

that it is possible to interpret the phrase similarly in Isaiah 4:2 and clearly indicate that Jeremiah considered that to be the correct interpretation of the phrase in this passage, to which he was obviously alluding. It is therefore reasonable to consider both phrases, "the branch of the Lord" and "the fruit of the earth," as referring to Christ. It is a wonderful prediction of the divine and human aspects of the person of our blessed Lord. He was indeed the Branch of the Lord, since He was divine and came from God Himself, and was, in fact, the second person of the Trinity. He was truly also the "fruit of the earth," in that He was the seed of the woman, of the race of Israel, and truly a human being. The fact that the Lord Jesus Christ is both perfect deity and perfect humanity, without any intermixture of the two natures, is one of the great mysteries of the New Testament. We cannot understand how it can be, but the New Testament clearly teaches that it is so, and it has been accepted as true by the Christian church through the ages. It is not necessary for us to think that Isaiah fully understood this great mystery. He was led by the Spirit of God to use words which would correspond to the actual facts, even though their exact meaning might be difficult to grasp until the Lord Jesus Christ would come.

The remainder of this passage of blessing promises that those who are cleansed from their sins are to find their joy and their ornamentation in the Lord Jesus Christ, and that He is to protect them from the evils and dangers round about them and to lead them on their pilgrim journey. The cloud of smoke by day and the shining of the flaming fire by night are to be upon all the assemblies and dwelling places of Mount Zion.

The Third Part of the Book: Chapters 5 and 6

Chapter 5 is a chapter of woe. It tells of God's disappointment with His vineyard. Although He has tilled it and protected it, it has failed to produce the desired fruit. The vineyard is the house of Israel. God describes the people's sin and declares that ample punishment will come. While it would be interesting to study the details of this chapter, and it could teach valuable lessons for our spiritual lives, we shall