

Jo. 3-6

and so on...
will

can make them afraid. Their swords ^{will} may be beaten into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks because there will be no need for ~~anything for~~ protection. God will have ^s established a time throughout the world ¹ when external danger shall be at an end. In chapter 4 we have an entirely different type of situation. Verses 5 and 6 describe a period when there is need for ^{protection} a defense. 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} is that which can ^{do a 10} ¹¹⁵ injure, but God is ^{will give} giving protection, ~~from it~~. The pictures in verse 5 of the cloud of smoke by day and the flaming fire by night, remind us ^{forcibly} of the experience of the children of Israel in ~~going through the wilderness~~, ^{As} God's people ^{rather} pass through the midst of dangers and difficulties, God provides ^{it is not} supernatural leadership. ^{but} It is a picture of a pilgrim journey. This cannot be considered a picture of millennial glory, ^{at} it is rather a time when God protects and blesses His people ^{as he} and leads them through the midst of adversity. ^{shows} It is God's blessing on those who shall be righteous in the midst of a wicked age.

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① picture of the protection that God will give His people

② rather

③ it is not

The passage begins with ² the wonderful picture in verse 2 of our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, ³ This contrasts with the previous picture! ¹ God is to remove ³ the glory of the ornaments and ~~the~~ apparel which meant so much to the women of Judah, Those of Israel who escaped ^{are} are to find their glory no more in material things, but in the wonderful Branch of the Lord. They are to be washed and cleansed from their sins and to be holy unto the Lord.

The Branch of the Lord

This phrase "the branch of the Lord" and its parallel "the fruit of the earth" are susceptible of three types of interpretation. The first would be to take them in the obvious literal sense. In this case what it is saying is

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