

## EXPOSITION OF ISAIAH

Message #9

Isaiah 4:1-6

Just recently it was reported that our President was asked the question of whether or not the Bible should be interpreted literally. Reportedly, his answer was, 'probably not.' If you would ask that same question of those who have carefully studied the books of the Bible their answer would be 'absolutely yes.' **In any prophecy that we may track, the fulfillment is always literal.**

In this part of the book of Isaiah, Isaiah was permitted to see what would happen to Judah and Jerusalem and **several of the things Isaiah saw have already had a partial literal fulfillment.** For example, Isaiah saw a time when many of the men of Israel would literally die and in part that did actually happen. According to II Chronicles 36:14-21, God permitted the Babylonians to come into Jerusalem in 586 B.C. and kill the young men and destroy the city and temple because His people continually mocked the true messengers of God who were proclaiming the Word of God. The prophet Isaiah saw this and predicted it. If God's men and Word are mocked, there does come a point in time when God says - "I will permit no remedy" and "I will send My judgment against My own people." However, this prophecy goes beyond the Babylonian captivity and takes us to, as Dr. Ironside said, "the dark days of the great tribulation" (*Isaiah*, p. 27). Dr. Harry Bultema observed, "There is no record of an exact fulfillment of this statement" (*Commentary On Isaiah*, p. 73).

One of the things Isaiah saw, **which has never been fulfilled in the least bit in all of history,** is a time when Israel would be living in a glorious Jerusalem and everyone in the city loves Jesus Christ and Israel would be the pride of the earth. We can check as many history books as we can find and read, and we will conclude never has that actually happened. But Isaiah saw a time when it would happen and I believe that time is very, very near. The point we see here is that:

**BECAUSE ISRAEL MOCKED GOD'S MESSENGERS AND GOD'S WORD, GOD WILL BRING A FEROCIOUS JUDGMENT AGAINST ISRAEL AND THEN, IN THE END, JESUS CHRIST WILL RETURN AND WILL FORGIVE HER, RESTORE HER AND HONOR HER AS SHE LIVES SECURELY AND GLORIOUSLY IN JERUSALEM.**

**Verse 1** describes what will happen in the Tribulation and **verses 2-6** describes what will happen during the Millennium. In Revelation 20:1-7 it is clearly stated that just after the glorious second coming of Jesus Christ (Rev. 19:11-18), a kingdom is established on earth for 1000 years. This number 1000 years is specifically repeated six times (20:2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7). What Isaiah sees here is precisely that. He sees what is happening in Jerusalem for 1000 years when Jesus Christ comes back to earth a second time.

There are six prophetic facts brought out in this passage that you do not want to miss:

**PROPHETIC FACT #1** – When God sends His judgment against Israel very few men will survive. **4:1**

The final 3½ years of the Tribulation is called the time of “Jacob’s trouble,” which means after God has poured out His wrath on a God-mocking world for 3½ years, He will turn His attention to a Christ-mocking Israel. He will permit her to undergo severe judgment because she has persistently mocked Him and His Word and those who communicated His Word.

Things will be so horrific in the Tribulation that seven Jewish women will exist for one man. Those women will tell the men that if they will marry them and take away their reproach, they would provide their own bread and clothes. Typically in marriage, under O.T. law, the husband provides food and clothing for the wife (Exodus 21:10-11), but as the Tribulation ends, there won’t be many Jewish men even left alive and therefore a woman will provide for herself, even if a man would agree to marry her. Jewish women would be willing to provide for themselves and become the wife of a man just to maintain their Jewish name.

Jesus in discussing this said that if those days of the Tribulation were not time regulated, “no life” would survive (Matt. 24:22). However, God has an elect nation that will endure to the end and will be saved.

**PROPHETIC FACT #2** – After God sends His judgment against Israel, the Messiah will reign and will be the pride of the survivors. **4:2**

“In that day” refers to a day Isaiah saw in which things were dramatically turned around for Israel. The judgments were over and things were completely different in Jerusalem. Now we will notice that in that day “the Branch of the LORD” will be beautiful and glorious. The “Branch of the LORD” is none other than Jesus Christ. It is a favorite metaphor of Israel’s Messiah.

In Hebrew there are 18 different words translated into English as “branch” and as Dr. McGee observed, every one of them refers to Jesus Christ (*Young’s Analytical Concordance of the Bible*, p. 109). Isaiah uses six different Hebrew words translated “branch”: 1) **4:2**; 2) 9:14/19:15; 3) 11:1/14:19/60:21; 4) 17:9; 5) 25:5; 6) 27:10. The one he uses here is the word ‘tsemach’ which refers to a sprouting branch which grows abundantly (Brown/Driver/Briggs, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 855). One day all of Israel will delight in this branch. One day, the entire nation will say “blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord” (Matthew 23:39).

Dr. C. I. Scofield observed that this name of Jesus Christ, “Branch,” is used in four ways:

- 1) “Branch of the LORD” (**4:2**) has reference to the fact that He is the righteous God, who will return and convert and restore Israel when He comes in all of His glory.
- 2) “Branch springing from Jesse, the righteous Davidic Branch” (11:1; Jeremiah 23:5) refers to His Davidic Kingship in reigning as King of Kings.
- 3) “My servant the Branch” (Zechariah 3:8) refers to the humiliation and sacrificial work of Jesus Christ.
- 4) “A man whose name is Branch” (Zechariah 6:12) refers to His humanity as the God/man.

Dr. Scofield then said we may observe that Matthew presents Christ as the King branch of David; Mark presents Christ as the servant branch; Luke presents Christ as the man branch and John presents Christ as the God branch, the branch of the LORD (C. I. Scofield, *The New Scofield Reference Bible*, study note Isaiah 4:2, p. 716).

What Isaiah saw was the moment when Jesus Christ was reigning glorious and beautiful and was the fruit of all of the earth and a time when the survivors of Israel esteemed Him and worshipped Him. Isaiah saw a time when Jesus Christ was reigning in all of His glory and Israel saw Him and esteemed Him for His beauty and glory.

Obviously, when Jesus Christ came the first time, He was not viewed this way by Israel. There was nothing about Him that looked spectacular. He had no form or comeliness and Israel did not esteem Jesus as much of anything and to this very day, she still doesn't.

You would think when people annually travel to Jerusalem and to Bethlehem to see the place where Jesus was born and where He died, that Israel would realize that Jesus was our Savior and Messiah. But she is as blind as she can be and to most in Israel, Jesus is a good draw for tourists and just a great religious figure worth remembering at Christmastime.

But there will come a day when she will honor Him for who He is and in that day the Branch will be glorious.

**PROPHETIC FACT #3** – After God sends His judgment against Israel, all those who are left in Jerusalem will be holy forever. **4:3**

There are four words in this one verse that really tell a story about Israel and about doctrine - "left, remains, called, recorded for life." In this one verse is Israel's story of sin, judgment, election, grace and glory.

From this verse we may observe that no matter how bad things get, some from Israel will always be left. Israel is not ever going to be obliterated. This is clearly a fact of history. Hitler could not rid the world of the Jews and even when the satanic-Antichrist tries to stamp out every Jew in the world during the Tribulation (Revelation 12:13-17), he will not succeed. There will be a remnant that remains. The reason is the doctrine of election. God has chosen Israel and there will be Jews recorded for life in Jerusalem.

Isaiah saw a time when for Israel the main feature was "holiness." Never has this been the feature by which this nation is known. She loves to be known for her wealth. She loves to be known for her military. She loves to be known for her academic accomplishments. She loves to be known for her worldly acclaim. Israel loves to hold high the names of Jerry Seinfeld, Alan Colmes, Barbara Streisand, or Steven Spielberg. She loves to be known for her fame and fortune. But never as a nation has she been known for her holiness.

But when Jesus Christ comes back in all of His glory, that remnant, who survived the Tribulation and the onslaught of the Antichrist, will be known as being holy forever. Those Jews who endure to the end will be saved (Matthew 24:13) and they will be recorded for life in Jerusalem.

There are various books that show up in the Bible which represent different records of different things:

- 1) There are the condemnatory works books that prove deserving condemnation - Rev. 20:12-15
- 2) There is the book of life that one must be in to have everlasting life - Psalm 69:28; Luke 10:20; Revelation 13:8; 17:8; 20:15; 21:27

When Jesus Christ comes back in all of His glory to reign, every single Jew whose name is in the book will be saved. One third of the Jews will be saved (Zechariah 13:9; 14:20-21).

**PROPHETIC FACT #4** – After God sends His judgment against Israel, her filth will be gone and she will be purged. **4:4**

Zechariah said, “In that day a fountain will be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for impurity” (Zech. 13:1). Notice that once again, Isaiah makes reference to the “daughters of Zion.”

In order for Israel to live as a holy nation in Jerusalem, sin and filth must be washed away. This process comes through a spirit of judgment and a spirit of fire that burns the evil away. Notice carefully what will save Israel - a spirit of judgment and a spirit of fire, not a spirit of grace. We are presently living in the Grace Age. The next phase of the program of God will not be one of grace, but judgment and fire.

God is a just God and He must purge out the evil and filth of those who were involved in the terrible murders of His prophets and people. Here is a very important principle to see; **fiery judgment against God’s own people is designed for purification, not condemnation.**

Zechariah predicted a time when Israel would be so holy that it would even affect her cooking pots and utensils (Zech. 14:20-21). Every thing and every one would be pure.

God uses fiery things as a means of purifying us.

What blood is it that can wash away our filth? Isaiah would later tell us that with His shed blood, we are healed (53:5).

**PROPHETIC FACT #5** – After God has sent His judgment against Israel, His glory will be seen in Israel. **4:5**

The glory being described here is not the glory of heaven nor is it the glory of the final eternal state, nor is it the glory of the church, as some would have you believe; **what is described here is the actual physical glory of God which is specifically on display in Jerusalem during the Millennium when Jesus Christ is physically on earth reigning.**

Mount Zion refers to a specific rock ridge in the southern portion of Jerusalem which sits between two valleys. Later, the noun Zion came to refer to the entire city of Jerusalem (Psalm 126:1; Isaiah 1:26-27).

When it is used of the city Jerusalem it refers to:

- 1) The actual city that David conquered and made capital of Israel (I Chronicles 11:5; Psalm 2:6; Isaiah 2:3).
- 2) The millennial city from which Jesus Christ will reign for 1000 years (Is. 1:27; 2:3; 4:1-6).
- 3) The heavenly city which will be created after the millennium (Heb. 12:22-24; Rev. 21-22).

Isaiah saw a time when God's glory will be seen in Jerusalem like it was during the days of Moses. It will be visible to the whole world, just as it once was to Israel during the days of the Exodus. During the days of the Exodus, God's glory was a visible glory to Israel. His glory was visibly seen in the day by a cloud and it was visibly seen at night by fire (Exodus 13:21-22; 40:34-38). This fact alone proves this refers to the millennium because once we get into the New heaven, New earth and New Jerusalem, there will be no night (Rev. 21:25; 22:5). That glory in O.T. times meant God's presence, care, guidance and protection of Israel. That is precisely what it will mean for Israel. The one thousand year millennium will feature that visible glory every day and every night in Jerusalem and the Jewish people will know God is her God.

There will come a day in which all the world will see the glory of God in Jerusalem. Notice carefully the text says that God's glory will be on "her assemblies." Every house of a Jew in this Kingdom will have God's glory upon it.

**PROPHETIC FACT #6** – After God has been the judge of His people, He will be the shelter for His people. **4:6**

Israel has longed for a time when she could live secure in her land. Today she certainly doesn't. That is why every young man out of high school must serve in the military. There is no peace in Jerusalem and people who are there rarely feel safe.

That will all change during the Millennium. Isaiah saw a time when God's specific hand of blessing would be upon Israel. No matter what the climate, He would be her shelter. God's glory will be like a tent that provides protection and safety for His people. Isaiah saw a time when Jerusalem would be the place of blessing to the entire world.

During the millennium, life will be much like it is now, with the exception that the world will have total righteousness and will be governed by Jesus Christ the Theocratic King.

But the sun will shine and the rain will fall and there will be heat. But God will specifically protect Israel from any sense of threat or discomfort. In other words, life will be a millennial bliss for Israel. All of her dreams will come true.

Carefully observe the chronology, because what is true of Israel physically is also true of us spiritually. Having peace, feeling safe is always after experiencing Jesus Christ, His grace and cleansing. We are living in the Age of Grace and you do not ever have to worry about God's wrath if we will respond to the Spirit's conviction and believe on Jesus Christ.