

Isaiah 3

which were supposed to be in the covenant and supposed to have been--God's great representatives have themselves fallen into sin and into such severe sin that it had been necessary to send them off into captivity as a result of their sins. They also need atonement, and we find now that those who seem to be outside the covenant have more children than the children of the married wife. That doesn't say that the married wife has no children. That doesn't say the married wife is barren, that the other becomes entirely fruitful and the married wife entirely barren but it does say that the center of God's blessing passes for a time at least from that which had formerly been the great center to another area, and of course that we have already found taught in other parts of the book of Isaiah. Now in v. 4 are we still speaking to the one who was formerly barren but now receives these great blessings, or are we speaking to the one who was the married wife and who had been--has had to endure the suffering for her sin? Fear not, for thou shalt not be ashamed; neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame; for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more. For thy Maker is thine husband; the Lord of hosts is His name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the earth shall He be called. It would seem that it is at least possible that this is speaking to the married woman who is for a period left outside the center of God's mercy and gives her the assurance that her casting off is not a permanent thing. Thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood. If this refers to Israel in v. 4 she then goes through a period of reproach but this period is not permanent. This period comes to an end. God's mercy to Israel is permanent, even though there be a time in which for her sin she is cast aside and His mercy turns to others as the center of His blessing. The Maker is thine husband. The Lord of hosts is His name. He has promised great blessings to them, these blessings are certain to come even though for