

ISAIAH 4 | Beautiful Branch and Holy Remnant

2 In that day¹ the branch/sprouting (צֶמַח) of Yahweh shall be beautiful/desirable (צָבִי) and glorious (כְּבוֹד), and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and honor of the survivors² of Israel. 3 And he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy (קְדוֹשׁ), everyone who has been recorded for life (חַיִּים) in Jerusalem, 4 when Yahweh shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion³ and cleansed the bloodstains of Jerusalem from its midst by a spirit (רוּחַ) of judgment and by a spirit (רוּחַ) of burning.⁴ 5 Then Yahweh will create (בָּרָא)⁵ over the whole site of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a cloud by day, and smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night, for over all the glory there will be a canopy (חֲפָה).⁶ 6 There will be a booth for shade by day from the heat, and for a refuge and a shelter from the storm and rain.⁷

¹ See *Day of Yahweh*.

² See *Remnant of Israel*. **Zec 13:8** 8 In the whole land, declares Yahweh, two thirds shall be cut off and perish, and one third shall be left alive.

³ See Is 3:16-26.

⁴ Judgment and burning is necessary for Jerusalem to be washed and cleansed. **Mt 3:11-12** 11 I [John] baptise you with water for a change of mind, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.

⁵ Interesting verb! Yahweh will intervene to create a canopy for the protection of the remnant of Israel.

⁶ Yahweh will remarry Israel.

⁷ Will this take place during Messianic kingdom.

Commentary

1. Introduction.

- a. Of Lindsay's five Rs (Rebellion, Retribution, Redemption, Restoration, Revelation), the focus in ch. 4 is Redemption and Restoration.

2. Beautiful Branch and Holy Remnant (Is 4:2-6).

- a. **Is 4:2-6** 2 In that day [the Messianic kingdom] the Branch/Sprouting [Messiah] (צֶמַח) of Yahweh shall be beautiful/desirable (צָבִי) and glorious (כְּבוֹד), and the fruit of the land [of Israel] shall be the pride and honor of the survivors [believing remnant] of Israel. 3 And he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy (קָדוֹשׁ), everyone who has been recorded [in the book of life] for life (חַיִּים) in Jerusalem 4 when Yahweh shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and cleansed the bloodstains of Jerusalem from its midst by a spirit (רוּחַ) of judgment and by a spirit (רוּחַ) of burning [during the Tribulation]. 5 Then [during the Messianic kingdom] Yahweh will create (בָּרָא) over the whole site of Mount Zion and over her assemblies [the remnant of Israel] a cloud by day, and smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night, for over all the glory there will be a nuptial chamber (חֻפָּה). 6 There will be a [marriage] booth for shade by day from the heat, and for a refuge and a shelter from the storm and rain.
- b. The Branch of Yahweh refers to the coming Messiah.
 - (1) **Is 11:1-2** 1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall produce fruit. 2 And the Spirit of Yahweh shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of Yahweh.
 - (2) **Is 61:11** 11 For as the earth brings forth its sprouts (צֶמַח), and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so Lord Yahweh will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.
 - (3) **Jer 23:5-6** 5 Behold, the days are coming, declares Yahweh, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 6 In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: Yahweh is our righteousness.
 - (4) **Jer 33:15** 15 In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.
 - (5) **Zec 3:8** 8 Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, you and your friends who sit before you, for they are men who are a sign: behold, I will bring my servant the Branch.
 - (6) **Zec 6:12-13** 12 ... Thus says Yahweh of hosts, Behold, the man whose name is the Branch, for he shall branch out from his place, and he shall build the temple of Yahweh. 13 It is he who shall build the temple of Yahweh, bear royal honor, and sit and rule on his throne.
 - (7) **Mt 2:23** 23 And [Jesus] went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.
- c. The survivors are the believing remnant of Israel.
- d. The fruitfulness of the land of Israel will bring pride to the hearts of the remnant.
- e. However, the filth and bloodstains of Jerusalem first must be washed and cleansed.

- (1) Catastrophic judgment is absolutely necessary. The world isn't going to progress into some vision of utopia. Judgment precedes the Messianic kingdom.
 - (2) "The Israel of 2:6-4:1 can only fulfill the destiny given her in 2:2-4 by experiencing the judgment expressed throughout 2:6-4:1 and the purification described in 4:2-6. This schema would correspond well with the thought of ch. 1 and indeed the whole book: proud, self-sufficient Israel can become the witness to the greatness of God only when she has been reduced to helplessness by his just judgment and then restored to life by his unmerited grace" (Oswalt, *NICOT*, 113).
- f. The cloud, smoke, and fire over Zion will indicate God's presence.
- (1) **Ex 13:21-22** 21 And Yahweh went before [Israel] by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. 22 The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.
- g. Yahweh will remarry Israel at that time.
- (1) **Ps 19:5-6** 5 ... Which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber (הִנֵּה)....
 - (2) This is not, by the way, Jesus marrying the Church. Yahweh marries Israel; Jesus marries the Church.
- h. Isaiah previously spoke about the Messianic kingdom in ch. 2.
- (1) **Is 2:2-3** 2 It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of Yahweh shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be lifted up above the hills. And all the nations shall flow to it, 3 and many peoples shall come and say: Come, let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths. For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of Yahweh from Jerusalem.