

## Isaiah 4:3 – 5:5, 16

### Holiness

This haftarah is a companion to **Leviticus 19:1-2** - "Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy."

**Isaiah 4:3** - "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:"

"shall be called holy" = shall *be* holy

Jewish translation: "‘holy’ shall be said of him, everyone inscribed for life in Jerusalem..."

Targum: "everyone that is written unto life of the world to come, he shall see the consolation of Jerusalem"

The "consolation of Israel" is Jesus, the Messiah. (**Luke 2:25–38**)

The idea is that of "the book" or "register" of life in which are written the names of those who are worthy of living in the heavenly city. Tradition says on Rosh Hashanah the books of life and death are opened. Men have 10 days until Yom Kippur to ensure they are in the book of life - through repentance.

- **Daniel 12:1** - ""Every one that shall be found written in the book . . . shall awake to everlasting life""

Rabbi David Kimchi (12th cent. Spain) translated it: "he that remaineth in Jerusalem shall be called holy *because of him*." i.e. the holiness is imputed to us by "Him" - Christ.

- **1 Corinthians 1:2** - "To them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus..."

- **1 Corinthians 6:11** - "Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God."

Compare **Zechariah 14:20-21** - "On that day, HOLY TO THE LORD will be inscribed on the bells of the horses, and the cooking pots in the house of the LORD will be like the sprinkling basins before the altar. Indeed, every pot in Jerusalem and Judah will be holy to the LORD of Hosts, and all who sacrifice will come and take some pots and cook in them. And on that day there will no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the LORD of Hosts..."

- **Revelation 21:27** - "But nothing unclean will ever enter it [the New Jerusalem on the

New Earth], nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life"

**Isaiah 4:4** - "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."

- **Matthew 3:11-12** - "He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

### **The Pillar of Cloud and Fire = *chuppah* = Tabernacle**

**Isaiah 4:5** - "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 defense (*chuppah*). 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."

"assemblies" is "*miqra*" - a convocation or assembly. Also a "reading" of the Torah (**Nehemiah 8:8**) and thus, an assembly where the Torah is read; the various assemblies that make up Mount Zion, God's people.

Thus, each believer as well as the gathered church is covered.

"upon all the glory there shall be a defense" = (NET) a canopy will accompany the LORD's glorious presence.

"canopy" - *chuppah* - the canopy over the bride at a Jewish wedding, and over the wedding bed.

- **Joel 2:16** - "let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet (*chuppah*)."

Rashi's comment on **Leviticus 23:42** - "Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths:" - [These were] the clouds of glory [with which God enveloped the Jewish people in the desert, forming a protective shelter for them against wild beasts and enemies.] [See Num. 10:34 and Rashi on that verse, above.]- [Sukkah 11b]

Seven clouds are recorded in the account of their travels: cloud, smoke, splendor, fire, flame, shelter, Shechinah - four from the four sides, one above, one below, and one in front of them, which would flatten the high land, raise the hollows and destroy snakes and scorpions - [from Sifrei]

The pillar of cloud and fire - a constant witness of the presence and power of God with Israel in the wilderness - is equated with the wedding canopy, the *chuppah*, "to provide

shade from the heat, as well as safety and protection from the heavy downpour.”

Since spiritual Israel is now in the Promised Land, the pillar of cloud and fire is not so much for guidance as for refreshing, comfort, safety and protection.

In effect, it is the Shekinah Glory, once settled only between the cherubim on the ark in the Holy of Holies, now surrounding believers through the indwelling Holy Spirit.

"a covert from storm and from rain" - Rashi says these refer to punishments for the wicked:

- Storm: **Jeremiah 23:19** - "Behold, a whirlwind (storm) of the LORD is gone forth in fury, even a grievous whirlwind: it shall fall grievously upon the head of the wicked."

- Rain: **Psalm 11:6** - "He rains on the wicked burning coals."

### **But God's Protection can be Taken Away**

**Isaiah 5:1** - "Now will I sing to my well beloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My well beloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill:"

Or, "a song of love" - but of love that is refused and unrequited.

**Isaiah 5:2** - "And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes."

Targum and Rabbis: He fenced it with good and wholesome laws, gathered the stones out of it - the seven heathen nations that inhabited it; planted it with the choicest vine, the seed of Abraham, Joshua and Caleb; built a tower in the midst, the house of God on Mount Moriah, my sanctuary in the midst of them; I also made a winepress therein - my altar I gave to make an atonement for their sins (others say the prophets, who taught the people the law); but it brought forth wild grapes - bad grapes, rotten, putrifying ones.

Septuagint: "thorns"

A rabbinical transposition of Hebrew letters yields a word that means evil works.

Targum: "I commanded them to do good works before me, and they have done evil works."

Paul references this imagery with a list of the works of the flesh (**Galatians 5:19-21**), and the fruit of the Spirit in **Galatians 5:22-23**.

**Isaiah 5:5** - "And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down:"

### **One last word about holiness:**

**Isaiah 5:16** - "But the LORD of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and God that is holy shall be sanctified in righteousness."

We are freely offered God's grace, written into his book of life and sanctified.

But Peter warns us to "give diligence to make your calling and election sure":

- **2 Peter 1:5-11** - "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Our diligence is to walk in repentance, continually return to the cross, let go of the control of our lives and allow God to live through us.