

DOUBLE SIN

"We have met the enemy and it is us" by Pogo

"Your rulers are rebels, companions of thieves; they all love bribes and chase after gifts"
(Isaiah 1:23).

Isaiah, Amos, Micah, Hosea—Old Testament prophets exposed the sins of ancient Israel (both houses) and warned them of the impending punishment that would follow. The descriptors of their sins paint an eerie picture of the practices of 21st century leadership and populace.

VIOLENT: "Your hands are **defiled with blood**, and **your fingers with iniquity**. Their deeds are evil deeds, and acts of violence are in their hands... **Their feet rush into sin**; they are **swift to shed innocent blood**. Their thoughts are evil; ruin and destruction mark their ways. **The way of peace they do not know**" (Isaiah 59:3, 7).

"They all **lie in wait for blood**; they hunt every man his brother with a net" (Micah 7:2).

"Her rich men are violent" (Micah 6:12).

- 21st century practices include interfering in the politics of other countries, over-throwing governments, falsely accusing other governments, invading countries without a cause, inciting war, oppressing weaker countries for their own gain, puppeteering the government by the wealthy to enforce their own agenda.

LIARS, PERVERTING JUSTICE—PEOPLE IN MORAL DECAY: "Your lips have spoken lies, your tongue mutters wicked things. **No one calls for justice; no one pleads his case with integrity**. They rely on **empty arguments** and **speak lies; they conceive trouble and give birth to evil**. They hatch the eggs of vipers and spin a spider's web... So **justice is driven back**, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter, **truth is nowhere to be found**" (Isaiah 59:3-5, 14-15).

"Her people are liars and their **tongues speak deceitfully**" (Micah 6:12).

"Ephraim has surrounded me with lies, the house of Israel with deceit, and **Judah is unruly against God, even against the faithful Holy One**. Ephraim feeds on the wind [energized to move]; he pursues the east wind all day [travels westward] and **multiplies lies and violence**" (Hosea 11:12, 12:1).

"Listen, you leaders of Jacob, you rulers of the house of Israel. Should you not know justice, **you who hate good and love evil... and distort all that is right**" (Micah 3:1, 9).

- 21st century practices include all who lie under oath, those who dance around with their political words to evade telling the truth, those who destroy evidence through any and every mechanism possible, and evil doers who are penalized with a mere slap on the wrist.

DEMAND BRIBES: “Both hands are skilled in doing evil; **the ruler demands gifts, the judge accepts bribes**, the powerful dictate what they desire—**they all conspire together**. The best of them is like a briber, the most upright worse than a thorn hedge” (Micah 7:2-4).

“**Her leaders judge for a bribe, her priests teach for a price, and her prophets tell fortunes for money**” (Micah 3:11).

- 21st century practices include misuse of foundation funds, lobbyists who receive preferential contracts, promises of positions based on quid quo pro, building power circles to control and manipulate government, religious leaders sell the word of God through multiple formats: books, DVDs, conferences, subscriptions, courses and preach their own interpretations.

THIEVES: “Am I still to forget, O wicked house, your **ill-gotten treasures** and **the short ephah**, which is accursed. Shall I acquit a man with dishonest scales, with a bag of false weights? (Micah 6:10-11).

“You can't wait for the Sabbath day to be over and the religious festivals to end so you can get back to **cheating the helpless**. You measure out grain with **dishonest measures** and **cheat the buyer with dishonest scales**” (Amos 8:5).

“The merchant uses dishonest scales; he loves to defraud. Ephraim boasts, ‘I am very rich; I have become wealthy. **With all my wealth they will not find in me any iniquity or sin**’” (Hosea 12:7-8).

- 21st century practices include manipulation of markets, insider trading, implementation of financial products that foster gambling, abuse of economic control on every level affecting every facet influencing every country.

OPPRESS THE POOR: “Woe to those who **enact evil statutes** and to those who **constantly record unjust decisions**, so as to **deprive the needy of justice** and **rob the poor** of My people of **their rights**, so that widows may be their spoil and that they may plunder the orphans” (Isaiah 10:1-2).

“Hear this, **you who trample the needy** and do away with the poor of the land... **buying the poor with silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, selling even the sweepings with the wheat**” (Amos 8:4, 6).

“They covet fields, and **seize them**; houses, and **take them away**; they oppress householder and house, people and their inheritance” (Micah 2:2).

- 21st century practices include bail-outs and bail-ins paid by the people, the reduction of property from farm land, urban homes to mere apartments, creation of inflation and

deflation, spending of public retirement monies, destruction of jobs through outsourcing and factory relocations for profit building, and the absurd high costs of education.

SHAMELESS: “Their cobwebs are useless for clothing; they cannot cover themselves with what they make” (Isaiah 59:6). Their evil deeds are public for all to see.

- 21st century practices include a concerted denial even when evidence is clear, coupled with the expectation to continue without consequences because the powerful guilty consider themselves outside of the law.

We have met the enemy and it is the continual choice to sin.

GOD REMINDED THEM THEN AND REMINDS US TODAY: “I wrote for them the many things of my law, but they regarded them as something strange” (Hosea 8:12).

“He has told you, O man, **what is good**; and what does the LORD require of you but **to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?**” (Micah 6:8)

“...**loose the chains of injustice** and until the cords of the yoke, **set the oppressed free** and break every yoke... **share your food with the hungry** and **provide the poor wanderer with shelter... clothe the naked...** turn not away from your own flesh and blood... do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, satisfy the needs of the oppressed... **keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath** and from doing as you please on my holy day... **then you will find your joy in the LORD, and I will cause you to ride on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob**” (Isaiah 58:6-14).

“**Rend your heart** and not your garments. **Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love,** and he relents from sending calamity” (Joel 2:13).

“**No longer will the fool be called noble nor the scoundrel be highly respected.** For the fool speaks folly, his mind is busy with evil: He practices ungodliness and **spreads error concerning the LORD**” (Isaiah 32:5-6).

Leaders of the 21st century nations have forgotten their Creator God. They are taking their people on the road to destruction. The ancient house of Israel went into captivity in 721 BC and the house of Judah in 586 BC. Both of them today are **BACK** on the road to their destruction.

GOD PROMISES CORRECTION: “**They have sunk deep into corruption,** as in the days of Gibeah. God will remember their wickedness and punish them for their sins” (Hosea 9:9).

“Since the days of Gibeah, you have sinned, O Israel, and there you have remained. Did not war overtake the evildoers in Gibeah? When I please, I will punish them; **NATIONS will be gathered against them to put them in bonds** for their **DOUBLE sin**” (Hosea 10:9-10).

BOTH HOUSES OF ISRAEL ARE DESTINED TO GO INTO CAPTIVITY A SECOND TIME:

“They will return to Egypt. Israel has forgotten his maker [Atheists/godless]... Judah has fortified many towns [Jews profess to serve God, but truly they don’t trust in God to protect them]” (Hosea 8:14).

“**Ephraim will return to Egypt** [captivity] and eat unclean food in Assyria” (Hosea 9:3).

“These are the words concerning **Israel** [the northern house – 10 tribes] and **Judah** [the southern house – 2 tribes]... How awful that day will be! No other will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but **he will be saved out of it** [Note: ‘saved’ means that they will repent and be saved spiritually]” (Jeremiah 30:4,7).

GOD WILL RESCUE THEM IN A SECOND EXODUS: “Then it will happen **on that day** that the Lord will **AGAIN** recover the **SECOND TIME** with His hand, the remnant of His people, who will remain, from Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, and from the islands of the sea” (Isaiah 11:11).

“Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give men in exchange for you, and people in exchange for your life... **I will say to the NORTH, ‘Give them up!’ and to the SOUTH, ‘Do not hold them back!’**” (Isaiah 43:4-6). [Could it be that the house of Israel is taken captive by a type of New World Order force—the ‘Northern kingdom’ and the house of Judah is taken captive by the Arabs/Muslims—the ‘Southern kingdom’?]

“The **people of Israel** are oppressed, and the **people of Judah** as well. **ALL THEIR CAPTORS HOLD THEM FAST, REFUSING TO LET THEM GO.** Yet **the Redeemer is strong; Yahuah Almighty is his name.** He will vigorously defend their cause so that he may bring rest to their land, but unrest to those who live in Babylon” (Jeremiah 50:33-34).

THEY WILL COME TO SINCERELY REPENT: “In those days, at that time, the **people of Israel** and the **people of Judah together** will go in tears to seek the **Yahuah, their God.** They will ask the way of Zion and turn their faces toward it. They will come and bind themselves to the Lord in an **everlasting covenant** that will not be forgotten” (Jeremiah 50:4-5).

“Then **you will remember your evil ways and wicked deeds, and you will loathe yourselves for your sins and detestable practices.** I want you to know that I am not doing this for your sake... **Be ashamed and disgrace for your conduct, O house of Israel!**” (Ezekiel 36:31-32).

A SECOND CAPTIVITY BECAUSE OF THEIR DOUBLE SIN IS PROPHESED AND A SECOND RESCUE BY A GRACIOUS GOD.

Compiled by Janette Andrejowich.