

**Isaiah**

**The Lord Is Salvation**

# **There's Hope**

**Isaiah 4**

**Lesson Nine**

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum*

# Isaiah

**The Lord Is Salvation**

## There's Hope

The first thing that we read in chapter four is a sad note about the situation with the women who were left in Judah after the men had been captured and taken away. Read Isaiah 4:1. The women were put in a difficult position when their husbands or future husbands were either killed or marched away to a foreign land. First, the women were in a society where a woman got her identity from a man. She was a daughter of a father, then she was the wife of a husband. She never had an identity of her own. Also, women were not considered good for much until they had children. What were these women to do?

Second, marriages in that day were normally arranged by parents. But, ignoring the normal way, the women would decide, wrote Isaiah, to propose to men. The men who were left behind were blessed with many wives. Women even said that they would pay their own way, furnish their own food and clothes if only they could have the name of a male.

From what is said in the last of chapter three, and from Amos 4:1-3, we can assume that the women of both Israel and Samaria were not the best examples of Godly behavior. But, we can also assume that both prophets understood that the way to a great nation was through good mothers who would train their children in Godly ways.

Verse one in chapter four should probably be the last verse in chapter three, because the rest of chapter four speaks of hope for God's people.

Terrible things, according to chapter three, will come to God's people. But, then wonderful things will follow. The survivors of the war, whenever that is, have much to hope for as they trust God. The future will be beautiful and it will be glorious. Contrast this with the painful picture in the third chapter.

Remember in the third chapter everything was going away. Even the food and water were going to be taken away. And the pain endured there is obviously the result of their unbelief and the fact that they ignored God.

But now "the Branch of the Lord" will be just right. This is the picture of the limb of a tree that sprouts new leaves in the Spring. Just as welcome as the new growth of Spring is the renewed and restored Judah, which will bear much fruit for the Kingdom of God. They will be called the holy ones. They are set apart, in special service to God. God will know their names.

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And they will be the cleansed. God Himself will make this happen. We could see this as the other side to the flames of judgment. Fire not only consumes, it purifies. And, after the judgment is handed down and the punishment is complete, there will be a remnant, a few loyal followers of God, remaining. They will be the holy or cleansed ones.

Three things are said about the remnant. First, they will be given a new name, "Holy." This is the only place in Isaiah where this name is applied of humans. Elsewhere it is applied to God.

Second, their names are recorded in God's record book. God does keep records, and to have your name placed in His record book is very special. It is called the "Book of Life." See Exodus 32:32; Daniel 12:1; Malachi 3:6 and Revelation 20:12, 15.

Third, their filth is washed away. Their bloodstained past will be cleaned by the hand of God. And, God's judgment will bring about hope, not pain.

Isaiah then gives us another picture. It is a picture which takes us back to the time that Israel was wandering in the desert. God guided His people with a column of fire by night and a special cloud by day.

Now God promises to hover over Mount Zion as a cloud and smoke during the day and flames of fire by night. His presence will be like a canopy over Jerusalem. It will protect them. When the enemy sees it, they will turn away in fear.

It will be like an umbrella. They will be protected from the heat of the day, and from storms bringing rain.

They will be like the Israel of years past. God will be evident to all. Israel will regain its place as a nation under God. They will be seen as blessed by the other nations of the world. Remember, this is something that will take place in the future...it has not happened yet.

\*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

Page Three

**Scripture Memory:** "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." Isaiah 4:2

**Lesson Goal:** To encourage students to find hope in the judgment and cleansing of the Lord.

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## Student Worksheet

### There's Hope—Isaiah 4

As the teacher goes through the lesson, listen for answers to these:

1. How did women in Isaiah's day get their identity?
2. Both Isaiah and Amos believed that the way to a great nation was what?
3. What three things are said about the remnant?
4. What does the picture of fire and smoke remind us of from earlier times?
5. What will the canopy, umbrella, over Jerusalem protect them from?

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#### **How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:**

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.