

earth. This, however, must not lead us to go to the other extreme, and find the Millennium everywhere. As Isaiah looks forward to the future he sees God's wrath upon sin and describes the terrible exile into which God will send His people as punishment for their disregard of His law. As he looks beyond the exile he brings comfort to God's people and describes the return from exile, the coming of Christ to die as the sacrifice for sin, the spread of the light of the gospel to the Gentiles, the protection of God over His people during their pilgrim journey, and the wonderful blessings of the millennial age. All these phases of future glory appear at one place or another in the book of Isaiah. We should strongly insist on its teachings regarding the Millennium when it deals with that theme, but should not attempt to twist passages dealing with other themes to make them also refer to the Millennium.

There is a striking difference between the description of future blessing in chapter 4:2-6 and that in 2:2-4. Chapter 2 describes a time when people can sit under their vine and under their fig tree with a complete absence of any cause for fear. Their swords will be beaten into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks because there will be no need for protection. God will have established a time when external danger shall be at an end throughout the world. Chapter 4 describes an entirely different situation, for verses 5 and 6 assume that there is a need for protection. There is a tabernacle for shadow from the heat; there is a place of refuge from storm and from rain. Evidently there will be much that can do harm but God will give protection. The picture in verse 5 of the cloud of smoke by day and the flaming fire by night forcibly reminds us of the experience of the children of Israel in their wilderness journey. This is a picture of the protection that God will give His people as they pass through the midst of dangers and difficulties in their pilgrim journey. It is not a picture of millennial glory, but rather of a time when God protects and blesses His people as He leads them through the midst of adversity. It shows God's blessing on those who shall be righteous in the midst of a wicked age.

The passage that begins in verse 2 is in sharp contrast with the previous one. After God takes away the glory of the