

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

ISRAEL: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

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PART 2: THE SUFFERING MESSIAH

INTRODUCTION

The northern kingdom with its capital of Samaria was conquered around 727 B.C. and the people carried away into captivity by the Assyrians. The southern kingdom with its capital of Jerusalem was conquered around 586 B.C. by the Babylonians and the majority of the people who were not killed were taken to Babylon as prisoners.

Remnants of the 10 northern tribes returned and became known as Samaritans; another 42,360 captive Jews returned from Babylon after 70 years of captivity. **Ezra 2:1, 64-65**

Remnants of the 12 tribes came back to the Promised Land, but it was always ruled by different nations and the Kingdom of Israel has not been restored since it was lost due to disobedience.

The following prophecies were given to Isaiah, who began his ministry at 740 B.C.

THE SUFFERING MESSIAH

The prophets in Israel received prophecies concerning the end times and the gathering of the scattered Israelites, but since they did not know that the Messiah would come twice, first as the suffering Messiah, and then as the ruling Messiah, it was hard to make sense of the different prophecies. **Isaiah 53:1-10**

GOD WILL RULE

In the following verses God showed Isaiah that He would rule out of Zion, which was another name for Jerusalem. People from the nations of the earth will come to Jerusalem to worship and give honor to the Lord.

God will also judge the nations of the world. This will be the time when the different nations will destroy their weapons of war and convert them into plowshares and pruning hooks.

People born during this time who turn away from the Lord will live a hundred years before they die.

The people living in Jerusalem and in the rest of the Promised Land will be able to build their homes and prosper in their labor.

Animals will no longer kill one another; the wolf and the lamb will feed together, the lion will eat grass and serpents will no longer sting and kill people. **Isaiah 2:1-6; 11:1-10; 65:18-22**

In comparing this prophecy with the Book of Revelation, it is clear that this passage is referring to the 1,000 year kingdom.



THE RULING MESSIAH

God told Isaiah that the future Messiah would be born of a virgin. **Isaiah 7:14**

There would be no end of the increase of the Messiah's government. **Isaiah 9:6**

The Lord will remove the veil from the people that hinders them from seeing the Lord; He will destroy death and make the people rejoice. **Isaiah 25:4-12**

Once the Lord has taken charge of the governments of the earth, there will be a terrible judgment upon the Gentile nations. **Isaiah 34:5-9**

THE FUTURE PARADISE ON EARTH

There will be a day when the messianic utopia will be fulfilled on this earth and nature shall be restored to its original glory and people shall be healed from their diseases. And all people who have been redeemed shall come to Jerusalem with great joy – **Isaiah 35:1-10**

God told Isaiah to comfort the people of Israel that the Messiah is coming. Mountains will be lowered, valleys will be raised and the glory of the Lord will shine forth. The Messiah will feed His flock and gently lead them. They that wait upon the Lord shall be renewed like the eagle. **Isaiah 40:1-11, 29-31**

THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL RESTORED AND EXALTED

God will again bring back the scattered tribes of Israel some day in the future to the Promised Land, and not only will they prosper, but Gentile kings and queens will be reduced to caring and feeding the children of the Israelites. **Isaiah 49:12, 22-23**

This prophetic word from the Lord sounded impossible to the people living in the Kingdom of Judah. They were still in the Promised Land when this prophecy was given. They wanted a restoration of the Kingdom of Israel but it didn't make sense why the Gentile nations should come and serve them. The Kabbalistic rabbis over time developed this into a teaching that the people of Israel were superior to everyone else and Gentiles were created to be slaves to the Israelites. **Isaiah 60:1-18**

Then comes a remarkable prophecy that the sun shall no longer set, nor will the moon come and go, because the Lord will be an everlasting light. **verses 19-22**

This was followed by a second prophetic word that was even stronger than what God had previously spoken; strangers (Gentiles) would be a slave labor force for the people of Israel. **Isaiah 61:1-9**

A STRONG WARNING

God issued a strong warning to the people of Israel after revealing all the glorious things He was going to do. He called them a rebellious people who kept provoking Him to anger and told them that He would mark them for death and only a remnant would be saved. **Isaiah 65:1-12**

SUMMARY

Any Christian living after the death and resurrection of Jesus needs to know the following facts:

- ❖ When Isaiah recorded the prophecies given to him by the Holy Spirit, the books of Daniel, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Zechariah and Malachi did not exist.
- ❖ The New Testament was not written until after the ascension of Jesus.

The prophecies given to Isaiah caused great confusion among the people of Israel as they read about the suffering Messiah and a ruling and powerful Messiah who would subdue the whole earth. They had a hard time reconciling how the Messiah could suffer and rule at the same time?

This difference became even more apparent as no timeline was provided when the rest of the Old Testament prophetic books were written and God was silent on the fact that the Messiah would come in two stages:

Stage 1: The Suffering Messiah

- a) Came to the earth as a human and was born to a virgin.
- b) Lived a sinless life.
- c) Was beaten, whipped, mocked and crucified.
- d) Shed His innocent blood and died on the cross like a criminal.

Stage 2: The Victorious Messiah

- a) Descend from heaven to take control of the earth.
- b) Capture the Antichrist and the False Prophet and cast them into the Lake of Fire.
- c) Kill everyone who has taken the Mark of the Beast.
- d) Bind the Devil for a thousand years.
- e) Set up the thousand year kingdom.
- f) Judging humanity at the Great White Throne Judgment.
- g) Moving into the new creation.

The apostle Paul calls this the Mystery of the Gospel. **1 Corinthians 2:7-10**

Paul and the other apostles did not have a complete timeline of future events until the revelation was given to John around 90 A.D.

All the prophecies about the suffering Messiah have been fulfilled, but the other prophecies about the people of Israel and the victorious Messiah are still in the future.

God's supernatural return of the children of Israel and the restoration of the Kingdom of Israel can only take place during the 1,000 year kingdom as revealed in the Book of Revelation. **Revelation 20:1-6**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!