

**Isaiah 3:1-4**  
**January 7, 2018**

**Open with Prayer**

**HOOK:**

I have a feeling that we will be well served to wipe away any cobwebs that may have formed since we last studied Isaiah! So as a courtesy refresher, Isaiah reminded his readers that they can have all the wealth in the world, have seats in high places, have the strongest military on the planet earth, and have the strongest economy or commerce globally, but NONE of these things will keep them safe for the end time! The Lord is targeting the proud and lofty, and their day is coming. And the message we were to take from it is to **stop trusting in man and in things.**

**Transition:** There is an “**Or else**” that Isaiah conveys to Judah. He presents specific CONSEQUENCES coming their way. Lastly, I don’t want this to be all doom and gloom because there is a reward for the righteous. So, here’s our encouragement. All of us CAN avoid the CONSEQUENCES of disobedience to God BY maintaining an attitude of humility in our relationship to God. Otherwise, we become vulnerable to developing pride, which brings about harsh consequences from the Lord. Let’s see what those consequences can look like. Let’s begin.

**BOOK (NIV 1984):**

V.1:

- 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,

V.2:

- the hero and warrior, the judge and prophet, the soothsayer and elder,

V.3:

- the captain of fifty and man of rank, the counselor, skilled craftsman and clever enchanter.

V.4:

- I will make boys their officials; mere children will govern them.

**Process Observations/Questions:**

Q V.1: What is the first consequence Jerusalem and Judah will face? [The Lord will take away all food supplies and water]

Q: Does this feel too radical? If yes, why do you think the Lord had to go to this level of discipline? [His covenant people were openly sinning and placed their trust everywhere else but Him. He wanted them to start trusting Him alone for their provisions.]

Q V.2: What is the next consequence? [The Lord will remove the hero, the warrior, the judge, the prophet, the soothsayer, and the elder.]

Q: What does the hero and warrior have in common? [They were soldiers. Their reputation most likely developed through times of war. The hero and warrior were credited with military strength.]

Q: Why do you think the Lord was offended? [He should have received the credit, not man.]

Q: What does the judge and prophet have in common? [Both were leaders. The judge was a civil leader and the prophet was considered a religious leader who represented God and His values.]

Q: Why do you think that that God had to remove the judge and prophet? [God's people placed their trust in men, not Him.]

Q: What does the soothsayer and an elder have in common? [They both gave advice and counsel. People considered them wise.]

Q: Again, why do you think the Lord was offended? [People weren't ultimately trusting in His wisdom.]

Q: Let's zoom out and take a bigger picture look at this. Is the Lord saying we shouldn't have judges or prophets or heroes or elders? [No. In fact the Lord has given each of these people a trust. But when they abuse that trust and people start leaning on them, that's when it becomes problematic.]

Q: How do you know when you've misplaced your trust with men and women in leadership vs God? After all, God helps put people in leadership. [Let people engage.]

Q V.3: Who else will the Lord remove? [the captain of fifty and man of rank, the counselor, skilled craftsman and clever enchanter. Prohibited – Deut 18:10-14; Isa 47:12 reflects Babylonians trusting in enchanters.]

Q: The Lord has added to the list of who He's targeting. Why these men? [Again, people were placing trust in those who represented their military might, those who could provide counsel and advice, and those who had special skillsets.]

Q V.4: Once the Lord removes these leaders, there will be a void. How will the Lord fill it? [He will put boys/children in their places and let them govern!]

Q: Does that make anybody's head spin?! I bet most of us are thinking that children aren't equipped to govern for lack of maturity. What should we take from this? Why not replace these leaders with new, adult leaders who could do a better job? [Let people engage. The Lord will purposely allow those who are foolish, weak and inexperienced to lead His people in place of those who were considered wise and mighty.]

**LOOK:**

*God has the power to take away anything and everything you have.*

**Close in Prayer**

**Commentaries for Today's Lesson:**

**Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *Be Comforted* (pp. 24–25). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.**

(2) *How will God judge His people?* By taking away from them everything they were trusting, including food and water, leaders and soldiers, and judges and prophets (3:1–15) The entire support system of the nation would disintegrate, and there would be no remedy. Nobody would want to hold office except women and children. (In Judah's male-dominated society, this would be a humiliating calamity.) The national leaders in Isaiah's day were charting a course that was out of the will of God and would ultimately bring disaster, but the righteous remnant would be protected by God (vv. 10–12).

**Martin, J. A. (1985). *Isaiah*. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, pp. 1039–1040). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.**

*c. Judgment on Judah for her actions (3:1–15)*

Having affirmed in broad terms (2:9–21) that judgment would come, Isaiah gave examples of present sins in the nation that needed to be judged by God.

3:1–7. God would **take away from ... Judah** any semblance of good government and replace it with a sense of futility. Because of her sin **the LORD** would take away all the supplies and people on which she relied: **food** and **water** (v. 1), soldiers (v. 2), civil (**judge**) and religious (**prophet**) leaders (v. 2), wise people (v. 2), military leaders (v. 3a), and skilled workers (v. 3b). The fact that Isaiah included **the soothsayer** (v. 2) and the **clever enchanter** (v. 3) in this list does not mean he was endorsing them. He was merely noting those on whom the nation was depending for survival and security. The Mosaic Covenant prohibited involvement in soothsaying and enchanting (Deut. 18:10–14). Isaiah himself wrote about Babylon trusting in this kind of activity (Isa. 47:12).

In contrast with these people who were considered wise and mighty the Lord would raise up foolish, weak leadership. Inexperienced **boys** and **children** (3:4; cf. Ecc. 10:16) would be unable to stop oppression and conflict (Isa. 3:5).