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Isaiah 32

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Isaiah 32.

Topics.

- A king will reign in righteousness and princes will rule in justice.
- The fool heart is full of ungodliness, but the noble plan noble things.
- Rise up complacent women in less than a year harvest will not come.
- The palace and city are forsaken, until the Spirit is poured out.
- Justice will dwell in the wilderness and righteousness in fruitful fields.
- By hail the city will be laid low, happy are those who sow beside waters.
- The Commonwealth of Israel.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

Isaiah is the exciting story of the Old Testament and the New Testament compacted into one book. It covers the wonder and splendour of Bible prophecy and echoes of the Lord Jesus Christ resound throughout Isaiah's visions and his messages. It teaches history as it affects God's people and constantly points to a future age when righteousness, justice, joy and peace will be established on earth. Isaiah prophesied about 740–700 B.C. He lived during the decline of Israel in the shadow of the powerful Assyrian Empire. He spoke the word of God to a people who were "deaf and blind" (Isaiah 6:10) who refused to listen to his warnings of looming disaster.

Isaiah warned the people of Judah's that their sin would bring God's judgment (i.e., seventy-years captivity) and declared that God is sovereign and would use Cyrus the Persian to return the people from exile. He spoke also of a servant and man of sorrows who would be wounded for our transgressions faithfully accomplishing God's purposes of salvation (Isaiah 52:13 to 53:12). The final chapters give a beautiful description of a new creation in which Christ will rule as King, judging the wicked and establishing God's Kingdom on earth. Following are four points that will help the reader understand the book of Isaiah as they travel through it:

1. The history of Israel and Judah. At this time in the story Assyria has taken the ten tribes of Israel in the land of Samaria into captivity and marched up to Jerusalem (the two tribes of Judah) to destroy it, but failed. Later in the story Babylon attacks Jerusalem and conquers the city and takes the people of Judah into captivity. After this victory Babylon conquers Assyria which resulted in Israel and Judah being brought under the submission of Babylonian rule and the tribes being brought together during the seventy-year Babylonian captivity.
2. Many of Isaiah's visions are written as though they have already taken place, but a majority of these visions are predicting future events that are about to happen during Isaiah's generation while others will come to pass in a future age. Though these visions are of future events Isaiah speaks them in the present tense, because he spoke them as they came to his mind and as he saw the events unfolding before him. They are often spoken in this manner because of the certainty of it and because God had ordained them and revealed them to his prophets who spoke them to His people so they must come to pass, because God cannot lie.(Titus 1:2).

3. Though Isaiah is primarily speaking to Judah (the two tribes at Jerusalem) much of what he says applies to Israel (the ten tribes in Samaria) because both Judah and Israel are in the same corrupt spiritual condition.
4. All the promises to Israel are now in Christ. God's promises to Israel now include the Jews and the Gentiles. This is because under the New Covenant God is building an entirely new nation made up of Jews and Gentiles of which Christ is the head. In this new nation that God is creating in the Lord Jesus Christ Jews have no advantage over Gentiles since all are one in Christ Jesus.

The apostle Paul wrote: Gentiles were separated from Christ, alienated from the Commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus they have been brought to God by the blood of Christ. Jesus has made Jews and Gentiles both one by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances so that Jesus might create in himself one new man (i.e., one nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles).

In Jesus both Jews and Gentiles are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. (Eph. 2:1-22).

The practical application: of what this means, is that all the future and eternal promises God made to Israel through Isaiah also apply to Gentiles who by faith belong to Christ.

ISAIAH 32:1-5

A King will Reign in Righteousness and Princes will Rule in Justice.

- **Isaiah 32:1-5:** Behold, a king will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule in justice. ²Each will be like a hiding place from the wind, a shelter from the storm, like streams of water in a dry place, like the shade of a great rock in a weary land. ³Then the eyes of those who see will not be closed, and the ears of those who hear will give attention. ⁴The heart of the hasty will understand and know, and the tongue of the stammerers will hasten to speak distinctly. ⁵The fool will no more be called noble, nor the scoundrel said to be honorable.

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A king shall reign: Isaiah in this vision sees a future day coming when a king of righteousness, honesty and justice will reign and who will be a shelter to those who follow him. This prophecy could embrace three king's, Hezekiah, Josiah and the Lord Jesus Christ during his ministry on earth and his return in glory, with Hezekiah, Josiah and Jesus first appearance being partial fulfilments and Christ's return in glory being the complete and ultimate fulfilment.

1. **Hezekiah king of Judah:** some say that this prophecy speaks of Hezekiah king of Jerusalem being restored to the throne of Israel in his royal robes instead of sackcloth and ashes after the LORD sent an angel into the camp of the Assyrians and struck down 185,000 Assyrian soldiers and Sennacherib the king of Assyria and those that survived returned to their homeland.
 - That night the angel of the LORD went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. And when people arose early in the morning, behold, these were all dead bodies. ³⁶Then Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went home and lived at Nineveh. (2 Kings 19:35-36).

Hezekiah was restored to the throne of Israel in his royal robes and the people were finally free from the threat of Assyria. During his reign he ruled with righteousness and the fear of the LORD. He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD he removed the high places, broke down the images and destroyed all the pagan altars in the land of Judah and Israel. He trusted in the LORD God of Israel and it is said of him that

there was none like him among all the kings of Judah or any that were before him for he held fast to the LORD and did not depart from following Him. (2 Kings 18:3-6).

2. **Josiah king of Judah:** following Hezekiah's reign his son Manasseh ruled in his place for fifty-five years. (2 Kings 21:1) and did what was extremely evil in the sight of the LORD, after his death his son Amon reigned for two years in Jerusalem. He utterly abandoned the LORD and continued in the evil and abominations his father Manasseh had done. After Amon's death and after fifty-seven years of Judah doing evil before the LORD Josiah the son of Amon reigned. (2 Kings 21:18-26). He reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem (2 Kings 22:1) and did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and did not turn aside to the right or to the left. (2 Kings 22:2). He provided money to pay the workmen repairing the house of the LORD (2 Kings 22:3-7).

God told him that because his heart was repentant and he humbled himself and wept before the LORD, he will not see the disaster that the LORD will bring upon Jerusalem and Judah, but go to his grave in peace. (2 Kings 22:19-20). Josiah made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD and to keep His commandments, testimonies and statutes with all his heart and all his soul and perform the words of the covenant that were written in the book of the Law and all the people joined with him in this covenant. (2 Kings 23:3).

Josiah destroyed all the vessels made for Baal, Asherah, and all the host of heaven and deposed the priests of Judah that made offerings in the high places in the cities of Judah and around Jerusalem and those who burned incense to Baal, to the sun the moon and the constellations and all the host of the heavens. (2 Kings 23:4-5). Josiah also defiled Topheth in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom so that no one would burn their son or daughter as an offering to Molech there. He destroyed every idol, altar and ashram that Solomon, Ahaz, Manasseh and Amon had erected in the land of Judah and removed all the shrines and high places that were in the cities of Samaria that Jeroboam and the kings of Israel had made (2 Kings 23:10-19). He abolished all these abominations that he might establish the words of the law. It is written of Josiah that before him there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses, nor did any like him arise after him. (2 Kings 23:24-25).

3. **The Lord Jesus Christ during his ministry on earth:** and of the Gospel, Jesus came as the King of righteousness and brought abundant life to spiritually dry places, and through the bloodstained cross of Calvary brought comfort and rest to those who were weary in sin. While the apostles and his disciples, who proclaimed the message of the bloodstained cross and of the Gospel of grace were like streams of fresh water that washes clean everything their waters flow over.
4. **The Lord Jesus Christ:** when he returns in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth and the following verses and many others like them are fulfilled:
 - His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. (Isaiah 11:3-5)
 - Behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. ¹⁴And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed. (Daniel 7:13-14).

- A stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. ³⁵Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together (symbols of the entire world system) were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. (Daniel 2:34-35).

God constantly said of Isaiah's generation that their eyes were blinded and their ears were deaf to God's word because their heart was far from Him, they said and did the outward religious things required of them, but their heart was not involved so they could not perceive the word of God. When a heart denies God, the mind is blinded to the things of God. In contrast to this spiritually blind generation, Isaiah sees a future generation in which the eyes of all whose heart is right will not only see (i.e., perceive) the spiritual truth of the message being proclaimed, but will also heed what is being said.

The tongue of the stammerers: refers to foreigners (i.e., Gentiles) who will readily and clearly proclaim the messages of the LORD. The fool and the scoundrel will no more be called noble or honourable, means that prideful, hypocritical religious leaders who are looked up to and given honour simply because they are in positions of authority and power and appear outwardly to be holy men of God, but are pretenders will no longer be given honour. An example of such men would be Manasseh and Amon kings of Judah and the religious leaders of Jesus generation, (the chief priest's Pharisees and scribes) who the people foolishly esteemed and gave honour to even though they were leading the people to destruction instead of toward God. This shows how spiritually blind these people were to the true prophets and the true word of God.

Princes will rule in justice: (v1) in the context of these verses the word princes embraces, ministers of state, judges, and magistrates under the king that perform their duties with integrity and justice, faithfulness and righteousness and protect the people from oppression in contrast to those who rule wickedly and use their privileged position for their own glory and oppress the people they rule over for their own gain. The prophetic statement, "Princes will rule in justice," especially applies to all the faithful in authority under Christ in the coming kingdom on earth.

- Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? (1 Cor. 6:2)
- If we endure, we will also reign with him. (2 Timothy 2:12)
- The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, ²⁷and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. (Rev. 2:26-27).
- The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. (Revelation 3:21).

ISAIAH 32:6-7

The Heart of Fools is Ungodliness, but the Noble Plan Noble Things.

- **Isaiah 32:6-7:** For the fool speaks folly, and his heart is busy with iniquity, to practice ungodliness, to utter error concerning the LORD, to leave the craving of the hungry unsatisfied, and to deprive the thirsty of drink. ⁷As for the scoundrel (churl in KJV) his devices are evil; he plans wicked schemes to ruin the poor with lying words, even when the plea of the needy is right. ⁸But he who is noble (liberal in the KJV) plans noble things, and on noble things he stands.

The Bible pictures the character of a fool in the following ways:

- They say in their heart that there is no God and rebel against His will.

- They are corrupt and full of wicked acts and have no understanding or knowledge of what is important to God.
- They turn from God and do not seek after Him.
- They are right in their own eyes and despise their father's (and by extension everyone's) instruction and correction. (Prov. 12:15) (Proverbs 15:5).
- They take no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing their own opinion. (Prov. 18:2)
- They have no concern for the less fortunate or the poor and will deliberately harm others for their own personal gain.

It is for these reasons that Psalm fifty-three says that God rejects a fool (Psalm 53).

The character of a scoundrel: (v7) (churl in KJV) the word churl comes from the Hebrew word (*kiylay*) it carries the idea of withholding and primarily applies to those who have the ability to help the less fortunate, but instead of being generous with what they have they are stingy and very reluctant to give or spend anything to help another. They are people who have the ability to help the poor or a person suffering hardship, but refuse to do so. They have no concern for others, because their sole focus in life is upon self-gratification.

The character of the noble: (v8) (liberal in the KJV) the word noble comes from the Hebrew word (*nadiyb*) it carries the idea of being willing hearted. The meaning is being willing to generously give it applies to those who freely volunteer to offer themselves to help another. It is interesting to notice that the world's idea of a noble is one who has great wealth and is in a position of great power or of a person who is a member of the royal family whereas the Bible's definition of a noble person is one who is kind in heart and willing to help those who are less fortunate and especially to those who plan systems of government and organisations that help the less fortunate and the poor in contrast to oppressing them.

ISAIAH 32:9-13

Rise up Women in Less than a Year the Harvest will Not Come.

- **Isaiah 32:9-13:** Rise up, you women who are at ease, hear my voice; you complacent daughters, give ear to my speech. ¹⁰In little more than a year you will shudder, you complacent women; for the grape harvest fails, the fruit harvest will not come. ¹¹Tremble, you women who are at ease, shudder, you complacent ones; strip, and make yourselves bare, and tie sackcloth around your waist. ¹²Beat your breasts for the pleasant fields, for the fruitful vine, ¹³for the soil of my people growing up in thorns and briers, yes, for all the joyous houses in the exultant city (Jerusalem).

The LORD'S people are not only rebellious idol worshippers and wicked, but have also become complacent, self-satisfied and totally unaware of the impending danger and doom that is about to come upon them. Isaiah has been constantly warning the people that God's judgment is about to come upon them, but they are so self-satisfied, self-righteous and smug that they take no notice of his words. Isaiah's focus now is upon the women who are at ease and unworried when they should not only be extremely worried, but also tremblingly with fear since their whole nation is heading for destruction. Their city and houses will be destroyed and their vineyards, crops and farms will all be laid waste in less than a year. Isaiah is calling the women to call a fast, repent of their complacency toward all the wickedness that surrounds them. (It is also quite likely Isaiah hopes that the men seeing the women folk mourning and weeping before the LORD maybe moved to do likewise).

The soil of my people growing up in thorns and briars: (v13) carries the idea that the common folk of the city are being influenced by the corrupt and false teaching of the prideful, hypocritical priests, prophets and religious leaders that have the authority and power over their nation.

ISAIAH 32:14-15

The Palace and City is Forsaken, until the Spirit is Poured Out.

- **Isaiah 32:14-15:** For the palace is forsaken, the populous city deserted; the hill and the watchtower will become dens forever, a joy of wild donkeys, a pasture of flocks; ¹⁵until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is deemed a forest.

The expression, "the palace is forsaken, the populous city deserted," refers to future events yet to come even though it is spoken in the present tense. This style of prophecy is common amongst the prophets. This is because they see the vision God is given them in their mind or passing before their eyes as a hologram (like a dream) in the present moment as an actual and real event and speak of it as it comes to them. Following are four keys to understanding Bible prophecy.

- 1 The first key: is to understand that in many prophecies of the Bible the verses are not always written in chronological order. It is almost as though the prophet is so inspired that he immediately speaks the words as they come to him. They are then recorded in the order that the prophet spoke them, but that does not always mean they are in the actual chronological order that they will unfold throughout history. Sometimes the latter verses of a chapter may actually be the first events to take place in God's foreordained plan of events.
- 2 The second key: is to know that a prophecy is often spoken in the present tense as though the event has already happened when in actual reality the fulfilment of it may still be many years away. This is because the prophet is seeing the vision in the present moment and speaks it as he sees it in present time. The people the prophet is speaking to know when the prophecy is a future event, but sometimes it can be difficult for those reading it thousands of years later to realise, because of the tense it is written in.
- 3 The third key: is to understand when a prophet speaks, he is often speaking as the voice of God therefore the words he speaks are guaranteed to come to pass. This is why the prophet sometimes will speak future predictions in the present moment because they are certain to happen at the right time in the future.
- 4 The fourth key: is to know that many future prophecies are spoken in the present tense, because the prophet is speaking the words of God or the vision as they come to him in his time. The prophet himself may not always be aware of the echoes contained in his prophecy or that the words he is speaking, actually have contained within them the ability to transcend time and travel thousands of years through history to a future age or a future person

The word forever: (v14) comes from the Hebrew word (*owlam*) it literally means concealed (i.e. the vanishing point) and can refer to time past or future, eternal time; forever; everlasting; a continual period of time; a long period of time and a perpetual period of time. In this context it refers to seventy years of time.

The watchtower will become dens: (v13) Isaiah's vision now soars beyond the time of Hezekiah and Assyria to the time of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. The prophetic statement "The hill and the watchtower will become dens forever, a joy of wild donkeys and a pasture of flocks," (v13) refers to the armies of king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon's invading

the city of Jerusalem; burning the homes; breaking down its walls; pillaging the Temple of God and taking all the inhabitants of Jerusalem captive so that their land laid waste for seventy years.

Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high: (v15) refers to Cyrus the king of Persia who God used as His anointed shepherd to bring the Empire of Babylon to ruin and set the people of Israel free from the bondage and captivity of Babylon. The following verses show that God poured out His Spirit upon Cyrus and used him to set his people free from the bondage of Babylon's oppression.

- Thus says the LORD to *his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped*, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed. (Isaiah 45:1).
- I (*the LORD*) will go before you (*Cyrus king of Persia*) and level the exalted places, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, ³I will give you the treasures of darkness and the hoards in secret places, that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, *who call you (Cyrus) by your name.* ⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, *I call you by your name, I name you*, though you do not know me. (Isaiah 45:2-3).
- I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; *I equip you (Cyrus) though you do not know me,* ⁶that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, there is none besides me; I am the LORD, there is no other. (Isaiah 45:5-6).
- Thus says the LORD: "The wealth of Egypt and the merchandise of Cush, and the Sabeans, *men of stature, shall come over to you (Cyrus)* and be yours; they shall follow you; they shall come over in chains and bow down to you. They will plead with you, saying: '*Surely God is in you*, and there is no other, no god besides him.' (Isaiah 45:14).

At this time Isaiah is speaking to the rebellious and wicked inhabitants of Jerusalem and earnestly calling them to turn from their wicked ways. If they don't, they will be taken captive to Babylon forever (i.e., a long period of time) specifically seventy years. This period of time is also referred to as being forever, because seventy years is almost a lifetime, the great majority that went into captivity would have died in captivity and those men and women the seventy years would have seemed like forever. God used Cyrus King of Persia as His anointed shepherd to set His people free. After the armies of Cyrus had conquering the mighty Empire of Babylon Cyrus gave Israel written permission to return to their beloved city and rebuild the Temple of God. But, Isaiah's prophetic message only rests at this period of time for a moment and then takes up wings and transcends through time and history time to a future King who the LORD also calls His anointed shepherd, and his name is not Cyrus, but the Lord Jesus Christ, in who God at this present time is also building a Temple made up of Jews and Gentiles (also called a new nation or new creation in Christ). For further information concerning the spiritual temple God is building in Christ at this present time, see the title: "The Commonwealth of Israel" (at end of this Chapter).

ISAIAH 32:16-18

Justice will dwell in the Wilderness and Righteousness in the Field.

- **Isaiah 32:16-18:** Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness abide in the fruitful field. ¹⁷And the effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever. ¹⁸My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.

These verses (in a limited sense) speak of Cyrus king of Persia who the LORD called his anointed shepherd and who at the end of Israel's seventy year captivity allowed Israel to return to their beloved City Jerusalem, but they also carries with them an echo of the Lord Jesus Christ when he returns in glory as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule

and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to destroy the antichrist and his kingdom and establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign. The dead in Christ (Old and New Testament) and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth. Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce (Isaiah 65:17-25). All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states:

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

In Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

The great prophet Isaiah wrote:

- They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:9).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory. For further information see titles:

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

ISAIAH 32:19-20

By Hail the City will be Laid Low, Happy are all who Sow by Waters.

- **Isaiah 32:19-20:** and it will hail when the forest falls down, and the city will be utterly laid low. ²⁰Happy are you who sow beside all waters, who let the feet of the ox and the donkey range free.

The King James Bible says:

- **Isaiah 32:19-20:** When it shall hail, coming down on the forest; and the city shall be low in a low place. ²⁰Blessed *are* ye that sow beside all waters that send forth *thither* the feet of the ox and the ass.

Hail in the context of this verse is a symbol of the fierce armies of Babylon who are about to invade Jerusalem and destroy the city of Jerusalem, the Temple of God and lay the land of Judah waste.

Blessed are you that sow beside all waters: (20) can carry a literal and a spiritual understanding.

1. Literally: the picture is of a golden age of prosperity coming when the whole land will be irrigated by calmly flowing streams of water; oxen and donkeys will draw the plough over a rich and fertile land; farmers will freely cast their seed and cultivate their lands in security so that the entire land is farmed and abundantly produces fruit and thereby rewarding and making happy the labourer. This abundance will be a sign of God's love and favour toward the people in contrast to the land being laid waste being a sign of God's wrath.
- 2 Spiritually: God's word is compared to seed, and the preachers of it to sowers of seed, who have a commission to preach the Gospel. The words, "they will sow the seed by all waters," would mean amongst great multitudes of people (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) in contrast to Israel only.

This would mean that the statement, "blessed are you that sow beside all waters," can be seen as applying to ministers and preachers of the Gospel in the latter days and having great success and great numbers of Jews and Gentiles being converted and making up a the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb (Revelation 22:1). Isaiah sowed his seed upon dry and barren ground and is here contrasting his own (and God's) unhappiness at seeing such truthful and wise seed die on the hard rocky hearts it fell upon to the happiness of the apostles, who sowed their seed upon good soil that produced (and still is) an abundance of fruit amongst all nations and all languages.

OVERVIEW

Jerusalem will suffer greatly, and afterward forsake their wicked ways and turn to the LORD their God. The Spirit of the LORD will be poured out on Israel; the wilderness will become a fruitful field until it is a forest and a king will reign at Jerusalem in righteousness. Those with him (called princes) will rule in justice, people will listen and understand. The poor and hungry will be feed and justice will be available to all. The Lord's people will abide in secure dwellings and quiet resting-places because the effect of righteousness is peace.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL

It is important to understand that the promised seed of Abraham and David is Christ, all the promises to Israel are now fulfilled in Christ therefore they are not limited to Israel only, but extend and embrace all those who belong to Christ. This is because God is now creating one new nation in Christ made up of both Jew and Gentiles. (Gentiles are everyone who is not a Hebrew or Jew). This means that Jews and Gentiles become one new nation in Christ (also called a new man, a new creation, the church, the body of Christ and the Kingdom of God). The Apostle Paul said:

- Remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision (Jews), which is made in the flesh by hands—¹²remember that you (Gentiles) were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the *COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL* and *STRANGERS* to the *COVENANTS* of *PROMISE*, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you (Gentiles) who once were far off (from God) have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For

he himself is our (Jews and Gentiles) peace, who has made us both *ONE* and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he (Jesus) might create in himself *ONE NEW MAN* (or Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles), so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us (Jews and Gentiles) both to God in *ONE BODY* through the cross, thereby killing the hostility (between the Jews and Gentiles). ¹⁷And he (Jesus) came and preached peace to you (Gentiles) who were far off (from God) and peace to those who were near (Jews). ¹⁸For through him (Jesus) we both (Jews and Gentiles) have access in *ONE SPIRIT* to the Father. ¹⁹So then you (Gentiles) are *NO LONGER* strangers and aliens, but you are *FELLOW CITIZENS* with the *SAINTS* (the Jews) and members of the *HOUSEHOLD* of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone ²¹in whom the *WHOLE STRUCTURE* being joined together (Jews and Gentiles) grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you (Jews and Gentiles) also are being built together into a *DWELLING PLACE* for *GOD* by the Spirit (Ephes. 2:11-22).

Gentiles were separated from Christ, alienated from the, Commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus they have been brought to God by the blood of Christ. Jesus has made Jews and Gentiles both one by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances so that Jesus might create in himself one new man (nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles). In Jesus both Jews and Gentiles are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Christ is the head of this new nation and its Jewish and Gentile citizens are now equal in status before God since in Christ we are all brothers and sisters in the same eternal family that God is now establishing in the Lord Jesus Christ throughout all nations of the world. The practical application of what this means to those who belong to Christ is that all the future and eternal promises God made to Israel also apply to them.

The book of Revelation states:

- When Christ returns in glory every eye will see him, even those who pierced him and all the tribes of the earth (Rev. 1:7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) and he has made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Rev. 5:9-10).

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.