

ISAIAH: JUDGMENT & REDEMPTION

ISA-04 “IS THERE ANY HOPE?”

THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

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Is there any hope for those who are under the judgment of sin? THIS is the question posed at the very beginning of the **Book of Isaiah**. The subject is the sin and rebellion of the Nation of Israel. But these verses were also written for all mankind to consider. **WHAT will WE do about our sin? How can we even hope for some resolution?**

The **Book** 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, **nor 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]

ISA 1:7) Your country lies desolate; your cities are burned with fire;

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

- They were beset on all sides by hostile forces and were even losing some of their territory to foreign nations
- **Desolate... Burned... Devastated...** are 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...
- This is called: The “**IMMANENCE**” of CHRIST

Their **Rebellion** does NOT stop the “**Faithfulness of GOD:**”

ROM 3:3 *What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of GOD?*

4) **BY NO MEANS!** *Let GOD be true though everyone were a liar,*

ISA 1:8) 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 ZION / JERUSALEM**” is an endearing term used by God for His People
Used in: **JER. 4:31; LAM 1:6; 2:13; MICAH 1:13; 4:8; ZECH. 9:9;**

And the Daughter of Zion is left as helpless as a deserted shack in a vineyard or like a flimsy shelter in a field of cucumbers— [She is] in every way like a city besieged!

- It was to be a place built for shelter and rest in the fields... but it is **is empty**...
- Not only that: “**You have abandoned “my Daughter” in her time of need [in this Crisis] and left her to the elements of nature and to the beasts**”
- She has become like a City abandoned by her soldiers... surrendered to the invading armies...

ISA 1:9) If the LORD OF HOSTS had not left us a few survivors,

we should have been like Sodom, and become like Gomorrah.

- Lord of Hosts: “**YAHWEH SABAOTH**” — [THE LORD OF WARRIORS] it is the name of the Lord in manifestation of power.
 - **JEREMIAH**, the Prophet of approaching national judgment, uses the name **about 80 x’s**; **HAGGAI** employs it **14 x’s**; **ZECHARIAH** calls upon the **LORD OF HOSTS about 50 x’s**; and in **MALACHI** the name occurs **about 25 x’s**.

- **The LORD's Promise** cannot be invalidated by mankind's failure... THE EVERLASTING LORD [YAHWEH] has promised that He would always preserve a **"REMNANT"**
- Paul uses this verse in **ROMANS 9:29** regarding this very fact concerning Israel (*the Jews*)

ROM 9:27-29 And ISAIAH cries out concerning Israel: [ISA 10:22-23] "Though the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will be saved, 28) for the LORD will carry out his sentence upon the earth fully and without delay."

Vs 29 And as ISAIAH predicted: [ISA 1:9]

"If THE LORD OF HOSTS had not left us offspring
we would have been like Sodom and become like Gomorrah."

ISA 1:10) 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 ANIMALS AND PLAYING GAMES:

ISA 1:11) "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.

THIS really make God angry... HE established the **"Sacrificial System"** after the rebellion of Adam at the Fall.

HE took the blood of an Animal (*a Lamb?*) as the substitution for their sin... Then **"covered"** the evidence of their sin with the **"robe"** taken from the Lamb.

ALL the sacrifices that followed were a **"rehearsal of this act of Redemption"** ... Every Altar a picture of the "True Sacrifice that would follow: Abel... Noah... Abraham... Moses... The Tabernacle... The Temple...

ALL prophetic of **"THE CROSS OF JESUS, THE MESSIAH"**

- **WHAT ARE YOU DOING?** ALL GOD sees are people **"killing animals"** ... there is NO recognition of the Holiness of the Sacrifice... NOR of their union with the sacrifice as their **"SUBSTITUTE"** ... NO SORROW over the result of Sin...
- The Sacrificial system was NOT placating some angry god, or an attempt to please, or to bargain...
- **Sin MUST be atoned by Blood**... GOD gave them a **SUBSTITUTE**... so that THEY would not die... It was **THE SEED**... **THE PROMISE**... **THE REDEEMER**... **THE HOPE OF ISRAEL**... **THE MESSIAH**

ISA 1:12) "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 Forgiveness and Redemption... in The Removal [*bearing away*] of their sin...
- His **Presence** is HOLY... The **Sacrifices** are HOLY... The **Priests** are HOLY...
- But they "profane" them... They are merely "trampling His Courts"

ISA 1:13) 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**
- What was meant to redeem / restore has become a "mockery" ... **mixing iniquity with was meant to be solemn**
- **ONLY "true Repentance"** can restore these offerings to their HOLY status
- **GOD HATES hypocrisy!**

**ISA 1:14) 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 these FEASTS & CELEBRATIONS 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... they have become No More than pagan mockery...

ISA 1:15) [Therefore] *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... YES... that IS what it says...
PSALM 66:18 “If I regard [Cherish / desire / think upon] iniquity in my heart, the LORD will not hear.”

Is there ANY hope?

Of course! They ARE His People... Israel IS His Nation... Jerusalem IS His City!

YES, THERE IS HOPE OF FORGIVENESS

ISA 1:16a) *Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes;*

- Any step toward forgiveness and restoration MUST be preceded by: Repentance
- David’s prayer in PSALM 51 is a cry for God’s forgiveness... from a heart that has fully recognized his sin...
- A knowledge of God’s offer of forgiveness is NOT realized without “acknowledgement of sin”
JOHN 1:9 If we confess [acknowledge / say what God says about sin] our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
2:1-2 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if [and you have] anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2) He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

16b) cease to do evil, 17) learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow’s cause.

- These are all good and beneficial things... but human good does NOT access the “Blood of the Sacrifice”
- Change of “behavior” will NOT bring forgiveness and restoration... GOOD alone is NOT sufficient
- “Repentance” means “*think again / turn away and turn to / Change of mind with following action*”

ISA 1:18) “Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD:

- “Reason together...” – does not mean to negotiate... Most common is: “To reprove / rebuke” – God is calling them to stand before Him, acknowledging their guilt and allowing Him to offer a plan of correction...
- HERE is the plan...
*though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.*

- Repentance and forgiveness draw upon the “BLOOD of the SACRIFICE... the SUBSTITUTE... The MESSIAH...”
- The miracle of the “Scarlet Blood” ... replaces the Scarlet stain of Sin...

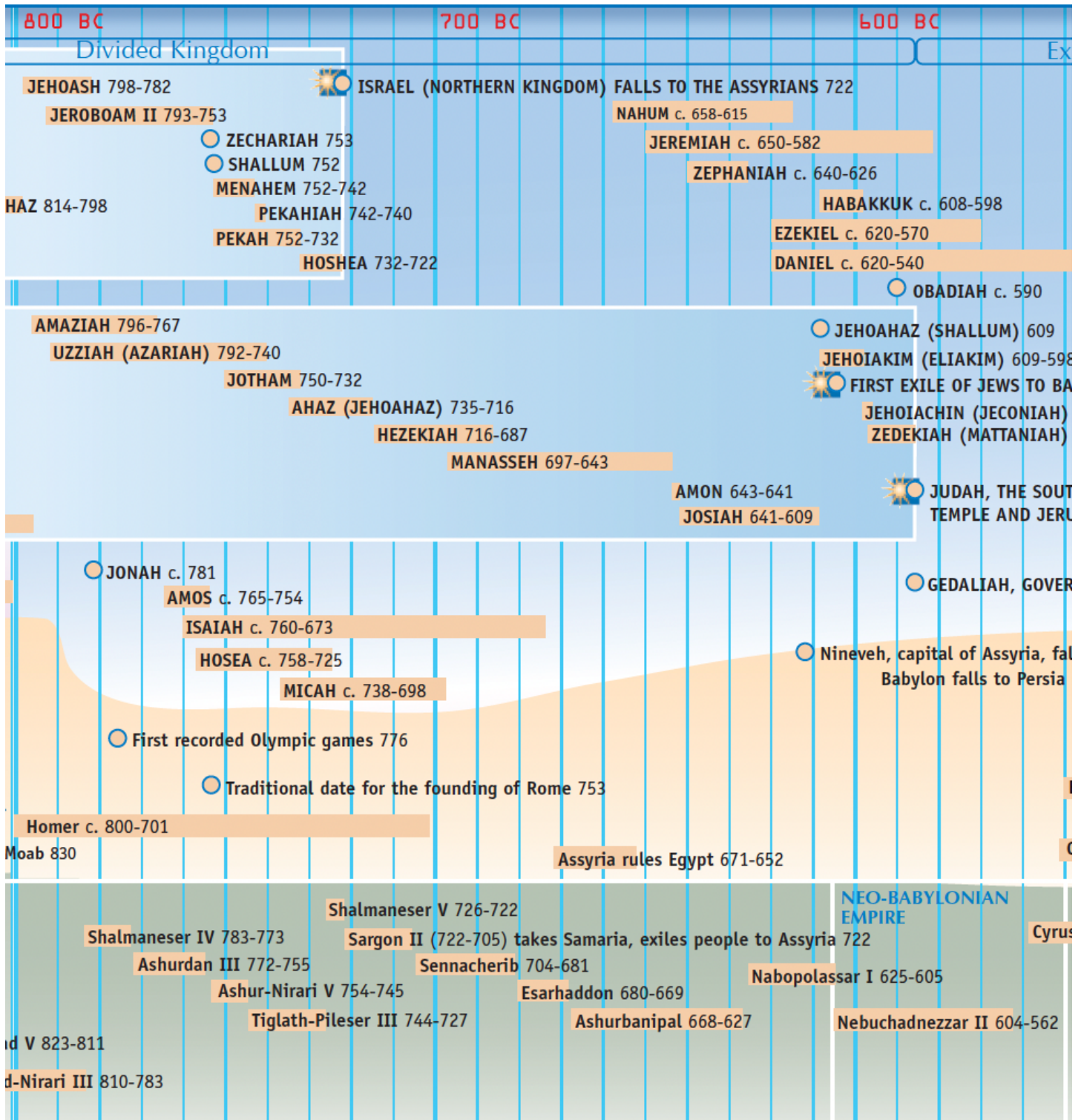
ISA 1:19) *If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land;*

- Willing HOW? – NOT by actions BUT by seeking forgiveness through repentance offered by the Blood
- They have been “profaning” the Blood by treating it contemptuously...
- They MUST be Willing to Change...
- And Obedient to follow-through...

for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

- These are NOT ISAIAH’S words...
- There is NO DISPUTATION... ONLY REPENTANCE and OBEDIENCE

Timeline for the Book of Isaiah



Map 8: ASSYRIAN AND BABYLONIAN EMPIRES

