

Isaiah, Ezekiel and Daniel (from *The Hebrew Bible* in English, published by the Jewish Publication Society of America, 1917 Edition. In contrast to the resignation in Ecclesiastes, in the sampling of verses from the Prophets Isaiah and Ezekiel, and from Daniel we are offered “hope” for a time when peace and justice would reign. Hope is sometimes personified in the figure of the Messiah, and sometimes linked to a coming of a messianic age, alternately conceived as either continuous with the present history or as an apocalyptic end of the world resulting in a new order. Source: Phillip Novak. *The World's Wisdom*. Edison, NJ: Castle Books. 1994:198.)

Isaiah

(The Messiah Will Usher In Universal Peace)

2:4 And He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

(The Messiah Will Bring Order, Justice and Peace)

11:1 And there shall come forth a shoot out of the stock of Jesse, and a twig shall grow forth out of his roots. **2** And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. **3** And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD; and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither decide after the hearing of his ears; **4** But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the land; and he shall smite the land with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. **5** And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. **6** And the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. **7** And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. **8** And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the basilisk's den. **9** They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

(An Image of the Dawning of the Messianic Age and the Restoration of Israel)

40:3 Hark! one calleth: 'Clear ye in the wilderness the way of the LORD, make plain in the desert a highway for our God. **4** Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; and the rugged shall be made level, and the rough places a plain; **5** And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.'

41:8 But thou, Israel, My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham My friend; **9** Thou whom I have taken hold of from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the uttermost parts thereof, and said unto thee: 'Thou art My servant, I have chosen thee and not cast thee away'; **10** Fear thou not, for I am with thee, be not dismayed, for I am thy God; I strengthen thee, yea, I help thee; yea, I uphold thee with My victorious right hand.

43:1 But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and He that formed thee, O Israel: Fear not, for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name, thou art Mine. **2** When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee, and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee; when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned, neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. **3** For I am the LORD thy God, The Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour; I have given Egypt as thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee. **4** Since thou art precious in My sight, and honourable, and I have loved thee; therefore will I give men for thee, and peoples for thy life. **5** Fear not, for I am with thee; I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; **6** I will say to the north: 'Give up,' and to the south: 'Keep not back, bring My sons from far, and My daughters from the end of the earth;

Ezekiel

(Suffering and Dispersion Will One Day End in Restoration)

36:8 But ye, O mountains of Israel, ye shall shoot forth your branches, and yield your fruit to My people Israel; for they are at hand to come. **9** For, behold, I am for you, and I will turn unto you, and ye shall be tilled and sown; **10** and I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, even all of it; and the cities shall be inhabited, and the waste places shall be builded; **11** and I will multiply upon you man and beast, and they shall increase and be fruitful; and I will cause you to be inhabited after your former estate, and will do better unto you than at your beginnings; and ye shall know that I am the LORD. **12** Yea, I will cause men to walk upon you, even my people Israel, and they shall possess thee, and thou shalt be their inheritance; and thou shalt no more henceforth bereave them of children. **13** Thus saith the Lord GOD: Because they say unto you: Thou land art a devourer of men, and hast been a bereaver of thy nations; **14** therefore thou shalt devour men no more, neither bereave thy nations any more, saith the Lord GOD; **15** neither will I suffer the shame of the nations any more to be heard against thee, neither shalt thou bear the reproach of the peoples any more, neither shalt thou cause thy nations to stumble any more, saith the Lord GOD.' **16** Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying: **17** 'Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their way and by their doings; their way before Me was as the uncleanness of a woman in her impurity. **18** Wherefore I poured out My fury upon them for the blood which they had shed upon the land, and because they had defiled it with their idols; **19** and I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed through the countries; according to their way and according to their doings I judged them. **20** And when they came unto the nations, whither they came, they profaned My holy name; in that men said of them: These are the people of the LORD, and are gone forth out of His land. **21** But I had pity for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations, whither they came. **22** Therefore say unto the house of Israel: Thus saith the Lord GOD: I do not this for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name, which ye have profaned among the nations, whither ye came. **23** And I will sanctify My great name, which hath been profaned among the nations, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the nations shall know that I am the

LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes. **24** For I will take you from among the nations, and gather you out of all the countries, and will bring you into your own land. **25** And I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean; from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. **26** A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. **27** And I will put My spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes, and ye shall keep Mine ordinances, and do them. **28** And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be My people, and I will be your God.

Daniel

(Name “Daniel” means “judged by God”; In Judaism Daniel is not considered one of the prophets, such as Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel. The Jewish criteria to be considered a “prophet” was that God spoke directly to a prophet and that the prophet’s message primarily addressed his contemporaries, though the message would resonate with future generations. God did not speak directly with Daniel, but through an angel, and Daniel’s vision was primarily directed at the future and not his generation. Interestingly, in all of the Apocalyptic literature, this is the only clear statement of a resurrection in the Jewish literature and the Old Testament. In this chapter, Daniel is given a vision of a future apocalyptic end of the world, the coming of Michael, the guardian angel of the people of God, and a day of resurrection. Note: in the Hebrew Bible, the text of Daniel ends with this message. But in the Greek text and Christian Bible, the text continues with chapter 13, the story of Susanna and the Judgement of Daniel, and chapter 14, the story of Bel and the Dragon and Lion Pit.)

12:1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince who standeth for the children of thy people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time; and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. **2** And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to reproaches and everlasting abhorrence. **3** And they that are wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn the many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.