

QUOTATIONS

“*The Branch of the LORD*, is always elsewhere a title pointing to the Messiah in his kingly and priestly offices (Je. 23:5; 33:15; Zc. 3:8; 6:12). In itself ‘branch’ is a ‘family tree’ metaphor. In Jeremiah, ‘the branch’ is ‘for David’ or (better) ‘of David’s’. Only here do we have ‘the LORD’s branch’. The Messiah springs from a dual ancestry as he belongs in the ‘family tree’ of both David and the Lord” (Motyer 1993: 65).

“The most significant questions to ask about 4:2-6 are not centered on whether this prophecy will be fulfilled in the millennial age or if one should take an amillennial interpretation. The question of when, where, or exactly how these promises will be fulfilled (in the eschatological future or during the church age) is not directly addressed in this passage. The major dilemma is, Who believes that God hates sinful human pride and who believes that only those who are holy will enjoy God’s future kingdom with him? None of these other minor theological issues will matter to those who exalt themselves in rebellion against God, for they will be destroyed in fire. None of these side issues will really matter that much for those who are holy either, for they will be enjoying a wonderful life in the presence of the glory of God. The primary lesson people must remember is that those who exalt and glorify God in their present life will have many opportunities to exalt him in the future.

“God is at the center of all eschatological promises. God will wash away sin and make it possible for people to be holy. God is the one who writes people’s names in his book (4:3-4). God will create a new world order over Mt. Zion, and his glorious presence there will bring protection for his people. He will make the messianic Branch beautiful and he will increase the productivity of the earth. God is the one people can trust and he is the one to exalt. The future of this world is completely dependent on God.

“Every listener who hears the words of the prophet must decide where they would like to spend eternity. One thing is abundantly clear: there will be no place in God’s kingdom for proud men and women who attempt to exalt themselves” (Smith 2007: 159).

SOURCES CITED

J. Alec Motyer, *The Prophecy of Isaiah*, 1993.

Gary V. Smith, *Isaiah 1-39*, New American Commentary, 2007.

ISAIAH 4: THE BRANCH

Isaiah 4:2-6 (NIV)

2 In that day the Branch of the Lord will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land will be the pride and glory of the survivors in Israel. 3 Those who are left in Zion, who remain in Jerusalem, will be called holy, all who are recorded among the living in Jerusalem. 4 The Lord will wash away the filth of the women of Zion; he will cleanse the bloodstains from Jerusalem by a spirit of judgment and a spirit of fire. 5 Then the Lord will create over all of Mount Zion and over those who assemble there a cloud of smoke by day and a glow of flaming fire by night; over all the glory will be a canopy. 6 It will be a shelter and shade from the heat of the day, and a refuge and hiding place from the storm and rain.

OUTLINE

I. FUTURE PRIDE (4:2)

2 In that day the Branch of the Lord will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land will be the pride and glory of the survivors in Israel.

II. FUTURE PURITY (4:3-4)

3 Those who are left in Zion, who remain in Jerusalem, will be called holy, all who are recorded among the living in Jerusalem. 4 The Lord will wash away the filth of the women of Zion; he will cleanse the bloodstains from Jerusalem by a spirit of judgment and a spirit of fire.

III. FUTURE PROTECTION (4:5-6)

5 Then the Lord will create over all of Mount Zion and over those who assemble there a cloud of smoke by day and a glow of flaming fire by night; over all the glory will be a canopy. 6 It will be a shelter and shade from the heat of the day, and a refuge and hiding place from the storm and rain.

JEREMIAH'S DEVELOPMENT OF ISAIAH 4 (ESV)

	Isaiah 4:2-6	Jeremiah 23:5-6; cf. 33:15-16
Future	In that day	Behold, the days are coming
Branch	the branch of the Lord shall be beautiful and glorious and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and honor of the survivors of Israel.	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.
Deliverance from sin	And he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, everyone who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem, 4 when the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and cleansed the bloodstains of Jerusalem from its midst by a spirit of judgment and by a spirit of burning.	Judah will be saved... And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."
Protection	Then the Lord will create 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. 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."	Israel will dwell securely

ZECHARIAH'S DEVELOPMENT OF ISAIAH 4 AND JEREMIAH 23, 33

Zechariah 3:8 (ESV) "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."

Zechariah 6:12-13 (ESV) "And say to him, 'Thus says the Lord 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 the Lord. 13 It is he who shall build the temple of the Lord and shall bear royal honor, and shall sit and rule on his throne. And there shall be a priest on his throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.'"