

The Branch of the LORD & The Millennial Kingdom (4:2-6)

- Isaiah 4:2–6 presents a picture of hope: a coming King, a cleansed people, and God's glorious presence. This passage previews the Millennial Kingdom, when the Messiah - the Branch of the LORD - will reign.

1. The Branch of the LORD - The King Who Reigns (4:2)

- *"In that day"* points to the Day of the LORD - a future time of divine intervention that includes judgment, followed by restoration and kingdom glory. The "Branch of the LORD" is a clear messianic title pointing to Jesus Christ. The image of a Branch (*"tsemach"* - "sprout" or "shoot") speaks of new life springing from a cut-down stump, pointing to the coming of the Messiah who brings new life. Israel (Judah) will be cut down like a tree reduced to a stump through judgment, yet God will bring forth life & hope from that stump through the Messiah.
- The OT develops this title "Branch," pointing to Christ:
 - Isa 11:1 - A Branch from Jesse's line - Davidic Messiah (Matt 1:1).
 - Jer 23:5; 33:15 - A righteous Branch who reigns as King in justice (Rev 19:11-16).
 - Zech 3:8 - God's Servant, the Branch (Mark 10:45; Phil 2:7).
 - Zech 6:12 - The Branch as Priest-King, building the LORD's dwelling (Eph 2:19-22).
- Taken together, these passages present Christ as:
 - King - rightful ruler from David's line.
 - Judge - executing righteousness and justice.
 - Servant - humbly accomplishing God's will.
 - Priest-King - uniting worship and rule.
- The Branch will be *"beautiful and glorious"* - pointing to Christ's moral perfection and divine majesty (Heb 1:3; John 1:14). Though rejected at His first coming (53:3), Christ will be revealed in glory at His second coming.
- *"The fruit of the earth"* symbolizes the blessings and prosperity that will come with the Messiah's reign.
 - Material blessing - a flourishing and restored land (Amos 9:13–15).
 - Spiritual blessing - a redeemed remnant of Israel (Rom 11:25–27).

2. The Purification of Jerusalem - A Holy People (4:3–4)

- Only those *"left in Zion"* - the purified remnant - enter this future glory. Once marked by pride and corruption (3:16–23), God's people are now

called holy. Holiness means belonging wholly to the LORD - not sinless perfection, but a transformed life. Holiness is not optional for the believer.

- God produces holiness: *"When the Lord shall have washed away the filth... by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning..."*
 - *"washed away the filth"* - cleansing from sin and moral corruption.
 - *"spirit of judgment"* - divine judgment that leads to repentance & restoration.
 - *"spirit of burning"* - thorough purification, like refining metal.
- God's discipline flows from His love (Ps 103:8–13). Israel will be pruned through judgment & fire so she may flourish under Christ's reign (Zech 13:8–9; Mal 3:2–3; John 16:8–11). We must submit to God's refining work.

3. God's Presence and Protection - A Secured Dwelling (4:5–6)

- The cloud and fire represent the Shekinah glory, the visible manifestation of God's presence.
 - Exo 13:21–22 - pillar of cloud and fire.
 - Exo 40:34–35 - glory filling the tabernacle.
 - 1 Kings 8:10–11 - glory filling the temple.
- The progression of God's glory:
 - Wilderness: Glory in the pillar.
 - Tabernacle: Glory filling the tent.
 - Temple: Glory filling Solomon's temple.Christ: Glory revealed in the incarnate Son (John 1:14; Heb 1:3).
- In the Millennial Kingdom, God's Shekinah glory returns to Zion. What was once confined to the Holy of Holies will cover all of Mount Zion. God's presence will dwell openly among His redeemed people.
- *"For upon all the glory shall be a defence."* God's glory will be a canopy (defence) of protection for the nation.
 - shelter from heat.
 - refuge from danger.
 - protection from storms.God will not merely provide protection - He will be the protection (43:2–3).
- Isaiah 4:2–6 reminds us: judgment is not God's final word - restoration is.
 - The Branch - a King to submit.
 - A purified people - a holiness to pursue.
 - God's abiding glory - a presence to trust.The Branch *will* reign. The only question is when we will bow (Rev 22:20).