



# RIGHTEOUS JUDGES

Sunday Morning, November 6, 2022 » Pastor Josiah Kagin

**Message Title:** Righteous Judges

**Message Text:** Isaiah 1:1-26

## Introduction:

God and the communication His Word cannot be not compartmentalized. God is *interested* in all area and arenas of our living—private, public, church, work, community and government. Romans 11:3 says, “*For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.*” Proverbs 3:6 reminds us, “*In all thy ways acknowledge him, And he shall direct thy paths.*” As we approach another day in the life of our nation when we will choose rulers over us, we should remember that those who rule over us are a reflection of us. Throughout Biblical history, God commanded that the judges set over His people would be righteous (Ezra 7:25). According to Amos 5:13 unrighteous judges diminish the voices of the righteous. Today we will see from Isaiah’s prophecy how that judges directly affect the righteousness of a nation.

## 1. A Nation in \_\_\_\_\_ and Sin (1-20)

### A. \_\_\_\_\_ against God (1-9)

*Isaiah 1:1–9 The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. 2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: For the Lord hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, And they have rebelled against me. 3 The ox knoweth his owner, And the ass his master’s crib: But Israel doth not know, My people doth not consider. 4 Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, A seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: They have forsaken the Lord, They have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, They are gone away backward. 5 Why should ye be stricken any more? Ye will revolt more and more: The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. 6 From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; But wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: They have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment. 7 Your country is desolate,*

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*Your cities are burned with fire: Your land, strangers devour it in your presence, And it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers. 8 And the daughter of Zion is left as a cottage in a vineyard, As a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, As a besieged city. 9 Except the Lord of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, We should have been as Sodom, And we should have been like unto Gomorrah.*

DEFINITION—REBELLED: to transgress; revolt; (disrespect) conceived of as acting in organized opposition to authority.

QUOTE: After Assyria's campaign against Judah in 701 bc, Jerusalem was weakened—but still standing. In his annals, Sennacherib claims that he left Hezekiah trapped “like a bird in a cage.”—FSB

*Daniel 9:6 Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.*

**B. \_\_\_\_\_ of their Worship (10-15)**

*Isaiah 1:10–15 Hear the word of the Lord, ye rulers of Sodom; Give ear unto the law of our God, ye people of Gomorrah. 11 To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the Lord: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; And I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats. 12 When ye come to appear before me, Who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts? 13 Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; The new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; It is iniquity, even the solemn meeting. 14 Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: They are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them. 15 And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: Yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: Your hands are full of blood.*

QUOTE: Mere external religion is ever a cloak to cover iniquity. The Lord exposed all that in His strong denunciations in Matt. 23. The guilty combination in Judaism has largely developed in Christendom. The conscience of a believer may become so seared that a person can practice religion while yet living in sin. — W. E. Vine

*John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*

**C. \_\_\_\_\_ for their Return (16-20)**

*Isaiah 1:16–20 Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; 17 Learn to do well; Seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, Judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. 18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; Though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. 19 If ye be willing*

*and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: 20 But if ye refuse and rebel, Ye shall be devoured with the sword: For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.*

\_\_\_\_\_ is the only context for fellowship with God.

*Luke 15:20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.*

## 2. A Nation under \_\_\_\_\_ (21-25)

### A. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Sin (21-24)

SIN CAUSED HER DECLINE (21-23)

*Isaiah 1:21-23 How is the faithful city become an harlot! It was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; But now murderers. 22 Thy silver is become dross, Thy wine mixed with water: 23 Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: Every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: They judge not the fatherless, Neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them.*

SIN CAUSED HER JUDGEMENT (24)

*Isaiah 1:24 Therefore saith the Lord, the Lord of hosts, the mighty One of Israel, Ah, I will ease me of mine adversaries, And avenge me of mine enemies:*

DEFINITION—EASE: to be comforted; to be alleviated of sorrow or distress; be given emotional strength.

ENEMIES — His own rebellious people

*James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*

*1 Thessalonians 5:20 Despise not prophesyings.*

### B. The Priority of \_\_\_\_\_ (25)

*Isaiah 1:25 And I will turn my hand upon thee, And purely purge away thy dross, And take away all thy tin:*

DEFINITION—PURGE: to refine; to treat or prepare so as to remove impurities or put in a usable condition.

DEFINITION—TIN: impurity

*Hebrews 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.*

### 3. A Nation \_\_\_\_\_ (26-31)

*See Habakkuk 1:1-4*

#### A. Restoration of \_\_\_\_\_ (26a)

**Isaiah 1:26** *And I will restore thy judges as at the first, And thy counsellors as at the beginning...*

#### **QUALIFICATIONS FOR JUDGES IN MOSES' DAY**

*Exodus 18:13-15, 21-22*

ABLE MEN — \_\_\_\_\_

FEAR GOD — \_\_\_\_\_ (*Psalm 19:9*)

MEN OF TRUTH — \_\_\_\_\_

HATING COVETOUSNESS — \_\_\_\_\_

#### B. Restoration of \_\_\_\_\_ (26b)

*Isaiah 1:26 Afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city;*

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

QUOTE: Would we become a wise understanding people, we must learn the statutes and judgments which the Lord our God hath commanded, and obey them – we must be a religious, holy people, “for without holiness, no man shall see the Lord” [Hebrews 12:14]. —*Pastor Timothy Stone; Election Day Sermon on May 10, 1792.*

### Conclusion

*Micah 6:8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; And what doth the Lord require of thee, But to do justly, and to love mercy, And to walk humbly with thy God?*

### Personal Considerations

Do I obey God's Word or rebel against it?

Do I love *justice* and *righteousness* and promote it in every arena of my life?

Do I consider the importance of judges casting an informed vote for judges who are qualified, God-fearing, honest and who hate bribery?

How do I plan to participate in the National Day of Prayer and Fasting on Monday, November 7? *The focus: Seeking God's mercy and a great awakening to righteousness.*



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