

# Isaiah 3:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths.

## Analysis

---

The inverted social order where 'children are their oppressors, and women rule over them' describes covenant curse (Deuteronomy 28:30-33) manifesting in societal chaos. While not inherently denigrating women or youth, this indicates abandonment of God-ordained structures (cf. Isaiah 3:4). The phrase 'they which lead thee cause thee to err' indicts corrupt leadership that misdirects God's people. Jesus later warned against blind guides leading the blind (Matthew 15:14), emphasizing that unfaithful shepherds destroy the flock.

## Historical Context

---

Judah experienced weak kings (Ahaz, Manasseh) and competing power factions. The reversal of normal order indicated divine judgment, not demographic commentary.

## Related Passages

---

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

---

1. How do we discern when societal disorder reflects divine judgment versus mere cultural change?
2. What does faithful leadership look like when surrounding authorities 'cause to err'?

## Interlinear Text

---

|                  |                      |                        |            |                |    |
|------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------|----------------|----|
| עַמִּי           | נִגְשׁ יוֹ           | מְעוֹל ל               | וְנָשׁ יִם | בּוֹ מִשְׁלֹ   | חֹ |
| As for my people | are their oppressors | H5768                  | and women  | rule           | H0 |
| H5971            | H5065                |                        | H802       | H4910          |    |
| עַמִּי           | מֵאֲשֶׁר יִבֹּ       | מִתֵּעַ יִם            | וְדַרְךְ   | אֶרְצֹתָ יִבֹּ |    |
| As for my people | they which lead      | thee cause thee to err | the way    | of thy paths   |    |
| H5971            | H833                 | H8582                  | H1870      | H734           |    |
| בָּלְעוּ:        |                      |                        |            |                |    |
| and destroy      |                      |                        |            |                |    |
| H1104            |                      |                        |            |                |    |

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Isaiah 3:4** (Parallel theme): And I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them.

**Nahum 3:13** (Parallel theme): Behold, thy people in the midst of thee are women: the gates of thy land shall be set wide open unto thine enemies: the fire shall devour thy bars.

**2 Kings 11:1** (Parallel theme): And when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal.

**Matthew 15:14** (Parallel theme): Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

