

THROUGH THE BIBLE

ISAIAH 10-12

From 729-609 BC, a period of 120 years, there existed one superpower among the nations.

The Assyrian Empire ruled the world.

For the first time in the history of civilization, one nation had the might, and ambition, and administrative prowess to reduce the kingdoms of the world to a single empire - *with an Assyrian in charge...*

The Assyrian shadow covered all Mesopotamia. *The ports of Phoenicia - the trade routes out of Damascus - the hills of Samaria...* all lay under the sway of Assyria.

Damascus was conquered by Assyria in 732 BC.

Israel and its capitol of Samaria fell in 722 BC.

King Hezekiah of Judah, and the Hebrew Prophet Isaiah, were next to face Assyria's troops. They did so outside the walls of the holy city of Jerusalem.

Though God never condoned Assyria's ruthlessness, and though He hated her idols - God still used Assyria as a tool of judgment. Assyria was a rod in God's hand.

But here's a principle we all should learn... **Just because God uses you, it doesn't mean He's pleased with your motives or approves of your methods.**

A sick saint might stumble into a church service seeking God's healing while a pompous pastor prances across the stage - *employing gimmicks, and grabbing the spotlight, and pretending to be anointed.*

God will hear the heart of that humble, believing saint - and He might even use the prideful, greedy preacher to convey His help - but that doesn't mean the preacher is off the hook for his attitude and actions.

Just because God uses you, it sure doesn't mean you're exempt from His rules and standards.

When a nurse removes the sutures from a wound, she opens a sterile package containing scissors and tweezers. They're her tools. Yet once they do the job she chunks them. She doesn't have a sentimental attachment to the tools. They've fulfilled their purpose.

And likewise, just because you're God's tool doesn't mean He won't sit you on the shelf once He uses you.

God can use anybody for a season - even folks He'll eventually judge - *like cutthroat, bloodthirsty Assyrians*.

Here's what happens in tonight's chapters...

God uses the Assyrian troops to judge Damascus and Samaria – then turns around and judges Assyria.

And this is the needed lesson for us. The tools that do the *work of God* are still subject to the *will of God*.

Everyone involved in God's service **take heed!**

Chapter 10 finishes the judgments on Israel begun in chapter 9. "**Woe to those who decree unrighteous decrees, who write misfortune, which they have prescribed to rob**

the needy of justice, and to take what is right from the poor of My people, that widows may be their prey, and that they may rob the fatherless.”

It's said, “The one commonality between Democrats and Republicans is they both want our money.” Isaiah speaks to leaders in His day. Woe to those who write unrighteous laws that deny justice and rob the needy.

Verse 3 “What will you do in the day of punishment, and in the desolation which will come from afar?” This is a warning to Israel of the rising Assyrian threat!

To whom will you flee for help? And where will you leave your glory? Without Me they shall bow down among the prisoners, and they shall fall among the slain.” For all this His anger is not turned away, but His hand is stretched out still.” God is angry at Israel.

The Assyrians were God's instrument of judgment, but His people refused to submit to God's will. They tried to broker a peace, and buy the help of Egypt.

They refused to humble themselves and admit God was dealing harshly with them because of their sin.

But again, just because God used Assyria to judge Judah, that didn't mean God would never judge them.

Verse 5, “Woe to Assyria, the rod of My anger and the staff in whose hand is My indignation.” This is fascinating language - Assyria was one of the most brutal, barbaric, and violent armies to roam the earth.

The Haley Bible Handbook describes their tactics, “Most nations were robber nations. The Assyrians were worst of all. They built their state on the loot of others.

They practiced cruelty. They skinned prisoners alive, or cut off their hands, feet, noses, or ears. They put out their eyes, and pulled out their tongues, and made mounds of human skulls - all to inspire terror." Assyria used barbarism to scare the nations into submission.

And yet God calls Assyria *"the rod of My anger."*

Apparently, their violence reflected how upset God had become over the people's sin - *His indignation*.

This is a great mystery. Violence and evil was never God's will, but once man brought it into the world, God wasn't afraid to use it for His purposes. God uses evil without either condoning or acquitting its perpetrators.

In fact, what man meant for evil, God often turns into good. In the end, Satan serves as *"God's stooge,"* or as Martin Luther once called him, *"God's ape."*

The ultimate example is what happens at the end of the age. Another world ruler called the Antichrist rises up to oppose all that's good and godly. Yet God will use the Antichrist to exact judgment on this wicked world.

It's interesting Isaiah and other OT prophets refer to the Antichrist as *"the Assyrian."* The last world-governing emperor is named after the first.

Parts of Isaiah have both immediate and future fulfillments. Some passages speak of Assyria's king – others the Antichrist – some speak of both at once.

It reminds me of a new bartender who came to town.

His predecessor warned him before he left - if you ever hear, *"Big John is a coming..."* run for your life.

One day a cowhand rushed into the saloon screaming, "Big John is a coming. It's Big John..." He knocked the bartender down trying to escape.

When the barkeep got back to his feet the biggest, burliest man he'd ever seen rode in on the back of a buffalo. He had a rattlesnake for a whip. He knocked over the tables and slammed his fist on the counter, barking at the bartender, "Give me a sarsaparilla."

The barkeep slid the man a bottle. He broke off the cap with his teeth, guzzled it in a single gulp, smashed the bottle on his forehead, then started out the door.

The bartender asked, "*Want another drink?*" He said, "Nope, I don't have time. Big John is a coming!"

Isaiah is going to talk about a big, bad man like Big John. At times he'll be talking about "a local Assyrian" - at other times "a future Assyrian" who's still to come.

Isaiah says in verse 6, "I will send him against an ungodly nation, and against the people of My wrath I will give him charge, to seize the spoil, to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets."

This is a play on names. It refers to Isaiah's son.

As I said last week, be glad your daddy wasn't a prophet. You might've gotten stuck with a strange name. In 8:1 Isaiah gave a prophetic name to his son, "*Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz.*" Imagine that name on the first day of school! It means "seize the spoil, take the prey." God will use an Assyrian siege to vent His wrath.

“Yet he does not mean so, nor does his heart think so; but it is in his heart to destroy, and cut off not a few nations.” Here’s the irony. God will use the Assyrian as His tool, but this is not a truth he realizes or accepts.

And this is the plight of nations today.

Every week news breaks that fulfills another ancient biblical prophecy, yet none of the current players admit the obvious. God is aligning His end time scenario.

Isaiah’s point is that a sovereign God uses nations without either their consent or their explicit cooperation. Mighty nations are merely a pawn in the hand of God.

Verse 8, “For he says, 'Are not my princes altogether kings?’” The word “*princes*” means “*vassals*.” Assyria is bragging that the kings throughout her empire are merely puppets. They have no real teeth or power.

He mentions a few of the nations Assyria had routed, and that paid tribute to their conquerors. “Is not Calno like Carchemish? Is not Hamath like Arpad? Is not Samaria like Damascus?” All were defeated by Assyria.

“As my hand has found the kingdoms of the idols, whose carved images excelled those of Jerusalem and Samaria...” Assyria was the tool God used to judge Samaria, but her idolatry was worse than those she judged. Assyria’s idols excelled those of the Hebrews.

“As I have done to Samaria and her idols, shall I not do also to Jerusalem and her idols?” The King of Assyria was a pluralist. He believed all religions were created equal. All the nations served their own idols.

He never thought he would invade a nation who served the one, true, living, Sovereign, Almighty God.

He figured he'd cut down Jerusalem's idols as he'd done Samaria's idols. But Jerusalem didn't worship an idol. Hezekiah and Isaiah prayed to the one, true God.

“Therefore it shall come to pass, when the LORD has performed all His work on Mount Zion and on Jerusalem, that He will say, “I will punish the fruit of the arrogant heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his haughty looks.” The Assyrian invasion had been a wake up call for Jerusalem. But unlike Samaria it was God's will to defend the holy city and humble Assyria.

“For he says: “By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom, for I am prudent; also I have removed the boundaries of the people, and have robbed their treasuries; so I have put down the inhabitants like a valiant man.” Assyria's goal was a single global empire *and* economy, thus they abolished national borders and treasuries. This will be the goal of Antichrist - a one-world government *and* economy.

Again Assyria boasts. “My hand has found like a nest the riches of the people, and as one gathers eggs that are left, I have gathered all the earth; and there was no one who moved his wing, nor opened his mouth with even a peep.” Until the Assyrian army invaded Judah no nation had mounted even a mild resistance.

They'd all surrendered without “*a peep.*”

“Shall the ax boast itself against him who chops with it? Or shall the saw exalt itself against him who saws with it? As if a rod could wield itself against those who lift it up, or as if a staff could lift up, as if it were not wood!” The Assyrian had taken credit for her victories.

He had robbed the true God of the glory due His name. Assyria was nothing more than Yahweh's ax.

Corrie Ten Boon use to tell the story of a woodpecker pounding on a huge oak tree. One day a lightning bolt spilt the tree right down the middle. The woodpecker went away bragging about all the power in his beak!

Here's the folly of proud people. There are no self-made men or women. Humans steal God's glory.

The Lord gives us the air we breathe and our next breath. We could do nothing if He did not will it. Assyria is like an inflated balloon that is about to be popped!

“Therefore the Lord, the Lord of hosts, will send leanness among his fat ones...” Some of us “*fat ones*” might view a little “*leanness*” as a blessing. Yet God is not purposing a diet for Judah, but an economic crash.

“And under his glory He will kindle a burning like the burning of a fire. So the Light of Israel will be for a fire, and his Holy One for a flame; it will burn and devour His thorns and his briars in one day.” Here's a picture of Messianic judgment. The “*Light of Israel*” and “*Holy One*” are names for the Messiah. When Jesus returns He'll judge the future Assyrian, aka the Antichrist.

Paul wrote in 2 Thessalonians 2:9 that Jesus will destroy the Antichrist with “the breath of His mouth” and “the brightness of His coming.” Fire does the trick.

Here's a clue to what John the Baptist meant when he said Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire - *what fire?* According to Isaiah, *fires of judgment*.

“And it will consume the glory of his forest and of his fruitful field, both soul and body; and they will be as when a sick man wastes away. Then the rest of the trees of

his forest will be so few in number that a child may write them.” The vast Assyrian army starts out as a forest. Its soldiers are as numerous as trees.

In the end it’s as barren as a hill ravaged by fire.

“And it shall come to pass in that day that the remnant of Israel, and such as have escaped of the house of Jacob, will never again depend on him who defeated them, but will depend on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth.” This was Israel and Judah’s problem. They tried to strike alliances with whoever was in power. They trusted in man rather than God.

This is Israel’s dilemma today. Israel has looked to the United Nations, and Camp David, and to all the President’s men who’ve tried to negotiate a peace.

Israel needs to trust in God, and not in men.

Verse 21, “The remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the Mighty God. For though your people, O Israel, be as the sand of the sea, a remnant of them will return; the destruction decreed shall overflow with righteousness. For the Lord GOD of hosts will make a determined end in the midst of all the land.”

God used Assyria to judge Israel, but not completely.

God always leaves a remnant of His people. They’re the heirs of His promises. And His promises never fail.

“Therefore thus says the Lord GOD of hosts: "O My people, who dwell in Zion (or in Jerusalem), do not be afraid of the Assyrian. He shall strike you with a rod and lift up his staff against you, in the manner of Egypt.

For yet a very little while and the indignation will cease, as will My anger in their destruction.”

“And the LORD of hosts will stir up a scourge for him like the slaughter of Midian at the rock of Oreb; as His rod was on the sea, so will He lift it up in the manner of Egypt.” God will destroy Assyria just as He did Egypt.

Recall Moses raised His rod, and the waters closed over the Egyptian army. Likewise, in one bold stroke, the entire Assyrian army perished. This is what we read about in chapters 7-9 - *the Immanuel massacre*.

In one night, Immanuel’s sword cut down 185,000 Assyrians. This is what was so surprising when the Angel named Mary’s baby, *Immanuel*. Here was a babe who had been to battle. Unlike every other child ever born, the baby in the bassinet had preexisted.

“It shall come to pass in that day that his burden will be taken away from your shoulder, and his yoke from your neck, and the yoke will be destroyed because of the anointing oil.” It literally reads, “Anointed One.”

It’s a reference to Messiah. Jesus was Immanuel, the warrior who delivered Judah from Assyria’s yoke.

The rest of the chapter is Isaiah’s play-by-play of Assyria’s invasion.. They entered Judah from the north and closed in on Jerusalem. “He has come to Aiath (30 miles north of Jerusalem), he has passed Migron; at Michmash he has attended to his equipment.”

Michmash is 7½ miles north of Jerusalem. Between Aiath and Michmash the Assyrian troops covered 20 miles. Their army is marching south at a furious pace.

“They have gone along the ridge, they have taken up lodging at Geba. Ramah is afraid (Geba and Ramah were 6 miles north of Jerusalem), Gibeah of Saul has fled (4 miles). Lift up your voice, O daughter of Gallim!

Cause it to be heard as far as Laish - O poor Anathoth! Anathoth was the hometown of Jeremiah.

Anathoth was only 3 miles outside the northern wall.

“Madmenah has fled...” Madmenah was the site of a garbage dump. “The inhabitants of Gebim seek refuge”

Gebim was the site of a cistern, or water reservoir.

These were the northern suburbs of Jerusalem - less than a mile outside the walls. Jerusalem is in sight.

“As yet he will remain at Nob that day; He will shake his fist at the mount of the daughter of Zion, the hill of Jerusalem.” Nob is one of the five mountains that make up Jerusalem. Nob is the northern-most mountain.

Today “Nob” is called “Mount Scopus.” “Scopus” or “scope” means “to look.” It was the northern look-out.

Today, it still serves as an intelligence outpost for Jerusalem. It looks east toward the Arab countries.

According to our text this was the northern high ground the Assyrians used to look out over the city of Jerusalem and shake their fist in threats and anger.

The future Assyrian - the man we call the Antichrist - will have the same animosity toward Jerusalem.

But again the Lord will come to Jerusalem's rescue.

“Behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, will lop off the bough with terror; those of high stature will be hewn down, and the haughty will be humbled. He will cut down the thickets of the forest with iron, and Lebanon will fall by the Mighty One.” *And who is the Lord who lops off Assyria like a tree limb?* Isaiah 7:14 identifies Him as *“Immanuel”* - a name the Angel gave to Jesus.

The Mighty Lord Jesus will cut down the Assyrian of old, and will lop off the Antichrist who's yet future.

I love the imagery Isaiah uses for the fall of a mighty kingdom. It's like falling a huge tree... Recently, I had some trees behind my house cut down. I just sat on the back deck with an ice tea, and watched in amazement.

First, the climber heads up the tree, lopping off limbs as he goes. All that's left is a naked stick of wood.

Then he comes down cutting five foot slices. When they fall, they slap the ground hard. The house shakes.

It's amazing that what was so mighty and dominant is suddenly no more - a tree is now nothing but a stump. This was Assyria... And this is what Jesus will do to the kingdoms of this world when He returns.

Chapter 11 picks up where Isaiah 10 leaves off, with God's deliverer, *Immanuel*. Verse 1 gives Him another name. "There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse (who was the father of King David, God's hand-picked king), and a Branch shall grow out of his roots."

In 2 Samuel 7 God promised David that a *forever king* would come from his loins. He would sit on a *forever throne* - and rule over a *forever kingdom*.

When *appointed*, Hebrew kings were *anointed with oil*. Thus, the special king from David's family tree was known as "the Anointed One." In Hebrew it's translated "Messiah." In Greek, "Christos." In English, it's "Christ."

Jesus was the "*Branch*" that will grow from David.

This is why the Gospels of Matthew and Luke begin with seemingly boring genealogies. Those ancestries are vital because they trace Jesus' pedigree back to the promises God made to David and Abraham.

It's interesting... In 70 AD when the Romans burned the Jewish Temple the registries and genealogies also went up in the flames. Thus, no one born after 70 AD could possibly be the Messiah because there'd be no way to prove His ancestry. So *why did God allow those records to be destroyed?* The ancestries were no longer needed, for the Messiah had already come.

Today, Jesus is the only person who claims to be the Messiah who has the proper credentials to back it up.

Verse 2 is a Messianic prophecy... "The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD."

This verse explains a difficult NT text, Revelation 1:5, "Grace to you and peace from Him Who is and Who was and Who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ..."

Revelation begins with a greeting from the Trinity.

The Father greets you. Jesus greets you. *And the seven Spirits greet you?* And this is confusing. There's one Holy Spirit. Yet John refers to "the seven Spirits."

And this is where Isaiah 11:2 sheds some light...

Isaiah is speaking of one Spirit, but this one Spirit reveals Himself in seven ways – He's the Spirit (1) of the LORD, (2) of wisdom, (3) of understanding, (4) of counsel, (5) of might, (6) of knowledge, and (7) of the fear of the LORD - there're seven manifestations of the Spirit. Thus, if you were watching a Holy Spirit highlight reel, you'd see seven manifestations, not just one.

It's interesting the Menorah, or Israel's lamp stand had seven branches. One candle stood on a vertical shaft. The other six candles were at the ends of three U-shaped branches. This is also Isaiah's configuration.

The Menorah was a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

He's the Spirit of the LORD - followed by three couplets. Isaiah paints a picture of a verbal menorah.

Notice, the first description Isaiah gives to the Holy Spirit - He calls Him, "*the Spirit of the LORD.*"

And this is fitting, since His primary job is to reveal Jesus. In John 15:26 Jesus said, "The Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me."

This is why there're two ways to recognize the leading of the Holy Spirit... First, since He authored it, He'll never contradict the Bible. And second, since He is the Spirit of Jesus, He'll never violate the nature of Jesus. *The Holy Spirit will always speak and act in harmony with the written Word and the Living Word.*

This is why Charismatic groups who are preoccupied with the Holy Spirit to the exclusion of Jesus, even though they claim to be Spirit-led - are probably not.

First and foremost, the Spirit will lead us to Jesus.

In addition, the Spirit supplies us with *“wisdom and understanding.”* And oh, how we need both.

Once, a man was suffering from ringing in his ears, and bulging eyes. He sought medical attention...

The first doctor did a tonsillectomy. The second doctor extracted his teeth. Neither procedure helped...

The third doctor said he had three months to live. He might as well enjoy the life he had left. So he ran up his credit cards on entertainment, cars, *even clothes!*

In fact, he'd always wanted to wear fitted shirts, so he hired a tailor... The tailor was measuring him, when he called, *"35 sleeve, 16 collar..."* The man said, *"Wait, I don't wear a 16 collar..."* The tailor said, *"Yes you do."*

The man shot back, *"I've always worn a 15 collar."*

The tailor said, *"I'm warning you, keep wearing a 15 collar and your eyes will pop out and you'll have ringing in your ears."* My point being, a little wisdom and

understanding can go a long way. Discernment improves your quality of life - and the Holy Spirit helps.

He provides practical wisdom, and Scriptural insight.

Also note He's "*the Spirit of counsel and might.*"

Recall in Isaiah 9:6 Jesus is known as "*wonderful, counselor.*" That means believers have two counselors: Jesus and the Holy Spirit... Yet this seems to be today's hidden, untapped truth. *Did you know...*

There're more professional psychologists in the United States than librarians, fire fighters, and mail carriers. Professional counselors outnumber dentists and pharmacists combined... 2 to 1... *Did you know...*

Over half the psychologists in the world live in the United States. Yet, all too often the help they give is minimal. In some cases it can even be destructive.

Do you know the difference between *a neurotic, a psychotic, and a psychiatrist...* "*Neurotics build air castles. Psychotics live in them. Psychiatrists collect rent from both.*" I'm not suggesting a good, biblical counselor can't be a benefit, but before you spend your money on one I suggest you make two appointments first - with *the Word of God* and with *the Spirit of God*.

Give Jesus and the Holy Spirit an opportunity to be your "*wonderful, counselor*" and you'll be glad you did.

And notice, the Holy Spirit is "*the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.*" Where did we get the idea that the Holy Spirit is like a soft, feathered pillow - or warm goose bumps - or a tingling sensation?

Try to find those descriptions in the Bible, and you'll strike out. The Holy Spirit strikes fear into our hearts!

He orchestrated the deaths of Ananias and Sapphira, the couple in Acts 5 who lied and played the hypocrite.

The Spirit impresses on us the *seriousness and weightiness of God*. He reminds us God won't be played or trifled with. God is holy. There is no one like Him. He deserves our utmost reverence and respect.

Nowhere does the Bible say the Spirit teaches us *to bark, or laugh uncontrollably, or fall on the floor and go limp...* the Holy Spirit teaches us to fear the Lord.

Verse 3 **“His delight (Messiah’s delight) is in the fear of the LORD, and He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears...”**

Unlike humans, Jesus is never guilty of superficial or prejudicial judgment. He sees our thoughts and intents.

Thus **“with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.”**

Earlier I quoted 2 Thessalonians 2. Jesus destroys the Antichrist, **“the man of sin,”** with the **“the breath of His mouth.”** Jesus will rule the world, but He won't be elected by popular vote, He'll seize the throne by force!

Psalm 2 says the Lover of our soul will rule the world with a rod of iron. This is also what Isaiah envisions.

Verse 5 “Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, and faithfulness the belt of His waist.” Righteousness and faithfulness are Messiah’s chief characteristics...

"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them." The hostilities between animals and man, as well as, creation’s natural enemies will end.

A beautiful rest and innocence will again fill the earth.

The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. Isaiah is describing what life will be like on the Earth when Jesus returns to establish His kingdom.

Creation will live in perfect harmony. A child will stick his hand in a cobra’s face, and the snake won’t strike

Revelation 20 mentions the duration of this kingdom age - 1000 years. Jesus will remove the instinctual aggression God instilled in the animals after the Flood.

In the post-flood world God added meat to man’s diet. Man became a predator, so to even the score he placed a fear of man in the heart of the animals. It was a survival mechanism for the animals. Noah couldn’t just walk up to little Bambi, then whip out his shotgun.

Yet in the Kingdom age this hostility will be put to an end and a harmony will take its place. A baby will crawl up next to a pit bull and they’ll cuddle up together.

“They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.” What a glorious vision! Everywhere you go - everyone you meet - every conversation - folks will talk about God.

Everyone will know the Lord.

Once, a little girl prayed that God would fill her with the Holy Spirit. "Lord, I can't hold very much, but I can run over a lot." That's what life will be like - when everyone knows Jesus - we'll all be cups sloshing over.

Verse 10, "And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious." The family insignia of the Jews is "*the root of Jesse.*" Yet it will become a banner to the Gentiles.

We'll camp out under this flag. Jesus is "*the root of Jesse.*" He's our identity, our safety, our rallying point.

I love it when people ask me what's my sign?

They're expecting a sign of the zodiac. That's when I tell them it's "*the cross of Jesus.*" I'm not Capricorn or Sagittarius... I'm a Christian. Jesus is my banner - my flag. To Him I pledge my allegiance. When I see Him above me I get stirred, and emotional, and patriotic.

Verse 11, "It shall come to pass in that day that the LORD shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people who are left, from Assyria and Egypt, from Pathros and Cush, from Elam and Shinar, from Hamath and the islands of the sea.

He will set up a banner for the nations, and will assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.” When Jesus returns and rules the Earth, Jews worldwide will re-gather to their ancient homeland.

This is one of three parts to the New Covenant Jesus instituted at the Last Supper and ratified on the cross.

This was also promised in Jeremiah and Ezekiel.

Israel will **return** to the land. They’ll be **regenerated** spiritually. And God’s kingdom will be **re-established**.

The NC consists of **return, regenerate, re-establish**.

Notice, Isaiah speaks of *“the second time”* God recovers His people and returns them to the land.

The first time this occurred was 535 BC. After the fall of Babylon, the conquering Persians allowed displaced citizens to return home. Jews returned to Judah.

When the Romans conquered Jerusalem in 70 AD, Jews were again dispersed to the ends of the earth.

But they never returned. For 1900 years the Jews were scattered across the globe. They called it, **“The Jewish Diaspora”** or **“Dispersion.”** *Until modern times...*

Beginning with the Zionist Movement in the 1800s... escalating with the birth of the state of Israel... with a wave of Russian immigration in the 1980s... we’re seeing a fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy. Jews are returning to the land God gave them, *“a second time.”*

In 1840, only 5000 Jews lived in Jerusalem. In 1948 there were 84,000 Jews there. Today, the Jewish population of Jerusalem has grown to 570,000.

In 1948, 650,000 Jews lived within the borders of Israel. In 1982 that number had swelled to 3.2 million. Today, over 6 million Jews live in the land of their forefathers - the number that died in the Holocaust.

Our generation has seen biblical prophecy fulfilled before our eyes. As Isaiah predicted, for a “*second time*” God has brought back His people to their land.

Verse 13 “Also the envy of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off; Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not harass Ephraim.”

There’ll be unity in Israel. Jews will live in peace.

“But they shall fly down upon the shoulder of the Philistines toward the west; together they shall plunder the people of the East; they shall lay their hand on Edom and Moab; and the people of Ammon shall obey them.” When Jesus returns Israel will conquer its foes.

They’ll return home in triumph over their enemies.

“The LORD will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt (this could be the Gulf of Aqaba); with His mighty wind He will shake His fist over the River (or the Euphrates), and strike it in the seven streams, and make men cross over dry-shod.” Apparently, when Jesus returns, miracles will occur again as Jews from all over the world make their way home to Israel.

“There will be a highway for the remnant of His people who will be left from Assyria, as it was for Israel in the day that he came up from the land of Egypt.”

A super highway will be built to allow the remaining Jews to come home. King Jesus will have a DOT. Today, 57% of Jews live outside Israel in 19 countries.

Chapter 12 is psalm of praise sung by the Jews who return to their land. “And in that day you will say: "O LORD, I will praise You; though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me.

Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; 'For YAH, the LORD, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.'” “YAH” is a contraction for the Hebrew name of God, *Yahweh*.

“Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.” In John 4 Jesus met a Samaritan woman. And beside the city’s ancient well, Jesus surprised her.

He offered her water that bubbles from the watering hole of God’s salvation. Jesus called it, “living water.”

Realize, this world can never satisfy. Try to quench *a spiritual thirst* with *a physical thing*... you’ll thirst again.

Yet Jesus promised the Samaritan, “Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.” He offers us an endless supply of spiritual refreshment.

“And in that day you will say: "Praise the LORD, call upon His name; declare His deeds among the peoples, make mention that His name is exalted.” In Hebrew, the phrase “*Praise the LORD*” is “Hallelu-JAH.”

“Sing to the LORD, for He has done excellent things; this is known in all the earth. Cry out and shout, O inhabitant of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel in your midst!” *And where can Jesus always be found?*

In the midst of His people! Hebrews 2:12 says of Jesus "I will declare Your name to my brethren; in the midst of the congregation I will sing praise to You."

Jesus is sitting among us! He's singing with us!

In Matthew 18:20 He says to His followers, "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them." Jesus is always in the midst of His people. He loves to hang with His Church!