taken Away

“Look, the Lord, the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, is taking away from Jerusalem and Judah everything they depend on—all supplies of bread, and all supplies of water.”

The chapter begins with a shocking picture.

God removes:

Bread.

Water.

Support.

The people have treated security as though it were guaranteed.

Isaiah reminds them that even the most basic necessities are gifts.

Cross References

Leviticus 26:26

God warned Israel that persistent disobedience would result in severe shortages of bread so that food would become scarce and insufficient.

Ezekiel 4:16

God told Ezekiel that Jerusalem’s supply of bread and water would be broken, causing people to eat and drink with anxiety and fear.

Ezekiel 5:16

God warned that famine would intensify against Jerusalem and that basic supplies would fail under judgment.

Spiritual Principle

What we call ordinary provision is still dependent upon God.

Key Truth

Human security becomes fragile when God removes the supports we assume will always remain.

II. GOD REMOVES STRONG AND CAPABLE LEADERS

Isaiah 3:2 — Warriors, Judges, Prophets, and Elders

“Heroes and warriors, judges and prophets, the wise and the elders.”

Judah loses more than food.

It loses:

Experience.

Wisdom.

Leadership.

Military strength.

Judicial stability.

Spiritual guidance.

A society suffers when its capable leaders disappear.

Cross References

Micah 3:11

Judah’s leaders accepted bribes, priests taught for payment, and prophets gave messages for money while claiming the Lord was still with them.

Jeremiah 18:18

The people believed they could oppose Jeremiah because they assumed priests, wise men, and prophets would always remain available to them.

Ezekiel 7:26

Disaster would follow disaster, and people would desperately seek guidance from prophets, priests, and elders, but reliable counsel would disappear.

Spiritual Principle

Wise leadership is a gift that should never be taken for granted.

III. SKILL AND EXPERIENCE ARE ALSO REMOVED

Isaiah 3:3 — Captains, Craftsmen, and Counselors

“Captains of fifty, honorable men, counselors, skilled craftsmen, and eloquent speakers.”

The judgment touches every level of society.

Military leadership disappears.

Respected citizens disappear.

Counselors disappear.

Skilled workers disappear.

Persuasive speakers disappear.

The nation loses competence.

Cross References

2 Kings 24:14

When Jerusalem was conquered, many leaders, skilled workers, soldiers, and craftsmen were taken away into exile.

2 Kings 24:16

The invading king carried away strong soldiers and skilled craftsmen who could contribute to the nation’s defense and stability.

Daniel 1:3

The king of Babylon ordered that capable young men from Judah’s royal and noble families be brought into his service.

Spiritual Principle

A nation weakens when wisdom, skill, and responsibility are removed from public life.

IV. INEXPERIENCE TAKES THE PLACE OF WISDOM

Isaiah 3:4 — Children as Rulers

“I will make children their rulers; inexperienced ones will rule over them.”

The point is not merely physical age.

The emphasis is immaturity.

Leadership becomes:

Inexperienced.

Unstable.

Impulsive.

Unprepared.

A society under childish leadership becomes vulnerable.

Cross References

Ecclesiastes 10:16

A land suffers when its ruler behaves immaturely and those in authority live for pleasure rather than responsibility.

Hosea 13:11

God reminds Israel that He gave them a king in anger and could also remove rulers in judgment.

1 Kings 12:8

Rehoboam rejected the wise counsel of experienced elders and instead followed the advice of younger companions who encouraged harsher rule.

Spiritual Principle

Leadership requires more than position.

It requires maturity.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Authority without wisdom becomes dangerous.

V. SOCIAL ORDER BREAKS DOWN

Isaiah 3:5 — Neighbor Against Neighbor

“People will oppress one another—neighbor against neighbor. The young will rise up against the old, and the dishonorable against the honorable.”

When righteous order collapses, respect collapses.

People turn against:

Neighbors.

Older generations.

Honorable people.

The breakdown is social as well as political.

Cross References

Micah 7:6

Micah describes a time when family relationships collapse and respect between generations disappears.

Matthew 10:21

Jesus warned that severe conflict could divide even families, with relatives turning against one another.

Malachi 4:6

God’s restoring work includes turning the hearts of parents and children toward one another rather than leaving families divided.

Spiritual Principle

Rebellion against God eventually damages relationships between people.

VI. PEOPLE WILL BE DESPERATE FOR ANYONE TO LEAD

Isaiah 3:6 — “You Have a Cloak”

“A man will grab his brother in his father’s house and say, ‘You have a cloak—you be our leader; take charge of this ruin!’”

Leadership becomes so scarce that people choose someone for the shallowest reason:

He has clothing.

That alone seems to make him appear capable.

The phrase:

“take charge of this ruin”

reveals how desperate conditions have become.

Cross References

Judges 9:8

Jotham told a parable in which the trees searched for someone willing to rule over them.

Judges 9:9

The olive tree refused to abandon its productive purpose merely to seek status over the other trees.

1 Samuel 8:5

Israel asked Samuel to appoint a king so they could be governed like surrounding nations.

Spiritual Principle

Desperation can cause people to choose leaders for shallow reasons.

VII. EVEN POTENTIAL LEADERS REFUSE THE RESPONSIBILITY

Isaiah 3:7 — “I Cannot Fix This”

“But on that day he will protest, ‘I cannot fix this! I have no food or clothing in my house. Don’t make me the ruler of the people!’”

The situation is so broken that even leadership becomes undesirable.

The man recognizes:

He has no resources.

No solution.

No ability to repair the ruin.

Cross References

Exodus 4:10

Moses told God that he did not feel qualified to speak and saw himself as inadequate for the assignment.

Judges 6:15

Gideon questioned how he could deliver Israel because his family seemed weak and he considered himself insignificant.

1 Kings 3:7

Solomon acknowledged his inexperience and dependence upon God when he became king.

Spiritual Principle

Wise people understand that leadership carries responsibility, not merely status.

VIII. JERUSALEM FALLS BECAUSE OF OPEN REBELLION

Isaiah 3:8 — Words and Actions Against the Lord

“Jerusalem staggers; Judah falls. Their words and actions are against the Lord, defying His glorious presence.”

Here Isaiah identifies the root problem.

Their words are against God.

Their deeds are against God.

Their entire culture has become defiant.

Cross References

Jeremiah 44:8

God rebuked His people for provoking Him through their sinful actions and false worship.

Numbers 15:30

The person who sins defiantly acts with open contempt toward the Lord and rejects His authority.

Psalms 78:40

Israel repeatedly rebelled against God and grieved Him through persistent disobedience.

Spiritual Principle

National collapse may have many visible causes, but Isaiah exposes the spiritual root:

IX. SIN IS OPENLY DISPLAYED

Isaiah 3:9 — Sin Like Sodom

“The look on their faces testifies against them. They flaunt their sin like Sodom; they do not even try to hide it. Woe to them! They have brought disaster upon themselves.”

Sin has moved from:

Private compromise.

To:

Public pride.

There is no shame.

No attempt to hide.

They advertise rebellion.

Cross References

Genesis 19:5

The men of Sodom openly demanded the opportunity to commit gross sexual wickedness against the visitors in Lot’s house.

Jeremiah 3:3

Judah is described as having lost the capacity to blush because of shameless unfaithfulness.

Jeremiah 6:15

The people committed detestable acts but felt no shame and did not know how to blush.

Spiritual Principle

One of the most dangerous stages of sin is when shame disappears.

Key Truth

Sin grows especially destructive when rebellion becomes something to celebrate.

X. GOD REMEMBERS THE RIGHTEOUS

Isaiah 3:10 — “It Will Be Well with You”

“Tell the righteous, ‘It will be well with you, for you will enjoy the reward of your deeds.’”

In the middle of national judgment, God distinguishes the righteous.

Not everyone shares the same spiritual condition.

God sees individuals.

The righteous are not forgotten.

Cross References

Psalms 128:2

Those who fear the Lord will enjoy the fruit of faithful labor, and blessing will attend their lives.

Galatians 6:8

The one who sows to the Spirit will receive the life-producing harvest that comes from the Spirit rather than the corruption produced by sin.

Proverbs 11:18

The wicked receive deceptive rewards, but the person who sows righteousness receives a dependable reward.

Spiritual Principle

Faithfulness still matters even when the surrounding culture is corrupt.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

You do not need a righteous culture in order to make a righteous choice.

XI. THE WICKED WILL REAP WHAT THEY HAVE DONE

Isaiah 3:11 — “Woe to the Wicked”

“Woe to the wicked! Disaster is upon them. They will be paid back for what their hands have done.”

Isaiah now gives the opposite message.

The righteous:

It will be well.

The wicked:

Woe.

Actions have consequences.

Cross References

Psalms 7:15

The wicked dig pits to trap others but may fall into the very destruction they prepared.

Proverbs 1:31

Those who reject wisdom eventually eat the fruit produced by their own choices.

Romans 6:23

Sin pays the wage of death, but God offers eternal life as a gift through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Spiritual Principle

We eventually harvest what we consistently plant.

XII. MISLEADING LEADERS CONFUSE THE PEOPLE

Isaiah 3:12 — Leaders Destroy the Path

“My people are oppressed by children; women rule over them. O My people, your leaders mislead you; they confuse the direction of your paths.”

The central point is leadership failure.

Those guiding the nation:

Mislead.

Confuse.

Distort direction.

The result is oppression.

Cross References

Micah 3:5

False prophets misled the people by tailoring their message to personal benefit rather than truth.

Jeremiah 23:1

God pronounces judgment upon shepherds who destroy and scatter the people entrusted to their care.

Jeremiah 23:2

God holds corrupt leaders accountable for driving His people away and failing to care for them properly.

Spiritual Principle

Bad leadership does more than make bad decisions.

It can cause an entire people to lose direction.

XIII. GOD TAKES HIS PLACE AS JUDGE

Isaiah 3:13 — The Lord Rises to Judge

“The Lord takes His stand to argue His case; He rises to judge the people.”

The courtroom imagery returns.

God:

Stands.

Presents His case.

Judges.

No corrupt human court can overrule Him.

Cross References

Micah 6:1

God summons creation to hear His case against His people.

Micah 6:2

The mountains and foundations of the earth are called to witness the Lord’s controversy with Israel.

Psalms 82:1

God stands in the assembly and judges those who exercise authority.

Spiritual Principle

Human leaders may avoid accountability temporarily.

They cannot avoid God's court.

XIV. GOD CHARGES THE LEADERS WITH EXPLOITATION

Isaiah 3:14 — The Poor Have Been Plundered

“The Lord brings charges against the elders and leaders of His people: ‘You have ruined My vineyard. The plunder taken from the poor is stored in your houses.’”

The leaders were supposed to protect.

Instead they exploited.

God calls the people:

“My vineyard.”

The leaders destroyed what belonged to Him.

They enriched themselves through oppression.

Cross References

Micah 3:1

Micah challenges rulers to understand justice because leadership carries responsibility before God.

Micah 3:2

Corrupt leaders are condemned for hating good, loving evil, and treating the people with shocking cruelty.

Amos 5:11

Because the wealthy oppressed the poor and extracted resources from them, God warned that the houses and vineyards built through injustice would not bring lasting enjoyment.

Spiritual Principle

God takes personally the exploitation of people entrusted to leadership.

Key Truth

Authority is given for service, not plunder.

XV. GOD DEFENDS THE POOR

Isaiah 3:15 — “Why Do You Crush My People?”

“What do you mean by crushing My people, and grinding the faces of the poor?” declares the Lord, the Lord of Heaven’s Armies.”

This is one of the strongest questions in the chapter.

God identifies with the oppressed.

He calls them:

“My people.”

The leaders crush them.

God notices.

Cross References

Amos 4:1

Amos condemns the wealthy who oppress the poor and crush the needy while living comfortably.

Amos 8:4

God calls attention to those who trample the needy and attempt to remove the poor for personal gain.

Proverbs 22:22

God warns against exploiting the poor simply because they are vulnerable and unable to defend themselves.

Spiritual Principle

God hears the cries of people powerful leaders ignore.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

How we treat people with less power reveals much about our relationship with God.

XVI. THE DAUGHTERS OF ZION ARE PROUD

Isaiah 3:16 — Haughty and Self-Exalting

“The Lord says, ‘Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, walking with heads held high, flirting with their eyes, strutting with quick steps, tinkling their ankle jewelry.’”

Isaiah now addresses another expression of pride.

The issue is not simply:

Jewelry.

Clothing.

Appearance.

The central problem is:

Haughtiness.

Their outward display reflects inward pride.

Cross References

1 Timothy 2:9

Women are encouraged to dress with modesty, self-control, and dignity rather than making expensive outward display the center of their identity.

Proverbs 6:17

Among the things God hates are proud and arrogant eyes.

1 Peter 3:3

Peter teaches that a woman’s beauty should not depend primarily upon external decoration such as elaborate hair, jewelry, or clothing.

Spiritual Principle

The issue is not beauty itself.

The issue is pride built upon beauty.

XVII. PRIDE WILL BE REPLACED WITH HUMILIATION

Isaiah 3:17 — Shame Exposed

“The Lord will bring sores on the heads of the daughters of Zion; He will expose their shame.”

Their pride centered on appearance.

Judgment strikes the very area in which they gloried.

What produced:

Attention.

Status.

Confidence.

Will become shame.

Cross References

Deuteronomy 28:27

God warned Israel that covenant rebellion could bring severe physical affliction as part of judgment.

Leviticus 13:2

The law gave careful instructions concerning visible skin diseases and conditions requiring examination.

2 Chronicles 26:19

King Uzziah was struck with a visible skin disease when pride led him to act unlawfully in the temple.

Spiritual Principle

God may humble us in the very area where pride has become strongest.

XVIII. GOD REMOVES THEIR ORNAMENTS

Isaiah 3:18 — Finery Stripped Away

“In that day the Lord will strip away their finery—the jewelry that jingles on their ankles, headbands and crescent necklaces.”

The list begins.

Isaiah deliberately names the things associated with:

Fashion.

Status.

Display.

Luxury.

The purpose is not to say every ornament is inherently sinful.

The issue is pride and misplaced identity.

Cross References

1 Peter 3:3

True beauty is not to be defined merely by hair, jewelry, or clothing.

Genesis 24:22

Abraham’s servant gave Rebekah valuable jewelry as part of the marriage arrangements.

Judges 8:21

Crescent ornaments were among the valuable items associated with Midianite rulers.

Spiritual Principle

Anything used to create identity apart from God can become a false security.

XIX. JEWELRY WILL NOT PROTECT THEM

Isaiah 3:19 — Earrings, Bracelets, and Veils

“Earrings, bracelets, and veils.”

Isaiah continues listing the outward decorations.

The accumulation emphasizes how much attention had been placed upon appearance.

Cross References

Ezekiel 16:11

God describes adorning Jerusalem with bracelets and jewelry as a picture of the beauty He had given her.

Genesis 24:47

Rebekah received jewelry as part of the marriage arrangement connected with Isaac.

Song of Solomon 1:10

The bride's beauty is praised with imagery involving jewelry and ornaments.

Spiritual Principle

Beautiful things become dangerous when they become sources of pride.

XX. LUXURY CANNOT STOP JUDGMENT

Isaiah 3:20 — Perfume, Chains, and Charms

“Scarves, ankle chains, sashes, perfume bottles, and charms.”

The list continues.

The society has invested heavily in:

Presentation.

Luxury.

Adornment.

But none of it can preserve them when judgment comes.

Cross References

Exodus 35:22

Men and women willingly brought jewelry and valuable objects as offerings for the work of the tabernacle.

Numbers 31:50

Israelites brought jewelry and valuable objects as an offering before the Lord.

Ezekiel 16:12

God describes Jerusalem as being adorned with rings, earrings, and a beautiful crown.

Spiritual Principle

Luxury cannot purchase spiritual security.

XXI. SYMBOLS OF STATUS WILL ALSO BE REMOVED

Isaiah 3:21 — Signet Rings and Nose Rings

“Signet rings and nose rings.”

Signet rings could signify:

Authority.

Identity.

Status.

Yet external symbols cannot protect against inward corruption.

Cross References

Genesis 24:47

Rebekah received a nose ring and bracelets as part of the gifts associated with her future marriage.

Ezekiel 16:12

God describes placing jewelry on Jerusalem as a picture of the favor and beauty He had given.

Genesis 35:4

Jacob’s household surrendered foreign gods and earrings associated with idolatrous practices before returning to worship the Lord.

Spiritual Principle

Even honorable objects can become spiritually dangerous when connected with pride or idolatry.

XXII. EXPENSIVE CLOTHING CANNOT SAVE

Isaiah 3:22 — Fine Robes and Purses

“Fine robes and capes, cloaks and purses.”

The people have concentrated on appearance.

But judgment strips away the appearance of prosperity.

Cross References

1 Peter 3:4

Peter teaches that the deepest beauty should come from the inner person, especially a gentle and peaceful spirit valued by God.

Genesis 45:22

Joseph gave his brothers changes of clothing as generous gifts when he reconciled with them.

2 Kings 5:22

Clothing and silver were requested deceitfully in the account involving Gehazi's greed.

Spiritual Principle

Fine clothing can cover the body.

It cannot cover the soul.

XXIII. OUTWARD APPEARANCE IS TEMPORARY

Isaiah 3:23 — Mirrors, Linen, Turbans, and Shawls

“Mirrors, linen garments, turbans and shawls.”

The list ends with more objects associated with:

Appearance.

Presentation.

Status.

Isaiah is dismantling the illusion that outward appearance determines true worth.

Cross References

Proverbs 31:22

The capable woman prepares quality clothing for her household and is herself clothed with dignity.

Ezekiel 16:13

Jerusalem is pictured as adorned with fine clothing, jewelry, and expensive materials.

Genesis 24:65

Rebekah covered herself appropriately when she learned that Isaac was approaching.

Spiritual Principle

Outward beauty has a place.

It should never replace inward character.

XXIV. BEAUTY IS REPLACED WITH SHAME

Isaiah 3:24 — The Great Reversal

“Instead of fragrance, there will be a stench; instead of a sash, a rope; instead of well-set hair, baldness; instead of fine clothes, sackcloth; instead of beauty, branding.”

The verse is built around reversals.

Fragrance becomes stench.

Sash becomes rope.

Styled hair becomes baldness.

Fine clothing becomes sackcloth.

Beauty becomes shame.

Everything trusted outwardly is reversed.

Cross References

Amos 8:10

God warns that celebration will become mourning and joyful songs will turn into lamentation.

Job 16:15

Job describes wearing sackcloth and sitting in humiliation because of overwhelming suffering.

Joel 1:8

God's people are told to mourn deeply like someone grieving the loss of a beloved relationship.

Spiritual Principle

Pride turns temporary beauty into permanent disappointment.

Key Truth

Anything we worship can become the very thing through which we are humbled.

XXV. THE MEN WILL FALL IN BATTLE

Isaiah 3:25 — Warriors Destroyed

“Your men will fall by the sword, your warriors in battle.”

Military strength collapses.

The nation loses:

Defenders.

Soldiers.

Strong men.

The consequences of rebellion become national tragedy.

Cross References

Jeremiah 15:2

God describes coming judgments including death, sword, famine, and captivity.

Lamentations 2:21

Young and old fall in the streets during Jerusalem's devastation.

Deuteronomy 28:25

God warned Israel that covenant rebellion could cause defeat before enemies.

Spiritual Principle

Human strength cannot guarantee national preservation.

XXVI. ZION SITS DESOLATE

Isaiah 3:26 — The City Mourns

“The gates of Zion will mourn and lament; deserted, she will sit on the ground.”

The chapter ends with Jerusalem personified as a grieving woman.

The once proud city is:

Empty.

Defeated.

Mourning.

Sitting in the dust.

Cross References

Lamentations 1:1

Jerusalem is pictured as lonely and deserted after once being full of people and significance.

Lamentations 2:10

Jerusalem’s elders sit silently on the ground, covered in dust and mourning after the city’s destruction.

Jeremiah 14:2

Judah mourns, its cities languish, and Jerusalem’s cry rises because of distress.

Spiritual Principle

Pride eventually sits where humility could have knelt.

XXVII. EIGHT GREAT LESSONS FROM ISAIAH 3

1. God Can Remove False Supports

Food.

Water.

Leadership.

Security.

Principle:

Never treat God's gifts as though they exist independently of Him.

2. Leadership Matters

When wise leadership disappears, instability spreads.

Principle:

A society suffers when authority lacks wisdom and maturity.

3. Rebellion Produces Disorder

Neighbor turns against neighbor.

Honor disappears.

Principle:

Spiritual disorder eventually becomes social disorder.

4. Open Sin Produces Destruction

Judah flaunts sin like Sodom.

Principle:

Celebrating rebellion does not remove its consequences.

5. God Distinguishes the Righteous from the Wicked

The righteous are told:

It will be well.

The wicked are told:

Woe.

Principle:

Individual faithfulness matters even during widespread corruption.

6. God Judges Corrupt Leadership

The leaders robbed the poor.

Principle:

Authority always comes with accountability.

7. Pride in Outward Beauty Is Temporary

Everything outward can be removed.

Principle:

Build identity upon character and God, not appearance.

8. Human Security Can Collapse Quickly

The chapter ends with:

Defeat.

Loss.

Mourning.

Principle:

God alone provides ultimate security.

XXVIII. WHAT ISAIAH 3 TEACHES ABOUT LEADERSHIP

Leadership affects everyone.

Bad leadership produces:

Confusion.

Oppression.

Instability.

Misguided direction.

God does not treat leadership lightly.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The higher the authority, the greater the responsibility to serve justly.

XXIX. WHAT ISAIAH 3 TEACHES ABOUT SOCIAL ORDER

The chapter describes:

Generational conflict.

Disrespect.

Oppression.

Dishonor.

These are symptoms of deeper spiritual decay.

Spiritual Principle

When truth collapses, relationships often collapse with it.

XXX. WHAT ISAIAH 3 TEACHES ABOUT SIN

Sin is described as:

Open.

Defiant.

Shameless.

Self-destructive.

Verse 9 says:

“They have brought disaster upon themselves.”

Key Truth

Sin often carries consequences within itself.

XXXI. WHAT ISAIAH 3 TEACHES ABOUT THE RIGHTEOUS

Even in a corrupt society, God says:

“It will be well with you.”

That means the righteous should not conclude:

“Everyone else is doing wrong, so faithfulness no longer matters.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God sees faithfulness even when society ignores it.

XXXII. WHAT ISAIAH 3 TEACHES ABOUT THE WICKED

The wicked receive the consequences of their actions.

This is a repeated biblical principle:

Sowing.

Harvest.

Cause.

Effect.

Spiritual Principle

Actions are seeds.

Consequences are harvests.

XXXIII. WHAT ISAIAH 3 TEACHES ABOUT JUSTICE

God directly confronts leaders who:

Exploit.

Plunder.

Crush.

The poor.

God cares deeply about justice.

Key Truth

A society is not righteous merely because it is religious or prosperous.

It must also treat people justly.

XXXIV. WHAT ISAIAH 3 TEACHES ABOUT PRIDE

The daughters of Zion are condemned primarily for:

Haughtiness.

Their outward display reflects inward arrogance.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Pride can wear expensive clothing or poor clothing.

The issue is the heart.

XXXV. WHAT ISAIAH 3 TEACHES ABOUT BEAUTY

Scripture does not condemn beauty.

The problem is:

Making beauty an idol.

Using appearance as identity.

Treating outward attraction as more valuable than inward righteousness.

Spiritual Principle

Outward beauty is temporary.

Godly character has deeper value.

XXXVI. WHAT ISAIAH 3 TEACHES ABOUT FALSE SECURITY

Judah trusted:

Leaders.

Military strength.

Social position.

Material prosperity.

Personal attractiveness.

God shows how quickly all of these can disappear.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never build permanent confidence on temporary supports.

XXXVII. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

What does God remove first in Isaiah 3?

He removes basic provisions and the people upon whom Judah depends for leadership and stability.

Question 2

Why are inexperienced rulers part of the judgment?

Because immature leadership produces instability, poor decisions, and disorder.

Question 3

What happens socially when order collapses?

People oppress one another and traditional respect disappears.

Question 4

Why does no one want to become leader?

The society is so ruined that leadership carries enormous responsibility with little ability to repair the damage.

Question 5

What does verse 9 teach about open sin?

It shows that Judah has become shameless and no longer tries to hide rebellion.

Question 6

Does God forget righteous individuals during national judgment?

No.

He specifically says that it will be well with the righteous.

Question 7

What happens to the wicked?

They receive the consequences of what they have done.

Question 8

Why does God judge Judah's leaders?

Because they mislead the people, exploit the poor, and abuse authority.

Question 9

What is the central problem with the daughters of Zion?

Their outward display reflects inward pride and self-exaltation.

Question 10

Does Isaiah 3 teach that jewelry itself is sinful?

No.

The issue is haughtiness, misplaced identity, luxury, and pride rather than the mere existence of ornamentation.

Question 11

What happens to the things in which they took pride?

They are stripped away and replaced with shame, loss, and mourning.

Question 12

What should Isaiah 3 change in us?

It should teach us to trust God rather than temporary supports, pursue wise leadership, reject pride, defend the vulnerable, and live righteously even in a corrupt culture.

XXXVIII. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Isaiah 3 asks several searching questions.

What Am I Depending On?

Money?

Government?

Leadership?

Career?

Appearance?

Status?

Or God?

Am I Growing in Maturity?

If responsibility increased tomorrow, would my character be ready?

Do I Respect Wisdom and Experience?

Or do I reject good counsel because it challenges me?

Am I Flaunting What God Calls Sin?

Have I become comfortable with something that once convicted me?

Am I Living Righteously Even When Others Do Not?

Does surrounding corruption excuse my compromise?

How Do I Treat People With Less Power?

Do I:

Protect?

Serve?

Ignore?

Exploit?

Is Pride Hiding Behind My Appearance?

How much of my identity depends upon what other people think when they see me?

What Temporary Support Would Devastate Me If God Removed It?

That may reveal where trust has shifted.

XXXIX. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“When a Culture Rejects God’s Order, Disorder Does Not Stay Spiritual”

Isaiah 3 begins with rebellion.

Then come:

Leadership problems.

Economic shortages.

Social conflict.

Oppression.

Pride.

Military defeat.

National mourning.

Principle:

Spiritual rebellion eventually produces consequences throughout life.

XL. WHEN LEADERS MISLEAD

Verse 12 says:

“Your leaders mislead you.”

Leadership has enormous influence.

A leader can:

Clarify the path.

Or:

Confuse it.

A leader can:

Protect people.

Or:

Exploit them.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never judge leadership only by charisma.

Judge it by truth, character, justice, and fruit.

XLI. GOD’S CONCERN FOR THE POOR

The strongest language against leadership concerns:

The poor.

God says:

“You have ruined My vineyard.”

“You have crushed My people.”

God sees exploitation.

Spiritual Principle

People society overlooks are never invisible to God.

XLII. THE DANGER OF SHAMELESS SIN

Verse 9 says:

“They flaunt their sin like Sodom.”

There is a difference between:

Falling into sin.

And:

Boasting in sin.

One is failure.

The other is hardened rebellion.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When sin stops producing conviction and starts producing pride, spiritual danger has greatly increased.

XLIII. THE RIGHTEOUS IN A CORRUPT CULTURE

Verse 10 provides hope.

God says:

“It will be well with you.”

The righteous do not need ideal circumstances in order to remain righteous.

Joseph lived righteously in Egypt.

Daniel lived faithfully in Babylon.

Believers can remain faithful in difficult cultures.

Spiritual Principle

Your environment influences you.

It does not have to determine you.

XLIV. OUTWARD BEAUTY AND INNER CHARACTER

Isaiah spends many verses describing ornaments.

Why?

Because outward presentation had become tied to:

Pride.

Identity.

Status.

God strips the illusion away.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The mirror shows your appearance.

God sees your character.

Care about both, but never confuse which matters most eternally.

XLV. THE GREAT REVERSAL

Verse 24 repeats:

Instead of.

Instead of.

Instead of.

God reverses their pride.

Fragrance becomes stench.

Fine clothing becomes sackcloth.

Beauty becomes shame.

Spiritual Principle

Anything exalted above God can become an instrument of humiliation.

XLVI. WHEN A CITY SITS IN THE DUST

The chapter ends with Zion:

Mourning.

Deserted.

Sitting on the ground.

This is the opposite of:

Pride.

Luxury.

Security.

God has brought the nation low.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Humility chosen before God is far better than humiliation forced by consequences.

XLVII. FINAL APPLICATION

Isaiah Chapter 3 is a warning about what happens when the foundations of a society weaken.

The people have rejected God.

Then the supports begin disappearing.

Food.

Water.

Leadership.

Wisdom.

Social order.

Honor.

Justice.

Military strength.

The chapter teaches us:

Do not assume stability is permanent.

Do not assume good leadership will always be present.

Do not assume prosperity cannot disappear.

Do not assume cultural order can survive indefinitely when truth is rejected.

But Isaiah also speaks directly to individuals.

To the righteous:

“It will be well with you.”

To the wicked:

“Woe.”

That means we are personally responsible.

We cannot say:

“Everyone else is doing it.”

“Society has changed.”

“My leaders failed.”

God still sees individual choices.

Isaiah also confronts leaders.

If God gives you authority:

Use it to serve.

Do not exploit.

Do not mislead.

Do not crush people to enrich yourself.

Remember:

The people under your authority belong to God.

Finally, Isaiah confronts pride.

Beauty fades.

Clothing changes.

Jewelry disappears.

Status can vanish.

The things people use to make themselves feel superior can disappear in a moment.

Therefore:

Build your life on something deeper.

Character.

Humility.

Justice.

Faithfulness.

Truth.

God.

Do not wait until God removes your false securities to discover that they were never secure.

Do not wait until pride becomes humiliation.

Choose humility now.

Do not wait until society becomes unstable to value wise leadership.

Honor truth now.

Do not wait until sin produces destruction to call sin what God calls it.

Repent now.

And when culture around you becomes confused:

Remain faithful.

Because God still says:

“Tell the righteous, ‘It will be well with you.’”

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for reminding us that every good support in life ultimately comes from You.

Forgive us for trusting in:

Money.

Leadership.

Strength.

Appearance.

Status.

Human institutions.

More than we trust You.

Give us wisdom to recognize how dependent we are upon Your mercy.

Father, raise up wise and righteous leaders.

Give those in authority:

Humility.

Discernment.

Courage.

Integrity.

Compassion.

Justice.

Protect us from leaders who mislead, exploit, and confuse.

And if You give us any authority, help us use it faithfully.

Teach us to serve rather than dominate.

Protect the poor.

Defend the vulnerable.

Care for those who have little power.

Father, search our hearts for pride.

If appearance has become an idol, humble us.

If possessions have become identity, correct us.

If praise from others controls us, free us.

Give us the inner beauty of:

Holiness.

Humility.

Kindness.

Faithfulness.

Wisdom.

Father, keep us from shameless sin.

Never let our hearts become so hardened that we boast about what should bring us to repentance.

Keep our consciences tender.

When we sin, convict us.

When You convict us, help us repent.

Strengthen righteous people living in corrupt times.

Remind them that You still see them.

Help them remain faithful when:

Leadership fails.

Culture changes.

Truth is mocked.

Sin is celebrated.

Give them courage.

And Father, let us never forget:

All human supports are temporary.

You alone are eternal.

May our confidence rest in You.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Key Verse

“Tell the righteous, ‘It will be well with you, for you will enjoy the reward of your deeds.’ Woe to the wicked! Disaster is upon them. They will be paid back for what their hands have done.” — Isaiah 3:10–11

Central Truth

When people reject God, leadership deteriorates, justice is corrupted, social order weakens, pride increases, and false securities collapse; yet God sees each person, judges corrupt leaders, defends the vulnerable, honors righteousness, and brings wickedness to account.

Isaiah 3 in One Sentence

Isaiah warns that Judah’s rebellion will strip away food, leadership, social order, wealth, beauty, and military security while showing that God judges corrupt rulers, humbles pride, protects the vulnerable, and still promises that it will be well with those who remain righteous.