

REVIVAL OR RUIN BY REVOLUTION

TEXT: *Isaiah 3:8: For Jerusalem is ruined, and Judah is fallen: because their tongue and their doings are against the LORD, to provoke the eyes of His glory.*

INTRODUCTION:

Judgment must begin at the House of God! **1 Peter 4:17**

1 Peter 4:17: For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the Gospel of God?

The worst thing about the corruption of Judah was that the people tried to cover it up with a cloak of self-righteousness, having regular assemblies without inward worship. They wore out the courts of the temple making prescribed sacrifices. A religion of works can never change one's heart. Their hearts were not right with God, nor were their actions right toward men.

**A religion of works
can never change
one's heart.**

Isaiah, condemning the hypocrisy of the people, prophesied destruction.

I. CALAMITY FOLLOWS

- A. Civic leaders to be removed
- B. Military leaders to be removed
- C. Religious leaders to be removed
- D. Craftsmen to be removed
- E. The smooth oily-tongued false prophets exposed

Romans 16:18: For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus

Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

2 Peter 2:3: And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

Jude 1:12: These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;

Jude 1:16: These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

F. Leaderless people – Anarchy

Isaiah 3:5: And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his neighbour, the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honorable.

Proverbs 14:34: Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.

Only pure religion and a pure heart make a happy, healthy nation, home, and church.

II. GOD'S CONCERN FOR THE INDIVIDUAL

Isaiah 3:13: The LORD standeth up to plead, and standeth to judge the people.

- A. Even in the confusion resulting from gross apostasy, God sees the individual in the crowd, and knows the wicked from the righteous.



- B. God knows, and then does something about it. He will not carelessly or

coldly let us go to our doom.

1. He is Persistent

He will not condone or excuse sin, or sign a truce with it.

2. He is Powerful

He will work His Will.

3. He is Patient

He stands ready to give opportunity to individuals to return to Him.

III. THE CHURCH TODAY — LIKE JUDAH OF OLD — IS RIPE FOR JUDGMENT

A. Too often we find lacking in present churches:

1. True, devout, personal worship of God.
2. Ritual and entertainment prevailing more than the preaching of the Word.
3. False teaching, diluting the truth, streamlining the Gospel.
4. Dependence upon man instead of upon God. Therefore people are more concerned about pleasing men — upon whom they depend — than they are about pleasing God.
5. Men are ambitious to get glory for themselves.
6. Church members are self-indulgent instead of self-sacrificing. (Fasting is almost a lost vital part of church life!)
7. Materialism and immorality are tolerated.
8. Ministers are inclined to say what people *want* to hear instead of what they *need* to hear.



B. To be God's people is a sacred trust.

Like Judah and like Israel, judgment will not be withheld from the church. God will not allow us to become a stumbling block to those around us.

CONCLUSION:

Judgments are foretold in the Bible, and they must be heeded.

Revelation 2:22: Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

1 Peter 4:17: For the time is come that judgment must begin at the House of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the Gospel of God?

Also read **Ezekiel Chapter 9**

But God's grace provides us a means of escape of final judgment. Even members of apostate churches are accorded the generous invitation given to the Laodiceans:

Revelation 3:20-21:

²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.

²¹ To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame and am set down with My Father in His throne.



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Judgment will fall on the apostate church, but grace is extended to the individual who will respond to open the door of his heart to the Living Lord. If you leave Jesus outside of your heart, there is something bad or wrong inside. If you leave Jesus outside too long, He will depart from you forever. Then your end will be outer darkness where there will be weeping, wailing, and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 8:12: But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 24:51: And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.



Matthew 13:42: And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

God grant that many who are in spiritually-dead churches will hear the call of the Saviour and will open the door of their heart to Jesus, and invite Him in!

***Revive us again; fill each heart with Thy love
May each soul be rekindled with fire from above
Hallelujah! Thine the glory
Hallelujah! Amen
Hallelujah! Thine the glory
Revive us again!***

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