

THE FUTURE RESTORATION OF ISRAEL: ASSURED BY THE BRANCH OF THE LORD (CHRIST)

ISAIAH 04:02–06

Introduction

In the future, Israel will be restored. *In that day*, the *Day of the Lord*, a remnant of Israel will be saved. Judgment is never the end of God's message. Rather, His message always ends with the hope of salvation. Isaiah now looks beyond the judgment of God to the event that will take place right after the terrible battle of Armageddon.

1. Right after the terrible *Day of the Lord*, the Lord will save a remnant of Israel (vv. 2-4). And He will save them by the Branch of the Lord, which is a direct reference to the Messiah Himself, even the Lord Jesus Christ. The Messiah is the *Branch* who came as a *sprout* or *shoot* from the stump of David's dynasty, a dynasty that seemed to be dead (11:1; 53:2; Jer. 23:5; 33:15; Zec. 3:8; 6:12). Note that the *Branch* will be beautiful and glorious in the eyes of the people. He will be the vine in whom the people will find their nourishment and strength (Jn. 15:1). As the *Branch of the Lord*, the Messiah will do three wonderful things for the people:
 - => He will provide a fruitful land for them (v. 2). All the necessities of life — food, water, shelter and whatever else is needed — will be provided for them in the promised land.
 - => He will make them holy, totally set apart and consecrated to God, to worship and serve Him (v. 3). Following the future day of judgment, the only people who will survive will be genuine believers, those who have set their lives apart to God. At that time the Lord will perfect the holiness of all believers, purifying them and making them acceptable to live with Him eternally. This verse must be referring to the millennial reign of Christ and to eternity in the new heavens and earth. Why? Because the survivors left behind after the Assyrian and Babylonian invasions were not called holy. As Ezra, Nehemiah and the prophets describe, they were anything but holy.
 - => The Lord will cleanse the people from moral filth and sin (v. 4). The filth of the women of Zion will be washed away, as will the lawlessness and violence of everyone who is to live in the Holy City of Jerusalem.
 2. After the people are perfectly cleansed and made holy, the Lord will cover His people with the glory of His presence (vv. 5-6). In fact, the canopy of His presence and provision will cover all of Mount Zion (Jerusalem). During the Exodus, the very presence of God was seen in a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night (Exo. 13:21-22; 40:34-38; see also 16:10). So it will be in the millennium and in the new heavens and earth: God's very presence will cover the New Jerusalem and be visible to all who travel and assemble there. The very shelter of God's protection will provide a
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refuge and security for the people. His presence will provide a perfect safe haven. There will be no stifling heat from hot summer days or danger from violent storms.

Thought 1. The Lord is our shelter, our overshadowing protection from the storms of life. When tempted and lured to participate in some sinful behaviour, the Lord's presence will be with us. He will protect and deliver us. If we will flee to Him for shelter and protection, He will deliver us from the temptation. When trials strike us — distressing circumstances, hardships or misfortunes — the Lord will protect us. If we will flee into His Being, calling out to Him, He will be a refuge for us. He will overshadow us with His presence. No matter the strain, pressure, distress or grief, the Lord will grant His protective Spirit.

1) The Lord is our overshadowing protection. He will shelter us in His presence.

Mat 23:37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem [world, world], you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing."

Psa 57:1 Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me, for in you my soul takes refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed.

Isa 25:4 You have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in his distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat. For the breath of the ruthless is like a storm driving against a wall.

Isa 51:16 I have put my words in your mouth and covered you with the shadow of my hand — I who set the heavens in place, who laid the foundations of the earth, and who say to Zion, "You are my people".

2) The Lord is our shelter, our hiding place.

Psa 17:8 "Keep me as the apple of the eye; Hide me under the shadow of thy wings."

Psa 27:5 "For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock."

Psa 31:20 "In the shelter of your presence you hide them from all human intrigues; you keep them safe in your dwelling from accusing tongues."

Psa 32:7 You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.

Psa 64:2 "Hide me from the conspiracy of the wicked, from the plots of evildoers."

Psa 119:114 You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word."

Psa 143:9 Rescue me from my enemies, Lord, for I hide myself in you.

3) The Lord is our refuge.

Deu 33:27 The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. He will drive out your enemy before you, saying, 'Destroy him!'

Psa 27:5 *For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.*

Psa 31:20 *“In the shelter of your presence you hide them from all human intrigues; you keep them safe in your dwelling from accusing tongues.”*

Psa 71:3 *Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go; give the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.*

Prov 18:10 *“The name of the Lord is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.”*

Isa 25:4 *You have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in his distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat. For the breath of the ruthless is like a storm driving against a wall. ■*