ISAIAH: JUDGMENT & REDEMPTION

ISA-08 "THE LORD HAS A DAY"

THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

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ISAIAH 2:12 *"For THE LORD OF HOSTS has a DAY… against all that is proud and lofty… against all that is lifted up…"*

MAN'S WAY

A great amount of the trouble that Israel/Judah experienced in the years before their Babylonian Captivity was the result of their desire for a King... other than The Lord God. Everything in their society was influenced by the decisions and godliness of the King. Even the Priests and Temple worship were subject to the policies and actions of the King. ***The Priests and False Prophets were of course the other great factor in the spiritual life of the Nation, but that is addressed in later Chapters*****.**

Internal evidence in ISAIAH 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; suggests that these messages were proclaimed during the time of UZZIAH. The PROPHET SAMUEL had warned the Nation about the degrading influence of a King at the time they called for one... but they would not accept his warning. ISAIAH proves SAMUEL'S prophecy was true!

The saying, ***"as goes the King, so goes the Nation"*** **would surely apply to the time of ISRAEL & JUDAH'S Kings. This is well-illustrated in the History of their Kings through their years. The NORTHERN KINGDOM (ISRAEL) had NO "righteous" Kings. The SOUTHERN KINGDOM (JUDAH) had occasional "unrighteous and semi-righteous" Kings and a few "righteous" ones. THIS situation becomes the foundation for a great portion of the prophecies in the BOOK OF ISAIAH.**

THE IMPACT OF THE KING

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 that they have a King... God Allows it...

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 "52"-year reign as KING, his military conquests, his large army (*consistent with* ISA 2:7), and, *unfortunately*, his great pride and fall (ISA 2:9; 2 Chr 26:16–21).**
- **This was a time when high towers were built for defense (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 when KING (Uzziah) knew what it meant to become exceedingly proud... and then immediately 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… HOWEVER: 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 *which continued into the reigns 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 Hezikiah's successful reign.

God's Way

In Isaiah 2-6, the Prophet makes 6 references to, *"The Latter Days, A Day, The Last Days, That Day..."* These are ***sovereign times*** when God will accomplish HIS work WITHOUT man's help or interference. They all introduce a time of either great blessing, restoration, and peace, OR a ***"day"*** of severe judgment, or a ***"period of time"*** in which there will be extreme human suffering, fear, catastrophic occurrences, and destruction. These are issues which CANNOT be avoided... ***all mankind will experience one or the other***.

Isaiah 2:12-22

- **Isa 2:12-18 Judgment against Pride, Arrogance, and Rejection of God's Rule...**
  - **Isa 2:19 Their response: There is NO repentance only fear of the judgment**
  - **Isa 2:20-21 They will reject the Idols in which they had trusted... *BUT: There is NO repentance only fear of judgment***

    Rev 6:15-17 *Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains,* 16) *calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the Wrath of the Lamb,* 17) *for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"*

  - **Isa 2:22 God's advice / command to those who are willing to repent and return to God**

    Isa 2:22 *Stop regarding man in whose nostrils is breath, for of what account is he?*

    Ps 146:3-4 *Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man... in whom there is no salvation.* 4) *When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.*

Isaiah 3:1-4:1

The setting for these Prophetic Words precedes a major decline in the military and economic status of Judah **(3:1–5, 8–9)**. The time of Isaiah's words implies that the Nation was overly obsessed with pride in their Military status, Governmental security, and a prosperous society... ***all leading to apathy toward God and His Holy Rule***. The early years of Uzziah's reign were a time of wealth, security, and pride in Jerusalem. Dating this event during Uzziah's reign gives insight to the judgment predicted in Chap. 3 - ***fulfilled a few years later during the reign of King Ahaz, and the war involving Judah and Syria and Ephraim (Northern Kingdom).***

Isa 3:1-15

The 1st section begins and ends with the phrase, *"This is the declaration of the Lord God of Hosts [Armies]"* [vs 1, 15]. Throughout the **Books of the Prophets**, God often employed ***Nations*** *[here Israel; Syria; Assyria]*; ***Natural catastrophe***; ***Governmental abuse***; and ***Social upheaval*** to bring His judgmental correction to the **Nation of Judah**. Behind ALL of these is, **The Lord God of Hosts**.

His message is presented in 3 steps:

- **3:1-7 God Will Remove Judah's Leaders**
  - **3:1-3 The leadership vacuum – God would remove everything that supports life and social order. Specifically, this included food and water, and a host of key military figures *(hero, warrior, commander of fifty)*, political *(judge, elder, dignitary, and counselor)*, religious *(prophet, fortune-teller, necromancer)*, and economic (*skilled craftsman or "cunning magician")*. These leaders served a stabilizing role and attained status in society that was supposed to guarantee order and security to the common people.**
  - **3:4-7 Anarchy will reign - Isaiah predicted that God would replace these leaders with "youths" and "unstable rulers" - *when godly people fail to step into positions of leadership, then people with poor leadership or questionable moral qualifications get appointed or elected to positions of responsibility*.**
- **3:8-11 God Will Judge The Leaders Who Oppress Others**
  - **3:8-9 Sin will bring their fall - Isaiah proclaims that the people of Judah were bringing this disaster on themselves because *all God could do is justly reward the people for their own deeds*.**
    Jerusalem *"will fall"* (*not "has fallen"*) because the deeds and words of the people directly defied God.
  - **3:10-11 The "Fate" *[unrealized future]* of the righteous and wicked -**
    **** Notice the special Promise to the "*Righteous Remnant*" within the Nation...**
    "Tell the righteous that it shall be well with them… for they shall eat the fruit of their deeds."
- **3:12-15 God Will Take Incompetent Leaders *"To Court"***
  - **3:12-14 Judgment for oppression - The "judgment" will fall specifically on the leaders of Judah who (a) Oppress others; (b) Lead people astray; (c) Plunder the poor; and (d) Crush God's people.**
  - **3:15 Why do you crush my people? - The final question in 3:15 reveals the Lord's astonishment at such behavior. How can someone do this to "my people," the ones whom God cared for so much? Are these leaders without conscience? Do they fail to realize that these poor people are valuable in God's eyes?**

In all of this, we are reminded that it is GOD who Rules and Defends us... *NOT our National or Military strength*.

PSA 121:1-2 *I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? [Is that where my help comes from?]*
2) *[No!] My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.*

PRO 18:10-11 *The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.*
11) *A rich man's wealth is his strong city, and like a high wall in his [own] imagination [what a dreamer].*

➢ ISA 3:1-15

The 2nd Section can be seen as **3 Judgments** against the ***"pretentious women"***.
This is NOT an indictment against ALL women. These are ones who, because of the lack of "godly male leadership" have assumed positions using wealth, appearance, and societal status as their basis for authority.
**** Think: Celebrities; Social Media *"Influencers"*; Wealthy *"Pretenders"***

In order to clarify the true source of these provocative statements, Isaiah begins with the announcement that this is another authoritative word from God... *"The LORD said: Because the daughters of Zion are haughty…"* [3:16a]

This section is certainly harsh, controversial, and mockingly satirical — *speech that would be considered politically incorrect by many today*. [I guess this will earn me another "explicit" badge]

Of course, NONE of this is reason for us to rejoice as if *"They're just getting what they deserve; it's about time..."*

- **3:16–17 God will judge the proud wealthy women.**
  The basic problem that brings God's judgment is that the women are "haughty," self-engrossed, or proud. Their looks, jewelry, makeup, and demeanor call attention to themselves as special and important people.
- **3:18–24 God will remove all objects of pride.**
  The devastating impact of God's hatred of pride is seen in the catalog of things God will "strip" from these beautiful women. *The term for "strip" is elsewhere translated "remove."*

If they did not "remove" their evil deeds (1:16), God would remove their "impurities" (1:25) and their "security" (3:1) and their "finery" ("*pretense of glory, splendor, adornment*").

God will mercilessly and totally remove every last thing these women use to make themselves look important

- 3:25–4:1 **The women will be humiliated.** The final verses move from the physical removal of *outward signs of status and pride* to the personal shame *of being widowed*.

  The coming war will result in the death of many sons and husbands who will become soldiers (3:25). Their death will deprive the women of Zion of their source of income, their social status, their security, and the opportunity to have children.

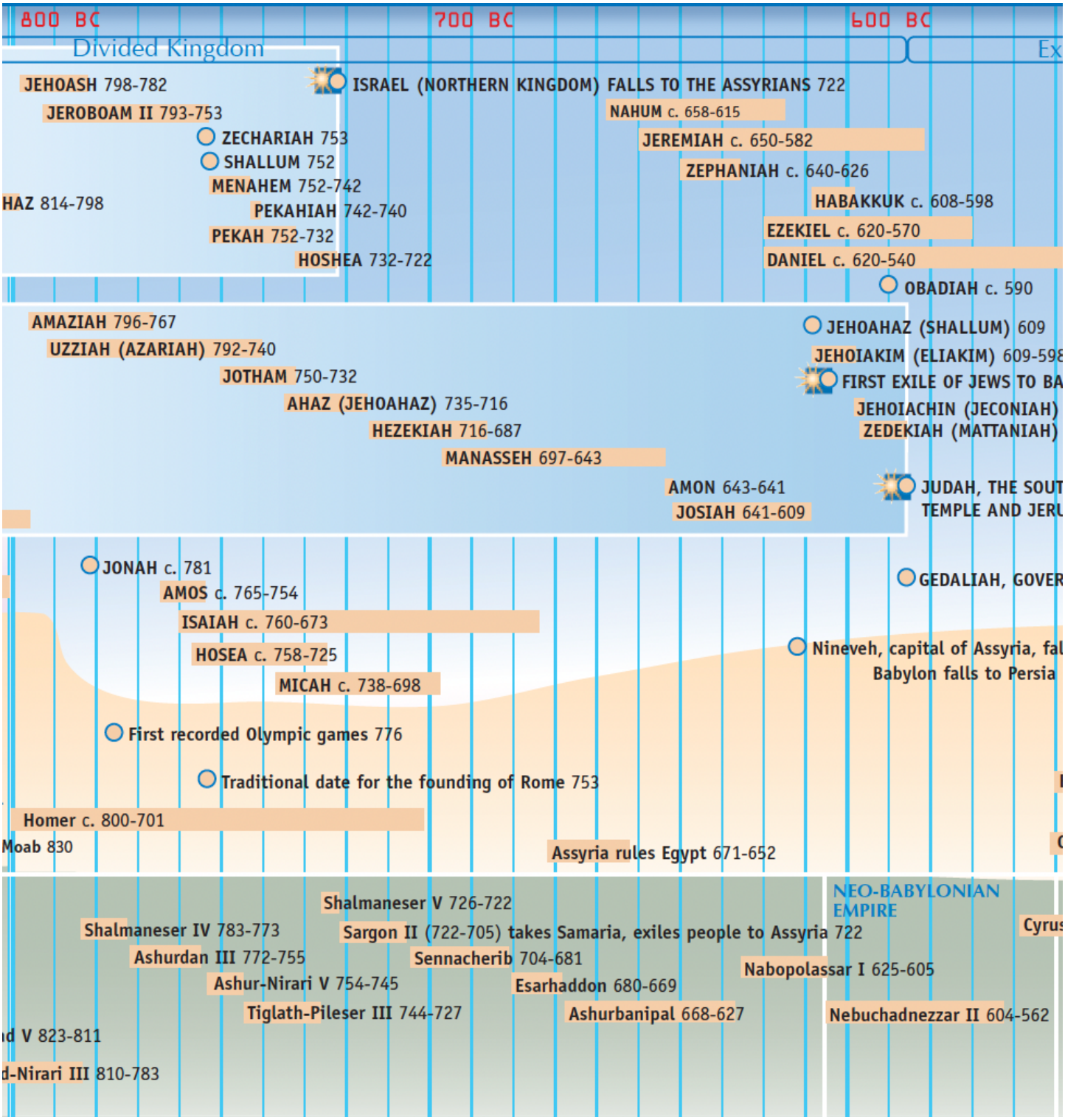
The DAY is coming... Listen... Clean your hands... Repent... Receive!

Like the Nations of the OT, there remains for all mankind, "A DAY":

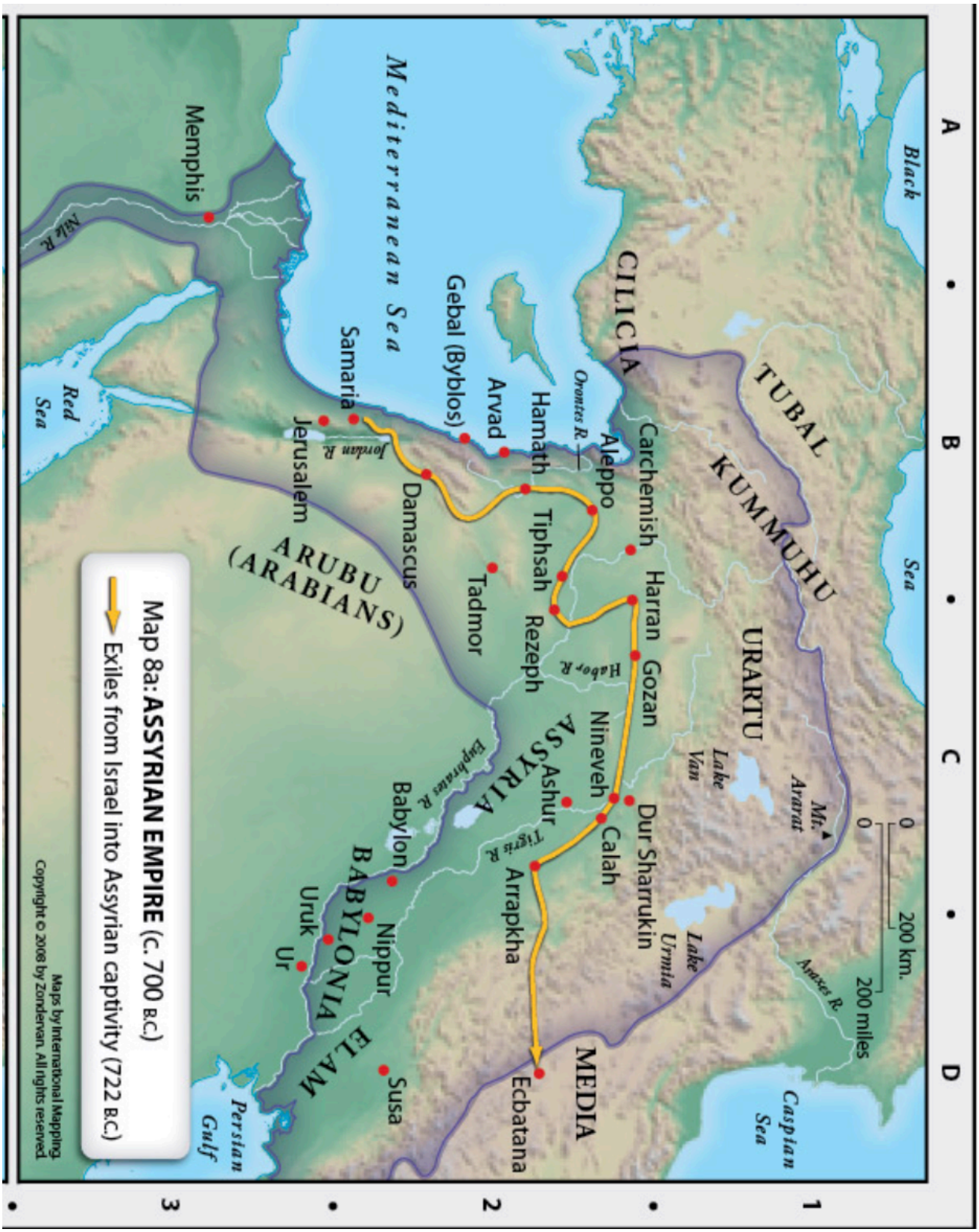
A Day of *Judgment*, a Day of *Deliverance*; a Day of Hope; a Day of *Restoration*.

> ACTS 17:30-31 *The times of ignorance GOD overlooked, but now HE commands all people everywhere to repent,* 31) *because He has fixed a day on which HE will judge the world in righteousness by A MAN whom HE has appointed; and of this HE has given assurance to all by raising HIM from the dead."*

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 happening.

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 Millinneum 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 Millinneum, may be realized "spiritually" by the Saints in the Church Age.