

## Lesson 4 Isaiah 3 and 4

### Judah's Sins and The Messiah's Community

**Memory verse:** "Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them". Ephesians 5:11 (NIV)

Isaiah 3:1 is a good example of the way two Hebrew words, each translated Lord may be used. In this verse, the first time Lord is used, it translates the Hebrew word "adonai", which means "master, owner, sovereign." It is a broad word that can be applied to a human master as well as the Lord GOD, the ultimate Master. The second time LORD is used, and is printed in small capitals, it translates the Hebrew word Yahweh, which is the sacred name of the Triune God. So, it may be that the Hebrew Bible could use the phrase "adonai" Yahweh, which could be translated into English as Lord LORD, but actually means "Master Yahweh." That phrase appears more than 300 times in the Old Testament. Most of the time, the phrase is translated Lord GOD in the New King James Version.

The specific phrase here - the Lord, the LORD of hosts (KJV) or LORD Almighty (NIV) - is used more than 15 times in the Old Testament, and often by Isaiah (Isaiah 1:24, 3:1, 3:15, 10:23-24, 10:33, 19:4, 22:5, 22:12, 22:14-15, and 28:22). It emphasizes the majesty and power of God, because the idea behind LORD of hosts is that God is "Commander in Chief" of heaven's armies.

At the beginning of Chapter 3, emphasis is on the lack of qualified leaders and the consequent collapse of society that would result because God's people put their trust in people rather than in Him. The Lord's condemnation of His people continues further down the chapter, but there is a change in focus. In verses 1-5 it was the male leaders who received criticism, but in this section the female citizens are more prominent. Undoubtedly what the Lord said about these women was true of them as females, but we should not limit their indictment to females alone. Men have been just as guilty of these sins as women, though in Isaiah's day they were more blatant among some women. The point is that the whole nation of Israel was guilty.

As we move on to the fourth chapter, we have the last picture of Jerusalem, prophetic Jerusalem but this time before the Lord. Is there no hope for Jerusalem? Yes, there is hope for Jerusalem after the Judgment and so here, the city is presented again but this time the Lord is more prominent than the city. In chapter 2, the city was more prominent than the Lord. Beginning with the 2nd verse in chapter 4, we read in that day shall the branch of the Lord be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and splendid for those who are escaped of Israel.

The Branch of the LORD is a Messianic title, speaking of Jesus Christ. This image is repeated in Isaiah 11:1. "There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots." It is repeated in Jeremiah 23:5: "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth." It is repeated in Jeremiah 33:15, "In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David a Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. It is repeated in Zechariah 3:8, "For behold, I am bringing forth My Servant the BRANCH."

When the Branch of the LORD reigns, there will be protection from the LORD. The LORD's people will be safe and secure, washed, and in the abiding presence of the LORD. If we are really born again, we want to be washed, have the presence of the LORD, and enjoy His protection. Many people only want the LORD's constant presence and protection. But He doesn't grant those apart from His cleansing!

Scripture reading: Isaiah 3:8-15 and Isaiah 4: 2 – 6

Things to learn: 1) Profile of a sinful society 2) God's case against Judah 3) A glimpse of society under the Messiah.

### Discussion Questions:

1). Deduce from verses 1 to 15 of chapter 3, what a society will be like including Judah that calls for God's judgement.

2). There seemed to be a focus on women from verses 16 to chapter 4 verse 1. Are there lessons for all today as God's judgement fell on the women of Judah?

3). From the text, chapter 4:2-6, if you think it is the Messiah's reign, what is going to happen then?