

# JEREMIAH & ISAIAH

## THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT!



### Preamble to the Prophets

#### 1. Devarim Chapter 30 - God's Eternal Prediction & Promise

<p><b>1</b> And it will be, when all these things come upon you the blessing and the curse which I have set before you that you will consider in your heart, among all the nations where the Lord your God has banished you,</p>	<p>אוֹהֵיָהּ כִּי־יָבֹאוּ עֲלֶיךָ כָּל־הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה הַבְּרָכָה וְהַקְּלָלָה אֲשֶׁר נָתַתִּי לְפָנֶיךָ וְהִשְׁבַּתְּ אֶל־לִבְבְּךָ בְּכָל־הַגּוֹיִם אֲשֶׁר הִדִּיחֶךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ שָׁמָּה:</p>
<p><b>2</b> and you will return to the Lord, your God, with all your heart and with all your soul, and you will listen to His voice according to all that I am commanding you this day you and your children,</p>	<p>בוֹשַׁבְתָּ עַד־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ וְשָׁמַעְתָּ בְּקוֹלוֹ כְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר־אָנֹכִי מְצַוֶּךָ הַיּוֹם וּבְנֶיךָ בְּכָל־לִבְבְּךָ וּבְכָל־נַפְשְׁךָ:</p>
<p><b>3</b> then, the Lord, your God, will bring back your exiles, and He will have mercy upon you. He will once again gather you from all the nations, where the Lord, your God, had dispersed you.</p>	<p>גּוֹשְׁבֵי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֶת־שְׁבוֹתֶךָ וְרַחֲמֶךָ וְשׂוֹב וְקִבְּצֶךָ מִכָּל־הָעַמִּים אֲשֶׁר הִפְצַרְךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ שָׁמָּה:</p>
<p><b>4</b> Even if your exiles are at the end of the heavens, the Lord, your God, will gather you from there, and He will take you from there.</p>	<p>דָּאִם־יְהִיֶּה נִדְחֶךָ בְּקֶצֶה הַשָּׁמַיִם מִשָּׁם יִקְבְּצֶךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ וּמִשָּׁם יִקָּחֶךָ:</p>

#### 2. Jeremiah Chapter 1 - Pruning & Growth

<p><b>10</b> Behold, I have appointed you over the nations and over the kingdoms, to uproot and to crush, and to destroy and to demolish, to build and to plant.</p>	<p>י רֵאֵה הַפְּקֻדָּתֶיךָ   הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה עַל־הַגּוֹיִם וְעַל־הַמְּמַלְכוֹת לְנִתּוֹשׁ וּלְנִתּוּץ וּלְהַאֲבִיד וּלְהַרוֹס לְבָנוֹת וּלְנַטֹּעַ:</p>
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## A. Roles of the Prophet

### I. Role as Seer

#### 1. Isaiah Chapter 2 - Jerusalem Will Rise Again!

<p>1 The word that Isaiah, son of Amoz, prophesied concerning Judah and Jerusalem.</p>	<p>אֶהְדַּבֵּר אֲשֶׁר חָזָה יִשְׁעִיָּהוּ בֶן אַמּוּץ עַל יְהוּדָה וְיִירוּשָׁלַם:</p>
<p>2 And it shall be at the end of the days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be firmly established at the top of the mountains, and it shall be raised above the hills, and all the nations shall stream to it.</p>	<p>בּוֹהֶיָה   בְּאַחֲרֵית הַיָּמִים נִכּוֹן יְהִי־הָרַר בֵּית יְהוָה בְּרֹאשׁ הַהָרִים וְנִשָּׂא מִגְבְּעוֹת וְנִהְרֹ-אֲלָיו כָּל הַגּוֹיִם:</p>
<p>3 And many peoples shall go, and they shall say, "Come, let us go up to the Lord's mount, to the house of the God of Jacob, and let Him teach us of His ways, and we will go in His paths," for out of Zion shall the Torah come forth, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.</p>	<p>גּוֹהֲלוּ עַמִּים רַבִּים וְאָמְרוּ לָנוּ   וְנַעֲלֶה אֶל הָרַיְהוָה אֶל בֵּית אֱלֹהֵי יַעֲקֹב וְיִרְנוּ מִדְרָכָיו וְנִלְכֶה בְּאַרְחֹתָיו כִּי מִצִּיּוֹן תֵּצֵא תוֹרָה וְדִבְרֵי יְהוָה מִירוּשָׁלַם:</p>

#### 2. Jeremiah Chapter 25 - Total Destruction

<p>9 Behold, I send and I will take all the families of the north, says the Lord, and to Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and I will bring them upon this land and upon its inhabitants and upon all these nations around, and I will destroy them and make them for a desolation and for a hissing and for perpetual ruins.</p>	<p>ט הִנְנִי שֹׁלֵחַ וְלִקְחָתִי אֶת כָּל מְשֻׁפְחוֹת צָפוֹן נְאֻם יְהוָה וְאֶל נְבוּכַדְרֶאצַּר מֶלֶךְ בָּבֶל עַבְדִּי וְהִבְאֵתִים עַל הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת וְעַל יֹשְׁבֵיהָ וְעַל כָּל הַגּוֹיִם הָאֵלֶּה סָבִיב וְהַחֲרַמְתִּים וְשַׁמְתִּים לְשִׁמָּה וְלִשְׂרָקָה וְלַחֲרָבוֹת עוֹלָם:</p>
<p>12 And it shall be at the completion of seventy years, I will visit upon the king of Babylon and upon that nation, says the Lord, their iniquity, and upon the land of the Chaldeans, and I will make it for everlasting desolations.</p>	<p>יב וְהָיָה כְּמֵלֵאוֹת שִׁבְעִים שָׁנָה אֶפְקֹד עַל מֶלֶךְ בָּבֶל וְעַל הַגּוֹי הַהוּא נְאֻם יְהוָה אֶת עוֹנָם וְעַל אֶרֶץ כַּשְׂדִּים וְשַׁמְתִּי אֹתוֹ לְשִׁמְמוֹת עוֹלָם:</p>
<p>13 And I will bring upon that land all My words that I have spoken about it, all that is written in this book, which Jeremiah prophesied concerning all the nations.</p>	<p>יג וְהִבְאֵתִי (כְּתִיב וְהִבְאֵתִי) עַל הָאָרֶץ הַהִיא אֶת כָּל דְּבָרֵי אֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתִּי עָלֶיהָ אֶת כָּל הַכְּתוּב בַּסֵּפֶר הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר נִבְּא יְרֵמְיָהוּ עַל כָּל הַגּוֹיִם:</p>

## II. Role as Spiritual Guide

### 3. Isaiah Chapter 58 - Laws of Shabbat

<p>13 If you restrain your foot because of the Sabbath, from performing your affairs on My holy day, and you call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord honored, and you honor it by not doing your wonted ways, by not pursuing your affairs and speaking words.</p>	<p>יג אם תִּשְׁבֹּת רַגְלְךָ עִשׂוֹת חֲפְצֶיךָ בְּיוֹם קִדְשִׁי וְקִרְאתָ לַשַּׁבָּת עֵנֶג לְקִדּוּשׁ יְהוָה מְכַבֵּד וְכַבְּדָתוּ מַעֲשׂוֹת דְרָכֶיךָ מִמִּצּוֹא חֲפְצֶיךָ וְדַבֵּר דְבָר:</p>
<p>14 Then, you shall delight with the Lord, and I will cause you to ride on the high places of the land, and I will give you to eat the heritage of Jacob your father, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.</p>	<p>יד אַז תִּתְעַנֵּג עַל יְהוָה וְהִרְכַבְתִּיךָ עַל בְּמֹתֵי(כְּתִיב בְּמֹתֵי) אֶרֶץ וְהֵאֲכִילְתִּיךָ נַחֲלַת יַעֲקֹב אֲבִיךָ כִּי פִי יְהוָה דָּבַר:</p>

### 4. Jeremiah Chapter 7 - Be Just and Good!

<p>1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying:</p>	<p>א הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר הָיָה אֶל יְרֵמְיָהוּ מֵאֵת יְהוָה לֵאמֹר:</p>
<p>2 Stand in the gate of the house of the Lord, and proclaim there this word, and say; Harken to the word of the Lord, all Judah who come into these gates to prostrate yourselves before the Lord.</p>	<p>ב עֲמֵד בַּשַּׁעַר בֵּית יְהוָה וְקִרְאתָ שָׁם אֶת הַדְּבָר הַזֶּה וְאָמַרְתָּ שְׁמְעוּ דְבַר יְהוָה כָּל יְהוּדָה הַבָּאִים בַּשַּׁעֲרִים הָאֵלֶּה לְהִשְׁתַּחֲוֹת לַיהוָה:</p>
<p>3 So said the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel; Improve your ways and your deeds, I will allow you to dwell in this place.</p>	<p>ג כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל הִיטִיבוּ דְרָכֵיכֶם וּמַעֲלָלֵיכֶם וְאֲשַׁכְנֶנָּה אֶתְכֶם בַּמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה:</p>
<p>4 Do not rely on false words, saying: The Temple of the Lord, the Temple of the Lord, the Temple of the Lord are they.</p>	<p>ד אַל תִּבְטְחוּ לָכֶם אֶל דְּבַרֵי הַשִּׁקָּר לֵאמֹר הֵיכַל יְהוָה הֵיכַל יְהוָה הֵיכַל יְהוָה הֵמָּה:</p>
<p>5 For if you improve your ways and your deeds, if you perform judgment between one man and his fellowman,</p>	<p>ה כִּי אִם הִיטִיב תִּיטִיבוּ אֶת דְרָכֵיכֶם וְאֶת מַעֲלָלֵיכֶם אִם עָשׂוּ תַעֲשׂוּ מִשְׁפָּט בֵּין אִישׁ וּבֵין רֵעֵהוּ:</p>
<p>6 [if] you do not oppress a stranger, an orphan, or a widow, and you do not shed innocent blood in this place, and you do not follow other gods for your detriment,</p>	<p>ו גַּר יְתוֹם וְאַלְמָנָה לֹא תַעֲשִׁקוּ וְדָם נָקִי אַל תִּשְׁפְּכוּ בַּמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה וְאַחֲרֵי אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים לֹא תִלְכוּ לְרַע לָכֶם:</p>
<p>7 I will allow you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave your forefathers from days of yore to eternity.</p>	<p>ז וְשִׁכְנֹתִי אֶתְכֶם בַּמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה בְּאֶרֶץ אֲשֶׁר נָתַתִּי לְאֲבוֹתֵיכֶם לְמֵן עוֹלָם וְעַד עוֹלָם:</p>

### III. Role as Comforter

#### 5. Eichah - Lamentations Chapter 1

<p>1 O how has the city that was once so populous remained lonely! She has become like a widow! She that was great among the nations, a princess among the provinces, has become tributary.</p>	<p>א איכה   ישבה בְּדַד הָעִיר רַבְתִּי עִם הִיְתָה כְּאַלְמָנָה רַבְתִּי בְּגוֹיִם שְׂרָתִי בְּמַדְיֹנוֹת הִיְתָה לְמַסִּי:</p>
<p>2 She weeps, yea, she weeps in the night, and her tears are on her cheek; she has no comforter among all her lovers; all her friends have betrayed her; they have become her enemies.</p>	<p>ב בָּכוּ תִבְכֶּה בַּלַּיְלָה וְדַמְעָתָה עַל לְחִיָּה אֵין לָהּ מְנַחֵם מִכָּל אֲהַבְיָהּ כָּל רַעֲיָהּ בְּגָדוּ בָּהּ הָיוּ לָהּ לְאֹיְבִים:</p>

#### 6. Isaiah Chapter 5

<p>1 I will now sing for my beloved the song of my beloved about his vineyard; my beloved had a vineyard in a fertile corner.</p>	<p>א אֲשִׁירָה נָא לְיַדֵּי שִׁירַת דּוּדִי לְכַרְמֹו כָּרֵם הָיָה לְיַדֵּי בְּקֶרֶן בֵּן שָׁמֹן:</p>
<p>2 And he fenced it in, and he cleared it of stones, and he planted it with the choicest vines, and he built a tower in its midst, and also a vat he hewed therein; and he hoped to produce grapes, but it produced wild berries.</p>	<p>ב וַיַּעֲזֹקְהוּ וַיִּסְקְלֵהוּ וַיִּטְעֵהוּ שִׂרְקָה וַיִּבֶן מִגְדָּל בְּתוֹכֹו וְגַם יָקַב חִצְבַּ בּוּ וַיְקוּ לַעֲשׂוֹת עֲנָבִים וַיַּעֲשׂ בְּאֲשִׁים:</p>

### B. Methods of Redemption

#### 1. Isaiah Chapter 31 - God's Victory

<p>8 And Assyria shall fall by the sword of one not a man, and the sword of one who is not a man shall consume him, and he shall flee from before a sword, and his chosen ones shall melt.</p>	<p>ח וְנָפַל אֲשׁוּר בְּחֶרֶב לֹא אִישׁ וְחֶרֶב לֹא אָדָם תֹּאכְלֵנּוּ וְנָס לּוֹ מִפְּנֵי חֶרֶב וּבַחֲרִיו לְמַסִּי הָיוּ:</p>
<p>9 And his rock shall pass from fear, and his princes shall be dismayed at the miracle, the word of the Lord, whose fire is in Zion and Whose stove is in Jerusalem.</p>	<p>ט וְסִלְעוֹ מִמַּגּוֹר יַעֲבוֹר וְחֲתוּ מִנֶּסֶס שָׂרָיו נֹאֵם יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר אוֹר לוֹ בְּצִיּוֹן וְתַנּוּר לוֹ בִּירוּשָׁלַם:</p>

#### 2. Jeremiah Chapter 38 - Political Expediency

<p>16 And King Zedekiah swore to Jeremiah secretly, saying, "As the Lord lives who made for us this soul, I will neither put you to death nor will I deliver you into the hand[s] of these men who seek your life."</p>	<p>טז וַיִּשָּׁבַע הַמֶּלֶךְ צְדָקְיָהוּ אֶל יִרְמְיָהוּ בִּסְתֵר לֵאמֹר חַי יְהוָה (כְּתִיב אֵת) אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה לָנוּ אֵת הַנֶּפֶשׁ הַזֹּאת אִם אֲמִיתָךְ וְאִם אֲתַנְךָ בְּיַד הָאֲנָשִׁים הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר מִבְּקָשִׁים אֵת נַפְשְׁךָ:</p>
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<p>17 And Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, "So said the Lord God of Hosts, the God of Israel; If you go out to the officers of the king of Babylon, your soul shall live, and this city shall not be burnt with fire, and you and your household shall live.</p>	<p>יז וַיֹּאמֶר יְרֵמְיָהוּ אֶל צְדֻקְיָהוּ כֹה אָמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי צְבָאוֹת אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אִם יֵצֵא תֵצֵא אֶל שָׂרֵי מֶלֶךְ בָּבֶל וְחִיתָה נַפְשְׁךָ וְהָעִיר הַזֹּאת לֹא תִשְׂרָף בְּאֵשׁ וְחִיתָה אַתָּה וּבֵיתְךָ:</p>
<p>18 But if you do not go out to the officers of the king of Babylon, this city shall be delivered into the hand[s] of the Chaldeans, and they shall burn it with fire, and you shall not escape from their hand[s]."</p>	<p>יח וְאִם לֹא תֵצֵא אֶל שָׂרֵי מֶלֶךְ בָּבֶל וְנִתְּנָה הָעִיר הַזֹּאת בְּיַד הַכַּשְׂדִּים וְשָׂרְפוּהָ בְּאֵשׁ וְאַתָּה לֹא תִמָּלֵט מֵיָדָם:</p>

## C. But Did They Listen?

### 1. Jeremiah Chapter 7 - Fallen on Deaf Ears...

<p>27 And when you will speak all of these words to them and they will not hearken to you, and you call to them and they will not answer you,</p>	<p>כז וְדַבַּרְתָּ אֲלֵיהֶם אֶת כָּל הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וְלֹא יִשְׁמְעוּ אֵלֶיךָ וְקִרְאתָ אֲלֵיהֶם וְלֹא יַעֲנוּכָה:</p>
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### 2. David Ben-Gurion “Kingship and Prophecy” - Studies in the Book of Jeremiah

There is no doubt that the greatest prophet who arose in the days of the kings before the destruction of Jerusalem, as well as the most despised, downtrodden, and daring, was Jeremiah. He was not afraid of imprisonment, of torture, even of death itself - and always chose to speak the bitter truth, until the bitter end...He knew that invincibility would not last forever, and was sure that soon enough - certainly within seventy years - Babylonia would tumble and fall...Jeremiah loves his people and had faith in its posterity - *and his faith has proven true until this very day.*

## D. Intended Audience

### 1. Talmud Bavli Makkot 24b - Laughter is the Best Medicine

<p>Again it happened that Rabban Gamliel, Rabbi Elazar ben Azaria, Rabbi Joshua and Rabbi Akiva went up to Jerusalem. When they reached Mt. Scopus, they tore their garments. When they reached the Temple Mount, they saw a fox emerging from the place of the Holy of Holies. The others started weeping; Rabbi Akiva laughed. Said they to him: "Why are you laughing?" Said he to them: "Why are you weeping?" Said they to him: "A place [so holy] that it is said of it, 'the stranger that approaches it shall die,' and now foxes traverse it, and we shouldn't weep?" Said he to them: "That is why I laugh. For it is written, 'I shall have bear witness for Me faithful</p>	<p>שוב פעם אחת היו עולין לירושלים כיון שהגיעו להר הצופים קרעו בגדיהם כיון שהגיעו להר הבית ראו שועל שיצא מבית קדשי הקדשים התחילו הן בוכין ור"ע מצחק אמרו לו מפני מה אתה מצחק אמר להם מפני מה אתם בוכים אמרו לו מקום שכתוב בו (במדבר א) והזר הקרב יומת ועכשיו שועלים הלכו בו ולא נבכה אמר להן לכך אני מצחק דכתיב (ישעיהו</p>
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witnesses--Uriah the Priest and Zechariah the son of Jeberechiah.' Now what is the connection between Uriah and Zechariah? Uriah was [in the time of] the First Temple, and Zechariah was [in the time of] the Second Temple! But the Torah makes Zachariah's prophecy dependent upon Uriah's prophecy. With Uriah, it is written: 'Therefore, because of you, Zion shall be plowed as a field; [Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the Temple Mount like the high places of a forest.]' With Zachariah it is written, 'Old men and women shall yet sit in the streets of Jerusalem.'

"As long as Uriah's prophecy had not been fulfilled, I feared that Zechariah's prophecy may not be fulfilled either. But now that Uriah's prophecy has been fulfilled, it is certain that Zechariah's prophecy will be fulfilled."

With these words they replied to him: "Akiva, you have consoled us! Akiva, you have consoled us!"

(ח) ואעידה לי עדים נאמנים את אוריה הכהן ואת זכריה בן יברכיהו וכי מה ענין אוריה אצל זכריה אוריה במקדש ראשון וזכריה במקדש שני אלא תלה הכתוב נבואתו של זכריה בנבואתו של אוריה באוריה כתיב (מיכה ג) לכן בגללכם ציון שדה תחרש [וגו'] בזכריה כתיב (זכריה ח) עוד ישבו זקנים וזקנות ברחובות ירושלם עד שלא נתקיימה נבואתו של אוריה הייתי מתירא שלא תתקיים נבואתו של זכריה עכשיו שנתקיימה נבואתו של אוריה בידוע שנבואתו של זכריה מתקיימת בלשון הזה אמרו לו עקיבא ניחמתנו עקיבא ניחמתנו:

## 2. Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch - Bereishit 23:19 (p. 386-387)

...Jews are reproached with nothing more than their propensity to "do Business", to buy and sell, to bargain. Then it is really remarkable that when the compilers of our laws look through the scriptures to illustrate the legal form for sale and purchase, they can only find two examples, one the purchase of a grave here...and the other the purchase of a field which Jeremiah was commanded to buy (and have the deeds of possession and the title to it legally endorsed and witnessed I.L.) at the time when the Babylonian armies had already overrun the country and were at the gates of Jerusalem, and the downfall of the state was imminent, all in order to fortify confidence in the future. So that the examples of "business" are only those at the beginning, and at the end of our national existence.