

ANOTHER OUTLINE OF CHAPTERS 2-4 (DORSEY 1999: 218)

Pride and judgment (Isaiah 2-4)

- a **future exaltation of Jerusalem**—mountain of Yahweh (2:2-5)
 - b **possessions of proud men**: pride and idolatry (2:6-9)
 - c **future humiliation of Israel's proud men** (2:10-22)
 - d **CENTER: coming judgment upon Jerusalem** (3:1-15)
 - c' **future humiliation of Israel's proud women** (3:17-17[?])
 - b' **possessions of proud women**: list of proud finery to be removed (3:18-4:1)
- a' **future restoration of Jerusalem**—mountain of Zion (4:2-6)

QUOTATIONS

“The segment 3:1-4:1 follows upon 2:6-22 by giving particulars of the general statements given there. It continues the contrast between the high and the lowly by depicting in concrete and graphic language the foolishness of depending upon human leadership and human glory. Such dependence must ultimately have disastrous effects. In place of the ‘great’ men which the nation had adulated, expecting them to do miracles on its behalf, it will be ruled by incompetents and wastrels. In place of all their glory, there will be shame and loss. Thus..., 2:6-4:1 support a single point: dependence upon humanity will not lead to a realization of the destiny depicted in 2:1-5. In fact, it leads in a diametrically opposite direction: to dissolution” (Oswalt 1986: 130).

“In 3:6 the men ‘take hold of’ a man, seeking a ruler, in 4:1 the women *take hold of* a man, seeking a husband. The men placed reliance on worldly social strength only to find such reliance always perishes for want of people fit to rely on; the women gave their all to allurements only to find that in the end there were no takers. How well Isaiah began this section with the call to refuse to put trust in man (2:22)!” (Motyer 1993: 64).

“This passage provides a clear understanding of one of God’s ways of dealing with pride. He hates, even loathes, pride and arrogance in his people. He will eventually remove those things that cause or encourage an attitude of pride. This passage challenges people to test their own heart to see if that tattoo, that new pair of shoes, that new job, that new house or the purchase of that new car was motivated by pride or if it will result in a prideful attitude. Although pride differs from self-esteem, the concern for my rights, my opinions, my way, and my honor is a sign of a sick self-centered society that fails to give complete honor and glory to God....If people (male or female) do not exalt God, but exalt themselves, how can they expect to be treated any differently than the women of Zion?” (Smith 2007: 153).

SOURCES CITED

- David A. Dorsey, *The Literary Structure of the Old Testament*, 1999.
J. Alec Motyer, *The Prophecy of Isaiah*, 1993.
John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 1-39*, NICOT, 1986.
Gary V. Smith, *Isaiah 1-39*, New American Commentary, 2007.

ISAIAH 3

Isaiah 3:1-4:1 (NIV)

- 3 See now, the Lord,
the LORD Almighty,
is about to take from Jerusalem and Judah
both supply and support:
all supplies of food and all supplies of water,
2 the hero and warrior,
the judge and prophet,
the soothsayer and elder,
3 the captain of fifty and man of rank,
the counselor, skilled craftsman and clever enchanter.
- 4 I will make boys their officials;
mere children will govern them.
5 People will oppress each other—
man against man, neighbor against neighbor.
The young will rise up against the old,
the base against the honorable.
- 6 A man will seize one of his brothers
at his father’s home, and say,
“You have a cloak, you be our leader;
take charge of this heap of ruins!”
7 But in that day he will cry out,
“I have no remedy.
I have no food or clothing in my house;
do not make me the leader of the people.”
- 8 Jerusalem staggers,
Judah is falling;
their words and deeds are against the LORD,
defying his glorious presence.
9 The look on their faces testifies against them;
they parade their sin like Sodom;
they do not hide it.
Woe to them!
They have brought disaster upon themselves.
- 10 Tell the righteous it will be well with them,
for they will enjoy the fruit of their deeds.
11 Woe to the wicked! Disaster is upon them!
They will be paid back for what their hands have done.
- 12 Youths oppress my people,
women rule over them.

OUTLINE

O my people, your guides lead you astray;
they turn you from the path.

¹³ The LORD takes his place in court;
he rises to judge the people.

¹⁴ The LORD enters into judgment
against the elders and leaders of his people:
“It is you who have ruined my vineyard;
the plunder from the poor is in your houses.

¹⁵ What do you mean by crushing my people
and grinding the faces of the poor?”
declares the Lord, the LORD Almighty.

¹⁶ The LORD says,
“The women of Zion are haughty,
walking along with outstretched necks,
flirting with their eyes,
tripping along with mincing steps,
with ornaments jingling on their ankles.

¹⁷ Therefore the Lord will bring sores on the heads of the women of
Zion;
the LORD will make their scalps bald.”

¹⁸ In that day the Lord will snatch away their finery: the bangles and
headbands and crescent necklaces, ¹⁹ the earrings and bracelets and veils,
²⁰ the headdresses and ankle chains and sashes, the perfume bottles and
charms, ²¹ the signet rings and nose rings, ²² the fine robes and the capes
and cloaks, the purses ²³ and mirrors, and the linen garments and tiaras
and shawls.

²⁴ Instead of fragrance there will be a stench;
instead of a sash, a rope;
instead of well-dressed hair, baldness;
instead of fine clothing, sackcloth;
instead of beauty, branding.

²⁵ Your men will fall by the sword,
your warriors in battle.

²⁶ The gates of Zion will lament and mourn;
destitute, she will sit on the ground.

4 In that day seven women
will take hold of one man
and say, “We will eat our own food
and provide our own clothes;
only let us be called by your name.
Take away our disgrace!”

A. REMOVAL OF MAN’S ESSENTIALS (VV. 1-7)

B. PUBLIC SIN OF THE MEN (VV. 8-9)

C. JUDGMENT ON JERUSALEM (VV. 10-15)

B’ . PUBLIC SIN OF THE WOMEN (VV. 16)

A’ . REMOVAL OF WOMEN’S LUXURIES (3:17-4:1)