

BBC - 9/8/24 Home Bible Study Outline – “The 2 Last Day/End-Time Churches” – [Isaiah 4:1, 2-6](#)

Last week we emphasized the “*endurance*” we must have as the connection between God’s promises & the fulfillment of those promises, especially during the last days’ intensification of adverse pressure.

This week we get a glimpse from the prophet Isaiah, of 2 Last-day/End-time Churches”:

The Superficial Church described in [Isaiah 4:1](#) & the Remnant Church described in [Isaiah 4:2-6](#).

The imagery of the language in these verses generally suggests that “Israel” represents the Superficial Church, while “Jerusalem” the Remnant Church.

The Old Testament book of Isaiah is like a mini-Bible. The content of its 66 chapters is divided (like the Bible’s Old & New Testament books) – 39 chapters of *judgment*, followed by 27 chapters of *hope*.

Discussion: 1) In light of [1Corinthians 10:11](#), as we read Isaiah’s preceding chapters 1-3, & 4, how does what’s described resemble America, and the common modern church of today?
2) As we read the 6 verses of [Isaiah 4](#), what events are occurring at the same time (described as being in the “same day”), as they’re stated in [vs.1](#), and then [vss. 2-6](#)?

1. The “Superficial Church” described in [Isaiah 4:1](#) – The imagery is of 7 women seeking to attach themselves to one man. The women seek the man’s covering (to be identified by his name so to be disassociated from their own reproach), agreeing to eat their own bread and provide their own attire.

If the 7 Churches of [Revelation](#) chpts. [2-3](#) represent the “church world,” then the 7 women here represent that same “church world,” or what we can call the “Superficial Church.” The “man” they are seeking to attach to for covering is Jesus Christ. Their desire is for the Man to cover their reproach, but with the condition that they “eat their own bread” and “wear their own apparel.” Quite interesting!

Discussion: 1) What is the women’s motive for wanting the man’s covering, but not his bread & apparel?
2) Are the women not wanting to burden the man, or do they want only the benefit they can gain from him, without the obligation of dependency & commitment to him?

2. The “Remnant Church” described in [Isaiah 4:2-6](#):

- Simultaneous to the 7 women’s actions of [vs.1](#), the text now directs our attention to the beautiful & glorious “Branch of the LORD,” who is a blessing to those who are “escaped of Israel” ([vs.2](#)).

So, those who are *separated* from Israel (those left in Zion & who remain in Jerusalem) are called “holy,” and are documented as being “among the living in Jerusalem” ([vs.3](#)). It is these, who’ve been washed of their filth and have been blood-purged by the spirit of judgment & burning ([vs.4](#)).

Discussion: 1) In light of [Jeremiah 23:5 & 33:15](#); [Zechariah 3:8 & 6:12](#); & [Revelation 22:16](#), who is “The Branch”? ...and who are the “escaped of Israel” that He’s blessed?
2) If the “bread” is the *bread of life* or *Word of God*, and the “apparel” is the acceptable attire to be worn by one who is under another’s covering, what does the women’s condition (in [vs.1](#)) that they eat their own bread and wear their own apparel indicate?

- For the Remnant, the LORD then provides upon every dwelling place & assembly a “cloud & smoke by day,” and a “flaming fire by night,” creating a defensive covering of “glory” over them ([vs.5](#)). He also provides a shady tabernacle to protect from the heat, and protection from storms & rain ([vs.6](#)).

Discussion: 1) According to [Exodus 13:21-22](#), what purpose did the “pillar of cloud” by day, and the “pillar of fire” by night provide for the people of God during their exodus from Egypt?
2) What significance of provision is that to the “Remnant Church” who is washed of their filth and is blood-purged, but who still has to journey by day and by night during this life on earth?