

Isaiah 3 - 4

- 1 **For, behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah the stay and the staff, the whole stay of bread, and the whole stay of water,**
2 **The mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient,**
3 **The captain of fifty, and the honourable man, and the counsellor, and the cunning artificer, and the eloquent orator.**

God judges the nation

1. Judgment on the food and water supply - "bread and water" (Lev. 26 and Deut. 28)
2. Judgment on the military - "mighty man and the man of war"
3. Judgment on the civil and religious leaders - "the judge and the prophet"
4. Judgment on the wisdom of the nation - "prudent and counsellor"
5. Judgment on the craftsmen and eloquent speakers - "artificer and orator"

The judgment touches all of society.

- 4 **And I will give children *to be* their princes, and babes shall rule over them.**

God judges the nation with immature, corrupt leadership.

After Hezekiah's death his 12 year old son Manasseh became king - 2 Kings 21:1
After Amon's death his 8 year old son Josiah became king - 2 Kings 22:1

- 5 **And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his neighbour: the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable.**
6 **When a man shall take hold of his brother of the house of his father, *saying*, Thou hast clothing, be thou our ruler, and *let* this ruin *be* under thy hand:**
7 **In that day shall he swear, saying, I will not be an healer; for in my house *is* neither bread nor clothing: make me not a ruler of the people.**

Civil unrest has become the norm. Children dishonor the elderly. The immoral of the society persecute the those who hold to morality.

The nation has gotten to the place where no one wants to rule because the country is in such dire straits.

- 8 **For Jerusalem is ruined, and Judah is fallen: because their tongue and their doings *are* against the LORD, to provoke the eyes of his glory.**
9 **The shew of their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide *it* not. Woe unto their soul! for they have rewarded evil unto themselves.**

The nation is fallen because of their sin

- 10 **Say ye to the righteous, that *it shall be* well *with him*: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings.**
11 **Woe unto the wicked! *it shall be* ill *with him*: for the reward of his hands shall be given him.**

Righteous are blessed and the wicked shall reap what they have sowed

- 12 **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.**
 13 **The LORD standeth up to plead, and standeth to judge the people.**
 14 **The LORD will enter into judgment with the ancients of his people, and the princes thereof: for ye have eaten up the vineyard; the spoil of the poor *is* in your houses.**
 15 **What mean ye *that* ye beat my people to pieces, and grind the faces of the poor? saith the Lord GOD of hosts.**

Women and children leaders of the nation err in their ways

- 16 **Moreover the LORD saith, Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing *as* they go, and making a tinkling with their feet:**
 17 **Therefore the Lord will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, and the LORD will discover their secret parts.**
 18 **In that day the Lord will take away the bravery of *their* tinkling ornaments *about their feet*, and *their* cauls, and *their* round tires like the moon,**
 19 **The chains, and the bracelets, and the mufflers,**
 20 **The bonnets, and the ornaments of the legs, and the headbands, and the tablets, and the earrings**
 21 **The rings, and nose jewels,**
 22 **The changeable suits of apparel, and the mantles, and the wimples, and the crisping pins,**
 23 **The glasses, and the fine linen, and the hoods, and the vails.**

The woman of the nation are proud and immersed in self and materialism. A list of 21 items are mentioned about the women's obsession with dress and looks and suggests the emptiness in their inner being.

"Wanton eyes" - the custom was to have black make-up circle the eyes as to enlarge them
 "tinkling ornaments about their feet" - the custom was to have gold or silver chains around the ankles which made a tinkling sound.

"Cauls" - hair nets

"round tires like the moon" - moon shaped pendants

"chains" - a collar ornament

"bracelets" - jewelry

"mufflers" - veils

"bonnets" - head pieces (hats)

"ornaments of the leg" - the gold and silver chains mentioned above

"headbands" - sashes

"tablets" - *nefesh*, houses of the soul

"earrings, the rings and nose jewels" - rings for the fingers, nose and other parts of the body

"suits of apparel" - many changes of clothing

"mantles" - an over garment

"wimples" - a cloak

"crisping pins" - a bag or a purse

"glasses" - a transparent dress that reveals the body

"fine linen" - expensive underclothing

"hoods" - a strip of cloth around the head

"vails" - a face covering

- 24 **And it shall come to pass, *that* instead of sweet smell there shall be stink; and instead of a girdle a rent; and instead of well set hair baldness; and instead of a stomacher a girding of sackcloth; *and* burning instead of beauty.**
- 25 **Thy men shall fall by the sword, and thy mighty in the war.**
- 26 **And her gates shall lament and mourn; and she *being* desolate shall sit upon the ground.**

The women of the nation will be brought down.

	Instead of luxury	there will be	slavery
1.	Sweet smell		Bad odor
2.	Belt (girdle)		Rope (rent)
3.	Beautiful hair		Baldness
4.	Expensive clothes (stomacher)		Sackcloth
5.	Beauty		Burning (the branded mark on hand or forehead of a slave)
6.	Husbands		Husbands will die
7.	Military victorious		Military defeated

There will be mourning throughout the city as the nation is destroyed.

Isaiah 4:1

“And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach.”

The nation has been stripped of it’s men through judgment so that seven women, desperately wanting to marry, fight over one man. They even offer to provide for themselves if only they can be his wife, “called by thy name.” This is contrary to the Mosaic law (Exodus 21:10) where the man is to provide for his wife.

Isaiah 4:2-6 introduces us to hope and deliverance for Israel. Along with Isaiah 2:2-5 these verses are the major messages of hope in the midst of 115 verses (chapters 1-5) primarily dealing with Isaiah’s rebuke of Israel’s sin and the promise of judgment.

2 In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth *shall be* excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel.

The only references of the Messiah using תְּמַחַ, *tsemach*, branch, are the following four:

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|----|--|---------------------------------------|---|---------|
| 1. | Jeremiah 23:5-6
(also Jeremiah 33:15) | - raise unto David a righteous BRANCH | - | Matthew |
| 2. | Zechariah 3:8 | - my servant the BRANCH | - | Mark |
| 3. | Zechariah 6:12 | - the man...is the BRANCH | - | Luke |
| 4. | Isaiah 4:2 | - BRANCH of the LORD | - | John |

The Messiah will be beautiful and glorious - contrast this with Isaiah 53:2

“The fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely” speaks of the abundance of blessings in the Millennial kingdom.

3 And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem:

There has always been a remnant of Jewish people who have believed in the LORD.
- "left in Zion", "he that remains", "everyone that is written among the living"

Romans 11:1-5

At the end of the Tribulation 2/3 of Jewish people have died (Zechariah 13:8-9) and the rest call upon Jesus as messiah (Zechariah 12:10).

The nation is born (again) in a day - Romans 11:26; Isaiah 66:8

Hosea 2:19-20 "And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD."

4 When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning.

This will take place at the second coming.

5 And the LORD will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory *shall be* a defence.

The language "a cloud and smoke by day" and "a flaming fire by night" is reminiscent of the wilderness wanderings - Ex. 40:34-38

Zephaniah 3:11-20

"defence" is  chuppah {khood-paw'} - God will be a canopy of protection over Israel.

6 And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain.

As the Tabernacle in the Wilderness was a sign of protection, hope and blessing so the same will be true in the Millennial reign of Messiah when He "tabernacles", dwells, with the people..