ISAIAH: JUDGMENT & REDEMPTION

ISA-09 "THE DAY IS COMING"

THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

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ISAIAH 2:12 *"The LORD has taken his place to contend; He stands to judge peoples."*

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."*

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**. ***These judgments were fulfilled a few years later during the reign of Kings JOTHAM and AHAZ, and the war involving the Nations of JUDAH and SYRIA and EPHRAIM (Northern Kingdom).***

Isaiah's ***"Prophetic Word"*** is a predictive summary of what **WILL** happen... ***it is not in question***. Although the people have an opportunity to receive the words and repent *(thereby becoming a part of the Remnant)*, God knows, for the most part, they will not.

We could apply the same principle to the situation of our culture and our World today. There is NO stopping of what God has purposed and planned for the **"End of Time."** It WILL happen just as God has said... and in HIS time.

NOW is the time for mankind to repent and believe:

> **ROM 13:11-12** *"Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.* 12) *The night is far gone; The Day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light."*
>
> **Although Paul is writing to the Believers, the application is relevant also to Unbelievers:**
>
> **For Believers it will be glorious... For Unbelievers horrendous.**

This Prophecy is delivered in "2" Sections, referring to the same time period, but directed toward different issues.

➢ ISA 3:1-15 SECTION ONE

The **1st Section** begins and ends with: ***"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 stages:

- **3:1-7 God Will Remove Judah's Leaders**
  - **3:1-3 The Leadership vacuum – God will remove everything that supports life and social order. Specifically, this included food and water... AND ALSO, a host of:**
    - **Key Military Figures** ***(hero, warrior, commander of fifty),***
    - **Political Leaders** ***(judge, elder, dignitary, and counselor),***

- Religious Leaders *(prophet, fortune-teller, necromancer)*, and
- Economic Leaders (*skilled craftsman or "cunning magician")*.

▪ These leaders served a stabilizing role, and attained status in society that was supposed to guarantee order, security and prosperity to the common people.

○ 3:4-7 **Anarchy Will Reign** - Isaiah predicted that God would replace these leaders with "youths" and "unstable rulers" - Their security was only a façade... without God's blessing as a foundation NONE of them could succeed... *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" ("has fallen" as if seeing the fact from "after the fact")* 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."
Not only will they be saved, but they will be rewarded for the testimony and labor of their faith...

○ 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 the hope of God's people.

▪ 3:15 **Why do you crush my people?** - The final question in 3:15 reveals the depth of the Lord's astonishment at such behavior.

- How can someone do this to "MY PEOPLE," the ones for whom God has lovingly cared for?
- Are these leaders without conscience?
- Do they fail to realize that these 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.*

PSA 20:7-8 *"Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.*
8) *They collapse and fall, but we rise and stand upright."*

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 3:16-4:1 SECTION TWO

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"*; "Prominent Athletes"; "Transgenders"**
In our day we can easily expand this into both male and female persons who are "models" simply because of their popularity and natural ability or performance...

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 — this is *speech that would be considered politically incorrect by many today*. **[I guess this will earn me another "explicit" badge on the Podcast]**

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.

  They have no basis for leadership or authority... ONLY external appearance and self-importance

- **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) their "security" (3:1) and their "finery" (3:18) "*Their pretense of glory, splendor, adornment*"

  Contrast what God promises to do for those who repent:
  ISA 1:18-19 *"Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD:*
  Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.* 19) *If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land..."

  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 and made childless*.**
  - **The coming wars and devastation will result in the death of many sons and husbands who will become soldiers and die at the hands of the Syrians and Ephraimites (3:25).**

    Out of JUDAH'S army, one hundred twenty thousand were killed. This probably meant that AHAZ was left with less than half of his original army. Additionally, AHAZ lost his son, his chief of staff, and his prime minister. PEKAH'S (King of ISRAEL/EPHRAIM) army also took a huge number of people as hostages and transported them to the capital city of SAMARIA in Israel.
  - **Their death will deprive the women of Zion of their source of income, their social status, their security, and the opportunity to have children.**
  - **They would be left to sit at the Gates of the City and beg for their livelihood...**
  - **They were so devastated they were willing to share *"one man"* among numerous women... just to secure provision and the hope of children...**

THIS WILL HAPPEN... IT IS NOT WHAT GOD WANTED... IT IS THE RESULT OF THEIR REBELLION AGAINST HIM

1 TIM 2:3-6 *"This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior,* 4) *who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.* 5) *For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,* 6) *who gave himself as a ransom for all..."*

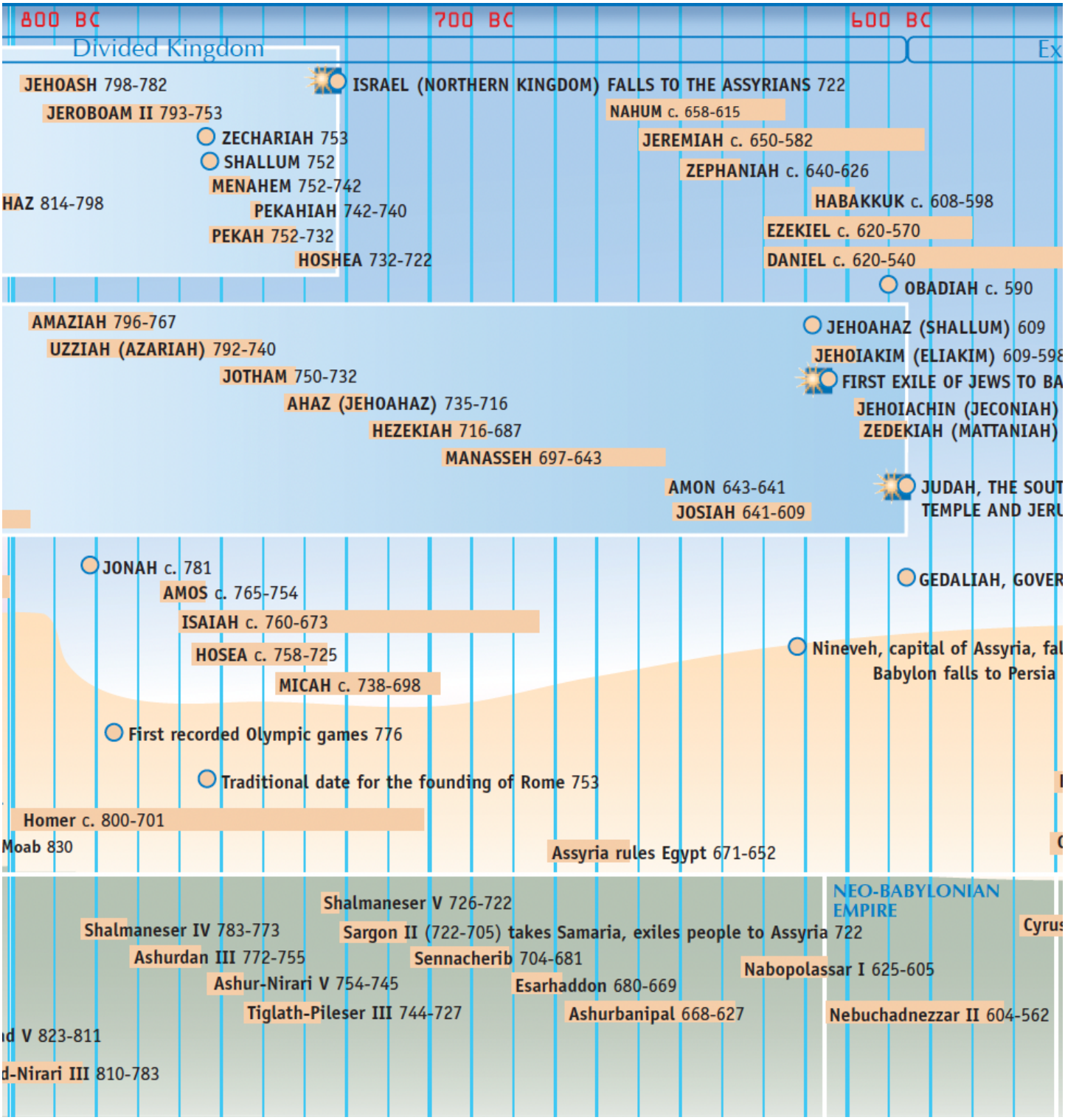
2 PETER 3:9-10 *"The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.* 10) *But the day of the Lord will come..."*

THE DAY IS COMING... Listen... Clean your hands... Repent... Receive!

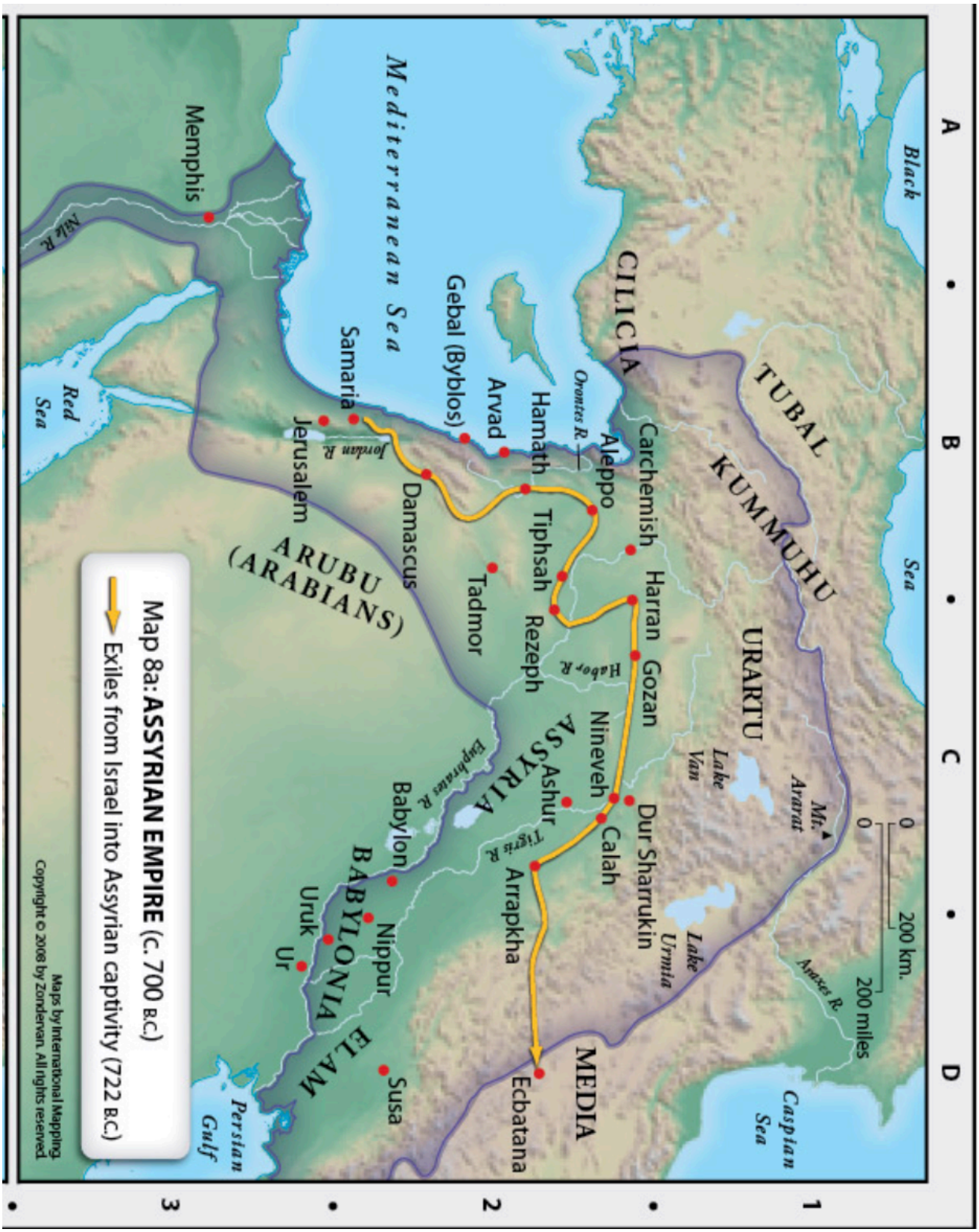
Like the Nations of the OT, there remains for all mankind, "A DAY":
A Day of *Judgment*, a Day of *Deliverance*; a Day of Hope; a Day of *Restoration*... a Day of *Salvation*!

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.