

**Isaiah 3,4****3-11-04****“Come Under His Canopy!”****1. Intro:**

- 1.1. **Good evening!** - This is our 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday night **live**, so let’s give a warm welcome to our listening audience on 88.9 tonight!
- 1.2. Isaiah continues w/his list of **punishments** which will fall on Jerusalem & Judea.
  - 1.2.1. He 1<sup>st</sup> deals with the **leaders**, then with the **women**(vs.16 on).
- 1.3. **Outline:** How to Sack a City; & how to Save a City!

**2. HOW TO SACK A CITY! (ch.3,4)**

- 2.1. **DISINTEGRATION!** (3:1-7)
- 2.2. (1-3) **Judah’s problem...Trusting in substitutes!**
  - 2.2.1. **Isaiah lists:** natural resources, material wealth, military might, political experience, & even “religion”.
  - 2.2.2. Everything that makes for a stable society will soon be removed by Divine action! (even leadership he removes & appoints)
  - 2.2.3. **Takes away**(1) - proves He has **constant control** over it!
  - 2.2.4. God will **take away** anything that has **dethroned Him** in the hearts of His people!
    - 2.2.4.1. Here even their **basic staples**...life, bread, & water.
  - 2.2.5. **Q: Who sits on the throne**(you, or the Lord, or someone else) **in each of the areas in your life?** [*throne=the control center of your life*]
    - 2.2.5.1. **Q:** Who sits on your **decision making** throne? Your dating throne? Your financial throne? Your relationship throne?
  - 2.2.6. **Explain the diff between the Natural man, the Spiritual man, & the Carnal man**(all found in 1 Cor.2:14-3:3)<sup>1</sup>
    - 2.2.6.1. **Natural man** – Circle w/**you on the throne**, & Christ **outside** of the circle.
      - 2.2.6.1.1.[He never received Christ, He seeks entrance]
    - 2.2.6.2. **Spiritual man** - Circle w/Christ now **in the circle**, & **on** the throne.
      - 2.2.6.2.1.[This man invited Christ in, & allows Him to direct & empower his life]

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<sup>1</sup> This section is taken from One-to-One discipleship.

- 2.2.6.3. **Carnal man** - Circle w/Christ **in the circle**, but **not** on the throne.  
 2.2.6.3.1.[he has received Christ but lives in defeat]
- 2.2.7. A Christian becomes carnal when he/she develops an attitude of running his own life rather than allowing Christ to do so.  
 2.2.7.1. "You do not become carnal simply by **committing sins**, but by refusing to confess your sins & allowing God to fill you once again w/His Spirit."<sup>2</sup>  
 2.2.7.2. We are to be continually filled w/the H.S.(i.e. controlled by, or empowered by Him)
- 2.2.8. **A Paradox** - The Christian life is very simple. Yet, it is so difficult that **no one** can live it! **Why?** Because the Christian life is a **supernatural life!** And the only one that can live it is Christ!
- 2.2.9. **Q: Ok, so what do I do? Learn Spiritual Breathing!**  
 2.2.9.1. **Exhale – Confess.** [If you retake the throne of your life, thru sin, breathe spiritually]  
 2.2.9.1.1.1<sup>st</sup> **Confess/exhale**(homologeo)=suggests agreement w/God concerning our sins]  
 2.2.9.1.2. **{a}** Agree that it is sin **{b}** Agree He has forgiven you **{c}** Agree to change your attitude toward your sin.  
 2.2.9.2. **Inhale – appropriate by faith.**  
 2.2.9.2.1. Now inhale by appropriating the filling of God's Spirit by faith.  
 2.2.9.2.2. Trust him to direct & empower you.
- 2.3. (4-8) Not only does he remove **food & water supplies** but also those in **positions of leadership**. They are **weaklings, nobodies, w/o ability, who would oppress the people.**  
 2.3.1. **The result?** Children are left to fill governing roles.  
 2.3.1.1. Like young Absalom with his young leaders.  
 2.3.2. **Other results?** Anarchy & greater exploitation of the weak.  
 2.3.3. Notice the main complaint of **Haiti** was "*the leadership of our country is stealing from us*". So they revolt, & many turn to looting their own people & shops???
- 2.4. **CAUSE & CONSEQUENCE!** (3:8-15)  
 2.5. (8) **Their tongue & their doings** – What they **say** & what they **do!**  
 2.5.1. i.e. They not only **sinned(doings)** but **boasted** about it(**tongue**).  
 2.5.2. **Their doings!** – It is a **practical** problem.  
 2.5.3. **Are against the Lord!** – It is a **spiritual** problem!

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<sup>2</sup> ibid; pg.43

- 2.6. (9) They declare(*parade* NIV) their sin as Sodom...they do not hide it.  
 2.6.1. Sin is no longer **sin**...it is the **new morality**!  
 2.6.1.1. And thus it is that a society collapses.
- 2.7. (10) Say to the righteous that “it **shall be well**” with them –  
 2.7.1. The righteous are not promised immunity to earth’s troubles!  
 2.7.1.1. But nevertheless...**it shall be well with them!**  
 2.7.1.2. In all conditions, in all circumstances.  
 2.7.1.3. Well fed, well clothed, well housed, well married, well provided for, well endowed, well upon divine authority...  
 2.7.2. Spurgeon, “O beloved, if God declares that **all is well**, 10,000 devils may declare it to be **ill**, but we laugh them all to scorn.”  
 2.7.3. Q: What can you apply that to today in your life? Anything seem to not be going to well in your life today? **It shall be well saint!**
- 2.8. (13-15) Here is a vignette of a **courtroom** scene.  
 2.8.1. The Judge takes His seat; & then brings the charge against the accused.
- 2.9. **Crushing**(means the most severest maltreatment)& **grinding**(as in a mill)
- 2.10. **The poor** - These vss are equally applicable to our lives today.  
 2.10.1. How have **you** fulfilled Mt.25:34-40 this week?  
 2.10.2. How might you?
- 2.11. **THE WOMEN OF ZION!** (3:16-4:1)
- 2.12. The women of the land became addicted to wealth & fashion.  
 2.12.1. They were more interested in **social status** than **spiritual character!**  
 2.12.2. They used everything at their disposal, every **art & ornament** to be sexually attractive.
- 2.13. (24) Those who paraded their wealth w/pride will suffer the shame of being treated like **cattle** in captivity.
- 2.14. (26) The day would come when they find their artificial glamour gone, & be left just sitting in the dust!  
 2.14.1.1. **1<sup>st</sup> Jr.High Retreat – Circle J Ranch! Camp Pendleton**  
 Tent(no floor); Jr. high girls w/sleeping bag in the dirt...& their **make-up bags** sitting next to them.
- 2.15. Isaiah’s words are just as relevant in our society w/its emphasis on accumulating wealth & materialistic values.

- 2.15.1. As Christians, we need to re-examine our own **attitudes & lifestyles**, our **concern** for the poor & suffering.
- 2.16. (4:1) Many men would die in the coming war that the women would do anything to get a husband.
- 2.16.1. Remember, in their society if a women wasn't able to find a husband, they were objects of shame; now these proud women faced lives of disgrace.
- 2.17. **Ch.3's warning?** - Beware of living on substitutes!

### 3. **HOW TO SAVE A CITY! (4:2-6)**

- 3.1. **SOCIETY RESTORED!** (4:2-6)
- 3.2. Isaiah expects to things in the future **A City & A Savior!**
- 3.3. (2) **The branch of the Lord** –
- 3.3.1. In **Jeremiah** he was **David's Branch**(His humanity);  
**Isaiah** points the fact He is **the Lord's Branch**(his Divinity).
- 3.4. (3) **Holy** – i.e. **altered** in **status** & **transformed** in **character**.
- 3.5. (4) **Washed & Purged** – ghfg
- 3.6. (5) **Every dwelling place** – Every home will be a “*tabernacle of God*”!
- 3.6.1. i.e. the cloud/day & fire/night(His presence).
- 3.6.2. **Q: Is yours now?**
- 3.7. (5b) **Covering** = **canopy**(ηπ/ξυ){huppa}
- 3.7.1. In the old Tab days the Lord was present but His tent was **closed** to them. **Not so any longer!** He invites them under his bridal canopy
- 3.7.2. This is the bridal canopy in the Jewish wedding festivity.
- 3.7.3. Usually made of ornamented satin, or velvet, supported by 4 poles.
- 3.7.4. The huppa symbolizes the new Jewish home that the couple creates together.
- 3.7.4.1. The Lord says, “**Come under My canopy!**”
- 3.7.5. **As He was Jonah's gourd...He is:** our shade, our refuge, our shelter, our strong tower, our protector, our awning, our shelter, our covering, our patio cover, our roof, our umbrella, our haven, our sanctuary, our asylum, our envelope, our safe,...
- 3.7.6. **T or F** – “In Christ the sons of Adam boast more blessings than their father lost?” [from **Issac Watts**, Jesus shall reign where'er the sun]

- 3.7.6.1. **YES! – A resounding Yes!** (Not visits from God in the cool of the garden...but constant companionship never to be interrupted!)
- 3.8. (6) **Shade, refuge, shelter –**
- 3.8.1. **Q: Why should we wait for these blessings when God can give them to us now?**
- 3.8.1.1. He will **wash us clean; set us apart;** & bless us in our homes w/**His presence.**
- 3.8.2. Vance Havner said, **“We should start living “in kingdom come!””**
- 3.8.3. **Read - Natalie Pollards Story(1st grade teachers)!**
- 3.8.3.1. **“Emphasize Judas’ statement!”**
- 3.8.4. **This is not “God’s plan for Salvation; nor a charter for world peace; nor is it only application for the future in the millennium!”**
- 3.8.5. It is certain that this Sermon has definite application for us today!
- 3.8.6. These truths are all repeated in the N.T. epistles for the church today!
- 3.8.7. See Jesus’ own ending in whom He says it is for → **Mt.7:24-27.**
- 3.8.7.1. **Not just those that heard His words, but those that’ll hear His sayings!(vs.24)**
- 3.8.8. If it’s only for the “Millennium” than what about 5:10,11? What about the Lord’s Prayer?
- 3.8.9. **Q: Why should we wait for these blessings when God can give them to us now?**
- 3.8.9.1. He will **wash us clean; set us apart;** & bless us in our homes w/**His presence.**