

B. 4:2-6 The Branch

i. The remnant.

- a) The survivors in Israel
- b) Those who are left in Zion
- c) Who remain
- d) they are recorded among the living...

ii. The Lord will cleanse away the filth and bloodstains

iii. vs. 5-6 paint a picture using Exodus images

FOCUS TEXT – Isaiah 2:22

*Stop trusting in man, who has but a breath in his nostrils.
Of what account is he?*

LIVE THE STORY

We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.

- Why do you think Jerry said pride and humility are all about where you go with your fears? What does that mean to you?
- Can you think of Scriptures that tell us to take our fears and go to God? How are we tempted by fear to trust in man?
- Can you think of reasons Isaiah might cry, “Do not forgive them”? How does this begin pointing to the problem of sin in the book of Isaiah, that ultimately only God will overcome?
- How does verse 22 reveal the complete absurdity of pride?
- When are you most tempted to trust in the wisdom of man rather than the ways of God?
- Look at the imagery of chapter 3. How does it reveal the effect or consequences of pride? Is the punishment fitting?
- Who are the righteous of 3:10? Would the Old Testament have required perfection in order to be righteous?
- Who are the “survivors” or “those who remain” in Zion? (4:2-3)

The Folly of Pride

Jerry Cisar — January 23, 2011

Text: Isaiah 2—4

Introduction: Where Do You Go With Your Fear?

- A. Pride and humility are all about where you go with your fears. When you are afraid, in what do you trust?

B. The *folly of pride* and God's glorious solution.

I. The Glorious Vision – Isaiah 2:1-5

- A. What could've been (vs. 2-3)

- B. Nothing to fear (vs. 4)

- C. The entreaty (vs. 5)

II. The Horrific Nightmare (2:6—4:1)

A. The Loss of Pride

Because they didn't trust God, but in their pride trusted in man's wisdom, now they have everything to fear.

- i. vs. 2 Zion will be raised up! vs. 9-11 Man will be brought low and mankind humbled.

When we embrace God's glory, we share in the glory. When man rejects God's glory, he is consumed with shame and disgrace.

- a) vs. 3 Nations come to Zion to learn God's ways; vs. 7-8 Zion is filled with pagan ways from east to west.

What had been the gift of God's blessing had been amassed inordinately in order to put their trust in their wealth as security.

- b) vs. The house of Jacob walking in the light of the Lord; vs. 6 the house of Jacob abandoned.

Instead of the glorious vision, they will inherit a nightmare.

B. The Problem of Pride (Vs. 9)

- i. Could God violate of his own justice and forget their heinous pride?

- Romans 3:4

- ii. Exalting man above God is a falsehood, and must have heinous effects, or truth is not truth.

C. The Absurdity of Pride (2:12-22)

- i. The essence of pride: trusting in our own ways, the ways of man, and not God's.

- Where do you go with your fears?

- ii. A day of accounting is coming...

- a) vs. 12-16 symbolizes all that **looks** successful when man trusts his own ways and rejects God.

- b) vs. 17 He alone will be exalted.

- In whom will you be found trusting?

- iii. vs. 18-21 Even in the depth, they turn to idols.

- iv. Stop trusting in Man!

D. The Effect of Pride (3:1—4:1)

- i. vs. 1-7 The Lord Almighty is about to take away everything they trusted in!

- ii. 3:16—4:1 the daughter of Zion, once a wealthy women, now reduced to scabby, bald hags begging for a husband.

III. God Will Save Through the Horrific Nightmare (4:2-6)

A. 3:10... A Promise for the Humble

- i. Who are the righteous? The humble—who trust in God.

- ii. God is powerful enough to save even through the consequences of sin.