

ISAIAH: JUDGMENT & REDEMPTION

ISA-06 "THE FAITHFUL CITY"

THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

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ISAIAH 1:26-27) *"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."*

WHICH CITY WILL YOU BE?

Isaiah 1:21-31 presents an analogy of "Two Cities": *One Unfaithful; One Faithful*. YET... *they are the same City*. On the surface, they represent the City of Jerusalem, but the application is deeper than that. These cities represent the Nations of *Israel* and *Judah* (in fact, they represent ALL mankind) The people are evaluated by the "City" in which they will abide... As we will see throughout *Isaiah* [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*. Each person must choose one of the two... and accept the results OF that choice.

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 NEH 9:27 ISA 33:22*
 - 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... The only questions are of *"acceptance"* and the *"timing"*
- Consider the beautiful expressions found in the opening verses of the *"REDEMPITIVE"* 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"* ... *YAHWEH* is the One who is in Authority – *The People cannot do this... fix it... produce any of these changes ... on their own*

Although these words are spoken to Israel as they are being Redeemed from 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 [GOD'S] righteousness.*

- 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 at the Altars of the pagan gods/idols ... often involving perverse and sexual rituals, and demonic interaction ...
- Many of these "groves" were visited by the people who had been brought to Jerusalem... bringing their gods with them...
- As a "convenience" the Priests of Israel had allowed rooms to be built onto the Temple for their idols...
- 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.*

- An oak whose leaf withers... - 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.
- A garden without water... – Without the "water of refreshing" that comes as a Blessing from God... THEY are like a dry, withered, unproductive garden... there is NOTHING to nourish them...
So they have NOTHING to draw strength from... NOTHING to show to the Nations as testimony of their Covenant with YAHWEH...

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.*

- They will become like a forest so dry that all it will take is a “spark” to ignite the fire that will destroy ALL that they have... ALL they plan to be...
- Because they have rejected God’s offer to be forgiven and to be restored through their repentance... There will NO ONE to quench the destructive force which IS coming...

THEY have chosen Judgment over Redemption...

ASPECTS OF PROPHETIC FULFILLMENT

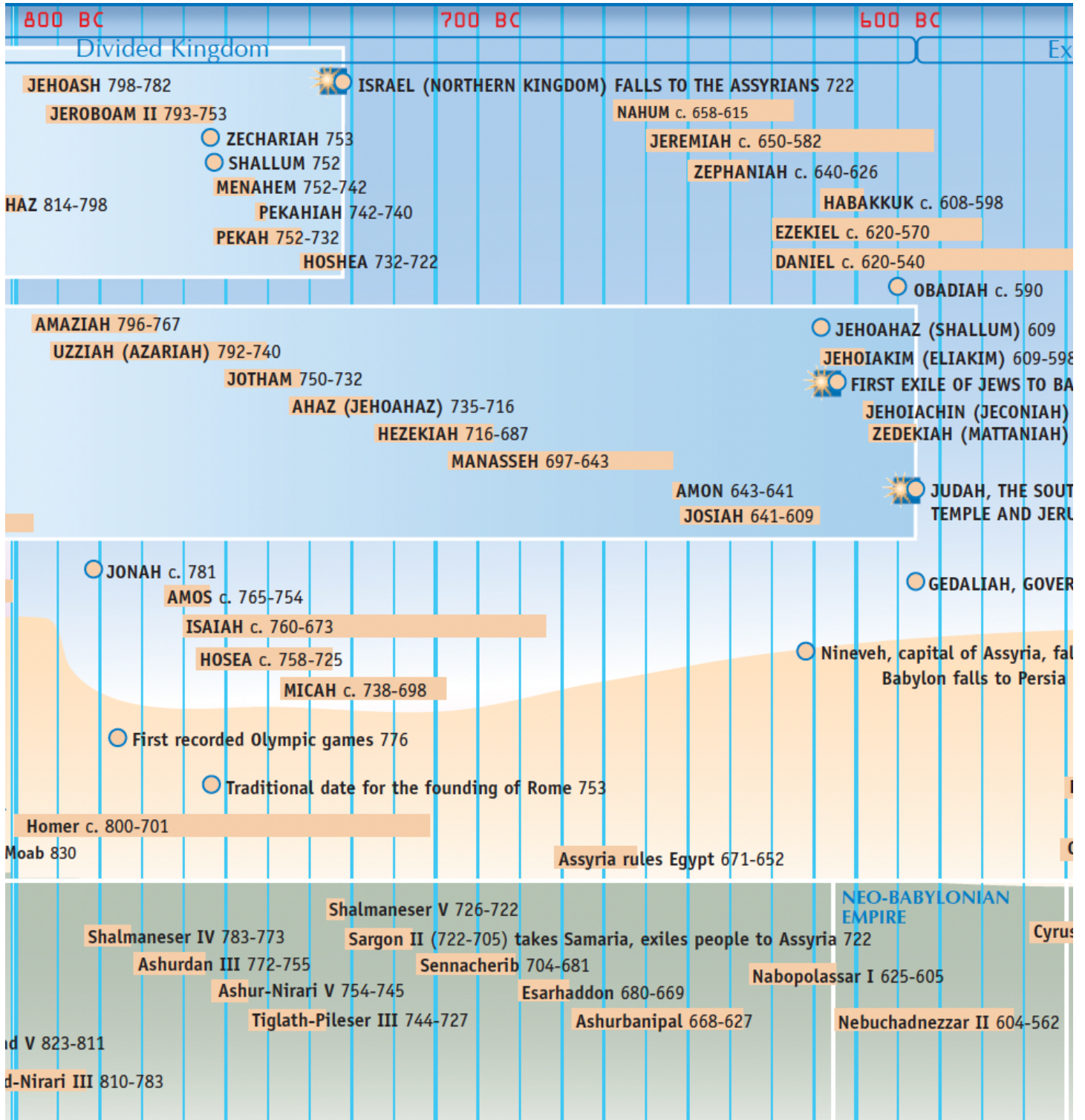
As we read through the **BOOKS OF THE PROPHETS**, we encounter numerous passages that are not simply the record of what IS happening, or WAS happening. Over and over, we are faced with God’s message TO or THROUGH the Prophet concerning what WILL happen.

At times the Prophets Words are **“conditional”** ... they are based upon the response by the subjects to what has been delivered. These may be immediate, or future... natural or spiritual.

At many other times, their Words are **“final”** ... there is nothing that can be done to change, alter, avoid, or cancel them. They WILL come to pass. These also may be immediate or future... natural or spiritual.

- **IMMEDIATE**: These are in application to something that will shortly be realized... usually in the Prophet’s lifetime. Most of these refer to: The Nations of Israel or Judah, and the Kings who Rule them; The Nations that surround them as enemies of God and His People; The Conquering Empires that exist or are yet to come; The people of that day who follow after the pagan idols and religions. *These do NOT apply to Believers in the Church Age.*
- **NATIONAL**: These are prophecies that concern the physical Nation of Israel/Judah. They may involve Land(s); Rulers; Enemies; the physical Temple; the Priests; Wars; Invasions; Captivity; Destruction; Restoration of their Nation / People / Worship. *These do NOT apply to Believers in the Church Age.*
- **MESSIANIC**: These are prophecies that Proclaim or Refer to the Promised Messiah: *These are Universal...*
 - **FIRST ADVENT**: Who HE is... Why HE came... What HE came to do...
 - **SECOND ADVENT**: “THE DAY OF THE LORD” ... Destruction / Judgment / Redemption
- **SPIRITUAL**: They may apply to: Israel/Judah... and/or The Church Age... *These are Universal...*
 - To Israel/Judah:
 - To the people during the earthly ministry of Jesus:
 - To Believers in the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ... **THE CHURCH**:
 - To those who reject faith in the Lord Jesus Christ:
 - To those on the Earth during the Tribulation:
- **MILLENNIAL**: To those who “enter” the Millennial Kingdom; who are born and live during the Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ; to those who refuse to submit to the Rule of the Lord during the Millennium; to the Nations who are on the earth during the Millennial Kingdom ... *These are Universal*

Timeline for the Book of Isaiah



Map 8: ASSYRIAN AND BABYLONIAN EMPIRES

