

THE BRANCH OF THE LORD
God Prepares the Nation for Glory

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Isaiah 3-4

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Memory Verse: Isaiah 52:15 Thus He will sprinkle many nations, Kings will shut their mouths on account of Him; For what had not been told them they will see, And what they had not heard they will understand.

Theme: God reveals His holiness and justice by punishing sin and His mercy by sending the Savior to redeem His people

Before the time of Isaiah's ministry: King Uzziah's rule 791-740 BC

1. Judah claimed that its God was the one true God, creator and ruler over everything
2. Judah's king was installed by God from the Davidic line as His representative
3. Judah looked forward to God sending His Messiah to rule the world from Zion
4. Judah had experienced great prosperity, military success and political stability

During the time of Isaiah's ministry: 739-686 BC time of King Uzziah's death

1. Judah did not acknowledge God by their actions; no genuine worship or trust in God.
2. Judah's wealth was concentrated in the economic elite, who disregarded justice and exploited the poor and weak of their own people
3. Judah's religious observances continued, but were empty rituals.
4. Assyria emerged as the world power and aggressively expanded its territory through relentless military campaigns
5. Judah was threatened by the overwhelming military power of the nations around her.

Crises during Isaiah's ministry – reigns of Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah

1. 734 BC Israel and Damascus formed an alliance to challenge Assyria and demanded Judah's participation.
- 2, 701 BC The siege of Jerusalem by Assyria

After the time of Isaiah's ministry: Judah is defeated and deported by the Babylonians

I. God's Judgment Predicted

3:1-7

1. God will cause the nation will to experience a loss of food and water.
2. God will cause the nation to lose the leadership in whom they had trusted.
3. The new, inexperienced leadership will not be able to lead the nation to order.

II. God's Reason Explained

3:8-4:1

1. The immorality of the people, who commit evil and make no effort to hide it.
2. The corruption of the leaders, who oppress the people and lead them away from God.
3. The vanity of the women, who are proud of their position and external appearance.

III. God's Grace Revealed

4:2-6

1. The Messiah will be the nation's pride and glory.
2. The city of Jerusalem will be populated by people whom God has made holy.
3. The residents of Jerusalem will be protected by God's covering over His glory.

IV. Application

1. Observe the perfect fulfillment of God's prophesy of Judah's judgment and trust in God to perfectly fulfill the prophetic events to come in Day of the Lord.

Is 4:2-6 and Rev. 21:1-3

2. Examine the impact of man's sin on his relationship with the Holy God.

Rom. 6:23 Ps 53:1-3

3. Remember you are a sinner, but God, being rich in mercy and because of His great love made us alive together with Christ.

Eph. 2:3-5

4. If you remain under God's wrath, repent of your sins and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

John 3:36