

February 4, 2018

“The Beautiful Branch of the Lord”

Focal Passage: Isaiah 4:1-6 (NASB)

Cross References: Exodus 13:21-22; Numbers 9:15-23; Nehemiah 9:9-12; Psalm 27:5; 78; 105:39-45; Proverbs 14:34; Isaiah 3:10; 11:1-5; 25:4; 32:1-2; 53:5; Jeremiah 23:5-6; 33:14-18; Matthew 3:11; Luke 10:20; Romans 15:3; 1 Corinthians 10:1-14; Colossians 1:22; Revelation 20:11-15

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

Jan 28 Exodus 30-32	Jan 29 Exodus 33-35
Jan 30 Exodus 36-38	Jan 31 Exodus 39-40
Feb 1 Leviticus 1-4	Feb 2 Leviticus 5-7
Feb 3 Leviticus 8-10	Feb 4 Leviticus 11-13

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS OF THE PASSAGE:

- **The Lord sends judgment in order to purge His people of sin and make them holy.**
- **The Lord in the source of refuge and protection.**

Lesson Idea: As we live out holy lives, God will protect us from judgment and be our refuge and protection.

Isaiah 4:1-6

1 For seven women will take hold of one man in that day, saying, “We will eat our own bread and wear our own clothes, only let us be called by your name; take away our reproach!”

2 In that day the Branch of the Lord will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth will be the pride and the adornment of the survivors of Israel. 3 It will come about that he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy—everyone who is recorded for life in Jerusalem. 4 When the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and purged the bloodshed of Jerusalem from her midst, by the spirit of judgment and the spirit of burning, 5 then the Lord will create over the whole area of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a cloud

by day, even smoke, and the brightness of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory will be a canopy. 6 There will be a shelter to give shade from the heat by day, and refuge and protection from the storm and the rain.

DISCUSSION:

- v 1. As he continues to discuss the utter ruin that will accompany God’s Judgment of His people, (see Isaiah 3:16-26) what does this verse reveal about the desperation that comes when a people reject God? What is the only thing that can take away our reproach? (see Proverbs 14:34; Isaiah 53:5; Romans 15:3; Colossians 1:22)
- V 2. Even though Isaiah prophesied about impending judgment, what good will come from it? Who or what is the “Branch of the Lord?” Why is the Branch of the Lord described as “beautiful and glorious?” (see Isaiah 11:1-5; Jeremiah 23:5-6; 33:14-18) What does He promise for the survivors of Israel?
- V 3. What will be the outcome of God’s judgment? Who will survive the judgment? What does it mean to be “recorded for life?” (see Isaiah 3:10; Luke 10:20; Revelation 20:11-15)
- V 4. What was the purpose of God’s judgment? How would God wash away their filth and purge their bloodshed? How could the Holy Spirit be referred to as a spirit of judgment and burning? (see Matthew 3:11)
- V 5. How does this verse recall God’s presence with Israel as He brought them out of Egypt? (see Exodus 13:21-22; Numbers 9:15-23; Nehemiah 9:9-12; Psalm 78; 105:39-45; 1 Corinthians 10:1-14) What does this description say about God?
- V 6. How does God provide shelter, refuge, and protection? What does this say about His nature? (see Psalm 27:5; Isaiah 25:4; 32:1-2)

APPLICATION:

- ✓ How will you ensure that you will be among the survivors of God's judgment?

- ✓ In what areas of life do you need God's refuge and protection? How are you trusting Him for these things?

Lesson by Bro Stan

NOTES from David Guzik:

V 2. *the Branch of the Lord* is a Messianic title, speaking of Jesus Christ.

This image is repeated in Isaiah 11:1: *There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.* It is repeated in Jeremiah 23:5: *"Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth."* It is repeated in Jeremiah 33:15: *In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David a Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.* It is repeated in Zechariah 3:8: *For behold, I am bringing forth My Servant the branch.*

The ideas behind the title *Branch of the Lord* are those of fruitfulness and life. Jesus used the same image when He said that He was the vine and we are the branches (John 15:5).

V 3. Holiness marks the society where the Branch of the Lord reigns. *And it shall come to pass that he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy; everyone who is recorded among the living in Jerusalem.*

Holy does not mean "super-spiritual." It does not mean sinless perfection. It does not mean spiritually superior and obnoxious. It means a life, a heart, a mind, and a body that is genuinely separated unto the Lord. It is a life lived apart from the thinking and heart of this world, this flesh, and the devil, and lived apart to the Lord.

V 4-6. *The Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion:* when *the Branch of the Lord* reigns, there will be cleansing. The cleansing will not

come easily; it will come by *the spirit of judgment and the spirit of burning.* But it will be worth it.

A cloud and smoke by day and the shining of a flaming fire by night: when the Branch of the Lord reigns, there will be the tangible presence of the Lord. Just as in the days of the Exodus, God will be as real as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night (Exodus 13:21-22).

And there will be a tabernacle for shade . . . a place of refuge, and for a shelter from storm: when the Branch of the Lord reigns, there will be protection from the Lord. The Lord's people will be safe and secure, washed, and in the abiding presence of the Lord.

"Nothing is more necessary than that we follow our calling, and perform our duty faithfully. It belongs equally to the condition of the good and of the bad that they suffer man inconveniences; but bad men have no refuge, no place of concealment in which they may hide themselves, and they must be utterly overwhelmed. But blessed is the condition of the godly; for although they endure heat and cold, still they have a safe refuge in God." (Calvin)

If we are really born again, we want to be washed, have the presence of the Lord, and enjoy His protection. Many people only want the Lord's constant presence and protection. But He doesn't grant those apart from His cleansing.