

## **ISAIAH**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Isaiah chapter 2 as we continue our study through the Word of God. In our last study we saw the rebuke of the Southern Kingdom of Judah for their iniquity, specifically Judah and Jerusalem. God said that He planted a good vine but it produced rotten fruit and because of that judgment was coming.

What I love about our God is that He is always trying to draw us back to Him and that is what He does with the Southern Kingdom of Judah, He wants them to think about their sin and what it has done and to come back to Him so He may heal them, He may cleanse them. It is out of that judgment and their restoration as they return to God that Isaiah chapter 2 is born. With that said, let's begin reading in Isaiah chapter 2 starting in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

## **ISAIAH 2**

### **VERSES 1-4**

1. Notice that the focus here is Judah and Jerusalem and this prophecy continues on through Isaiah chapter 4. We know who this is for but when will this take place? Again we don't have to guess because we are told that this is for "**the latter days.**" It is a term that describes a period of time when Jesus will reign over all the earth or what we call the Millennial Kingdom, the thousand-year reign of Christ. What will it be like?

Isaiah is going to give to us several pictures of what the Kingdom Age will be like in this book but here Isaiah says that the Kingdom will be established in Jerusalem on the Temple Mount. And instead of the Jewish people and the Gentile nations coming to worship their deities at their shrines on the hills, they will worship the Lord on Mount Zion! It is here that the Lord will be seated upon the Throne of David and the nations will come to worship Him there! And notice that it says He will teach them, give them a Bible study you might say, and what a Bible study that will be! Righteousness will fill this land.

And we long for that day when violence, murder, will be done away with. There will no longer be wars in the Kingdom Age. Can you imagine today the amount of money we would have to help those in need if we did not spend the billions of dollars we do on military armaments. All the implements of war will be done away with. "Come Lord Jesus!" is all I can say!

Man keeps trying to work things out, to play nice with each other but because man's heart is evil, that will never happen apart from Christ. You may have brief periods of peace but in the end, war. And yes the world seems to be more and more wicked, more so than ever before. But God has warned us that this would be the case before His return. And our hope is not in this world but in the return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. But before that happens we are going to see judgment come upon a Christ rejecting world, and we call that period of time the Tribulation Period. And before that time even begins, the Church is out of here, raptured our caught up to be with the Lord!

I like the way that Martin sums this up as he wrote, “Men yearn for peace, but they will not acknowledge the hopelessness of their own efforts to achieve it. It is only when the word of the Lord goes forth from Jerusalem, when He Himself is reigning over the nations, that lasting peace will come.” Absolutely and like I have said, we long for that day!

#### VERSE 5

1. We have just looked at the wonderful picture of the Messiah’s reign and now Isaiah is challenging Judah to walk “**In the light of the LORD.**” In other words, don’t wait until the Kingdom Age to live like that, do it right now, walk in the light now. And when we think about this we should understand that the Lord is to be reigning on the throne of our hearts today and thus, we should be walking “**In the light of the LORD.**”

2. Now what does that mean, to walk “**In the light of the LORD**”? It means that we walk in the truth of God found in the Word of God. John said, “**But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**” I John 1:7.

Why would you want to live any other way? Why should we walk in the darkness and suffer the consequences of that? I think Spurgeon puts things into perspective for us regarding this as he wrote, “You know that, if you were to go to Australia in a good sound ship, you would get there even if you were always to lie down in the hold among the luggage and the rats; but I should like to go in a first-class cabin, and I do not see why you and I, if we are going to heaven, should not go first-class.” Amen to that! May we walk “**In the light of the LORD.**”

VERSES 6-9

1. What was the call that Isaiah gave to Judah. It was a call to walk in the light! But what were they doing that was so wrong? Instead of following the Lord, instead of walking in the light they were walking in the darkness of Eastern ways or religions. The call that God made to Israel is one we need to heed. I am amazed how many Christians, or so-called Christians are involved with Yoga, TM, have spirit guides, see nothing wrong with horoscopes, embrace Islam as Christianity, and-so-on. We need to wake up and stop following these Eastern religions that got a foot hold in this country under the guise of science, and we need to start following after the Lord instead of the darkness they offer! We need to walk in the light as He is in the light!

2. They also walked in the darkness of riches, not that having money is evil, but their love for money took them away from God and because of that they walked in the darkness of riches. And once again as you look at how rich our nation is we see that it has caused many to look to riches for their help, for their pleasure, for their joy instead of the Lord. We need to walk in the light as He is in the light.

3. And it does not end there; they had many possessions that caused them to travel down this road of darkness. Once again possessions are not wrong unless they take you away from the Lord, unless they become a substitute for the Lord. And as you look at the possessions that we have in this nation and what it has done for us, moving us away from God, they have become a road into darkness for us. When you look at the things we throw away you can see how prosperous we are. We need to walk in the light as He is in the light!

4. Not only that but “**. . . they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made.**” Isaiah 2:8. They looked to themselves and not to what the Lord has done in them or allowed them to do. It was all about what they have done and you can once again see the pride in this nation. We don’t thank our Lord for what He has done but we look to our own hands and in the end, that darkness will overtake us. We say things like, “We will overcome!” I will tell you this, like those at the Tower of Babel, you won’t! We need to walk in the light as He is in the light!

5. And lastly, they were bowing down in worship; the problem was that they were worshipping the wrong things instead of worshipping the Lord! They are bowing down and worshipping idols instead of the true and living God. And God is longsuffering but one day He will pour out His wrath and these idols that men are worshipping today will be worthless. We need to walk in the light as He is in the light!

6. We need to understand that ***EVERYTHING*** in this world that exalts itself against God will be brought low when His Kingdom comes because nothing can rob God of His glory! It is as Psalm 113:4 says, “**The Lord is high above all nations, His glory above the heavens.**” And as we read on we will see what will happen if they refuse.

VERSES 10-11

1. Here is a warning to seek refuge from God's wrath which will be poured out on prideful man who has rejected the truth of God. In his pride, all those that exalt themselves above God, ***EVERYTHING*** will be brought down. And the only way to escape this judgment is by humbling yourself before Him, repenting of your sins and asking Jesus to be Lord and Savior of your life! Our refuge is the Lord!

2. Now Isaiah is going to expound on this Day of the LORD or this time of judgment that is brought upon prideful man.

VERSES 12-19

1. Here we see the Day of the Lord and we can see that this judgment is upon **"everything proud and lofty, upon everything lifted up."** God will be exalted and ***EVERYTHING*** else will be brought low, will be judged no matter how big, how strong they may seem. And man is so arrogant today but when judgment does come, his attitude changes and in Revelation 6:15-17 we see how they respond, much like Isaiah speaks of here.

We are told, **"And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?'"** Why can't they stand? Because they can't stand in their righteousness, which is like filthy rags before a holy and righteous God!

2. Pride is a horrible sin that destroys so many lives. Spurgeon put it like this, “Man in all matters of religion, and in all his dealings with God, is proud. It is wonderful how apparently humble men will be when they worship false gods. They will cut themselves with knives, and roll themselves in the mire. We have known some votaries [like a monk or nun] to kneel before the representation of the Virgin Mary and lick the very pavement with their tongues by way of penance, and perform the most degrading rites in honor of their false gods. Man seems to be humble enough in his dealings with a false deity, but as soon as ever he comes to deal with the true God, the first things that have to be got out of him are his pride, his high looks, his haughtiness.”

Man will be humbled, either willingly as they submit to God or in God’s judgment and then it will be too late!

#### VERSES 20-22

1. Man thinks he is so strong, so invincible and God says that we are to sever or cut ourselves away from people like that. Also, if that is the way we feel then we must humble ourselves because judgment is coming. Put your faith in God and not the strength of man, for he is frail and weak.

Make no mistake about it, God is going to shake this world, judgment is coming. Paul tells us in Hebrews 12:25-29, **“See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, ‘Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.’ Now this, ‘Yet once more,’ indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.”** If your faith is not built upon the Rock, Jesus Christ, you will be shaken and consumed in the fire of His wrath!

2. And listen to this regarding this issue of pride, it speaks volumes and we need to not only listen but we must also learn and apply these things to our lives because, like James 4:6 tells us, **“But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: ‘God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.’”** This is what Raymond Ortlund wrote,

Pride deceives people into assembling an idol-filled culture, because idolatry gives people a feeling of control and power. They *make* the things they worship. But when the Lord stands forth in unmistakable glory, it will be terrible for those who do not delight in his control and power. They will see how worthless their most dearly cherished idols really are, and they will have nothing left worth having.



Idols are precious. They are always our hard-won silver or gold. That's why we prize them. They are beautiful, but also contemptible. J. R. R. Tolkien portrayed this in *The Lord of the Rings*. Everyone who wears the golden ring of power morphs into something weirdly subhuman, like Gollum, who cherishes it as "My Precious." So for Middle-earth to be saved, the ring must be thrown into the fire of Mount Doom and destroyed forever.

Tolkien understood that the key to life is not only what we lay hold of but also what we throw away. Paul wrote, "I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ" (Philippians 3:8).

What golden idols do we cherish as essential to our happiness? What must we throw away, to possess the one treasure we really cannot live without – Christ, who will not make us weird but beautiful, like himself?

- Raymond Ortlund, Jr. *Isaiah*, p. 54

And look how ugly man has become as we grab for all those things that we see as, "My Precious" and just look at what we have become! What a wake-up call, God makes things beautiful; the Devil destroys and disfigures life. What is precious to you? May it be the Lord!

### **ISAIAH 3**

#### **VERSES 1-7**

1. Isaiah continues to speak of this Day of Judgment because of their sin and I believe the focus here is seen in II Kings 24:14 as the Babylonians came in upon the Southern Kingdom of Judah, including Jerusalem and we are told, **“Also he carried into captivity all Jerusalem: all the captains and all the mighty men of valor, ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths. None remained except the poorest people of the land.”**

We see that the famine was so bad people were starving to death, there was even cannibalism! Not only would there be a lacking of food but of water as well as God is judging them for their sin!

The things that they were trusting in were disappearing. They trusted in the strength of man, in their military might and Isaiah said that was just foolish as he wrote, **“Sever yourselves from such a man, Whose breath is in his nostrils; For of what account is he?”** Isaiah 2:22.

Since they refused to sever themselves from trusting in the arm of man God would now do it for them. We see the soldiers, the civil and religious leaders, the wise people, the military leaders, the skillful artists or workers, and even the diviner and the enchanter God was going to bring down. Man was being judged here as he held himself up high with pride!

When it speaks of these occult practices don't get the idea that God is approving of or endorsing those occult practices because He puts them in the list with the others. He is just telling us that His people have degenerated into Eastern religious practices, trusting in them, instead of the Lord.

Now God is not only going to take these things away from them but He will also replace them with other things that are even worse! Their leaders will be inexperienced and will oppress the people instead of lead the people. This breakdown in leadership will affect the children, for they will become disrespectful to those in authority over them. Sound familiar? God is speaking also to our nation, if we would only listen.

And because things are such a mess, because the nation is in such turmoil and ruin, no one wants to be a leader. And notice that if you put your trust in man, material possessions, once that is taken away, there is no hope left for you. That is what we see here. So the inexperienced, the novice you might say are the ones who are leading the nation and this may not just be their literal age, it may be that they are immature in how they are leading the people.

And this leadership is like a hot potato, no one wants to get involved because there is no solution to this problem. That is not really true. You see, God is pleading with them to trust in Him, to come back to Him, for He is the only hope for man. The problem for them was that they refused to listen and turn back to God. But He is the only hope for any of us.

It is as David said in Psalm 56:10-11, **“In God (I will praise His word), In the Lord (I will praise His word), In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?”** David trusted in the Lord for he knew and had confidence in God’s Word. It gave Him the proper perspective in any situation, no matter how dark it may seem.

2. This seems so unfair, how can God do this to His people? Let’s read on and you will see that God is not unfair, it is not what He has done, it is what His people have done.

VERSES 8-9

1. Why was judgment coming upon them? “**... For they have brought evil upon themselves.**”

That is the reason; God is only giving them what they deserve! They fell because of what they were saying and what they were doing, their words and deeds were evil and they flaunted it. They saw no problem in what they were doing! They ignored all the warnings and this is the result of their failure to respond to what God said to them.

And Isaiah says that their sin is written all over their face, “**The look of their countenance witnesses against them.**” They couldn’t hide it and they really didn’t try to hide their sin! Thus, we are told that their sin was like that of Sodom and they acted the same way. You see, sin in the city of Sodom was very open; they flaunted their evil ways with no shame or fear. They were very tolerant and because of that judgment came upon the nation! They brought it upon themselves just as Judah was doing. It is as the Scriptures say, “**For the wages of sin is death ...**” Romans 6:23.

2. Now before we are too harsh on Judah we need to take a good look at our own nation. We are a nation that is very tolerant of sin and we love to flaunt our sin around. We see sexual relations on television with every Tom, Dick and Harry. We see homosexuality flaunted as a normal lifestyle.

We see sin within the church, within God's people at the same levels as those that are unsaved. History is repeating itself and yes we are not Israel but we have not learned the lesson and judgment is going to come. In I Peter 4:7 we are told, "**For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?**" God will chasten His people because He loves them and He will judge the unsaved because they refuse to be cleansed of their sins. And it is bad out there, I see this at epidemic proportions today and I wonder how much longer before we bring judgment upon ourselves?

You see, there are consequences to our actions. God has warned us what to do and what not to do. We can listen and obey or we can reject what He has said and do our own thing. But when judgment comes we need to understand that we "**. . . have brought evil upon [ourselves].**" God has warned all of us in His Word, are we willing to not only listen but obey?

#### VERSES 10-12

1. Isn't it interesting how people feel that God is not fair? Make no mistake about it; God's judgments are always fair! For those that love God, they will be blessed in the end. For those that curse God by their actions, they will reap what they have sown. And the nation will have leaders that are immature, weak, like women, who will oppress the people because they are only concerned for themselves, they are only concerned about holding onto the position of power they have. And to keep that position they will do whatever it takes, there will be no concern for what is right or wrong.

Notice what Isaiah is saying and how it fits our day. **“Children are their oppressors.”**

Look at what is going on with our children today, how the crime rate for this group is increasing, how their rebellion is growing against those who are in authority over them, how children run the home!

And you can send me letters on this one but a sign of our times in regards to our rebellion against God is the Women’s Liberation movement. Look at the things they are fighting for and see if they are things that God wants or what they want. Look at where this has brought us today; are we better for it or worse? We are on a slippery slope to judgment and like I have said, we brought this on ourselves because we turned from God! Men are not men anymore, they don’t want to get involved and our society is in trouble, the family unit is falling apart. Now I am speaking in general of course, not every person has turned from the Lord but I think you will all agree that we as a nation have turned from Him just as Judah had done!

2. Now don’t come to the conclusion that God is just waiting to wipe us out, listen to how He is pleading with Judah to turn from their sins and I think He is doing the same with us. He is patient and longsuffering but that is coming to an end and judgment is at the door!

#### VERSES 13-15

1. God is playing two roles here. First He is the prosecutor as He **“stands up to Plead”** and then He is a judge as He **“stand to judge the people.”** Can you imagine going to court and as you are there to defend yourself you notice that the same person is the prosecutor and the judge, not too good for you! But God is a righteous Judge and His judgments against us will be right and we will be found guilty in our sin, that is the problem!

But don't come to the conclusion that God is this tyrant ready to crush anyone who refuses to obey His Words. That is wrong. God has done everything possible to prevent His judgment from coming upon you except force you.

In Ezekiel we read, **“Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?’ says the Lord GOD, ‘and not that he should turn from his ways and live?’ . . . ‘Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,’ says the Lord GOD. ‘Therefore turn and live!’”** Ezekiel 18:23, 31-32. If you refuse to heed His warnings one day His longsuffering will come to an end and His judgment will come!

2. And for Judah, the Lord takes them to task for making a profit off the poor, they were robbing the poor to make themselves rich. Make no mistake about it; God is the defender of the poor, the ones the leaders were destroying. Proverbs 17:5 says, **“He who mocks the poor reproaches his Maker . . .”** And Proverbs 14:31 says, **“He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, But he who honors Him has mercy on the needy.”**

3. As we read on we see the scathing denunciation of the women of Judah for their pride, their suggestive mannerisms, and their expensive clothing and jewelry. Let's read on and see what God has to say.

VERSES 16-23

1. Early on in the chapter God dealt with the prideful men and God brought them down. Now He is coming against the women and they too are prideful. We might not see it that way but God does and I find it interesting that God is looking at the outward dress and behavior of women to show the moral state of a society. The women in Judah were dressing very provocative and their behavior was very seductive. And make no mistake about it, their outward appearance; the way they dressed, the way they were living was just a reflection of where their heart was at.

We see our society today where outward appearance seems to be the most important thing and God thinks otherwise. In fact, in God's eyes outward beauty is just a reflection of a pure heart, a heart that is in love with Jesus!

I think Peter puts things in perspective for us as he said in I Peter 3:3-4, **“Do not let your adornment be merely outward; arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel; rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.”**

Once again when you look at the emphasis that is placed on outward beauty today, the billions of dollars that are spent each year on plastic surgery and yet when it comes to relationships there is no depth to them, it is superficial and it doesn't last. We have magazines that name the sexiest men and women each year. One of the highest selling Sports Illustrated magazines is the swimsuit issue. Go figure.

I can't stress this enough, the dress does not make the person. In fact, this outward beauty is corruptible or it is fading away as much as we might try to stop it. Now I am not saying don't paint the barn because if the barn needs to be painted, then paint it. Peter is not saying this is wrong, but that is not where true beauty is!



Paul, in I Timothy 2:9-10 makes this same point as he said, **“in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.”**

Women are to dress themselves in a manner that is fitting to worship God. This is not a suggestion here. And I think if women approached their dress that way there would not be a problem. Now this word **“adorn”** is from KOSMEO, (kos-meh’o) and it is the word from which we get our English word “cosmetic”. It basically means “to put in order” or “to arrange.” Here’s the thing, what you wear on the outside is just a reflection of what has taken place on the inside!

Thus, the \$100,000 question is, “How are women supposed to dress for church?” Paul lays out some guidelines. First of all he speaks of **“modest apparel.”** What does that mean? Before you put on your outfit, ask yourself “Is it moderate?”

**“Propriety,”** on the other hand, asks “Is it appropriate for the occasion? Is it going to draw attention to me?” The idea is that you are to wear something that is not so wild that people are watching you, or men are watching you because of what little you are wearing!

To kind of put this into perspective, listen to what the fourth-century church father, John Chrysostom wrote:

And what then is modest apparel? Such as covers them completely and decently, and not with superfluous ornaments; for the one is decent and the other is not. What? Do you approach God to pray with brodered hair and ornaments of gold? Are you come to a ball? To a marriage-feast? To a carnival? There such costly things might have been seasonable: here not one of them is wanted. You are come to pray, to ask pardon for your sins, to plead for your offences, beseeching the Lord, and hoping to render him propitious [favorable] to you. Away with such hypocrisy!

- Cited in Alfred Plummer, "The Pastoral Epistles, The Expositor's Bible, p. 101

The main focus ladies is that you build up your spirit, the inner woman you might say because that is where true beauty is at and it is incorruptible, it will not fade away. And what has taken place in your heart will then overflow in your outward actions, the fruit of the Spirit will flow from you! This is not only precious to the Lord but a blessing to your husband as you live your life obeying the Lord, of manifesting the inner beauty or spiritual virtue. Again, these things our culture does not promote and look at how dissatisfied they are because they are not living in a way that honors God, in a way that God says is best for them.

This judgment against the women of Judah was against their pride because they focused on the outward beauty, they tried to be sensual, seductive. And all that they prided themselves in, when the judgment of God falls; it will be taken away from them. Then what do they have left? Nothing and that is the problem. As much as the inner beauty can't be taken away, the outer beauty can!

For emphasis, the prophet declares a list of the “accessories” and luxury items the women of Judah longed for and devoted too much of their lives to. The jingling anklets, the scarves, and the crescents; the pendants, the bracelets, and the veils; the headdresses, the leg ornaments, and the headbands; the perfume boxes, the charms, and the rings; the nose jewels, the festal apparel, and the mantles; the outer garments, the purses, and the mirrors; the fine linen, the turbans, and the robes. Sounds like they had some pretty good malls in Jerusalem back then, much like we have today!

The key to me is that the women of Judah were proud. They were taken with themselves, and loved to consider themselves better than others or they were haughty. This is in contrast to what women of God are to be like, and men, we should be this way also. Paul said in Philippians 2:3, “**Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.**” Beauty is only skin deep, but true beauty, lasting beauty is one that comes from the heart, that is others centered, that is born from God and is not plastic or artificial, it is real!

Calvin sums this up for us as he wrote, “In short, both men and women are instructed to make a sober use of the gifts of God, both in food and in clothing, and in the whole conduct of life. For the Lord cannot endure extravagance, and absolutely must inflict severe punishment on account of it; for it cannot be restrained by a lighter chastisement.”

2. Now Isaiah is going to speak of the judgment that is to come upon all that they held in high esteem, all that was important to them instead of the Lord.

VERSES 24-26

1. In these verses we see the phrase “**Instead of**” some five times. All that they thought they had with all this outward beauty was going to be turned around! In this judgment, as they are brought into captivity by the hands of the Babylonians notice what takes place. No longer will they smell nice, but they will stink. The sash that went around their waste will now bind their hands. Their beautiful hair will be shaved off. And instead of beauty, they will be branded like a wild animal. And that empty beauty you were displaying to the men of the city will be worthless, for many of the men will be killed by the sword. This had not taken place yet but it is a graphic picture of what was coming their way, and did come their way.

I don't think we realize how quickly things can be taken away from us. If we are holding on to these things tightly, when they are taken away we will be devastated. But here's the thing. If you are holding onto the Lord no one can take Him away!

2. Now why in this section dealing with the judgment of women do we read of men falling by the sword, being killed in battle? Let me ask another question first and then I will answer that one. Why did they dress the way that they did? To seduce men and as they were more attractive to men they felt that they could get them that way.

Now to answer the first question, the reason why men were killed in this judgment against these women is that there were no more men to seduce as they were taken into captivity and all the beauty and luxury that they had was taken away from them. They were left with nothing because there was no inner beauty, and thus, instead of the beautiful things that they had, they were ugly in a sense!

Interestingly enough, when the Romans captured Jerusalem in 70 A. D. there was a Roman medal that had a picture of a woman weeping and these words underneath it, Judea capta. It was a picture of the captives of Israel because they did not heed the warnings of God, they ended up in captivity and it is as Isaiah 3:26 says, **“Her gates shall lament and mourn, And she being desolate shall sit on the ground.”**

3. Look at the Church today who adorns herself with all kinds of different accessories and they see themselves as rich and in need of nothing, not even the Lord. It is as Jesus said to the church of Laodicea in Revelation 3:14-22, **“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’ - and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked - I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.””**

As the Lord looked at this church they were self-sufficient and were in need of nothing, not even the Lord as I have said! You see, from a human perspective they saw themselves as rich or wealthy, in need of nothing but the Lord looks at the heart and He sees what is really going on and says that they are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked!

That is what happened to Judah, pride brought them down and pride will bring ***EVERYTHING*** down, ***EVERYONE*** down who exalts himself above God! Strong warnings especially in the days we are living in!

### **ISAIAH 4**

#### **VERSE 1**

1. As a result of the judgments of the LORD that we read about in Isaiah 3:16-26, the daughters of Zion will have few men to choose from as husbands. You see, the Babylonians killed so many men in the Southern Kingdom of Judah that there were not enough men left for the women to marry. And in that culture it was a reproach not to marry and have children. Thus, seven women will chase after one man and try to marry him just to try and remove the reproach of being childless.

And they are so desperate for marriage that they will not expect their husbands to provide for them at all, that is what it says here, **“We will eat our own food and wear our own apparel.”** Desperate measures for desperate times.

2. But the Lord is gracious and is not going to leave them like that as we shall see as we move on. And keep in mind that Isaiah is going to move from a time of near fulfillment of what he was saying and move to a time of distant fulfillment when God will set up His Kingdom here on earth, a day of glory, a day we long for.

### VERSES 2-3

1. This is looking towards the “**latter days**” we read about back in chapter 2. And I believe the period of time that is spoken of here is after the seven year Tribulation Period, after the time of Jacob’s trouble, and for the one-third of the Jew’s who make it through this time, over 10 million will be killed by the Antichrist, (Zechariah 13:8-9), they will be accounted righteous, holy before God. How can that be? How can they be righteous? Let’s read on and see.

### VERSE 4

1. Notice what it says, “**the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and purged the blood of Jerusalem from their midst.**” It is not because of what they have done, they did not wash themselves but he Lord washed them. That means that they will turn to the One that they bruised one day.

You see, salvation for both Jews and Gentiles is based upon the finished work of Christ on the cross of Calvary and not by works. It never has been works and it will never be works. And if you doubt that then listen to what Peter said in Acts 15:8-11 at the first meeting of the Jerusalem council that dealt with how Gentiles are saved. He said, **“So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us, and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they.”**

First of all the Jew's couldn't even keep the Law so why place that burden upon the Gentiles, it won't save them! And then he says the Jews are saved in the same manner as the Gentiles and not the Gentiles are saved in the same manner as the Jews. Why is that important? Because some Jews still held onto the belief you needed Jesus, circumcision and the Law to be saved. In other words, you needed to become a Jew! But Peter is saying very clearly, “No, we are saved by faith in Jesus just as the Gentiles are!”

It is as Zechariah 13:9 says, **“I will bring the one-third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, ‘This is My people’; And each one will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’”** They are clean; they are holy only by the blood of Christ!



2. Now this “**spirit of burning**” is not speaking of the Holy Spirit but of judgment. The same idea is found in Matthew 3:11-12, where John the Baptist says, “**I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.**” Some will be baptized with the Holy Spirit, they will be saved. The others will be like the chaff, burned in the fire, which speaks of judgment!

#### VERSES 5-6

1. In the Old Testament the presence of God was represented by a pillar of fire by night and a cloud by day, they called it the ***SHEKINAH GLORY!*** In the Millennial Kingdom God will be present and He will protect us and shield His people as He rules and reigns in righteousness and His glory will shine forth!

2. As I close this evening let me leave you with these words from Jonathan Edwards showing us the beauty of the Lord as He reigns from the throne of David. He wrote,

There the glorious God is manifested and shines forth in full glory, in beams of love. And there this glorious fountain forever flows forth in streams, yea, in rivers of love and delight. And these rivers swell, as it were, to an ocean of love, in which the souls of the ransomed may bathe with the sweetest enjoyment and their hearts, as it were, be deluged with love!

- Jonathan ‘Edwards, *Charity and Its Fruits*, pp. 327-328

It is as Jim Elliot said, “He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.” Hold onto the Lord because He will never lose you. All these other things will fade away but the Lord will just shine in His glory!