

ISAIAH: JUDGMENT & REDEMPTION

ISA-07 “A FORE-SHADOWING”

THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

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ISAIAH 2:1-2 “The Word that ISAIAH the son of Amoz saw concerning JUDAH and JERUSALEM.

2) “It shall come to pass in the LATTER DAYS...”

TWO KINGDOMS

Isaiah 2:1-4:6 flow together to form a “Word” from God that is a Fore-Shadowing of things that WILL be. Isaiah “saw” these words as a written document that he was to speak to the people. His prophetic message is addressed, not only to the people of Israel/Judah in THAT day (*and in the future*), but also to all the Nations regarding the future Day of the Lord which WILL come.

Each generation must be made aware of this message. The promise of A GREAT DAY of universal peace, abundance, and of blessings unimagined will be preceded by A DAY of incredible horror... universal judgment that is a result of “un-repentant sin and rebellion” both of God’s people and of the Nations.

THE LAST DAYS is GOD’S ending of all that began at “The Fall” and has been echoed through all of time.

“WHERE will you stand...”, says the Lord.

ISA 2:2) *It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it...*

ISAIAH 2:1-5 and 4:2-6 are unified by these two short salvation “songs” regarding GOD’S future kingdom [THE KINGDOM OF THE MESSIAH – THE MILLENNIUM].

One is at the opening of this section [2:2-5] and one at the end [4:2-6].

These passages present a contrast of what GOD’S desired Kingdom will be...

WITH the earthly Kingdom UZZIAH had so proudly built, and the prosperity and peace in which the people lived.

The verbs in 2:5, 22 [COME... STOP] call for immediate change, and suggest that the Prophet desired that his words might transform the thinking of the people ... *so that they would not be so proud and self-absorbed...* turning instead back to YAHWEH. (*Although he probably knew, in his heart, that they would not.*)

The kind of change needed is explained by placing the evils of UZZIAH’S earthly reign [2:6-4:1] in stark contrast with the glorious principles that govern the future kingdom of God [2:1-5].

To encourage a positive response, ISAIAH will explain the devastating things God has planned to bring upon this proud people [2:6-22], and what He would do to their riches [3:16-24] IF they refuse to whole-heartedly repent and change.

THE KINGDOM OF THE MESSIAH – Future Blessing

ISA 2:6 – 4:1

The Lord’s purpose in describing the future MILLENNIAL KINGDOM is to present a vision of what God will ultimately do in ZION... so that the audience can choose either to be a part of God’s plan (2:5) or to reject it.

ISA 2:5 “O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

Isaiah describes what will take place “in the last days,” a phrase filled with significance in the Scriptures. This new era will inaugurate a radical new relationships between:

- a) God and His Glorious Dwelling Place in Zion;
- b) God and all the people who come worship Him and to hear Him teach;
- c) God and the various Nations that are presently warring against Him and His people.

God will transform the present world by his presence, his teaching, and his righteous judgment.

- Here, as well as throughout much of Isaiah, he does not focus as much on Judah's response to God's glorious presence in Zion, BUT on the Nations coming to hear God's Words ([2:28-3](#); see also [19:19-25](#)).
- God's plans for mankind always included his desire to reach the whole world, not just the Nation of Israel/Judah [[45:22-23](#); [49:26](#); [60:3](#)].
- Instead, Isaiah describes an endless stream of people from all over the world, who will encourage others to join them as they "*go up to Zion*" to hear His Instruction, and to Worship Him [[14:1-2](#); [56:6-7](#); [60:1-14](#); [66:18-21](#)].
- One consequence of the coming of the Nations is that they will trust God and submit to his just decisions. As King and ultimate Judge of the universe, God will help these Nations settle their differences and will remove the reasons for war [[2:4](#)].

THE KINGDOM OF MAN – Future Judgment

ISA 2:6 – 4:1

A bold and dramatic shift arises between [2:1-5](#) and [2:6-22](#). Although God comes to earth in both sections:

- In [2:2](#) Jerusalem {Mount Zion} is **exalted** by God's presence...
 - But in [2:14-15](#) the high mountains, walls, and towers of Jerusalem and this world are **devastated**.
- Foreigners **come to worship** God in [2:2-3](#)...
 - But they are the **source of false beliefs and idols** in [2:6](#) and [2:8](#).
- In [2:4](#) people **give up war**...
 - While in [2:7](#) in pride, Uzziah has **multiplied horses** and **chariots to fight wars**.

The impact of this message is to encourage a Hebrew audience to change whom they honor:

- IF the Hebrew people in Isaiah's audience remain **unwilling to humble themselves and exalt God alone**...
- They **will not participate** in the events of [2:1-5](#).
- [ISA 2:6-11](#) This section moves from the acceptance of the nations that will come to learn God's way in Jerusalem in the future ([2:2-5](#)) to the rejection of the people who presently make up the house of Jacob ([6-11](#)).
 - Just when Isaiah had his audience remembering all the good things God would do at the end of time ([2:2-5](#)),
 - he surprised them in this new paragraph with the terrible news that God would humble them. No doubt his audience listened approvingly to the grand ideals of [2:2-5](#), thinking they would be in Zion enjoying God's presence when the nations finally submit to his rule.
 - But God had a different plan for Isaiah's audience because the "house of Jacob" ([2:5](#)) was not walking in God's ways. On account of this, God "surely" has "abandoned" them ([2:6A](#)) in the sense of not paying any attention to them or leaving them alone to depend on their own resources (cf. [MIC 5:10-15](#)).
 - This implies a removal of God's direction and protection because of their sinfulness ([2 KGS 21:14](#); [JER 12:7](#)).

The natural response of any Hebrew listener would be, How could this be possible? Why would God do this?

- [ISA 2:6B-8](#) includes several charges to justify God's action and to explain why the Hebrews will not participate in the positive events in [2:2-5](#). Four reasons are provided:
 - The assimilation of pagan religious practices [2:6B](#)
For you have rejected your people, the house of Jacob, because they are full of things from the east and of fortune-tellers like the Philistines, and they strike hands with the children of foreigners...
 - A focus/dependence on wealth [2:7A](#)
Their land is filled with silver and gold, and there is no end to their treasures;
 - Relying on the security of a large army [2:7B](#)
Their land is filled with horses, and there is no end to their chariots.

- Trusting in idols 2:8
*Their land is filled with idols;
they bow down to the work of their hands, to what their own fingers have made.*

➤ ISA 2:9 “...so man is humbled and each one is brought low – do not forgive them!”

Finally, the prophet describes the consequence of the nation’s actions

Isaiah presents a “universal” principle that applies specifically to his audience. **“Proud humans are humbled.”**

The prime example of a human being who was “brought low” was UZZIAH the King of JUDAH

THE IMPACT OF THE KING

Internal evidence in CHAPTERS 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; suggests that these messages were proclaimed during the time of UZZIAH. God had warned the Nation about the degrading influence of a King at the time they called for one.

1 SAM 8:7 And the LORD said to Samuel, “Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being King over them.

vs9) Now then, obey their voice; only you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.”

1 SAM 8:10-18 Samuel, then, tells them what the effect of a King will be upon the people and the Nation. But the people disregard the warning and demand a King...

AND: It happened just as YAHWEH had said...

Isaiah’s Prophetic message in CHAPTER 2:6-22 correctly summarizes the situation in Judah during the reign of Uzziah [Azariah], Jotham, and Ahaz.

- SECOND CHRONICLES 26 briefly describes a few of the highlights of UZZIAH’s fifty-two-year reign as KING, his military conquests, his large army (*consistent with* ISA 2:7), and his great pride (ISA 2:9; 2 Chr 26:16–21).
- This was a time when high towers were built (ISA 2:15; 2 CHR 26:8), the nation had a significant interest in ships and seaports (ISA 2:16; 2 KGS 14:21), and the KING knew what it meant to be proud and then humbled by GOD (ISA 2:9; 2 CHR 26:16).
- Because of the military superiority of UZZIAH’s army over the surrounding nations, JUDAH enjoyed a period of great economic prosperity (*consistent with* ISA 2:7; 3:16–23; 5:8–12, 21–24).
- Although UZZIAH was known as one who did some things that were right in the sight of GOD, he did allow the people of JUDAH to continue to offer sacrifices on the high places (ISA 2:8, 20; 2 KGS 15:3–4) and did not bring about a national spiritual revival (*unlike his great-grandson HEZEKIAH*)
- His reign ended in disgrace when, because of his pride, GOD struck KING UZZIAH with leprosy. In his arrogance, he had offered a sacrifice in the TEMPLE, violating GOD’S HOLY ORDER regarding the SACRIFICES (2 KGS 15:16–21).

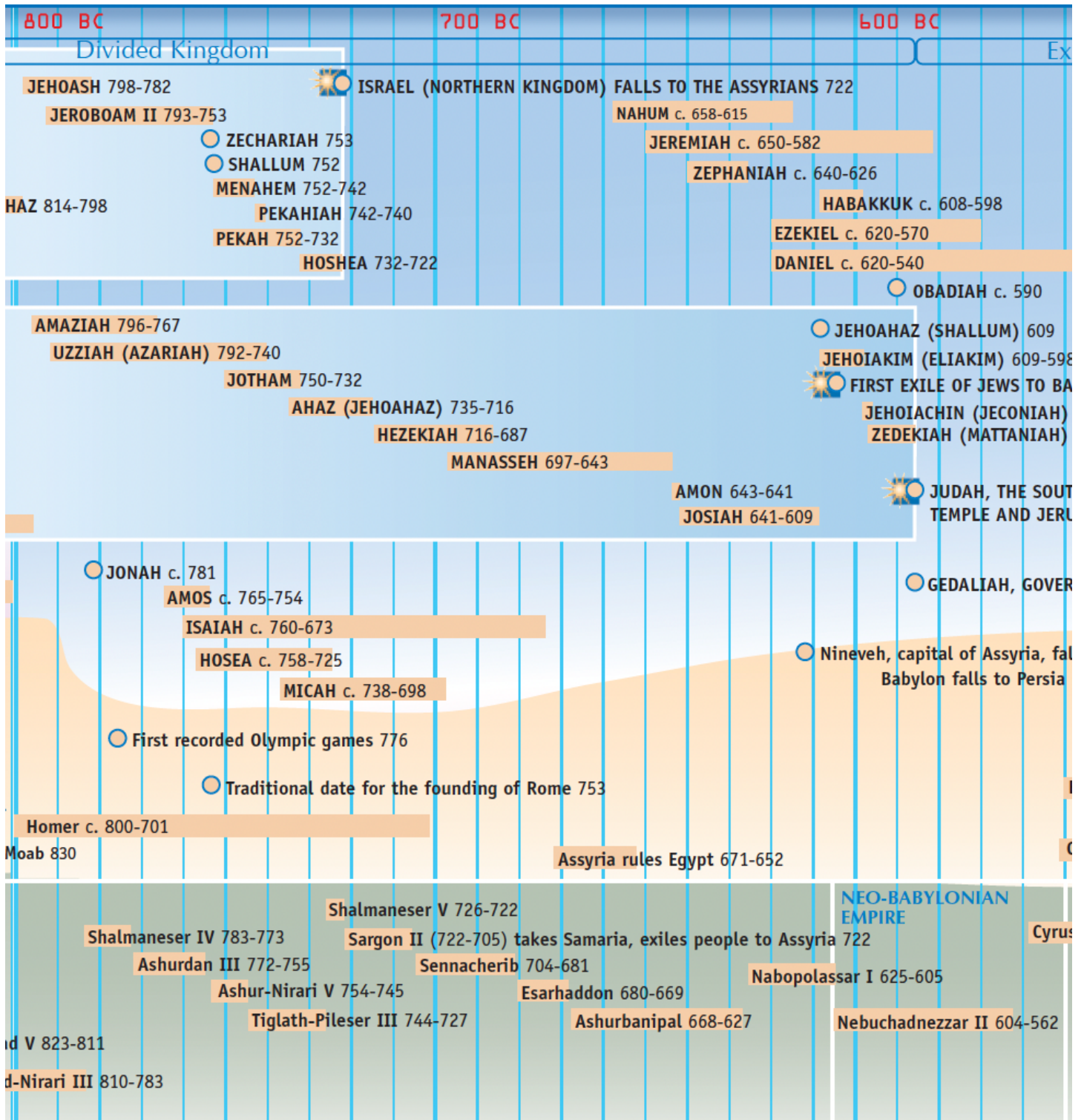
Beginning in ISAIAH 2:20-4:1, the imagery applies to the “*behind the scenes*” condition of the Nation during the “*prosperous and peaceful*” years of Uzziah, and into the reign of Jotham and Ahaz.

Jotham was “co-regent” during the years Uzziah was in exile because of his leprosy. He was not “fully” King until Uzziah’s death. Therefore, much of the deterioration of the spiritual condition of the Nation occurred during those years.

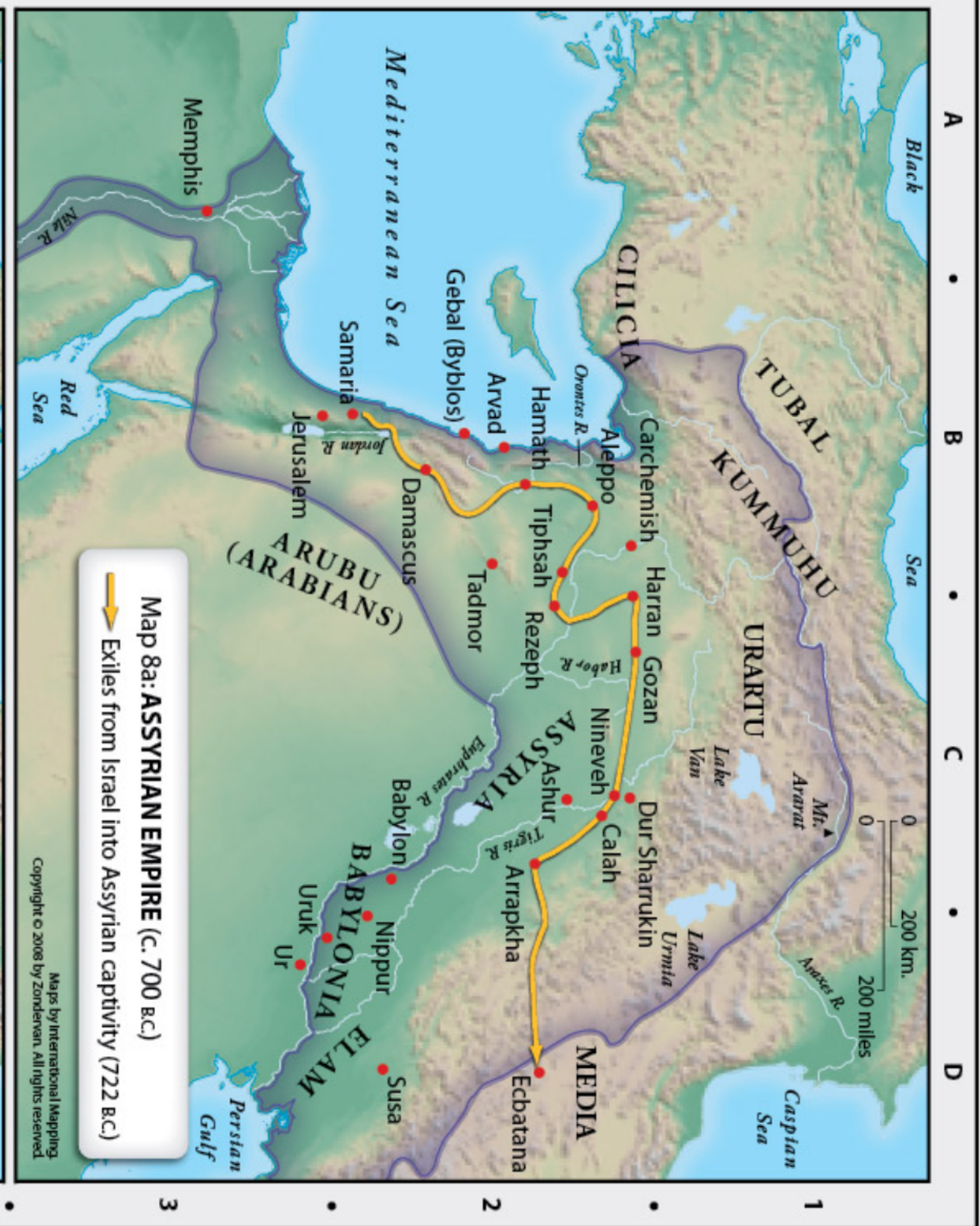
Later, in ISAIAH 7 and in selected passages through CHP 35, there will be references to issues facing Judah during the failing reign of Ahaz.

Then, ISAIAH 36-39 recalls some of the events of Hezekiah’s successful reign.

Timeline for the Book of Isaiah



Map 8: ASSYRIAN AND BABYLONIAN EMPIRES



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.*

****** There may be aspects of these prophecies / promises that can be applied "by faith" during the ages of the OT; NT; Church Age; Tribulation; and Millinnum but that is not the original application

- **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:** These prophecies / promises would apply: (1) To those who "enter" the Millennial Kingdom (*who have accepted the Messiah and "lived through the Tribulation"*); (2) To those who are born and live during the Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ; (3) To those who refuse to submit to the Rule of the Lord during the Millennium; (4) To the Nations who are on the earth during the Millennial Kingdom ... *These are "targeted"... applying differently to certain individuals and groups*

****** Some of these prophecies / promises can be applied to Believers during the Church Age. What will be realized "physically/literally" during the Millinnum, may be realized "spiritually" by the Saints in the Church Age.