

All of these passage portray a time of peace and blessing on the earth...a situation guaranteed by the physical presence of the Lord..and the sharp observation of His righteousness. This is thought of as an earthly kingdom for the demonstration of the rule of God.

2. Passages highlighting a time of great struggle preceding the age of blessing:

--Isaiah 24-27...one of the most important of the end times Scriptures in the whole of the Old Testament, the burden of this section is to show an enormous trial that will befall the land of Israel in particular and much of the earth in general before the blessed age is seen. The themes are interwoven in this section in a powerful way.

--Zechariah 14...what a struggle is displayed in this chapter! The Jews are almost annihilated until God steps in and brings to view a powerful deliverance. The end result of this deliverance is a time of peace and acceptance and any who are rebellious are dealt with sharply.

--Jeremiah 30:1-9...as the nation Israel seeks its deliverance it is put through a time of strife...known appropriately as the time of "Jacob's struggle." It will eventually result in deliverance and the restoration of rule that rightly pertains to God's people.

So here is a series of biblical portions that discuss a major trial coming to Israel as a nation before God can bring about the promised age of blessing.

These are the only aspects we are considering in this part of our class. Remember that much of the prophetic material in the Old Testament is settled about Israel's life in Canaan, the captivity predictions, and the expected Messiah.

C. End times patterns as seen in Messianic prophecy

This may seem a strange place to introduce this but I do so as it is an illustration of a point. Note two passages and their teaching:

1. Isaiah 9:6-7

A son is born His character displayed His kingdom established

2. Isaiah 49:5-12

A servant born A servant rejected A mission to the Gentiles
A restoration for Israel.

These prophecies are in no way contradictory but the illustrate a point. The prophet does not always show all parts of a prophetic picture in every portrayal. What is needed to see the picture clearly is the gathering of all the biblical data on the subject, the arrangement of it in terms of context and definition, and the synthesis of ideas that develop therefrom. No one passage states everything..that some items are missing from some passages doesnot negate the idea.