

This verse ends the rebuke section of our passage and leads immediately to the vision of blessing beginning at 4:2.

Undoubtedly one of the poorest chapter divisions in the whole Scripture is the one at the beginning of chapter 4. It should be at 4:2, instead of 4:1. Certain medieval commentators interpreted 4:1 as a picture of the coming of Christ, saying that the seven women here mentioned were the seven virgins, and that the one man was Christ. By such methods of interpretation one could derive almost any meaning that one desired from the Bible. It is far more natural to take the verse as the conclusion of the rebuke passage which precedes it.

"In That Day"

Isaiah 4:2 begins a brief but vivid picture of blessing which God has promised in the days ahead. Here it is necessary that we pause for a moment to look at the phrase with which the passage begins -- "in that day." We note that this phrase is used at the beginning of 3:18, and again in 4:1 and also in 4:2. It is quite obvious that not all of these refer to the same day. The passage from 3:18 to 4:1 describes a time of judgment, punishment and misery. Verse 1 of chapter 4 gives the conclusion of the section that begins at 3:18, but 4:2 begins a description of a period of glory and happiness, one that is obviously very different in time from what is described in 3:18 and in 4:1. Therefore, "in that day" can hardly be taken as always meaning "in the day of which we have just been speaking."

Occasionally we find someone attempting to interpret the phrase "in that day" as a technical term for a particular future time. Examination of the passages where it is used does not bear out this interpretation. We must beware of the error of constantly seeking for technical phrases in the Scripture. The books of the Bible were written by many different men in many different periods. While the Holy Spirit caused that there should be a wonderful unity of teaching in the Bible, this does not mean that words are always used in the same way by different writers. Paul uses the word "faith" in one way, and James uses it in a different sense. If we take the word "faith" as meaning exactly the