

ISAIAH: JUDGMENT & REDEMPTION

ISA-05 “I WILL RESTORE”

THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

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HCBC 09/22/ 2026

Is God **DONE** with ISRAEL/JUDAH? Following their rebellion, hardness of heart, and resistance to His Word judgment is all that can be seen... it is what they deserve. **BUT... God has a solution:** IF THEY will repent and cleanse themselves from their evil deeds, HE will wash them clean... their sin will be removed. God will preserve for Himself a *“righteous remnant... a faithful, holy people, passionate for YAHWEH,” awaiting the REDEEMER... their promised MESSIAH.*”

This great **Book of Isaiah** presents the continuing contrast between *the Unrighteous and the Righteous; the Unholy and the Holy; the Rebellious and the Faithful*. The reality of God’s Judgment is coming... but so is the even greater promise of God’s plan of Redemption.

ISA 1:26) And I will restore your judges as at the first, and your counselors as at the beginning.

Afterward you shall be called the city of righteousness, the FAITHFUL CITY.”

27) ZION shall be redeemed by justice, and those in her who repent, by righteousness.

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:

In light of their present situation, Israel/Judah has 2 options: *Let’s settle this... MY Rules...*

- 1) Realize your sin/rebellion; repent; and receive cleansing; forgiveness; and restoration... OR:
- 2) Continue your current path and find the unavoidable judgment and destruction which will follow... YOUR Choice...

- *“Reason together...”* – God is not calling them to the “bench” to negotiate...
Most common use of this word is: “To reprove / rebuke” / a dispute resulting in a correction –
God is calling them to stand before Him, acknowledge their guilt, and allow 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.*

- Realizing their SIN brings the opportunity for change...a “miraculous transformation”
- 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...
 - Their sin was overwhelming both in action and in repetition...
 - ALL of it: REMOVED... at ONCE... FORGOTTEN...
 - Resulting in RESTORATION...

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

But here’s what it will take... THIS is your “cost” to obtain “Redemption”

- Willing HOW? – NOT by their actions or attempts at solutions... NOT by trying to “keep” THE LAW that they have shown they CANNOT – YES, God wants them to “Keep the Law” but that means a return to the TRUE meaning... “the Teaching of the Sacrifice”
- BY seeking forgiveness through the repentance offered by sacrificing the Blood... *They must “kill the sacrifice and Offer the Blood” BECAUSE they recognize their sin*
- By their actions, they have been “profaning” the Blood ... treating it contemptuously...
- They MUST be Willing to Change...
- And Obedient to follow-through...
- The very blood they have profaned is the same BLOOD OF THE LAMB that will cleanse them...

20) *but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be eaten by the sword;
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”*

- These are NOT ISAIAH’S words... *They come directly from the mouth of YAHWEH!*
- IF they “will not accept the cleansing offer from God” ... there is NO OTHER redemption to be found
- There is NO DISPUTATION... ONLY REPENTANCE and OBEDIENCE

WHICH CITY WILL YOU BE?

The Nation (ALL mankind) is evaluated by the “CITY” in which they will abide... As we will see throughout this Book [and all the Bible] the “choice” of where one will “abide” is in the hands of the individual... NOT God. The judgment or blessing that follows IS GOD’S SOVEREIGN CHOICE.

THE UNFAITHFUL CITY

- 21) *How the faithful city has become a whore, she who was full of justice!
Righteousness lodged in her, but now murderers.*
- 22) *Your silver has become dross, your best wine mixed with water.*
- 23) *Your princes are rebels and companions of thieves. Everyone loves a bribe and runs after gifts.
They do not bring justice to the fatherless, and the widow’s cause does not come to them.*
- 24) *Therefore, the Lord declares, the LORD of hosts, the Mighty One of Israel:
“Ah, I will get relief from my enemies and avenge myself on my foes.*
- 25) *I WILL turn my hand against you and will smelt away your dross as with lye and remove all your alloy.*

THE FAITHFUL CITY

- 1:26a) *And I Will restore your Judges as at the first, and your Counselors as at the beginning.*
- “I will restore...” – the same word as in vs 25 “I will turn...” – God’s hand was initially “turned toward” them in Blessing and Promise... Their sinful rebellious actions caused His hand to be “turned against...” – BUT God will again “turn His hand toward them (restore)” by raising godly leaders as He had originally given them

- **Judges...** – In reality, this points back to God’s original intention of “Leaders” of the people following their conquest of the Promised Land. These “Judges” were to be God’s agents in assisting the people resist and overcome the powers of the Canaanites that remained in their Land.

JUDGES 2:16 *Then the LORD raised up Judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them.*
 18) *Whenever the LORD raised up Judges for them, the LORD was with the Judge, and he saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the Judge. For the LORD was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who afflicted and oppressed them.*
NEH 9:27 *And in the time of their suffering they cried out to you, and you heard from heaven, and according to your great mercies you gave them “saviors” [Judges] who saved them from the hand of their enemies.*
ISA 33:22 *For the LORD is our “judge” [Savior], the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us.*
 Some “Judges” were good and Godly, wholeheartedly supporting and preserving the worship of Yahweh. These are the ones God is using as an example of His promise of Restoration...

 - By implication, it could also apply to ALL the Kings that had ruled... *but that was NEVER in God’s plan.*
 - God was promising that a “full-hearted and authentic” repentance would result in a “revival” of His Divine purpose and plan for the Nation... *Accompanied by Righteous Leadership and True Godly Counsel...*
 - Following their “Return from Captivity” Israel never again had a King. “The HERODS” were NOT descended from David... Not even Jewish... They were Appointed “King” by Caesar Augustus... to gain allegiance, and revenue
- **Counselors...** – “To offer advice, correction, reveal secrets” – Often used in reference to those who the Lord has sent to speak to His people, or to the King [as Prophets] – At times they were accepted... usually refused by the Leader of the Nation. THESE Counselors will NOT be refused... They are not limited by human authority...
- **I WILL...** – there is no “potentiality, no question, no uncertainty” – *This is God’s certain, faithful, omnipotent Promise... Redemption has never been in question... Only the questions of “acceptance” and the “timing”*
- Consider the beautiful expressions found in the opening verses of the “REDEPTIVE” section of **ISAIAH**:
ISA 40:1-2 *“COMFORT, COMFORT! my people, says your God. [God’s command to His Prophet]
 2) Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended ...
 that her iniquity is pardoned ... that she has received from the LORD’S hand double for all her sins.*
- “I...” - Notice the One who is “acting” ... the One who is in Authority – *The People cannot do this... fix it... produce these changes ... on their own*

Although these words are spoken to Israel as they are being Redeemed for Babylonian Captivity... they are also representative of God’s CRY to all mankind... *the Savior of ALL mankind was coming into the World to announce the END of the “war” for all who would receive Him in faith...*

1:26b) Afterward you shall be called the City of Righteousness, the Faithful City.”

- **YOU shall be called...** – BY God ... and BY the Nations...
 - **The City of Righteousness...** – This is their “Position” - the Recognition of their actions before God and others; of their Status ... as observed by the Nations; of their Contribution to the people around them as God’s Righteous Ones...
 - **The Faithful City...** – This is their “Identity” – They are the ones “Faithful to THE COVENANT” ... “Faithful to YAHWEH” ... “Faithful to present YAHWEH to the Nations” ...
 - Neither of these were realized in the “revival” of the Nation of Israel after the Captivity... The period of “THE SECOND TEMPLE” ... *Ending at the Resurrection* (culminating in the devastation of the Temple in AD70)
 - Spiritually they ARE realized in ALL who accept JESUS as the MESSIAH / THE CHRIST – *The Believers comprise the “CITY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS” ... They are “THE FAITHFUL CITY”*
 - Ultimately, they will be realized in the Millennial Kingdom when ALL of faithful Israel will be a “City of Righteousness” and a “Faithful City” to ALL the population of the Earth
- 27) Zion shall be redeemed by justice [God’s], and those in her who repent, by righteousness [God’s].**
- Lit: “By [My] justice Zion shall be redeemed, and those in her who repent by [My] righteousness.”

- *Redeemed...* – “to release from bondage / slavery / debt / sentence” – by payment of ransom / transfer of sentence / debt to another...
- *By [My] Justice...* - Their “repentance” results in the demonstration of God’s Justice – “a proper and favorable resolution to an offence”
- *By [My] Righteousness...* - God’s “righteous character, His moral virtue” is shown in restoring the “former guilty party [Israel/Judah] to a place blessing / honor

NOT ALL WILL RESPOND

1:28) *But rebels and sinners shall be broken together, and those who forsake the LORD shall be consumed.*

1:29) *For they shall be ashamed of the oaks that you desired;
and you shall blush for the gardens that you have chosen.*

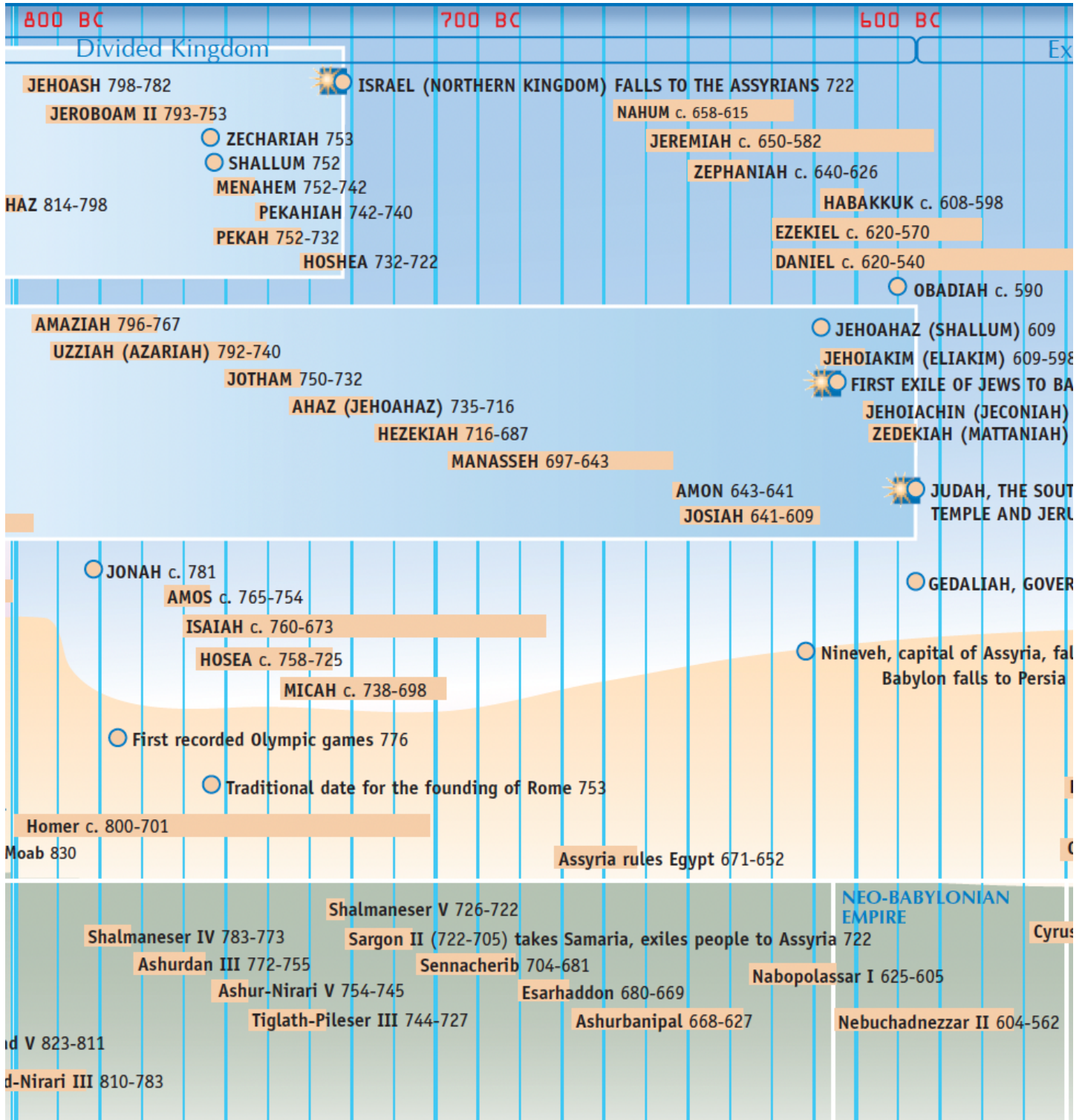
- The “oaks” and “gardens” are representative of the places where the people went to worship the pagan gods/idols ... often involving perverse and sexual rituals ...
- They had forsaken the Holiness of GOD’S TEMPLE for the worship of Idols...

1:30) *For you shall be like an oak whose leaf withers, and like a garden without water.*

- How can this NOT bring to remembrance the reverse of PSALM1:
Ps 1:3 *He [the righteous one] is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.*

1:31) *And the strong shall become tinder, and his work a spark,
and both of them shall burn together, with none to quench them.*

Timeline for the Book of Isaiah



Map 8: ASSYRIAN AND BABYLONIAN EMPIRES

