

Plumb Lines

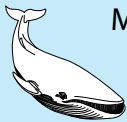
The Prophetic Ministry of Amos

A BC to AD Series By
Timothy Ministries

Preparing For The Future With The Bible's Prophecy Books

Time Line

Elijah & Elisha
875-800 BC



Jonah, 770

Amos, 760

Micah, 740-700

Isaiah, 740-690

Hosea, 725



Nahum, 663-612

Zephaniah, 640-620

Jeremiah, 627-587



Habakkuk, 605-590

Ezekiel, 592-550

Obadiah, 587

Daniel, 580-510

Haggai, 520

Zechariah, 520

Joel, 500-450

Malachi, 470-460

722 BC
Fall of N. Kingdom

606 BC
Captivity of Judah

536 BC
Return of Exiles

Key Passages

Amos 2.6 This is what the LORD says: “For three sins of Israel, even for four, I will not turn back [my wrath]. They sell the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals. 7 They trample on the heads of the poor as upon the dust of the ground and deny justice to the oppressed. Father and son use the same girl and so profane my holy name. 8 They lie down beside every altar on garments taken in pledge. In the house of their god they drink wine taken as fines....11 I also raised up prophets from among your sons and Nazirites from among your young men. Is this not true, people of Israel?” declares the LORD. 12 **“But you made the Nazirites drink wine and commanded the prophets not to prophesy.** 13 “Now then, I will crush you....16 Even the bravest warriors will flee naked **on that day,**” declares the LORD.

Amos 3.7 **Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing it to his servants the prophets.**

Amos 5.4 This is what the LORD says to the house of Israel: **“Seek me and live...**14 Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the LORD God Almighty will be with you, just as you say he is. 15 Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts. Perhaps the LORD God Almighty will have mercy on the remnant of Joseph.

Amos 7.8 And the LORD asked me, “What do you see, Amos?”
“A plumb line,” I replied.

Then the Lord said, “Look, **I am setting a plumb line among my people Israel;** I will spare them no longer. 9 “The high places of Isaac will be destroyed and the sanctuaries of Israel will be ruined; with my sword I will rise against the house of Jeroboam.”

Vocabulary

Antitype
Apocalypse
Apocalyptic Literature
Apostasy
Chazon
Consecrate
Eschatology
Fulfillment
Goel: Kinsman-Redeemer
Messiah
Millennium
Premillennialism
Progressive Revelation
Prophecy
Remnant
Sacred
Syncretism
Type, typology
Yom YHVH (יום יהוה)

Discussion Questions

- ▶ **What is the purpose of a plumb line?**

- ▶ **What is the house we are building? (1 Cor. 3.9-17; 1 Pet. 2.4,5)**

- ▶ **What is the vital principle taught by Proverbs 29.18?**

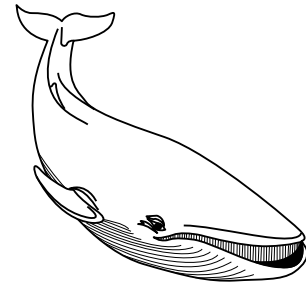
See the related article, "The Church's Hairbrush," at:
http://www.tmin.org/tminpages/Plumb_Library.html

- ▶ **What is the purpose of predictive prophecy? (See Amos 9.7-15)**

- ▶ **What is the Yom YHVH? (See Amos 5.18-20; Isaiah 13.6; Malachi 4.5)**

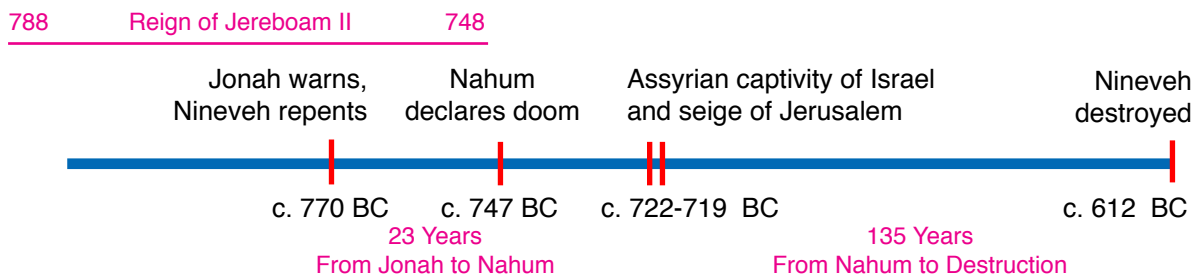
God's Mercy On Nineveh

JONAH: Around 770 BC, Jonah went (the long way) to the wicked city of Nineveh, the capital city of Assyria, and warned (or mocked?), "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown!" To Jonah's chagrin, God had mercy on the Ninevites and brought the entire city to repentance, staying the judgment.



NAHUM: Within a generation after Jonah's mission (c. 747 BC, according to Josephus), the Ninevites had fallen into such depravity that God sent Nahum to announce the final, complete destruction of the city (Nahum 1.1,3,8-10; 2.8; 3.1,5-7,19), *and this time with no offer of forgiveness!*

HABAKKUK: Sometime later, Habakkuk confirmed that God would destroy wicked nations like Assyria (= Nineveh) by means of the Chaldeans. But it wasn't until 612 BC, *135 years after Nahum's prophecy* that a coalition of Medes and Babylonians wiped out Nineveh! Can you see God's mercy?



GOD'S WRATH AND MERCY: Foolish Bible "students" have complained that "the God of the Old Testament is a God of wrath, unlike the loving God of the New Testament." Actually, the God of the Old Testament is *profoundly loving*, but we can only fully appreciate His love and mercy in the light of His attribute of wrath. Habakkuk understood that God's attribute of mercy was never absent, but only obscured at times, just as one facet of a diamond can be hidden from view though still integral to the diamond. Thus, in Hab. 3.2, the prophet says, "LORD, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, O LORD. Renew them in our day, in our time make them known; *in wrath remember mercy.*" God's attributes of wrath and mercy always complement and enhance each other. How fitting that Nahum, the prophet who announced the final and complete destruction of Nineveh, had a name meaning, "compassionate, consolation, full of comfort." God's people should take comfort in the fact that God's wrath will not let wickedness go unchecked!



Angel
Apocalyptic Literature
Apostasy
Branch, The
Consecrate
Day of the Lord
Eschatology
Fulfillment
Human-Divine Partnership
Intercession
Intimacy
Kinsman-Redeemer
Millennium
Premillennialism
Progressive Revelation
Prophecy
Remnant
Yom YHVH (יום יהוה)

Key Passages

Joel 1.15 (NKJV) Alas for the day!
For the **day of the LORD** is at hand;
It shall come as destruction from the Almighty.

Joel 2.1 Blow the trumpet in Zion,
And sound an alarm in My holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble;
For the **day of the LORD** is coming,
For it is at hand:

2 A day of darkness and gloominess,
A day of clouds and thick darkness,
Like the morning clouds spread over the mountains.

A people come, great and strong,
The like of whom has never been;
Nor will there ever be any such after them,
Even for many successive generations. ...

10 The earth quakes before them,
The heavens tremble;

**The sun and moon grow dark,
And the stars diminish their brightness.**

11 The LORD gives voice before His army,
For His camp is very great;
For strong is the One who executes His word.
For **the day of the LORD** is great and very terrible;
Who can endure it?

12 "Now, therefore," says the LORD,
"Turn to Me with all your heart,
With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning."

Joel 2. 31 (NIV) **The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before** the coming of the great and dreadful **day of the LORD.** 32 And everyone who calls on the name

of the LORD will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the LORD has said, among the **survivors** whom the LORD calls.

Joel 3.14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the **day of the LORD** is near in the valley of decision. 15 **The sun and moon will be darkened, and the stars no longer shine.** 16 The LORD will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the sky will tremble. But the LORD will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel.

The Future Manifestation of the Spirit From The Old Testament Perspective



750 BC	520 BC	AD 1	AD 30	NOT YET	NOT YET	Yom YHVH	
ALREADY			NOT YET				
<p>Isa 32.14-20: Israel has seen times of spiritual revival bringing fruitfulness and social justice.</p> <p>Isa 44.1-4: Israel has seen repentance from idolatry and spiritual fruitfulness.</p> <p>Isa 59.20,21: Israel has seen prophetic anointing in its prophets.</p> <p>Joe 2.28-32:</p>	<p>Eze 11.17-21; 36.26,27; 37.14; 39.29: Return to land and revival under Ezra, Nehemiah.</p> <p>Zec 12.10: Revival seen under Ezra, Nehemiah.</p>	<p>Isa 32.14-20: Jewish followers of Jesus become fruitful in power of Spirit.</p> <p>Isa 44.1-4: Christian Jews illustrate repentance and fruitfulness by power of the Spirit.</p> <p>Isa 59.20,21: Christian Jews illustrate the charismatic anointing.</p> <p>Eze 11.17-21; 36.26,27; 37.14; 39.29: Christian Jews illustrate personal revival.</p> <p>Zec 12.10: Christian Jews illustrate personal revival.</p> <p>Joe 2.28-32:</p>	<p>PENTECOST</p>			<p>Isa 32.14-20: Israel becomes fruitful as a nation by a universal and permanent outpouring of the Spirit.</p> <p>Isa 44.1-4: Israel repents as a nation and becomes fruitful by a universal and permanent outpouring of the Spirit.</p> <p>Isa 59.20,21: The charismatic anointing becomes a permanent possession for all Israelites.</p> <p>Eze 11.17-21; 36.26,27; 37.14; 39.29: Israelites return to land and are revived as a nation; never again worships idols.</p> <p>Zec 12.10: Israel repents as a nation by the power of the Spirit.</p> <p>Joe 2.28-32:</p>	<p>Isa 11.1-5; Isa 42.1-4; Isa 61.1-3</p>
<p>Isa 11.1-5: Spirit of wisdom, counsel, power known from anointing on earlier leaders.</p> <p>Isa 42.1-4: Justice and mercy by the Spirit known from earlier leaders.</p> <p>Isa 61.1-3: Deliverance by power of Spirit understood because of ministries of Moses, Elijah, etc.</p>	<p>Isa 11.1-5: Unlimited anointing characterizes and identifies Messiah during earthly ministry.</p> <p>Isa 42.1-4: Messiah illustrates justice and mercy under the Spirit's anointing during earthly ministry.</p> <p>Isa 61.1-3: Personal deliverance by power of Spirit illustrated by Messiah during earthly ministry.</p>	<p>Isa 11.1-5; Isa 42.1-4; Isa 61.1-3</p>					
A D V E N T	A D V E N T	P E N T E C O S T	P E N T E C O S T	A D V E N T	A D V E N T		

Predictions of Israel's Restoration

Predictions of Messiah

Preparing For The Future With The Bible's Prophecy Books

Key Passages

- Is. 2.12 **The LORD Almighty has a day in store** for all the proud and lofty, for all that is exalted (and they will be humbled)...
- Is. 6.1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple...8 ¶ 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!**”
- Is. 7.14 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**....16 But before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste....8.3 ¶ Then I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and gave birth to a son. And the LORD said to me, “Name him Maher-shalal-hash-baz.
- Is. 9.6 For **to us a child is born, to us a son is given**, and the government will be on his shoulders. And **he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace**.
7 Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.
- Is. 11.1 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a **Branch** will bear fruit. 2 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him — the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD — 3 and he will delight in the fear of the LORD....
- Is. 22.5 The Lord, **the LORD Almighty, has a day** of tumult and trampling and terror in the Valley of Vision, a day of battering down walls and of crying out to the mountains.
- Is. 42.1 “Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations. 2 He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. 3 **A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out**. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; 4 he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his law the islands will put their hope.”
- Is. 49.6 [The Lord] says: “It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.”

Vocabulary

Apocalyptic Literature
Apostasy
Branch, The
Consecrate
Eschatology
Fulfillment
Gentiles
Messiah
Millennium
Premillennialism
Progressive Revelation
Remnant
Syncretism
Torah
Yom YHVH

Discussion Questions

▶ **When Jesus read Isaiah 61 in the synagogue, why did he stop reading in the middle of verse 2?**

▶ **In Isaiah 53, what is the significance of:**

• **The words shoot and root?**

• **The word pierced?**

• **The suffering servant not opening his mouth?**

• **The connection to the wicked and the rich?**

▶ **How can someone die and still “see his offspring and prolong his days”?**

Is. 61.1 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, 2 to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor /

Is. 53.1 Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? 2 He grew up before him like a tender **shoot**, and like a **root** out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. 3 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. 4 Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. 5 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. 6 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. 7 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. 8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken. 9 He was assigned a grave **with the wicked**, and with the **rich** in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. 10 Yet it was the LORD’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, **he will see his offspring and prolong his days**, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. 11 After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light [of life] and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities....

Key Passages

Jer. 1.4 The word of the LORD came to me, saying, 5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

6 “Ah, Sovereign LORD,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; **I am only a child.**”

7 But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a child.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. 8 **Do not be afraid** of them, **for I am with you** and will rescue you,” declares the LORD.

9 Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, “Now, I have put my words in your mouth. 10 See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.”

Jer. 11.14 “Do not pray for this people nor offer any plea or petition for them, because I will not listen when they call to me in the time of their distress. ...14.11 **Then the LORD said to me, “Do not pray for the well-being of this people.**

Jer. 16.14 “However, the days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when men will no longer say, ‘As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,’ 15 but they will say, ‘As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where he had banished them.’ **For I will restore them to the land I gave their forefathers.**

Jer. 17.5 This is what the LORD says: “**Cursed is the one who trusts in man**, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the LORD. 6 He will be like a bush in the wastelands; he will not see prosperity when it comes. He will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives. 7 “But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. 8 He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.” 9 **The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?**

Cf. Luk 6.45; 8.15

Jer. 23.5 “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. 6 In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: **The LORD Our Righteousness.**

Vocabulary

Apocalyptic Literature
Apostasy
Branch, The
Consecrate
Eschatology
Fulfillment
Kinsman-Redeemer
Messiah
Millennium
Premillennialism
Progressive Revelation
Prophecy
Remnant
Repentance
Sacred
Syncretism
Torah
Yom YHVH

Discussion Questions

▶ **Why is the existence of the nation of Israel so important to us?**

Jer. 31.35 This is what the LORD says, he who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar — the LORD Almighty is his name: 36 “Only if these decrees vanish from my sight,” declares the LORD, “will the descendants of Israel ever cease to be a nation before me.”

31.37 This is what the LORD says: “Only if the heavens above can be measured and the foundations of the earth below be searched out will I reject all the descendants of Israel because of all they have done,” declares the LORD.

▶ **What does Daniel 9.2,3 teach us about prayer? (See Jer. 25.11,12)**

WHAT IF . . .



“I’m sure we’re all looking forward to an inspirational message of hope and encouragement from our commencement speaker, the prophet Jeremiah.”

▶ **Five Testimonies of Divine Preservation**

CHRISTIANITY TODAY

1. Jeremiah: Jer. 1.17-19
2. The Recabites: Jer. 35
3. Ebedmelech: Jer. 38.7-13; 39.15-18
4. Baruch: Jer. 45
5. Israel’s Remnant: Jer. 30; 50.18-20

Hosea and His Unfaithful Wife

Hosea, a prophet in the northern kingdom, provided another metaphor to describe the straying of God's people. God, in a most radical command, told Hosea to marry an adulterous woman to illustrate how Israel's worship of other gods constituted spiritual adultery.

The prophetic ministry was not just about rebuking people, however. The heart cry of the prophets was a plea that the people would *return* to God and His paths of righteousness. Usually when we think of prophets and prophecy we think of predicting the future. The prophets of the Old Testament certainly made predictions, both of impending judgments and of future blessings, but even their predictions were carrots and sticks used to call people back into relationship with the one true God. One of the most poignant passages in the books of prophecy is the one in which God speaks to Hosea, and says,

Hos. 3.1 ... "Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another and is an adulteress. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods ...

Key Passages

Hos. 1.2 When the LORD began to speak through Hosea, the LORD said to him, "Go, take to yourself an adulterous wife and children of unfaithfulness, because the land is guilty of the vilest adultery in departing from the LORD." 3 So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

Hos. 1.4 Then the LORD said to Hosea, "Call him Jezreel, because I will soon punish the house of Jehu for the massacre at Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of Israel. 5 In that day I will break Israel's bow in the Valley of Jezreel."

Hos. 1.6 Gomer conceived again and gave birth to a daughter. Then the LORD said to Hosea, "Call her Lo-Ruhamah, for I will no longer show love to the house of Israel, that I should at all forgive them. 7 Yet I will show love to the house of Judah; and I will save them — not by bow, sword or battle, or by horses and horsemen, but by the LORD their God."

Hos. 1.8 After she had weaned Lo-Ruhamah, Gomer had another son. 9 Then the LORD said, "Call him Lo-Ammi, for you are not my people, and I am not your God.

Hos. 1.10 "Yet the Israelites will be like the sand on the seashore, which cannot be measured or counted. In the place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' they will be called 'sons of the living God.' 11 The people of Judah and the people of Israel will be reunited, and they will appoint one leader and will come up out of the land, for great will be the day of Jezreel.

Vocabulary

Apocalyptic Literature
Apostasy
Branch, The
Consecrate
Eschatology
Fulfillment
Intercede, Intercession
Messiah
Millennium
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Syncretism
Yom YHVH

Discussion Questions

Key Passages in Hosea (Continued)

Hos. 4.6 ...**my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge**. “Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.

Hos. 6.1 “Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds. 2 After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence. 3 Let us acknowledge the LORD; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.”

Hos. 11.1 “When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. 2 But the more I called Israel, the further they went from me. They sacrificed to the Baals and they burned incense to images.

▶ **Is God ambivalent toward His people Israel? (Hos 1.8-10)**

▶ **What do Hosea’s prophecies about Israel have to do with us? (Rom 15.4; 1Co 10.11)**

▶ **The lack of what kind of knowledge was destroying Israel? (Hos 4.6)**

Key Passages

Ezek. 10.18 Then **the glory of the LORD departed** from over the threshold of the temple...

Ezek. 18.30 “Therefore, O house of Israel, I will judge you, each one according to his ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. 31 Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, O house of Israel? 32 For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!”

Ezek. 22.30 “I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and **stand before me in the gap** on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none. 31 So I will pour out my wrath on them and consume them with my fiery anger, bringing down on their own heads all they have done, declares the Sovereign LORD.”

Ezek. 37.1 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. 2 He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. 3 He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?”

I said, “O Sovereign LORD, you alone know.” ...

21 ... “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land. 22 I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. There will be one king over all of them and they will never again be two nations or be divided into two kingdoms. 23 They will no longer defile themselves with their idols and vile images or with any of their offenses, for I will save them from all their sinful backsliding, and I will cleanse them. They will be my people, and I will be their God.

24 “My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd. They will follow my laws and be careful to keep my decrees. 25 They will live in the land I gave to my servant Jacob, the land where your fathers lived. They and their children and their children’s children will live there forever, and David my servant will be their prince forever. 26 ... I will put my sanctuary among them forever. 27 My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people. 28 Then the nations will know that **I the LORD make Israel holy**, when my sanctuary is among them forever.”

Vocabulary

Apocalyptic Literature
Apostasy
Branch, The
Consecrate
Eschatology
Fulfillment
Intercede, Intercession
Messiah
Millennium
Premillennialism
Progressive Revelation
Prophecy
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Sacred
Syncretism
YHVH Shammah
Yom YHVH

Discussion Questions

▶ **Why does God choose to make His actions contingent upon the intercessions of His people?**

▶ **Why did God choose only one nation and only one geographical spot for His special presence?**

Ezek. 43.1 Then the man brought me to the gate facing east, 2 and I saw the glory of the God of Israel coming from the east. His voice was like the roar of rushing waters, and the land was radiant with his glory. 3 The vision I saw was like the vision I had seen when he came to destroy the city and like the visions I had seen by the Ke-bar River, and I fell facedown. 4 The glory of the LORD entered the temple through the gate facing east. 5 Then the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court, and **the glory of the LORD filled the temple. ...48.35** ...“And the name of the city from that time on will be: **THE LORD IS THERE.**”

“God does nothing but in answer to prayer; and even they who have been converted to God without praying for it themselves, (which is exceeding rare,) were not without the prayers of others. Every new victory which a soul gains is the effect of a new prayer.”

— John Wesley, On Christian Perfection.

Key Passages

Dan. 3.24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?"

They replied, "Certainly, O king."

25 He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like **a son of the gods.**"

Dan. 7.13 "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like **a son of man**, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. 14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Dan. 9.4 I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed:

"O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with all who love him and obey his commands, 5 we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws. 6 We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our fathers, and to all the people of the land....

Dan. 9.17 "Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, O Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary. 18 Give ear, O God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. 19 O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hear and act! For your sake, O my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name."

Dan. 12.5 Then I, Daniel, looked, and there before me stood two others, one on this bank of the river and one on the opposite bank. 6 One of them said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, "How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled?"

7 The man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, lifted his right hand and his left hand toward heaven, and I heard him swear by him who lives forever, saying, "It will be for a time, times and half a time. **When the power of the holy people has been finally broken**, all these things will be completed."

Vocabulary

Apocalyptic Literature
Apocrypha
Aramaic
Branch, The
Eschatology
Fulfillment
Goel: Kinsman-Redeemer
Messiah
Millennium
Premillennialism
Progressive Revelation
Prophecy
Remnant
Sacred
Son of God
Son of Man
Yom YHVH (יום יהוה)

Discussion Questions

God creates out of nothing. Therefore, until a man is nothing, God can make nothing out of him.

— Martin Luther



- ▶ **What are the foci of the apocalyptic passages of the Bible?**

- ▶ **Why do apocalyptic passages use all the bizarre symbols and metaphors, and what should we be looking for in these passages?**

Key Passages

Zech. 9.9 Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Zech. 12.1 This is the word of the LORD concerning Israel. The LORD, who stretches out the heavens, who lays the foundation of the earth, and who forms the spirit of man within him, declares: 2 “I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem. 3 On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves. ... 8 On that day the LORD will shield those who live in Jerusalem, so that the feeblest among them will be like David, and the house of David will be like God, like the Angel of the LORD going before them. 9 On that day I will set out to destroy all the nations that attack Jerusalem.

Zech. 12.10 “And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. **They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him** as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.

Zech. 13.1 “On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity.

Zech. 14.2 I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city.

3 Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle. 4 **On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives**, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. 5 You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.

6 On that day there will be no light, no cold or frost. 7 It will be **a unique day**, without daytime or nighttime — a day known to the LORD. When evening comes, there will be light. ...

9 **The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name.**

Vocabulary

Apocalyptic Literature
Apostasy
Branch, The
Consecrate
Eschatology
Fulfillment
Kinsman-Redeemer
Messiah
Millennium
Premillennialism
Progressive Revelation
Prophecy
Remnant
Sacred
Syncretism
Yom YHVH

Discussion Questions

- ▶ **What will happen after Christ's Second Coming? (See Isaiah 66.15,16,19-21; Revelation 2.26,27.)**

Zech. 14.12 This is the plague with which the LORD will strike all the nations that fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh will rot while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths. 13 On that day men will be stricken by the LORD with great panic. Each man will seize the hand of another, and they will attack each other. 14 Judah too will fight at Jerusalem. The wealth of all the surrounding nations will be collected — great quantities of gold and silver and clothing. 15 A similar plague will strike the horses and mules, the camels and donkeys, and all the animals in those camps.

Zech. 14.16 Then **the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem** will go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. 17 If any of the peoples of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, they will have no rain. 18 If the Egyptian people do not go up and take part, they will have no rain. The LORD will bring on them the plague he inflicts on the nations that do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. 19 This will be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.

Zech. 14.20 On that day **HOLY TO THE LORD** will be inscribed on the bells of the horses, and the cooking pots in the LORD's house will be like the sacred bowls in front of the altar. 21 Every pot in Jerusalem and Judah will be holy to the LORD Almighty, and all who come to sacrifice will take some of the pots and cook in them. And on that day there will no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the LORD Almighty.

Key Passages

Mal. 2.13 Another thing you do: You flood the LORD's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer pays attention to your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. 14 You ask, "Why?" It is because **the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth**, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.

15 Has not [the LORD] made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth.

16 "I hate divorce," says the LORD God of Israel, "and I hate a man's covering himself with violence as well as with his garment," says the LORD Almighty.

Mal. 3.1 "See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then **suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,**" says the LORD Almighty⁴

2 But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap....

Mal. 3.6 **"I the LORD do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.** 7 Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. **Return to me, and I will return to you,**" says the LORD Almighty.

Mal. 4.1 "Surely **the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace.** All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire," says the LORD Almighty.

"Not a root or a branch will be left to them. 2 **But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings.** And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall. 3 Then you will trample down the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I do these things," says the LORD Almighty.

4 "Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel.

5 "See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. 6 He will **turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse.**"

Vocabulary

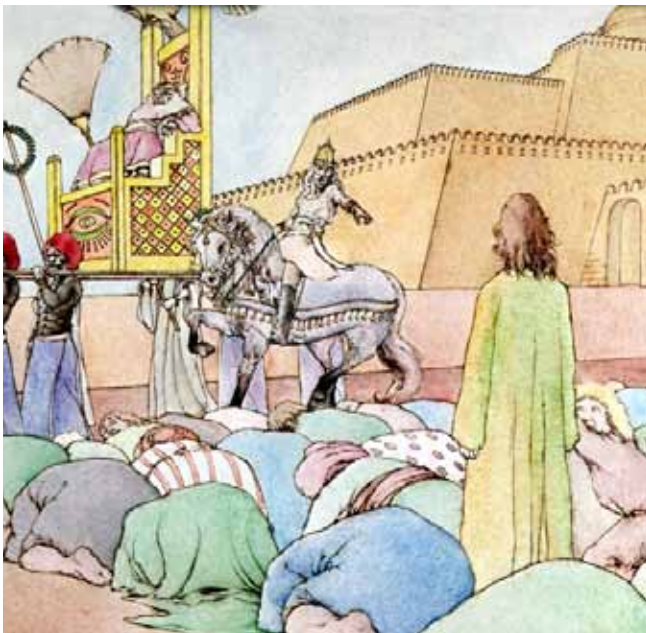
Angel
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When to Exhort...

Effective exhortation requires the exercise of discernment. The following diagram can help us know when to speak and when to keep our mouths shut:

Preparing For The Future With The Bible's Prophecy Books

	Recipient Willing to Hear	Recipient Unwilling to Hear
Issue of Eternal Importance		
Issue of Secondary Importance		



What do we need to discern?

1. *Whether the issue is of eternal or only secondary importance.*
2. *Whether the recipient is willing to hear.*
3. *Whether we have _____ with respect to the message.*

The Biblical Holy Days And Their Eschatological Parallels

Religious Month	Civil Month	Hebrew Month		Holy Days of Lev 23	Correlations (Items in blue await fulfillment)
1	7	Abib/Nisan	Barley Harvest Mar-Apr	14 — Passover (Pesach) 15-21 — Unleavened Bread 16 — Firstfruits Sheaf 21 — Close of Passover	1Co 5.7 1Co 15.20-23
2	8	Iyyar/Ziv	General Harvest Apr-May		
3	9	Sivan	Wheat Harvest May-Jun	6 — Pentecost (Shavuoth, Weeks, Wheat Firstfruits)	Rom 8.23; Rev 14.1-4
4	10	Tammuz	Jun-Jul		
5	11	Ab	Grape, Fig, Olive Jul-Aug		
6	12	Elul	Vintage Aug-Sep		Isa 63.1-6; Joe 3.7-21; Rev 14.19,20; 19.11-16
7	1	Tishri/ Ethaniam	Plowing Sep-Oct	1 — New Year (Trumpets) 10 — Atonement 15-21 — Tabernacles or In-gathering (Sukkot) + 8 th	Mat 24.31; 1Th 4.16; Rev 11.15 50 th = Jubilee, Lev 25.8-12; Luk 4.19 Zec 2.10-13; 12.10-13.1 8 th "Great Day": Joh 7.37-41
8	2	Marchesvan	Grain Planting Oct-Nov		
9	3	Chislev	Early Rains Nov-Dec		25 — Lights (Dedication)
10	4	Tebeth	Dec-Jan		
11	5	Shebat	Rain Season Jan-Feb		
12	6	Adar	Feb-Mar		13-15 — Purim

Plumb Lines

A BC to AD Series By
Timothy Ministries

Preparing For The Future With The Bible's Prophecy Books

RECOMMENDED READING

One book on eschatology that is both biblically responsible and readable is David Pawson's *When Jesus Returns*. It's available on Amazon at:

http://www.amazon.com/When-Jesus>Returns-David-Pawson/dp/0340612118/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1206731563&sr=8-1

We also recommend articles related to eschatology that are posted on our website:

The Beast At The Center Of The Earth. A treatise on how the prophets and apostles understood the End Time geography, explaining why the mark of the beast will never come to the Americas, 21 pages (1Mb).

<http://www.tmin.org/pdfs/BeastatCenter.pdf>

A Glossary of Eschatology Terms

<http://www.tmin.org/tminpages/eschatgloss.html>

The Olivet Apocalypse: A Harmony of Christ's Eschatological Teaching In The Gospels, 5 pages (88k).

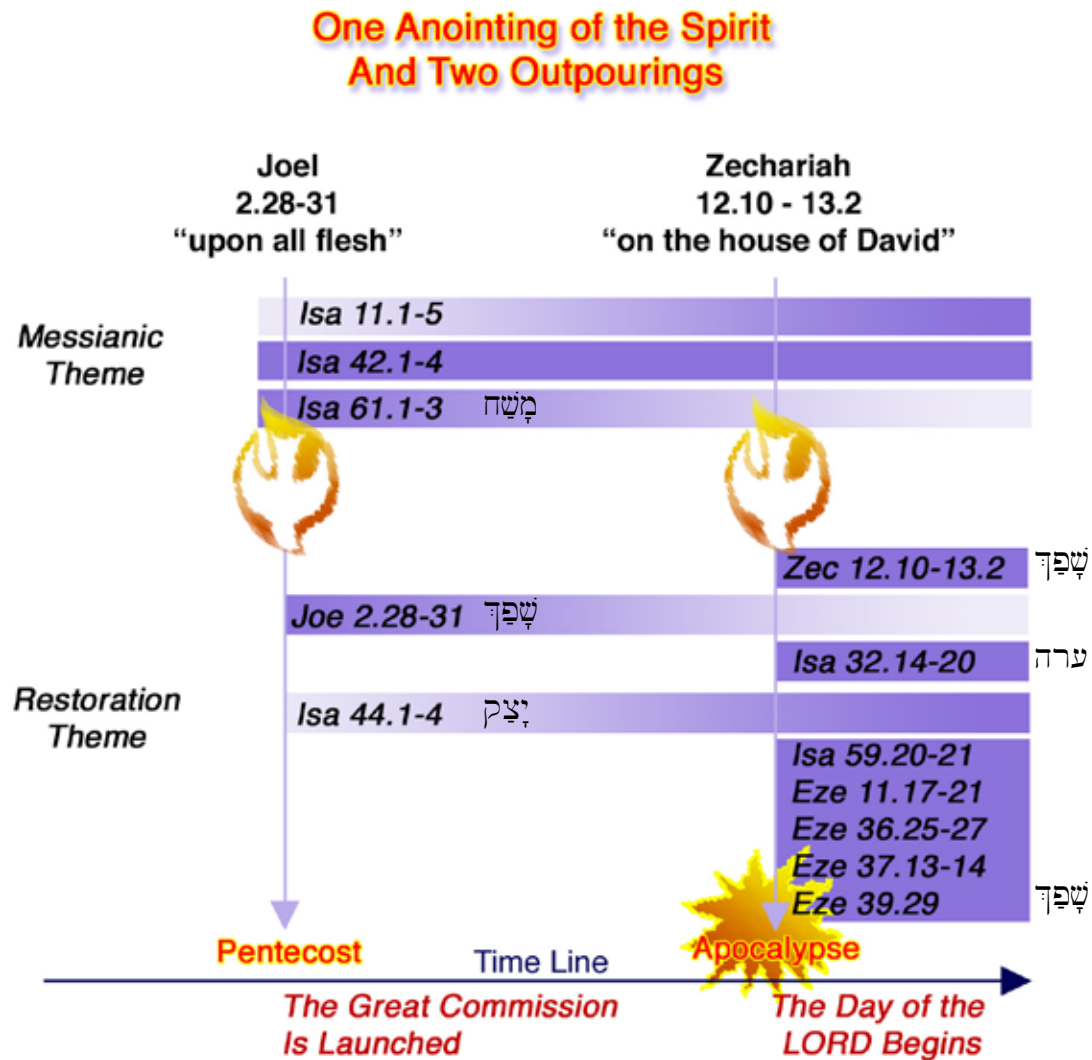
<http://www.tmin.org/pdfs/olivet.pdf>

The White Stone: Precious promises and insights from our course "The Revelation of Jesus Christ" (80k).

<http://www.tmin.org/pdfs/whitestone.pdf>

The 12 Old Testament Predictions Of The Spirit's Coming Manifestation

Diagrammed According To Their Theme And Time Of Fulfillment



In summary, these predictions tell us that:

1. A mighty manifestation of the Holy Spirit will come as the anointing upon God's Messianic Servant.
2. The agency of God's Spirit will accomplish Israel's restoration, both spiritual and national.
3. The restorative outpouring of the Spirit upon Israel will occur in connection with the coming of their Redeemer.
4. Israel's restoration will come through their national repentance.
5. Their restoration will usher in an epoch of great fruitfulness.
6. The prophets expected two distinct outpourings of the Spirit. The first outpouring will begin Israel's restoration, while the second outpouring will fully accomplish that restoration in the Day of the LORD.
7. **The first outpouring will not be limited to Israel, but will come upon "all flesh," accompanied by prophetic and other charismatic manifestations.**