

ISAIAH: JUDGMENT & REDEMPTION

ISA-03 “HEAR MY WORDS!”

THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

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HCBC 09/08/ 2026

The **Book of ISAIAH** begins with an “*indictment*” of the **Nation of Judah**. It is, as if, the Lord was holding Court. He has called the Nation, “*to the bench*” and reads their violations publicly: announcing His review. There is NO opportunity for the “*defendant*” to speak, or to attempt to justify their actions. There is no offer for them to make an excuse, or to redirect blame. As **HABAKKUK** said: “*The Lord is in His Holy Temple... Let all the Earth keep silence before Him.*” [**HAB 2:20**]

As we consider this opening Chapter, we begin to see the “**Character of God**” established in **ISAIAH**. Although the passages often are in reference to “*judgment*”, they also present the measure by which God stands as Judge: **His Character**; **His Sovereignty**; and **His Word**. NO ONE is qualified to stand, nor can they offer any defense for their actions. In this “*Heavenly Court*” **all are guilty**. YET... there is a promise of “*Redemption*” offered TO the guilty. **IF they will accept it!**

ISAIAH: THE LORD DECLARES, “HEAR MY WORDS”

1) The **VISION of ISAIAH** the son of **Amoz**, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of **Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah**, kings of Judah.

Names in Biblical times carried significance. A name was proclaimed in as a testimony to the “hope / faith” of the parents... a type of “prophetic voice” that would be realized, honored, or that expressed their confidence in their God / gods.

ISA 1:1 “The vision of **ISAIAH** the son of **AMOZ**, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of **UZZIAH, JOTHAM, AHAZ, and HEZEKIAH**, kings of Judah.”

- **ISAIAH** means “Yahweh has Saved.” **AMOZ** means “to be made strong or courageous.” **JUDAH** means “the giving of praise.” **JERUSALEM** means “founded on peace”.
- **ISAIAH** prophesied during the reign of **UZZIAH** (“the strength of Yahweh”), **JOTHAM** (“the one Yahweh makes perfect”), **AHAZ** (“the possessor”), and **HEZEKIAH** (“strengthened by Yahweh”).

The “*name*” didn’t guarantee that the child would “*be*” what their name proclaimed... many did not live by what their name said. However, every mention of their name carried the faith (or discouragement) of their parents into the future.

Often, the Lord would “*re-name*” the person to announce who HE was, or what would take place to fulfil His purpose or plan for the future. Most often these names were positive

THE LORD’S REVIEW OF JUDAH

2) Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; **for the LORD has spoken:**

- Although the “Declaration” is addressed to The Nation of Judah, the whole of the Earth is to hear the judgment.
- ALL of humanity stands guilty before the Lord... they have NO excuse for their sin.

ROM 1:18-23 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since

the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So, they are without excuse. 21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

- But Israel/ Judah have His Word... They are HIS People... HIS Purchase... HIS Treasure... HIS Children.
- They are “accountable” to His Words as revealed in The Law. The promises for Blessing, and the punishment for disobedience are revealed and taught there.

“Children have I reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against me.

- The Lord has done His part in raising and training His Children... But they turned heart and mind away from Him.
- The Fall... Noah’s Children... Israel in the Wilderness... The Judges... Desire for a King... The Divided Kingdom...
- The word **“Rebelled”** is from a word meaning “one who purposefully breaks / abandons the Covenant”

3) *The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master’s crib, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand.”*

- Even the animals know the one who cares for them, and are obedient to follow his direction...
- But NOT His people. My Dad had a phrase: *“Dumber than an Ox”*
- In this, and many other passages this is a reference to ALL the Tribes, not just JUDAH or the NORTHERN 10.

4) *Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, offspring of evildoers, children who deal corruptly! They have forsaken the LORD, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they are utterly estranged.*

- This is NOT who God redeemed them to be... They were saved to demonstrate His Glory to the whole world.
- “They” are responsible for this... God has done His part... Over & over again... But they do not change...
- **PSALM 78**: Bless > Rebellion > Forgiveness > Bless > Rebellion > Forgiveness > Bless...

5) *Why will you still be struck down? Why will you continue to rebel?*

The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.

6) *From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but bruises and sores and raw wounds; they are not pressed out or bound up or softened with oil.*

- This doesn’t have to happen... it hasn’t been predetermined... it is “not” your destiny... IF you will change
- The picture in these verses is of one who has been “beaten” by a mighty foe. The “whole body” is bruised, weakened, and bloodied. They have no strength left within them...
- They have no one to bind their wounds and sooth their pains... FOR they have abandoned the ONLY healer who could offer help... **THE LORD GOD**

7) *Your country lies desolate; your cities are burned with fire;*

in your very presence foreigners devour your land; it is desolate [devastated], as overthrown by foreigners.

- They were beset on all sides by hostile forces and were losing some of their territory to foreign nations
- **Desolate... Burned... Devastated...** written as if the devastation had already happened. In this way, the Lord is emphasizing the certainty. But... He does not tell them “when” it will come.
- He will speak of the Birth of the Messiah; the Suffering, death, and resurrection of the Messiah; The Day of the Lord; The Millennial Kingdom, and the New Heavens and Earth in the same way... **“Immanence”**

8) *And the **“DAUGHTER OF ZION”** is left like a booth in a vineyard, like a lodge in a cucumber field, like a besieged city.*

- “The Daughter of Jerusalem” is an endearing term used by God of His People
- Used in: **JER. 4:31; LAM 1:6; 2:13; MICAH 1:13; 4:8; ZECH. 9:9;**
- The place built for shelter and protection in the fields is empty... “You have abandoned **“my Daughter”** in her time of need and left her to the elements of nature and the beasts”
- She has become like a city abandoned by the soldiers to the surrounding armies...

9) *If the LORD of Hosts had not left us a few survivors,
we should have been like Sodom, and become like Gomorrah.*

- The Lord's Promise cannot be invalidated by mankind's failure... He promised there would always be a "Remnant"
- Paul uses this in [ROMANS 9:29](#) regarding this very fact concerning Israel (the Jews)

10) *Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom!*

Give ear to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah!

- Here the Lord uses a bit of "sarcasm" to make His point clear...
- He speaks to the rulers and to the people "as if" they were Sodom & Gomorrah...
- IF this is how you will act... then this is how you will be treated...

KILLING ANIMAL AND PLAYING GAMES:

11) *"What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the LORD;*

I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of well-fed beasts;

I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats.

- What are you doing? ALL God sees are people "killing animals" ... there is NO recognition of the Holiness of the Sacrifice... their union with the sacrifice as the "SUBSTITUTE" ... No sorrow over the result of Sin...
- The Sacrificial system was God's Idea ... not man's... It is NOT placating some angry god, or an attempt to please
- [Sin MUST be atoned by Blood](#)... God gave them a [SUBSTITUTE](#)... [THE SEED](#)... [THE PROMISE](#)... [THE REDEEMER](#)... [MESSIAH](#)

12) *"When you come to appear before me, who has required of you this trampling of my courts?*

- They were called to "honor" Him in the Courts of the Temple... To rejoice in His promise of Redemption...
- His "Presence" is HOLY... The Sacrifices are HOLY... The Priests are HOLY...

13) *Bring no more vain offerings; incense is an abomination to me.*

New moon and Sabbath and the calling of convocations – I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly.

- Stop. Just. STOP! Their hearts are so far from Him, He will not even overlook their failures... there is NO mercy left
- ONLY "true Repentance" can restore these offerings to their Holy status
- God HATES hypocrisy!

14) *Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hates;*

they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them.

- He ordered them to bring a "remembrance" of His faithfulness in Blessing His people.
- The Sun, Moon, Months, Days will continue... God is Faithful EVEN in our failure and rebellion...
- BUT they have NO right to celebrate these events... it is No More than pagan mockery...

15) *When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you;*

even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood.

- God will "STOP" hearing their prayer...
[PSALM 66:18](#) "If I [regard](#) iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear."
- "Repentance" must precede prayer ... ONLY then will He hear from them...
- David's prayer in [PSALM 51](#)

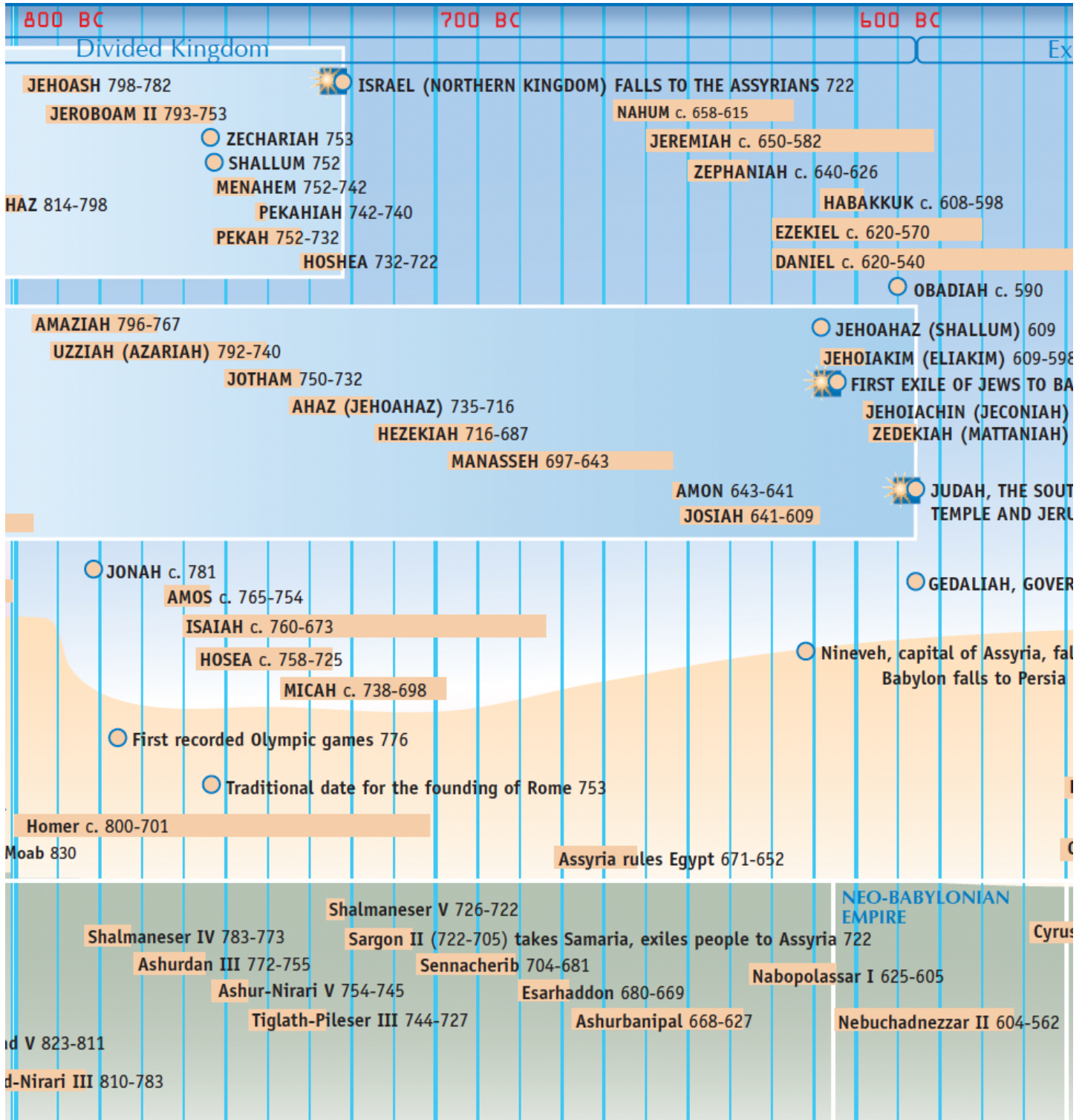
Is there ANY hope?

Of course! They ARE His people... Israel is His Nation... Jerusalem is His City!

THERE IS HOPE OF FORGIVENESS

- 16) *Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil,*
- 17) *learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.*
- 18) *"Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD:
though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.*
- 19) *If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land;*
- 20) *but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be eaten by the sword;
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."*

Timeline for the Book of Isaiah



Map 8: ASSYRIAN AND BABYLONIAN EMPIRES

