

Prophecy Through the Bible - Prophets

Isaiah and Jeremiah

Today we will finish the book of Isaiah, and begin the book of the Prophet Jeremiah. As always in this study, we will not cover the whole book to teach it, but focus our attention on the items that remain to be fulfilled that were brought to light so many years ago.

Isaiah –

In session 15, we covered Isaiah 53 and then went to Isaiah 61, and Luke Ch 4. In Isaiah 53 we have a complete picture of Jesus (Messiah) coming as the Suffering Servant. This view of Messiah was totally missed by the Jews then and now, except for the few that have become believers. In Luke 4, we saw a scene where Jesus was reading the scroll of Isaiah in the synagogue in Nazareth, and he chose Isaiah 61 and read part of the words, but not all. He mentioned that the prophecy in the first part of Isa 81, had been fulfilled in their hearing and He was the one who fulfilled the prophecy in their very presence.

This was totally a shocking revelation by Jesus and he was not believed in His own town. What is also interesting is where he stopped reading. As I mentioned last week, He did not read this portion of the scripture .

*...and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,*

*³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty
instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD
for the display of his splendor.*

*⁴ They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated;
they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.*

⁵ Strangers will shepherd your flocks; foreigners will work your fields and vineyards.

*⁶ And you will be called priests of the LORD,
you will be named ministers of our God.*

*You will feed on the wealth of nations,
and in their riches you will boast.*

⁷ Instead of your shame

*you will receive a double portion,
and instead of disgrace*

you will rejoice in your inheritance.

*And so you will inherit a double portion in your land,
and everlasting joy will be yours.*

Session 16 – Prophecy in the books of the Prophets

Isaiah and Jeremiah

Prophecy Through the Bible - Prophets

⁸ *“For I, the LORD, love justice;
I hate robbery and wrongdoing.
In my faithfulness I will reward my people
and make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹ Their descendants will be known among the nations
and their offspring among the peoples.
All who see them will acknowledge
that they are a people the LORD has blessed.”*

¹⁰ *I delight greatly in the LORD;
my soul rejoices in my God.
For he has clothed me with garments of salvation
and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹ For as the soil makes the sprout come up
and a garden causes seeds to grow,
so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness
and praise spring up before all nations.*

Jesus did not read this portion because it was not coming to pass at that moment in their hearing. It is a prophecy for the time we call the Tribulation period, which ends in the Day of the Lord, which is a day of judgment and not salvation.

So we see Isaiah proclaim that the Messiah will come in Chapter 53 as a suffering servant, and we see Jesus claiming in Luke Ch 4 that He is the fulfillment of the Messianic promises in Isa 61, and there are more to come. We are living in the time leading up to the final hours for men and women on this earth.

Isa 66:1-24 **describes the Millennial Kingdom following the Second Coming of Christ. This scripture covers lots of key points for us. I will identify them as you look at the verses**

Judgment and Hope- Isa 66

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?
² Has not my hand made all these things,
and so they came into being?”
declares the LORD.*

Session 16 – Prophecy in the books of the Prophets

Isaiah and Jeremiah

Prophecy Through the Bible - Prophets

*“These are the ones I look on with favor:
those who are humble and contrite in spirit,
and who tremble at my word.*

*³ But whoever sacrifices a bull
is like one who kills a person,
and whoever offers a lamb
is like one who breaks a dog’s neck;
whoever makes a grain offering
is like one who presents pig’s blood,
and whoever burns memorial incense
is like one who worships an idol.*

*They have chosen their own ways,
and they delight in their abominations;
⁴ so I also will choose harsh treatment for them
and will bring on them what they dread.
For when I called, no one answered,
when I spoke, no one listened.
They did evil in my sight
and chose what displeases me.”*

*⁵ Hear the word of the LORD,
you who tremble at his word:
“Your own people who hate you,
and exclude you because of my name, have said,
‘Let the LORD be glorified,
that we may see your joy!’
Yet they will be put to shame.*

*⁶ Hear that uproar from the city,
hear that noise from the temple!
It is the sound of the LORD
repaying his enemies all they deserve.*

*⁷ “Before she goes into labor,
she gives birth;
before the pains come upon her,
she delivers a son.*

*⁸ Who has ever heard of such things?
Who has ever seen things like this?
Can a country be born in a day
or a nation be brought forth in a moment?
Yet no sooner is Zion in labor
than she gives birth to her children.*

Prophecy Through the Bible - Prophets

⁹ *Do I bring to the moment of birth
and not give delivery?" says the LORD.*

*"Do I close up the womb
when I bring to delivery?" says your God.*

¹⁰ *"Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her,
all you who love her;
rejoice greatly with her,
all you who mourn over her.*

¹¹ *For you will nurse and be satisfied
at her comforting breasts;
you will drink deeply
and delight in her overflowing abundance."*

¹² *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.*

¹³ *As a mother comforts her child,
so will I comfort you;
and you will be comforted over Jerusalem."*

¹⁴ *When you see this, your heart will rejoice
and you will flourish like grass;
the hand of the LORD will be made known to his servants,
but his fury will be shown to his foes.*

¹⁵ *See, the LORD is coming with fire,
and his chariots are like a whirlwind;
he will bring down his anger with fury,
and his rebuke with flames of fire.*

¹⁶ *For with fire and with his sword
the LORD will execute judgment on all people,
and many will be those slain by the LORD.*

¹⁷ *"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.*

¹⁸ *"And I, because of what they have planned and done, am about to come and gather the people of all
nations and languages, and they will come and see my glory.*

Prophecy Through the Bible - Prophets

¹⁹ *"I will set a sign among them, and I will send some of those who survive to the nations—to Tarshish, to the Libyans^[b] and Lydians (famous as archers), to Tubal and Greece, and to the distant islands that have not heard of my fame or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory among the nations.* ²⁰ *And they will bring all your people, from all the nations, to my holy mountain in Jerusalem as an offering to the LORD—on horses, in chariots and wagons, and on mules and camels," says the LORD. "They will bring them, as the Israelites bring their grain offerings, to the temple of the LORD in ceremonially clean vessels.* ²¹ *And I will select some of them also to be priests and Levites," says the LORD.*

²² *"As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me," declares the LORD, "so will your name and descendants endure.* ²³ *From one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another, all mankind will come and bow down before me," says the LORD.* ²⁴ *"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."*

We start this chapter with a presentation of the immenseness of God – He sits in Heaven with Earth as His footstool. We see He created it all with His hands.

He looks with favor on those who are humble, and contrite, and who are in awe and trembling of His Word. He will bring destruction on those who practice empty rituals but who do not listen or answer Him when He calls. ***They deliberately chose disobedience.***

Let those who are humble, contrite, and in awe and fear of His Word understand that there will be those who talk the talk but do not walk the walk. They will despise and conspire against you but you will hear the sounds of their judgment.

Can a woman give birth before labor pains, can a son be born before she has pain? Who has heard of such a thing?? Yet Israel was born in a day before the pain of statehood and war. No sooner than Zion starts labor she bears a nation. (May 14, 1948). Remember that for over 1900 years Israel ceased to exist, but in a single day she was born. *One day not there, the next day there... Who could believe it, and the miracle that is Israel today could only come by the hand of God.*

We already studied in Isa 61 that Gentiles would be brought into the fold as children of God, and here is Isa 66 that God will send messengers to all the Nations to proclaim Him and they will all gather at Jerusalem to give Glory and Honor to God. The missionary part is happening now, and the gathering will be when the Lord comes back to Jerusalem at the Day of the Lord and brings his "called out ones" with Him to rule and reign on the earth.

The old Heaven and Earth shall pass away and God will create new ones where we all live out eternity. God will take care of His Children.

What a Great and Glorious Day and Time. What a Glorious Hope!

Session 16 – Prophecy in the books of the Prophets

Isaiah and Jeremiah

Prophecy Through the Bible - Prophets

Prophecy in Jeremiah

Jeremiah was the son of a Levitical Priest and ministered in the 625BC to 582BC time period. So, this is about 625 years before the birth of Christ. Jeremiah lived before Daniel and after Isaiah. Daniel used some of the prophecies of Jeremiah to understand the captivity of the Jews in Babylon and the timeframe for it to end. Many of Jeremiah's prophecies took place in his lifetime but others are set for the end times.

Isaiah had saved Jerusalem from Assyria, and Jeremiah tried to save Jerusalem from Babylon but did not succeed. Jerusalem was partly destroyed at first but later burned to the ground. He was to become God's final prophet to the Holy City, and was a sad, lonely figure and is also called the "weeping prophet" because he could not prevent Judah and Jerusalem from destruction and watched it happen. It was a sad time for Jeremiah, Israel, Judah and Jerusalem.

The themes of this prophecy are:

- Judah will be destroyed by Babylon
- But if Judah will turn away from their wicked ways, God will save her
- When Jeremiah lost hope for Judah's repentance, He prophesied that if Judah submitted to Babylon they would be spared
- If Judah was destroyed, she would recover and dominate the world
- Babylon, who destroyed Judah, shall herself be destroyed never to rise again

Jeremiah 2:35-37 Jeremiah discussed divine judgment on Judah and then

Yet in spite of all this

³⁵ *you say, 'I am innocent;
he is not angry with me.'*

But I will pass judgment on you because you say, 'I have not sinned.'

³⁶ *Why do you go about so much, changing your ways?*

You will be disappointed by Egypt as you were by Assyria.

³⁷ *You will also leave that place with your hands on your head,
for the LORD has rejected those you trust;
you will not be helped by them.*

Jeremiah had accused Judah of being unfaithful to the Lord. More than just disobeying Him, this was an accusation of Spiritual Harlotry. It was a stinging rebuke to the leaders of the Temple and other Leaders, and they denied it, of course, but God knows the truth where man often does not.

Prophecy Through the Bible - Prophets

I always wonder how those in positions of leadership in the various churches will explain away the differences between the picture they present, and the person they really are underneath. It is comforting to know that even if Man is fooled, God is not.

Jeremiah 3:11-18

The LORD said to me, "Faithless Israel is more righteous than unfaithful Judah. ¹² Go, proclaim this message toward the north:

"Return, faithless Israel," declares the LORD,

'I will frown on you no longer,

for I am faithful,' declares the LORD,

'I will not be angry forever.

¹³ *Only acknowledge your guilt—*

you have rebelled against the LORD your God,

you have scattered your favors to foreign gods

under every spreading tree,

and have not obeyed me,"

declares the LORD.

¹⁴ *"Return, faithless people," declares the LORD, "for I am your husband. I will choose you—one from a town and two from a clan—and bring you to Zion. ¹⁵ Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding. ¹⁶ In those days, when your numbers have increased greatly in the land," declares the LORD, "people will no longer say, 'The ark of the covenant of the LORD.' It will never enter their minds or be remembered; it will not be missed, nor will another one be made. ¹⁷ At that time they will call Jerusalem The Throne of the LORD, and all nations will gather in Jerusalem to honor the name of the LORD. No longer will they follow the stubbornness of their evil hearts. ¹⁸ In those days the people of Judah will join the people of Israel, and together they will come from a northern land to the land I gave your ancestors as an inheritance.*

What a powerful message to them and us. Even if we are faithless, God is faithful. If we return to Him and acknowledge our sin...*we will return in mercy* and He will give us shepherds after His own heart, who will lead us with understanding and knowledge.

Also in the future, Israel and Judah will join again and come back to Israel in the land given to them. This was partially fulfilled in 1948 when the nation of Israel was formed. No longer Israel of the northern ten tribes and Judah of the southern 2 tribes, but one nation, in Zion, as God promised. They came from North of Israel, in Europe and Russia to return back to the homeland...***and they still are.***

In Jeremiah 5:1-19, the prophet lays out the divined reasons for judging Israel and charges them with lying about him.

Session 16 – Prophecy in the books of the Prophets

Isaiah and Jeremiah

Prophecy Through the Bible - Prophets

¹² *They have lied about the LORD; they said, "He will do nothing!
No harm will come to us; we will never see sword or famine.*

¹³ *The prophets are but wind and the word is not in them;
so let what they say be done to them."*

This is the common view of Israel to her prophets. They don't believe them, they don't believe God will judge them at all, after all they are God's people, and many times they themselves were killed by the Jews. However, no matter the scoffers, the liars, the skeptics, and any retribution they exacted, God's word and their prophecies came true and the Jews, the nation, and the peace and safety of the land were all crushed by the forces God used to punish them.

Many in the church today do not believe that God will punish their sin. They can lie about what God calls Sin, they can say the Bible really doesn't mean it, or that God is all love and no judgment but God's word is truth and God never changes. If He judged Israel, He will judge us. A sobering thought in today's casual treatment of the things and truths of God.