

GOD'S TOUCHPOINTS



Old Testament Summary
The Patriarchal Ages
The Judges
The Reign of Royalty
The Prophetic Era

A walk thru' the Old Testament (OT)..

Lesson 28: The Early Prophets

OT WALKTHRU- THE PROPHETIC ERA

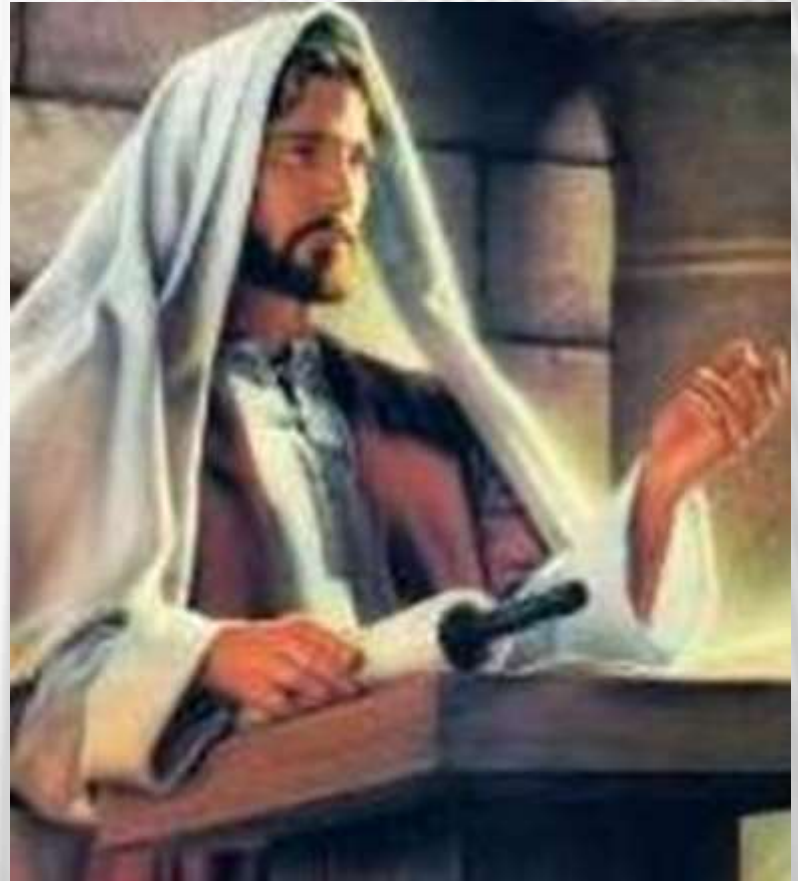


1. ***The Early Prophets***
2. Elijah, the Prophet who never died
3. Isaiah, the man of unclean lips
4. Jeremiah, the weeping prophet
5. Daniel, the leader who never compromised
6. Ezekiel, the Watchman
7. The Minor Prophets
8. Israel restored to receive Christ

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- THE EARLY PROPHETS

- ✧ Who is a prophet
- ✧ The first prophets
- ✧ Prophets in the frontline
- ✧ Popularity Prophets



WHO IS A PROPHET?

Some people have something to say, others have to say something. A prophet is one who has something to say and has to say it.

The test of a prophet – prophecies come true



GOD'S TOUCHPOINTS

- ✖ Prophets were God's touchpoints. The patriarchs, judges, priests and even some kings played a prophetic role.
- ✖ They came to the frontline during and after the Kings came into power, as God ceased to be able to connect with the Kings and Prophets were the prime source of communication from God to man.



THEIR ROLE

- ✖ They had one purpose – to be God's mouthpiece
- ✖ They had high influence - access to Kings and leaders
- ✖ They had to sacrifice their personal lives for the cause
- ✖ They were most often unpopular
- ✖ They often had to suffer bad consequences of speaking God's truth – sometimes death eg. Isaiah
- ✖ They faced terrible consequences on even the smallest deviation to disobeying God – man of God prophesying against Jeroboam
- ✖ God used even the heathen as his mouthpieces – Eg. Balaam



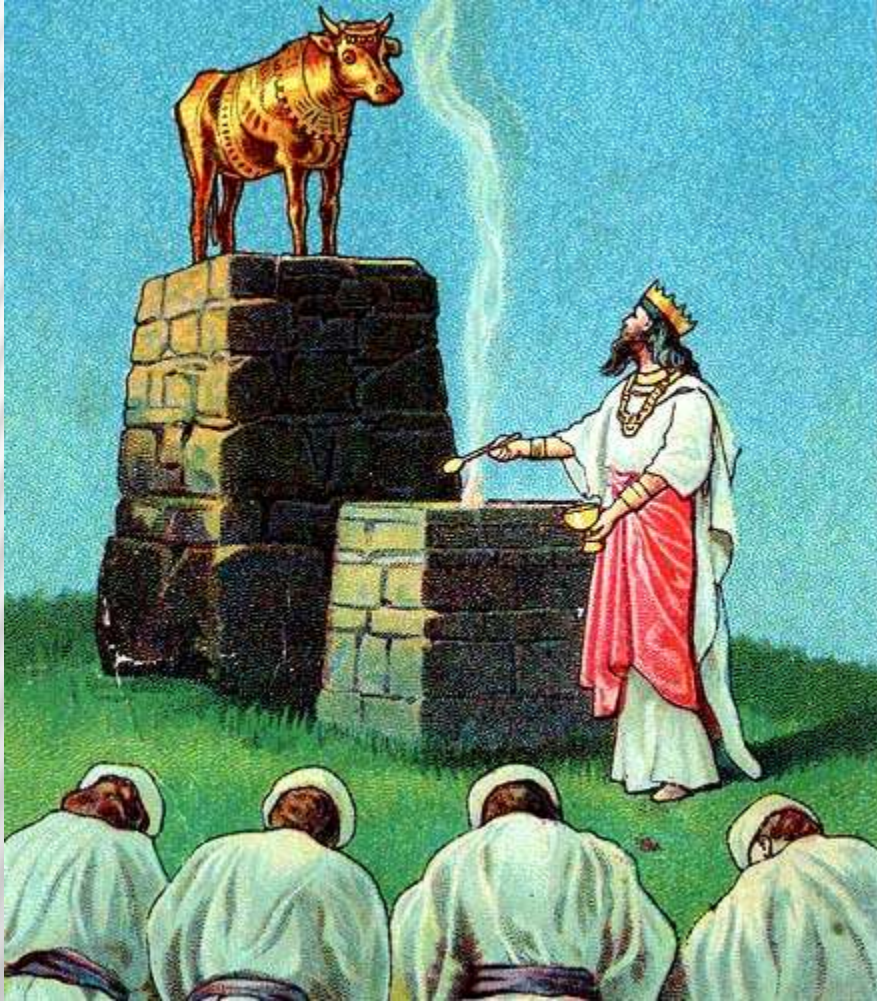
**Great Power comes
with a Great Price Tag**

THE PRICE TAG

× On the flip side:

**"you don't pay the price
for success, you pay the
price for failure. You enjoy
the benefits of success". -
Zig Ziglar**

JERABOAM AND THE MAN OF GOD



- × By the word of the LORD a man of God came from Judah to Bethel, as Jeroboam was standing by the altar to make an offering. ² By the word of the LORD he cried out against the altar: “Altar, altar! This is what the LORD says: ‘A son named Josiah will be born to the house of David. On you he will sacrifice the priests of the high places who make offerings here, and human bones will be burned on you.’”
1 Kings 13

JERABOAM AND THE MAN OF GOD

- GREAT POWER



- × ³ That same day the man of God gave a sign: “This is the sign the LORD has declared: The altar will be split apart and the ashes on it will be poured out.”
- × ⁴ When King Jeroboam heard what the man of God cried out against the altar at Bethel, he stretched out his hand from the altar and said, “Seize him!” But the hand he stretched out toward the man shriveled up, so that he could not pull it back. ⁵ Also, the altar was split apart and its ashes poured out according to the sign given by the man of God by the word of the LORD.
- × ⁶ Then the king said to the man of God, “Intercede with the LORD your God and pray for me that my hand may be restored.” So the man of God interceded with the LORD, and the king’s hand was restored and became as it was before. – 1 Kings 13

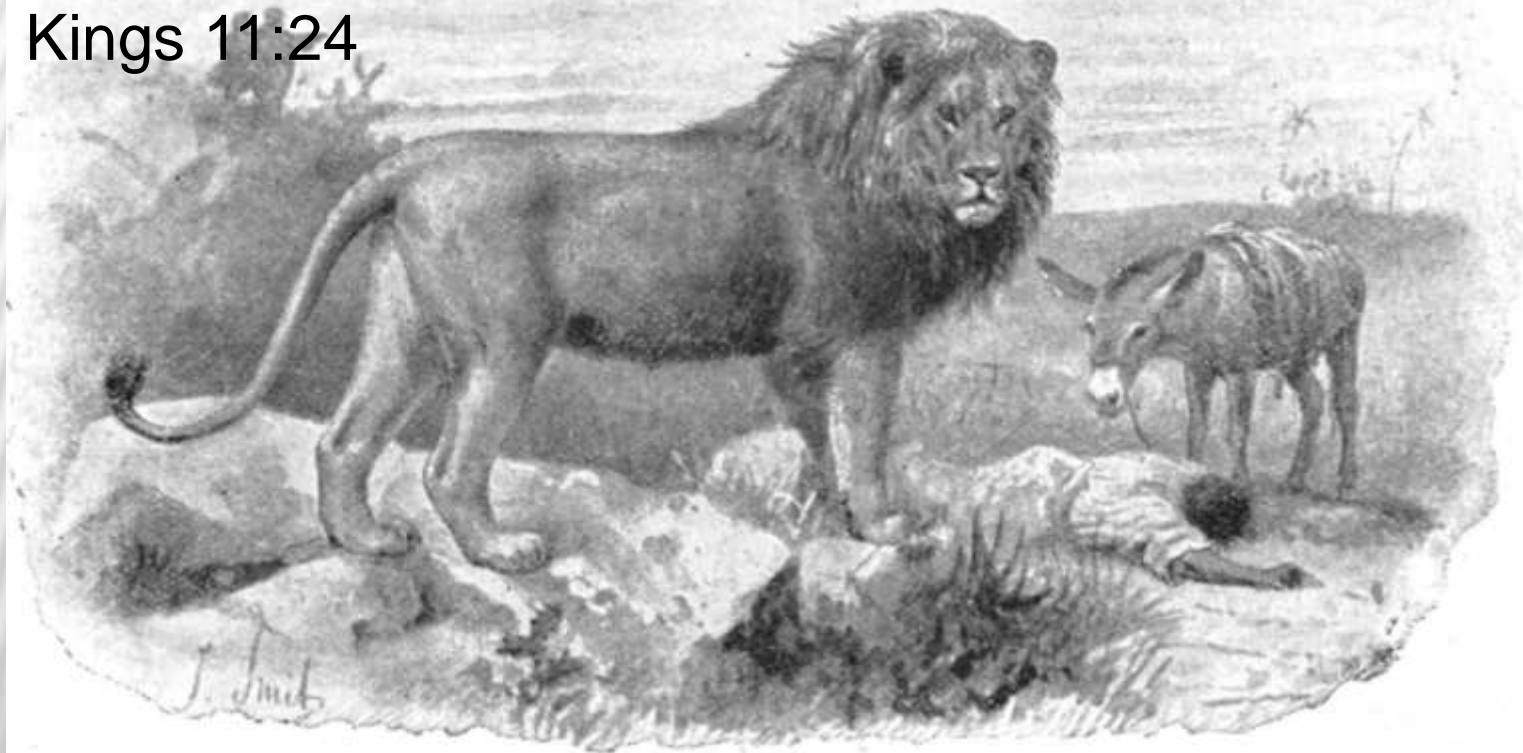
THE MAN OF GOD'S DEATH PROPHESED

- GREAT PRICE TAG FOR DISOBEDIENCE

- ✧ ¹⁶ The man of God said, “I cannot turn back and go with you, nor can I eat bread or drink water with you in this place. ¹⁷ I have been told by the word of the LORD: ‘You must not eat bread or drink water there or return by the way you came.’”
- ✧ ¹⁸ The old prophet answered, “I too am a prophet, as you are. And an angel said to me by the word of the LORD: ‘Bring him back with you to your house so that he may eat bread and drink water.’” (But he was lying to him.) ¹⁹ So the man of God returned with him and ate and drank in his house.
- ✧ ²⁰ While they were sitting at the table, the word of the LORD came to the old prophet who had brought him back. ²¹ He cried out to the man of God who had come from Judah, “This is what the LORD says: ‘You have defied the word of the LORD and have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you. ²² You came back and ate bread and drank water in the place where he told you not to eat or drink. Therefore your body will not be buried in the tomb of your ancestors.’” 1 kings 13

THE MAN OF GOD MEETS HIS DEATH GREAT PRICE – CONT'D..

But as he was traveling along, a **lion** came out and **killed him**. His body lay there on the road, with the **donkey** and the **lion standing** beside it. — Kings 11:24



“He found his carcase in the way, and the ass and the lion standing by the carcase.”—1 Kings xiii. 28.

PROPHETS AND KINGS

- ✖ Good Kings took heed to the prophets and corrected their ways.
- ✖ Evil Kings disregarded the voice of prophets and headed to the path of downfall.



PROPHET CONDEMNS AHAB

- HE HAD TO SAY IT..

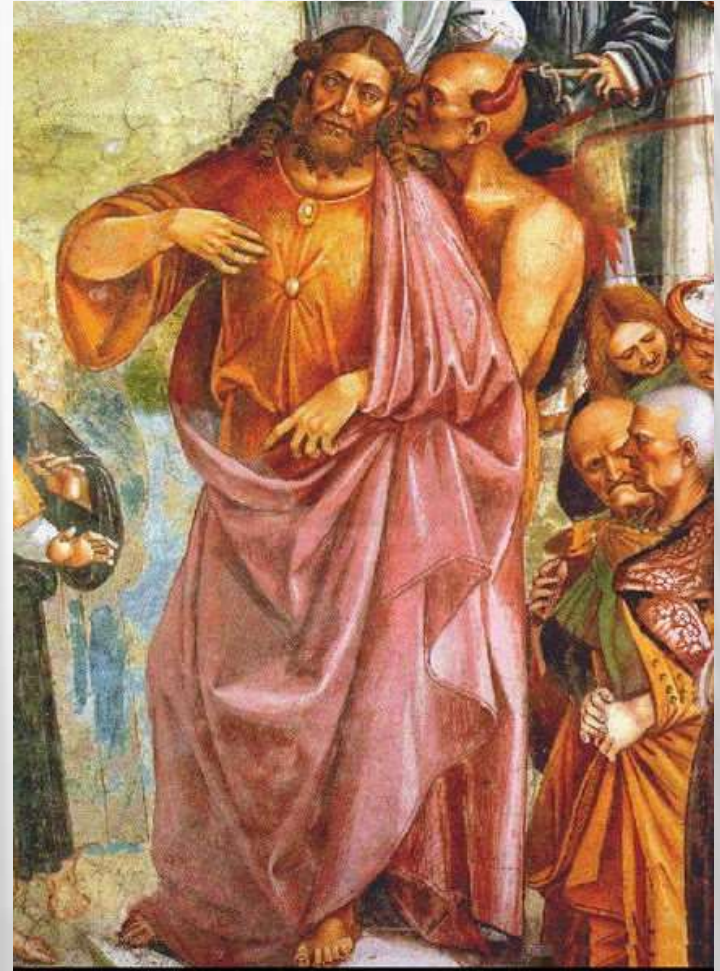
- ✕ ³⁵ By the word of the LORD one of the company of the prophets said to his companion, “Strike me with your weapon,” but he refused.
- ✕ ³⁶ So the prophet said, “Because you have not obeyed the LORD, as soon as you leave me a lion will kill you.” And after the man went away, a lion found him and killed him.
- ✕ ³⁷ The prophet found another man and said, “Strike me, please.” So the man struck him and wounded him. ³⁸ Then the prophet went and stood by the road waiting for the king. He disguised himself with his headband down over his eyes. ³⁹ As the king passed by, the prophet called out to him, “Your servant went into the thick of the battle, and someone came to me with a captive and said, ‘Guard this man. If he is missing, it will be your life for his life, or you must pay a talent^[b] of silver.’” ⁴⁰ While your servant was busy here and there, the man disappeared.”
- ✕ “That is your sentence,” the king of Israel said. “You have pronounced it yourself.”
- ✕ ⁴¹ Then the prophet quickly removed the headband from his eyes, and the king of Israel recognized him as one of the prophets. ⁴² He said to the king, “This is what the LORD says: ‘You have set free a man I had determined should die.^[c] Therefore it is your life for his life, your people for his people.’” ⁴³ Sullen and angry, the king of Israel went to his palace in Samaria. 1 Kings 20

GOD PUTS A LYING SPIRIT IN PROPHETS

- ✘ ¹⁹ Micaiah continued, “Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne with all the multitudes of heaven standing around him on his right and on his left. ²⁰ And the LORD said, ‘Who will entice Ahab into attacking Ramoth Gilead and going to his death there?’
- ✘ “One suggested this, and another that. ²¹ Finally, a spirit came forward, stood before the LORD and said, ‘I will entice him.’
- ✘ ²² “‘By what means?’ the LORD asked.
- ✘ “‘I will go out and be a deceiving spirit in the mouths of all his prophets,’ he said.
- ✘ “‘You will succeed in enticing him,’ said the LORD. ‘Go and do it.’
- ✘ ²³ “So now the LORD has put a deceiving spirit in the mouths of all these prophets of yours. The LORD has decreed disaster for you.”
- ✘ I Kings 22

LYING SPIRIT?

- ✖ Why did God put a lying spirit in the mouths of the prophets?



Ahab rejected
the truth
God gave him
lies

The prophets
neglected speaking
the truth

God filled their mouth
with falsehood

POPULARITY PROPHETS

False

True

- ✖ For every true prophet there are several false prophets
- ✖ False prophets preach what they know people will like



SIGNS OF A POPULARITY PROPHET

1. Their prophecies prove to be false
2. They do not keep or advocate God's commands
3. They are wolves in sheep's clothing



FALSE PROPHETS

- ✦ "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. Matt 7:16
- ✦ Why does Jesus call false prophets wolves in sheep's clothing?



SIGNS OF POPULARITY PROPHETS – BIBLE REF

✧ The false prophecy sign

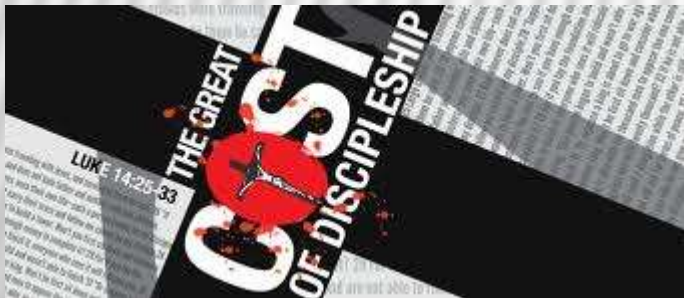
21 And if you say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the Lord has not spoken?' — 22 when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him. (Deuteronomy 18:21-22; NKJV)

✧ The “not keeping or advocating God’s commandments sign”

1 "If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, 2 and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods' — which you have not known — 'and let us serve them,' 3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. 4 You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him. (Deuteronomy 13:1-4)

A DISCIPLE'S ROLE (SIMILAR TO PROPHET)

- ✕ They had one purpose – to be God's mouthpiece
- ✕ They had high influence - access to Kings and leaders
- ✕ They had to sacrifice their personal lives for the cause
- ✕ They were most often unpopular
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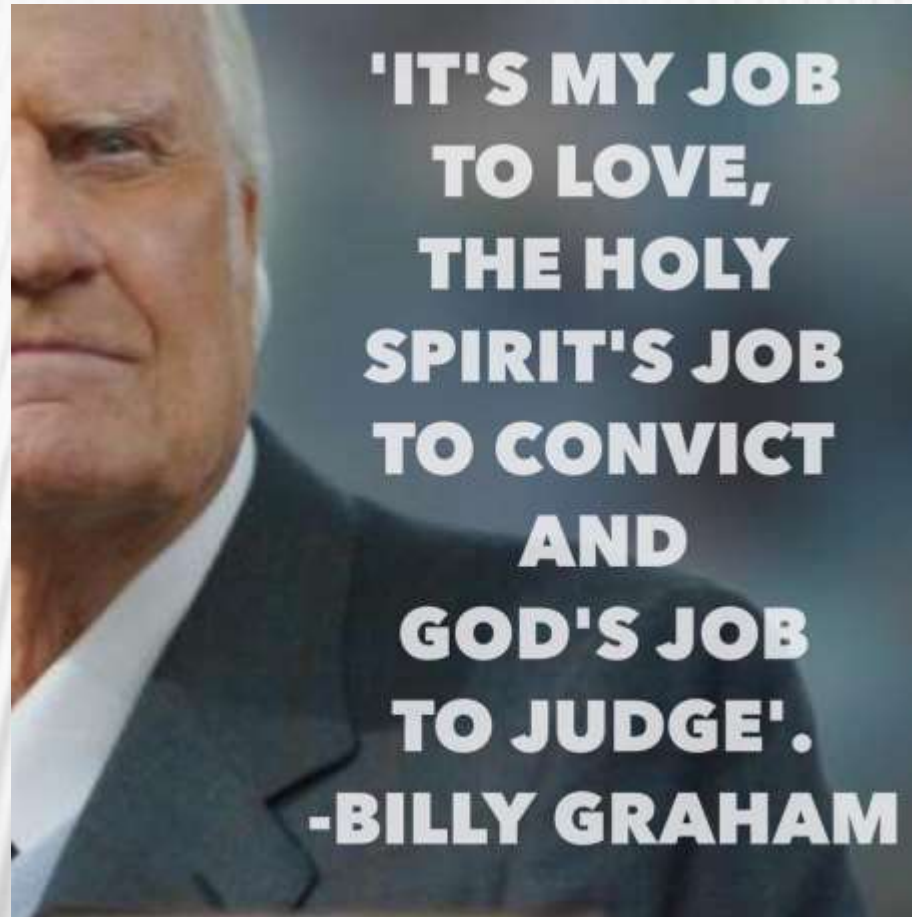
DISCUSSION - PROPHET VS. DISCIPLE

1. Compare prophet and disciple of Christ
2. Who are the “false prophets” of today’s age?
3. What do we learn from the following verse – from the past, from the present, for the future?

³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but having itching ears, they shall heap to themselves teachers in accordance with their own lusts. – 2 Tim 4:3



OUR RESPONSE



GOD'S TOUCHPOINTS



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Lesson 29: Elijah the prophet who never died

OT WALKTHRU- THE PROPHETIC ERA



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BACKGROUND

KING AHAB'S TRYST WITH THE PROPHETS

- ✖ Known to be one of the worst kings, several prophets attempted to reach King Ahab
- ✖ 400 Prophets of Asherah dined at the queens table
- ✖ God's prophets were killed
- ✖ Elijah was the foremost of them and demonstrated God's power in a mighty way by getting all prophets of Baal consumed by fire.
- ✖ Another prophet got himself wounded to demo to the king God's plan (1 Kings 20).
- ✖ It is eventually the lying prophets who deceive Ahab
- ✖ Miciah finally prophesied his death and was punished for it.

ELIJAH THE PROPHET

- ✖ From dynamic display
- ✖ To deep depression
- ✖ 1 kings 18 and 19
- ✖ Faces the king and all prophets of Baal and vanquishes them with gusto
- ✖ Trifles the fear of obadiah
- ✖ Suddenly gets afraid due to Jezebel
- ✖ And runs for his life

1 KINGS 18

- ✧ 14 And now you tell me to go to my master and say, 'Elijah is here.' He will kill me!"
- ✧ 15 Elijah said, "As the Lord Almighty lives, whom I serve, I will surely present myself to Ahab today."
- ✧ Elijah on Mount Carmel
- ✧ 16 So Obadiah went to meet Ahab and told him, and Ahab went to meet Elijah. 17 When he saw Elijah, he said to him, "Is that you, you troubler of Israel?"
- ✧ 18 "I have not made trouble for Israel," Elijah replied. "But you and your father's family have. You have abandoned the Lord's commands and have followed the Baals. 19 Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."
- ✧ 20 So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. 21 Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him."
- ✧ But the people said nothing.

DYNAMIC DISPLAY

- ✖ Faces Ahab, who wants to kill him
- ✖ Defies laws of nature
- ✖ Challenges and kills 100s of Baal prophets



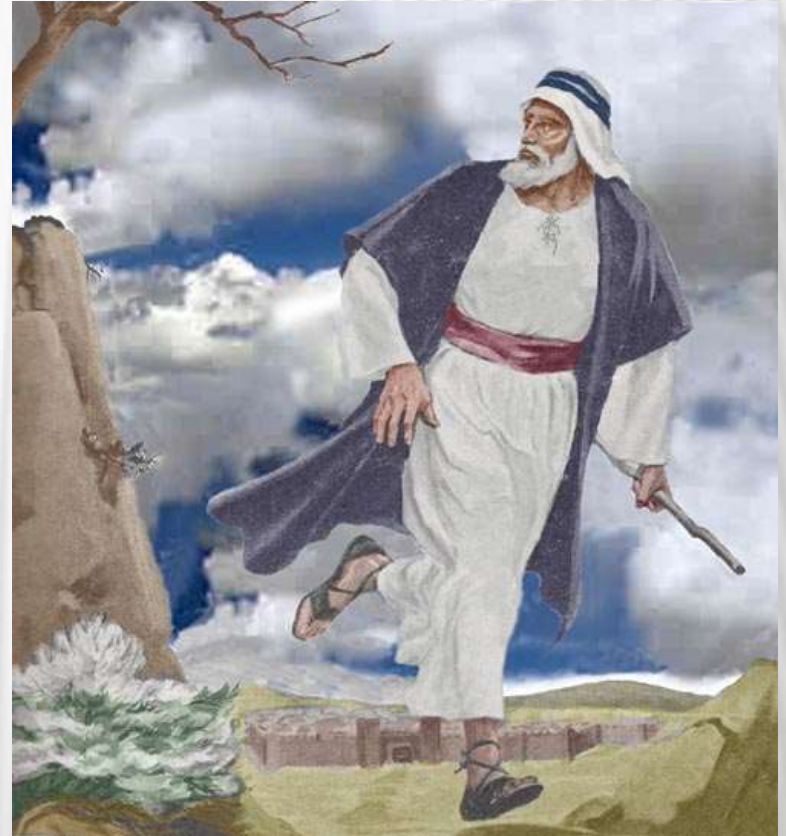
DEEP DEPRESSION

- ✕ Runs from Jezebel
- ✕ Asks God for death
- ✕ Continues to run



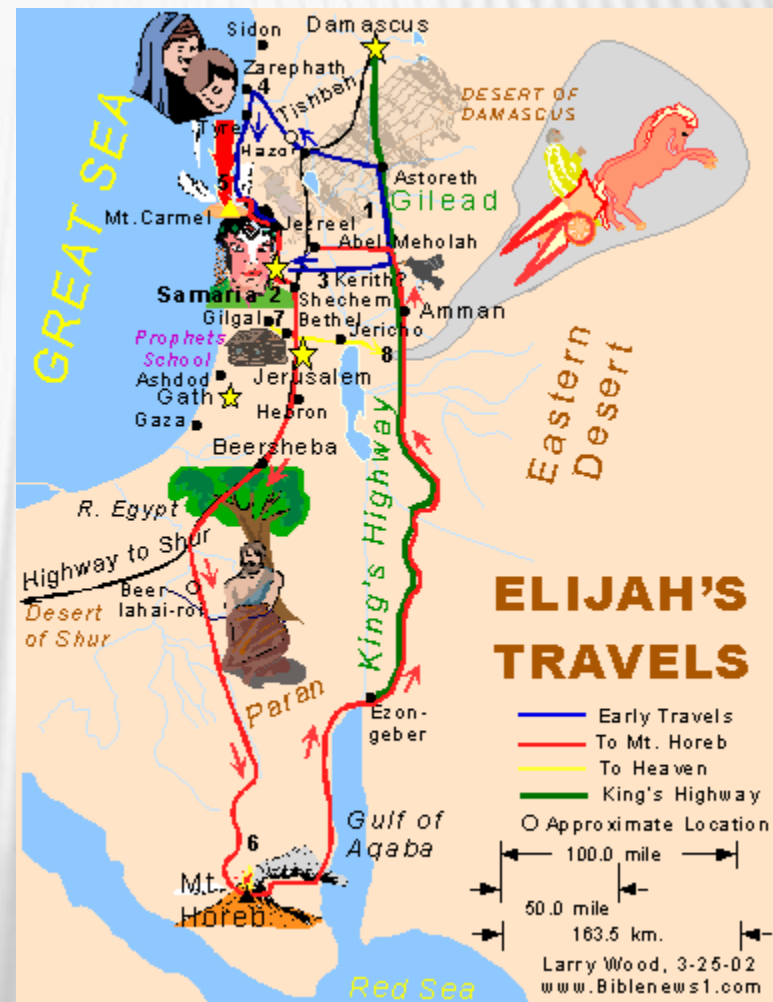
DEEP DEPRESSION

- ✖ God gives him food..
- ✖ for continuing to run
????



ELIJAH RUNS

- × From Mount Carmel to Mount Horeb



GOD'S DYNAMIC DISPLAY

- × Wind
- × Earthquake
- × Fire
- × ..and
- × The STILL SMALL VOICE



The First Book of Kings
Chapter 19

about the same time as the
 origin. And, by the way, I
 am no longer in the
 "Elaine" 10 the
 very much. The
 money. The
 government. I
 and the
 in the
 I saw
 the
 the
 the
 the

was a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. 12 After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. 13 When Elijah stood up, he pulled his ~~cloak~~ over his face and went out and walked in the mouth of the wind. There he said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

A photograph of a person sitting in a cave, looking out a large opening. The scene is dimly lit, with light coming from the cave entrance. The person is silhouetted against the bright light. Overlaid on the image is the text "What Are You Doing Here, Elijah?" in a white, handwritten-style font.

What
Are
You
Doing
Here, Elijah?

1 KINGS 19

- ✖ 19 Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. 2 So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, “May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them.”
- ✖ 3 Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, 4 while he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. “I have had enough, Lord,” he said. “Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.” 5 Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep.
- ✖ All at once an angel touched him and said, “Get up and eat.” 6 He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.
- ✖ 7 The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, “Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you.” 8 So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. 9 There he went into a cave and spent the night.

1 KINGS 19 CONT'D

- ✧ The Lord Appears to Elijah
- ✧ And the word of the Lord came to him: “What are you doing here, Elijah?” 10 He replied, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”
- ✧ 11 The Lord said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.”
- ✧ Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. 12 After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. 13 When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.
- ✧ Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”
- ✧ 14 He replied, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”
- ✧ 15 The Lord said to him, “Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. 16 Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. 17 Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. 18 Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him.”



What are you
doing here?

Is God
asking...

DISCUSSION

- ✧ In what ways do we run away from God?
- ✧ What has changed for the shift from dynamic display to deep depression?
- ✧ What do we learn about God?
- ✧ What do we learn from Elijah?

When we take
our eyes from
God we start
running away
from God.

REFERENCES - ELIJAH

- ✧ Elijah stood up boldly for God in a time when idolatry had swept his land. In fact, his name means "My God is Yah(weh)."
 - ✧ The false god he opposed was Baal, the favorite deity of Jezebel, wife of King Ahab of Israel. To please Jezebel, Ahab had altars erected to Baal, and the queen murdered God's prophets.
 - ✧ Elijah appeared before King Ahab to announce God's curse: "As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word." (1 Kings 17:1, NIV)
Then Elijah fled to the brook Cherith, east of the Jordan River, where ravens brought him bread and meat. When the brook dried up, God sent Elijah to live with a widow in Zarephath. God performed another miracle there, blessing the woman's oil and flour so it did not run out. Unexpectedly, the widow's son died. Elijah stretched himself on the boy's body three times, and God restored the child's life.
 - ✧ Confident of the power of God, Elijah challenged the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of the false god Asherah to a showdown on Mount Carmel. The idolaters sacrificed a bull and cried out to Baal from morning until nightfall, even slashing their skin until blood flowed, but nothing happened. Elijah then rebuilt the altar of the Lord, sacrificing a bull there.
 - ✧ He put the burnt offering on it, along with wood. He had a servant douse the sacrifice and wood with four jars of water, three times, until all was thoroughly soaked. Elijah called on the Lord, and God's fire fell from heaven, consuming the offering, the wood, the altar, the water, and even the dust around it.
 - ✧ The people fell on their faces, shouting, "The Lord, he is God; the Lord, he is God." (1 Kings 18:39, NIV) Elijah ordered the people to slay the 850 false prophets.
 - ✧ Elijah prayed, and rain fell on Israel. Jezebel was furious at the loss of her prophets, however, and swore to kill him. Afraid, Elijah ran to the wilderness, sat under a broom tree, and in his despair, asked God to take his life. Instead, the prophet slept, and an angel brought him food. Strengthened, Elijah went 40 days and 40 nights to Mount Horeb, where God appeared to him in a whisper.
 - ✧ God ordered Elijah to anoint his successor, Elisha, whom he found plowing with 12 yoke of oxen. Elisha killed the animals for a sacrifice and followed his master. Elijah went on to prophesy the deaths of Ahab, King Ahaziah, and Jezebel.
 - ✧ Like Enoch, Elijah did not die. God sent chariots and horses of fire and took Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, while Elisha stood watching.
- Christianity.about.com

REFERENCES - ELISHA

- ✧ Elisha replaced Elijah as Israel's chief prophet and also performed many miracles through the power of God. He was a servant of the people, demonstrating God's love and compassion.
- ✧ Elisha means "God is salvation." He was anointed by Elijah while plowing in his father Shaphat's field with 12 yoke of oxen.
- ✧ He received a double portion of Elijah's spirit before the latter was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha served as a prophet of the northern kingdom for more than 50 years, through the reigns of kings Jehoram, Jehu, Jehoahaz, and into the reign of Joash.
- ✧ Elisha's miracles included purifying a spring at Jericho, multiplying a widow's oil, bringing a Shunammite woman's son back to life (reminiscent of a miracle by Elijah), purifying a poisonous stew, and multiplying loaves of bread (foreshadowing a miracle by Jesus).
- ✧ One of his most memorable acts was the healing of the Syrian army officer Naaman of leprosy. Naaman was told to wash in the Jordan River seven times. He overcame his unbelief, trusted God, and was cured, causing him to say "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel." (2 Kings 5:16, NIV)
- ✧ Elisha helped rescue the armies of Israel on several occasions. While events of the kingdom unfolded, Elisha dropped out of the picture for a time, then reappeared in 2 Kings 13:14, on his death bed. The final miracle attributed to him happened after he died. A group of Israelites, frightened by approaching raiders, threw the body of one of their dead comrades into Elisha's tomb. When the corpse touched Elisha's bones, the dead soldier came to life and stood on his feet.

REFERENCES - ELISHA..CONT'D

✖ Accomplishments of Elisha the Prophet:

- ✖ Elisha protected the kings and armies of Israel. He also showed the common people that God was concerned with their individual lives and was present among them.

✖ Strengths of Elisha the Prophet:

- ✖ Like his mentor, Elisha demanded rejection of idols and faithfulness to the true God. His miracles, both spectacular and minor, showed that God can change history as well as the everyday lives of his followers.

✖ Life Lessons from Elisha:

- ✖ God loves all people. The poor and helpless are as important to him as the rich and powerful. God wants us to help those in need, no matter who they are.

✖ 2 Kings 2:9

*When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?" "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied. (NIV) **2 Kings 6:17** And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. (NIV)*

- ✖ Christianity. about.com

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Lesson 30: Isaiah, the Man of Unclean Lips

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Isaiah

- × Background
- × Outline
- × The mini bible
- × Judgement
- × Redemption
- × Transformation
- × Discussion
- × The future
- × Famous verses

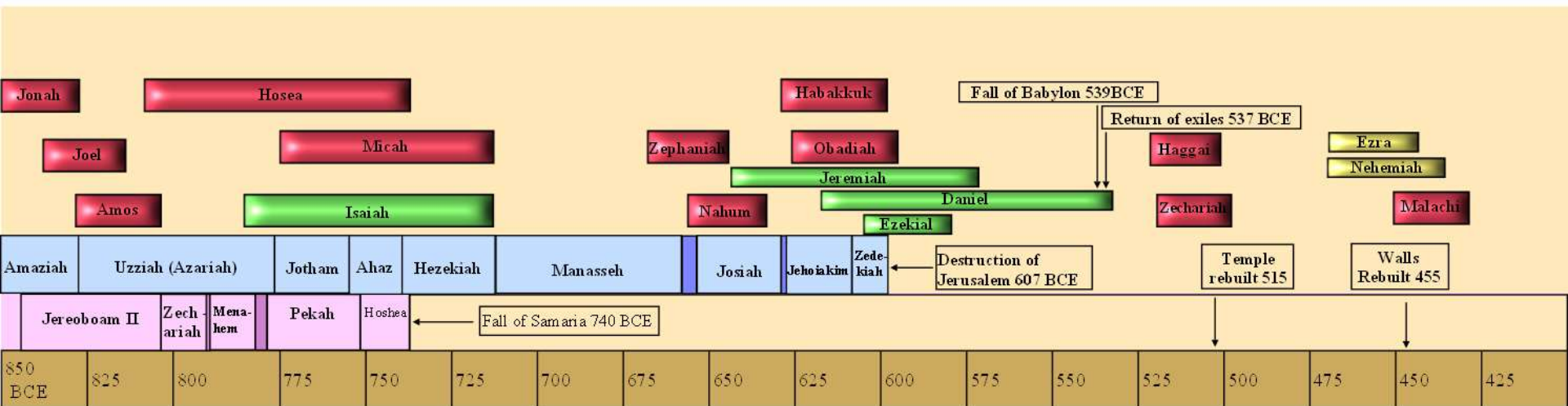
The people who walk
in darkness will see a
great light ...

Isaiah 9:2

TIMELINE OF THE PROPHETS

12 Prophets
 Contemporary Prophets
 Other Contemporaries
 Kings of Judah*
 Kings of Israel*

Timeline of the minor prophets



ISAIAH

- ✧ Isaiah is the first of the four “Major prophets”. Major prophets are so named due to the extensiveness of the content and not otherwise.
- ✧ • In Chapters 1-39, Isaiah breathes Judgment and highlights the sins of Israel
- ✧ • Chapters 40-55, speaks of the return and restoration of Israel and of Christ’s coming
- ✧ • In chapters 56-66, Isaiah writes of the new Heavens and Earth

ISAIAH

Name:	Means <i>“the Lord has saved”</i>
Home:	Probably Jerusalem
Family:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● May have been related to the royal house of Judah● Married to a woman he called the “prophetess”● Father of two sons:<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Shear-Jashub● Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz

ISAIAH

Occupation	Official of King Uzziah of Judah; later called by God to be a prophet
Best Known	As An Old Testament prophet who clearly predicted the coming of the Messiah
Traditional End	May have been executed by the wicked King Manasseh by being placed in the hollow trunk of a carob tree that was then sawed in two (see Heb. 11:37)

ISAIAH'S MINISTRY

Started at the end of Uzziah's reign (740-739 BC)

Continued during Jotham's reign (739-731 BC)

Continued during Ahaz's reign (731-715 BC)

Continued during Hezekiah's reign (715-686 BC)

Ended during Manasseh's reign (686-??? BC)

ISAIAH'S CALL

- ✧ Discover Isaiah 6
- ✧ What was the significance of the burning coal in fire touching Isaiah's lips?
- ✧ Why does God harden people's hearts?
- ✧ How long was Israel's hearts hardened? Why is Jesus (in Isa 8:14) a stumbling block to Israel? Isa 6, Romans 11:25-32, Isa 28:13



THE BOOK OF ISAIAH – THE MINI BIBLE

- Resembles the Bible in miniature
- Total 66 chapters, **39+27=66**
- Key word: ***Salvation***
- **Messianic prophecies: more than any other O.T. writer – 700 years before Christ!**
- Quoted in N.T. far more than any other prophet – 21 times

ISAIAH 1 – 39 JUDGEMENT

- ✕ 1 The vision concerning Judah and Jerusalem that Isaiah son of Amoz saw during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

A Rebellious Nation

2 Hear me, you heavens! Listen, earth! For the LORD has spoken:
“I reared children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me.

3 The ox knows its master, the donkey its owner’s manger,
but Israel does not know, my people do not understand.”

“Come now, let us settle the matter,” says the LORD. (Isaiah 1:1-3)

18 “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

19 If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good things of the land;
20 but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword.”

For the mouth of the LORD has spoken. (Isaiah 1:18-20)

ISAIAH 40-55 - REDEMPTION

- × **40** Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
- 2** Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.
- 3** A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
- 4** Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.
- 5** And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."
- 6** A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.
- 7** The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass.
- 8** The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever."

PROPHECIES OF CHRIST

Prophecy	Fulfillment
Immanuel's birth to a virgin – 7:14	Matt 1:22,23
The rejection of the Christ as a “stone of stumbling” and “rock of offense” – 8:14	1 Peter 2:8; 3:14
The benevolence and universality of the Messiah's reign – 11:1-11	Romans 15:12
The corner-stone to be laid in Zion – 28:16	Romans 9:33; 1 Peter 2:6
A preview of John the Baptist and his preparatory work for Christ – 40:3-5	Matthew 3:3
The Lord's compassionate and just mission – 42:1-2	Matthew 12:18-21
A servant of suffering – 53	John 12:38; Acts 8:32-35; Mt 27:12-14; 8:17; John 1:12
Christ's mission to preach the gospel and give sight to the blind – 61:1,2	Luke 4:18
He will be of the family of David (Jesse) – 11:1	Matthew 1; Luke 3
The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon Him – 11:2	Matthew 3:16
He will bring light to those living in Galilee – 9:1-2	Matthew 12:14-16

ISRAEL



Who handed Jacob over to become loot,
and Israel to the plunderers?

Was it not the LORD,
against whom we have sinned?

For they would not follow his ways;
they did not obey his law.

²⁵ So he poured out on them his burning anger,
the violence of war.

It enveloped them in flames, yet they did not understand;
it consumed them, but they did not take it to heart. Isaiah 41

UNDER FIRE

TREES IN THE WASTELAND

The lack of available water, including rain, is one reason why Israel had been a desolate, unproductive land during much of the past 2000 years. But, during the 1900s, when many Jews returned to their ancient homeland, they built a network of irrigation systems. And during the past century, more than 200 million trees have been planted in Israel.

I will make rivers flow on barren heights, and springs within the valleys. I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs. I will put in the desert the cedar and the acacia, the myrtle and the olive. I will set pines in the wasteland, the fir and the cypress together, so that people may see and know, may consider and understand, that the hand of the Lord has done this, that the Holy One of Israel has created it. (Isaiah 41:18-20)

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. (Isaiah 43:18,19)

ISAIAH 56 – 66 NEW HEAVENS AND EARTH

- ✱ 1“Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed.
- 2 Blessed is the one who does this— the person who holds it fast, who keeps the sabbath without desecrating it, and keeps their hands from doing any evil.”
- 3 Let no foreigner who is bound to the LORD say, “The LORD will surely exclude me from his people.” And let no eunuch complain, “I am only a dry tree.”
- 4 For this is what the LORD says: “To the **eunuchs** who keep my Sabbaths, who choose what pleases me and hold fast to my covenant—
- 5 to them I will give within my temple and its walls a memorial and a name better than sons and daughters; will give them an everlasting name that will endure forever.
- 6 And **foreigners** who bind themselves to the LORD to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant—
- 7 these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.”
- 8 The Sovereign LORD declares— he who gathers the exiles of **Israel**:
“I will gather still others to them besides those already gathered.” (Isaiah 56:1-8)

DISCUSSION

- ✕ From Isaiah 55-66, what are some pointers to the future, new heavens and new earth, etc.

ISRAEL BORN IN A DAY

- ✧ Israel, a nation that had not really existed as a separate nation for nearly 2,500 years, was declared a new sovereign state by an act of the United Nations on May 14, 1948. The nation was born in a day.
- ✧ **Isaiah 66:8 NIV** - "Who has ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labour than she gives birth to her children."



ISRAEL, THE PRAISE OF THE EARTH - FEAST OF TABERNACLES (2014-2015)



- ✧ No longer will they call you Deserted,
or name your land Desolate.
But you will be called Hephzibah,^[a]
and your land Beulah^[b];
for the LORD will take delight in you,
and your land will be married.
- ⁵ As a young man marries a young woman,
so will your Builder marry you;
as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride,
so will your God rejoice over you.
- ⁶ I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem;
they will never be silent day or night.
You who call on the LORD,
give yourselves no rest,
- ⁷ and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem
and makes her the praise of the earth. Isaiah 62

THE ECONOMIC MIRACLE OF ISRAEL

An oil rig at Atlit, had been erected by an American Christian company whose CEO, citing a peculiar interpretation of a biblical promise to the Tribe of Asher (Deut. 33:24), was certain he'd find huge quantities of oil beneath the western border of that tribes ancient territory.

The company ended up losing millions of dollars. But just 15 years later, Israel discovered vast natural gas fields a mere 50 miles west of Atlit in the depths of the Mediterranean



The Christian company referenced above is Zion Oil & Gas, which continues to search for oil in Israel

BATHED IN PROSPERITY, OIL

- × About Asher he said: "Most blessed of sons is Asher; let him be favored by his brothers, and let him bathe his feet in oil. (Deut 33:24)
For this is what the LORD says: "I will extend peace to her like a river, and the wealth of nations like a flooding stream; you will nurse and be carried on her arm and dandled on her knees (Isaiah 66:12)

THE LORD FIGHTS FOR ISRAEL

- ✧ **63** Who is this coming from Edom, from the city of Bozrah, dressed in red?
Who is this dressed in fine clothes and marching forward with his great power?
- ✧ He says, “I, the LORD, speak what is right. I have power to save you.”
- ✧ ² Someone asks, “Why are your clothes bright red as if you had walked on the grapes to make wine?”
- ✧ ³ The LORD answers, “I have walked in the winepress alone, and no one among the nations helped me. I was angry and walked on the nations and crushed them because of my anger. (Isaiah)



SIX DAY WAR AGAINST ISRAEL

- ✖ The Six-Day War took place in June 1967 between June 5th and June 10th. The Israelis defended the war as a preventative military effort to counter what the Israelis saw as an impending attack by Arab nations that surrounded Israel.
- ✖ The war was against Syria, Jordan and Egypt.. Rather than wait to be attacked, the Israelis launched a hugely successful military campaign against its perceived enemies. The air forces of Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Iraq were all but destroyed on June 5th. By June 7th, many Egyptian tanks had been destroyed in the Sinai Desert and Israeli forces reached the Suez Canal. On the same day, the whole of the west bank of the Jordan River had been cleared of Jordanian forces. The Golan Heights were captured from Syria and Israeli forces moved 30 miles into Syria itself.
- ✖ The war was a disaster for the Arab world and temporarily weakened the man who was seen as the leader of the Arabs – Gamal Abdul Nasser of Egypt. The war was a military disaster for the Arabs but it was also a massive blow to the Arabs morale. Here were four of the strongest Arab nations systematically defeated by just one nation.
- ✖ The success of the campaign must have surprised the Israelis.

NEW JERUSALEM – ISAIAH 65

“Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; the one who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere child; the one who fails to reach^[a] a hundred will be considered accursed.

²¹ They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

²² No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat.

For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands.

²³ They will not labor in vain, nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the LORD, they and their descendants with them.

²⁴ Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.

²⁵ The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, and dust will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,” says the LORD.



POINT TO PONDER

- ✖ "Those who consecrate and purify themselves to go into the gardens, following one who is among those who eat the flesh of pigs, rats and other unclean things--they will meet their end together with the one they follow," declares the LORD.
- ✖ Is it wrong to eat pigs?
- ✖ What is the bible saying here?
- ✖ Isaiah 66:17, 65:3-6, 66:3



ETERNAL DEATH

- ✘ And they will go out and look on the dead bodies of those who rebelled against me; the worms that eat them will not die, the fire that burns them will not be quenched, and they will be loathsome to all mankind.“ Isaiah 66:24



DISCUSSION

- × What changes can we expect in the world to come? In earth? In heaven?
- × How do we respond?

FAMOUS VERSES IN ISAIAH

– UNIVERSAL SIN

*All of us have become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;
we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind
our sins sweep us away.*

(Isaiah 64:6 NIV)

FAMOUS VERSES IN ISAIAH

– DIVINE CLEANSING

“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 as crimson, they shall be like wool.”

(Isaiah 1:18 NIV)

FAMOUS VERSES IN ISAIAH

– WHO WILL GO

“... I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted ...” “Woe to me!” I cried, “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

(Isaiah 6:1-8 NIV)

FAMOUS VERSES IN ISAIAH

- IMMANUEL

*“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign:
The virgin will be with child and will give birth to
a son, and will call him Immanuel. He will eat
curds and honey when he knows enough to reject
the wrong and choose the right.”*

(Isaiah 7:14,15 NIV, ~742 B.C.)

FAMOUS VERSES IN ISAIAH

– A GREAT LIGHT

“... In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan – The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

(Isaiah 9:1,2 NIV, ~740 B.C.)

FAMOUS VERSES IN ISAIAH – FALL OF LUCIFER

*How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer [“day star”], son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations!
For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit.*

(Isaiah 14:12-15 KJV)

FAMOUS VERSES IN ISAIAH

– LIP SERVICE

“... The Lord says: “These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men.”

(Isaiah 29:13 NIV, quoted by Jesus in Mk. 7:6,7)

FAMOUS VERSES IN ISAIAH – I HAVE MADE YOU

*Everyone who is called by My name,
whom I have created for My glory;
I have formed him, yes, I have made him.”*

(Isaiah 43:7 KJV)

FAMOUS VERSES IN ISAIAH – PAGAN KING ANOINTED

This is what the Lord says to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their armor, to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut: I will go before you and will level the mountains ... so that you may know that I am the LORD, the God of Israel, who calls you by name. For the sake of Jacob my servant, of Israel my chosen, I call you by name and bestow on you a title of honor, though you do not acknowledge me.”

(Isaiah 45:1-5 NIV, ~712 B.C., re: King Cyrus, ~536 B.C.)₆₀

FAMOUS VERSES IN ISAIAH

– MAN OF SORROWS

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

(Isaiah 53:3-5 NIV)

FAMOUS VERSES IN ISAIAH

– STRAYED LIKE SHEEP

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

(Isaiah 53:6,7 NIV)

FAMOUS VERSES IN ISAIAH

– POWER OF THE WORD

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

(Isaiah 55:10,11 NIV)

FAMOUS VERSES IN ISAIAH

– NOT SHORT

Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

(Isaiah 59:1,2 NIV)

FAMOUS VERSES IN ISAIAH

- HUMILITY

This is what the LORD says: “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be? Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?” declares the LORD. “This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word.”

(Isaiah 66:1,2 NIV)