

- 16 against all the ships of Tarshish,
and against all the beautiful craft.
- 17 And the haughtiness of man shall be humbled,
and the lofty pride of men shall be
brought low,
and the LORD alone will be exalted in
that day.
- 18 And the idols shall utterly pass away.
- 19 And people shall enter the caves of the rocks
and the holes of the ground,
from before the terror of the LORD,
and from the splendor of his majesty,
when he rises to terrify the earth.
- 20 In that day mankind will cast away
their idols of silver and their idols of gold,
which they made for themselves to worship,
to the moles and to the bats,
- 21 to enter the caverns of the rocks
and the clefts of the cliffs,
from before the terror of the LORD,
and from the splendor of his majesty,
when he rises to terrify the earth.
- 22 Stop regarding man
in whose nostrils is breath,
for of what account is he?

Judgment on Judah and Jerusalem

3 For behold, the Lord GOD of hosts
is taking away from Jerusalem and from Judah

- 18 THE GODS OF THE PEOPLE WILL BE USELESS. WITH THE JUDGMENT OF MAN COMES THE SWEEPING AWAY OF ANY HOPE THEY HAVE IN THEIR FALSE GODS.
- 19 THIS IMAGE IS USED BY JESUS TO SHOW HOW SINNERS WILL FLEE FROM GOD. ALSO USED IN REV. TO SHOW HOW SINNERS TRY AND HIDE FROM THE JUDGMENT OF GOD. THIS IMAGE IS REPEATED IN VS. 21
- 20 THE IDOLS WILL BE SEEN AS USELESS AND WILL BE CAST ASIDE IN JUDGMENT OF GOD. MEN WILL LEAVE THEIR IDOLS AND FLEE TO TRY AND HIDE FROM THE JUDGMENT OF GOD.
- 1 GOD IS COMPLETELY WITHDRAWING HIS SUPPORT. THIS IS BOTH PHYSICAL NEEDS VS. 1 AND ANY LEADERSHIP OR WISDOM HE COULD HAVE PROVIDED. EVEN THE BASICS OF BREAD AND WATER ARE REMOVED.

support and supply,
 all support of bread,
 and all support of water;
 2 the mighty man and the soldier,
 the judge and the prophet,
 the diviner and the elder,
 3 the captain of fifty
 and the man of rank,
 the counselor and the skillful magician
 and the expert in charms.
 4 And I will make boys their princes,
 and infants shall rule over them.
 5 And the people will oppress one another,
 every one his fellow
 and every one his neighbor;
 the youth will be insolent to the elder,
 and the despised to the honorable.
 6 For a man will take hold of his brother
 in the house of his father, saying:
 "You have a cloak;
 you shall be our leader,
 and this heap of ruins
 shall be under your rule";
 7 in that day he will speak out, saying:
 "I will not be a healer;
 in my house there is neither bread nor
 cloak;
 you shall not make me
 leader of the people."

4 The leaders are replaced with incompetent individuals who will oppress them (vs 5).
 5-9 Because of their sin and God's withdrawal this new leadership will result in anarchy. Any fool will be chosen as their leader (vs 6). While God will refuse to lead or heal them in any way. They go so far as to no longer hide their sins but openly flaunt their wickedness (vs 9).

8 For Jerusalem has stumbled,
and Judah has fallen,
because their speech and their deeds are against the
LORD,
defying his glorious presence.

9 For the look on their faces bears witness against them;
they proclaim their sin like Sodom;
they do not hide it.

Woe to them!

For they have brought evil on themselves.

10 Tell the righteous that it shall be well with them,
for they shall eat the fruit of their deeds.

11 Woe to the wicked! It shall be ill with him,
for what his hands have dealt out shall be done
to him.

12 My people—infants are their oppressors,
and women rule over them.

O my people, your guides mislead you
and they have swallowed up the course of your paths.

13 The LORD has taken his place to contend;
he stands to judge peoples.

14 The LORD will enter into judgment
with the elders and princes of his people:

"It is you who have devoured the vineyard,
the spoil of the poor is in your houses.

15 What do you mean by crushing (my people)
by grinding the face of the poor?"

declares the Lord GOD of hosts.

8 How ironic that the people call by God's name refuse to even speak His name. Everything they do is the opposite of what a people of God should do. IN ACTION and word THEIR LINE SHOW A COMPLETE REJECTION OF GOD.

9. They are openly wicked, hiding nothing. They are the witness against themselves before God. Sodom is a reference to sexual sinfulness being openly accepted in everyday life. THE LGBT Lifestyle would have been openly accepted in that time too. Children would have been the final target of such a hedonistic lifestyle. DEPRAVITY was the norm.

10-11 The fate of the righteous will be much different than the wicked. The righteous are surrounded by the wicked but still under God's protection. They are rewarded for righteous lives. The wicked reap what they sow. Evil will be repaid with evil.

12 Instead of obeying God they will follow sinful leaders. This will lead them to destruction and hopelessness.

13 Through it all God is in His place waiting to judge.

14 God sees what is really happening. He is completely aware of what they are doing to helpless widows. Nothing is hidden and everything will be dealt with.

15 The poor are also the weak and those most often preyed upon. Instead of helping them they are victims of evil men. God is not deaf, and God is not blind. He hears the cries of the oppressed, especially those who are called by His name (my people), and sees their affliction. His patience must not be confused with approval or indifference. He will act.

THE LIVES OF SINFUL WOMEN EXPOSED

16 The LORD said:
 Because the daughters of Zion are haughty
 and walk with outstretched necks,
 glancing wantonly with their eyes,
 mincing along as they go,
 tinkling with their feet,
 17 therefore the Lord will strike with a scab
 the heads of the daughters of Zion,
 and the LORD will lay bare their secret parts.

18 In that day the Lord will take away the finery of the anklets,
 the headbands, and the crescents; 19 the pendants, the brace-
 lets, and the scarves; 20 the headdresses, the armlets, the sashes,
 the perfume boxes, and the amulets; 21 the signet rings and nose
 rings; 22 the festal robes, the mantles, the cloaks, and the hand-
 bags; 23 the mirrors, the linen garments, the turbans, and the veils.

24 Instead of perfume there will be rotteness;
 and instead of a belt, a rope;
 and instead of well-set hair, baldness;
 and instead of a rich robe, a skirt of sackcloth;
 and branding instead of beauty.

25 Your men shall fall by the sword
 and your mighty men in battle.

26 And her gates shall lament and mourn;
 empty, she shall sit on the ground.

4 And seven women shall take hold of one man in that day, say-
 ing, "We will eat our own bread and wear our own clothes,
 only let us be called by your name; take away our reproach."

3:16 thru 4:1 Judah's Women sinfulness and Punishment. When the
 morals of women/mothers is corrupted the moral character of the nation
 has gone completely rotten. Without moral women to raise the children
 all hope of the future is lost. (see also Amos 4:1-3)

16-17 There sinfulness is contrasted with the Lord's rejection and
 punishment. Here women are specifically condemned.

18-23 A LIST OF WHAT WILL BE REMOVED FROM THEM. THESE
 symbols of sinful pride represent their turning away from God.
 They have replaced a relationship w/God w/material possessions.

24 what is coming will replace their possessions w/suffering & pain.

25 The men defeated and dead the women will be left to suffer
 at the hands of their enemies. This reference to "her" also
 shows what happens to Jerusalem because of sin.

26 They shall be driven from the cities, left to set in mourning
 and wails lamenting death, defeat, and suffering present and
 coming. This is payment for their own sinfulness.

1 Destitute and alone they will seek husbands. To have a family
 they will carry the burden of supporting themselves.