

Title: “*The Apologetics of Isaiah Chapter Four*”

Sub-Title: “*The Fall of Jerusalem Prophesied*”

Introduction: The study of the book of Isaiah has as its subject, the Lord Jesus Christ, as seen in Isaiah's theme verse: ***Isaiah: 9:6 “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”***

- Clarification of Israel and the Local Church

While constructing one's Eschatology systems of belief it is imperative to clarify the distinction between the State of Israel and local churches from around the World. This distinction is important to furthermore understand the relationship between the dispensation of the church age and future dispensations. Lewis Sperry Chafer argued for a distinction between the churches and

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Israel in a powerful way. He argued, “If Israel is the bride, then Israel must occupy heaven rather than the earth and surpass the Church in exaltation with no doctrinal understructure, such as is revealed respecting the New Creation, to sustain that superior position.”¹

Chafer further argued, “A parallel between the Church as the Bride and Israel’s relation to Jehovah is seen in the fact that Israel is said to be the apostate wife of Jehovah who is yet to be restored. Certainly a wide distinction obtains between an espoused virgin (II Cor. 11:2) and a repudiated wife.” The two areas Chafer discussed are powerful arguments. The position of the church and relative to the Rapture is significant in who Christ promises to rapture. Second Chafer made the argument as to the nature of Israel, and the nature of the espoused bride of Christ. Chafer stated that Israel was as an unfaithful wife, whereas the local churches are waiting for the Bridegroom Jesus Christ to take His virgin Bride to heaven.²

¹ Lewis Sperry Chafer, *Ecclesiology – Eschatology*, vol. IV of *Systematic Theology* (Dallas: Dallas Seminary Press, 1948), 128.

² *Ibid.*, 128.

- Context and comparison of Israel and the Christian life

This Theocracy, Israel, was known in Jesus' time as a religious country, while surrounding countries were known as pagan or non-religious countries. Furthermore, from a military, and security standpoint, Israel was not only surrounded by enemies but was entirely along the Mediterranean Sea. Today the enemies maybe an even greater threat to the survival of this tiny nation. The countries that surround Israel, Lebanon; Syria; Jordan, and Egypt are all Muslim nations. And the Koran calls for the extermination of the Jews and Christians, which they refer to as infidels.

The Christian life is at constant war and or on guard against the enemy that would like to see you destroyed. Paul wrote in **II Cor. 10:3-5** "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”

Just like the nation of Israel is surrounded by enemies and the possibility of eminent attack and destruction it is the same in the Christian life. With this context in mind let's consider Isaiah chapter four.

Isaiah 4:1-6 “And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach.” Isaiah wrote in B.C. 760.

- Israel had suffered the capture and plunder of her people once before and were to suffer her capture and plunder twice more between this period and 70 A.D.
- Israel had suffered attack on all sides and seemed to be at constant war. Israel had suffered many losses and casualties in pursuit of survival and peace.

- The losses of wars and captivity (the first captivity B.C. 722) Israel had many more women than men, since many men were lost in battle.
- Because of these losses of the male population and the stigma of being a single Hebrew woman were willing to marry almost any man that presented himself to one of these Hebrew women.
- There was an economic element to this scenario. Legally the man was required to at the very least provide food and clothing for his wife. In this situation the woman was willing to forgo her legal claim, and provide her own food and clothing. The woman was desperate to take the man's last name, and in so doing take away the woman's reproach.
- The law pertaining to the husbands obligations are seen in, **Exodus 21:10** "If he take him another wife; her food, her raiment, and her duty of marriage, shall he not diminish."

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Vs. 2 “In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel.”

Vs. 3 “And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem:”

Vs. 4 “When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning.”

Vs. 5 “And the LORD will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory shall be a defence.”

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- Adam Clarke wrote, “This is a blessed promise of the presence of God in all the assemblies of His people.”³

- **Exodus 15:17** “Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, in the place, O LORD, which thou hast made for thee to dwell in, in the Sanctuary, O Lord, which thy hands have established.”

- **Cloud and smoke:** Clake stated, “This is a manifest allusion to the pillar of a cloud and of fire which attended the Israelites in their passage out of Egypt, and to the glory that rested on the tabernacle.”⁴

- **Exodus 40:38** “For the cloud of the LORD was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.”

³ Adam Clarke, Clarke's Commentary, Vol. IV – Isaiah to Malachi (New York: Abington Press, 1826), 40.

⁴ Ibid., Clarke, 40-41.

- Clarke explained, “That is, the visible presence of God shall protect her...Whatever God creates, He must uphold, or it will fall. every degree of grace brings with it a degree of power to maintain itself in the soul.”⁵

Vs. 6 “And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain.”

Apologetics of Isaiah chapter four:

1. Since the husband is a portrait of the Saviour, how desperately does every one of us need Christ?
2. If the enemies of Israel are a portrait of Satan's desire to destroy God's people how much more must the Christian need God to defend them?

⁵ Ibid., Clarke, 41.

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3. If the woman in verse one is willing to marry a man without material blessing, how much more ought one to come to Christ, if only to know and serve the Lord?
4. If God brought the Israelites out of captivity, how much more will He guide your everyday steps?
5. God showed His presence and willingness to protect the Israelites by the cloud and smoke by day and the fire by night, how much more should Christians be assured of God's presence and the unseen hand to protect His people?

Applications:

1. Download Knight's Notes on: Excellent Way.tv.
2. Read Isaiah chapter five before we get together again.
3. Memorize Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."
4. Study and discuss Isaiah chapter four with family and friends. Email me any questions that you have relative to Isaiah chapter four.
5. Share our ministry website on you social media.
6. Subscribe and share on our YouTube channel.

Where we began:

- Clear understanding that the local church is not Israel.
- We saw how the Lord led His people out of captivity.
- We saw overwhelming need for the Messiah by way of seven women willing to take one man for name's sake only.
- We saw the character of God to lead His people B.C. 700 and God's desire to have a relationship with us.

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Next time:

- The Apologetics of Isaiah chapter five
- Determine whether the text is metaphoric or a literal
- The expansion of Hell
- The Lord will be glorified in the DOL