



## **The End of Days in Isaiah: Coming Soon (and Still Waiting)**

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Dr. Sommer's most recent book, *Revelation and Authority: Sinai in Jewish Scripture and Tradition* received the prestigious Goldstein-Goren Prize in Jewish Thought from Ben Gurion University for the years 2014-2016 and was a finalist for both for the National Jewish Book Award for 2015 and the Association for Jewish Studies' Jordan Schnitzer Prize for 2014-2016. An earlier book by Professor Sommer, *The Bodies of God and the World of Ancient Israel*, received the Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion in 2010 awarded by the American Academy of Religion, as well as the Jordan Schnitzer Award from the Association for Jewish Studies for the years 2006-2009. The first book Dr. Sommer published, *A Prophet Reads Scripture: Allusion in Isaiah 40-66*, was awarded the Salo Wittmayer Baron Prize by the American Academy of Jewish Research in 1998.

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## The End of Days in First Isaiah: Coming Soon (and Still Waiting)

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(Hebrew texts and JPS Translation)

ישעיה ב':<sup>1</sup> הדבר אשר חזה ישעיהו בן-אמוץ על־יהודה וירושלם:  
<sup>2</sup> והנה באחרית הימים נכון יהיה הר בית־ה' בראש ההרים ונשא מגבעות ונהרו אליו כל־הגוים:  
<sup>3</sup> והלכו עמים רבים ואמרו לכו ונעלה אל־הר־ה' אל־בית אֱלֹהֵי יַעֲקֹב וירגו מדרכיו ונלכה בארחתיו כי מציון תצא תורה ודבר־ה' מירושלם:  
<sup>4</sup> ושפט בין הגוים והוכיח לעמים רבים וכתתו חרבותם לאתים וחניתותיהם למזמרות לא־ישא גוי אל־גוי חרב ולא־ילמדו עוד מלחמה:

**Isaiah 2:** The word that Isaiah son of Amoz prophesied concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> In the days to come, The Mount of the LORD's House Shall stand firm above the mountains And tower above the hills; And all the nations Shall gaze on it with joy.

<sup>3</sup> And the many peoples shall go and say: "Come, Let us go up to the Mount of the LORD, To the House of the God of Jacob; That He may instruct us in His ways, And that we may walk in His paths." For instruction shall come forth from Zion, The word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup> Thus He will judge among the nations And arbitrate for the many peoples, And they shall beat their swords into plowshares And their spears into pruning hooks: Nation shall not take up Sword against nation; They shall never again know war.

⇒ Verse 3: What exactly does the word תורה mean here?

חגי ב':<sup>11</sup> כה אמר ה' צבאות שאל־נא את־הכהנים תורה לאמר:  
<sup>12</sup> הן | ישא־איש בשר־קדש בכנף בגדו ונגע בכנפו אל־הלקחם ואל־הנזיד ואל־היין ואל־שמן ואל־כל־מאכל  
הקדש ויענו הכהנים ויאמרו לא:  
<sup>13</sup> ויאמר חגי אם־יגע טמא־נפש בכל־אלה הִטְמָא ויענו הכהנים ויאמרו יטמא:

**Haggai 2:** <sup>11</sup> Thus said the LORD of Hosts: Seek a ruling from the priests, as follows:

<sup>12</sup> If a man is carrying sacrificial flesh in a fold of his garment, and with that fold touches bread, stew, wine, oil, or any other food, will the latter become holy? In reply, the priests said, "No."

<sup>13</sup> Haggai went on, "If someone defiled by a corpse touches any of these, will it be defiled?" And the priests responded, "Yes."

ירמיה י"ח: <sup>18</sup> ויאמרו לכו ונחשקה על-ידינו מהו מחשבות פי לא-תאבד תורה מפהו ועצה מחכם ודבר מנביא לכו ונפהו בלשון ואל-נקשיבה אל-כל-דברי:

**Jeremiah 18:** <sup>18</sup> They said, "Come let us devise a plot against Jeremiah -- for instruction shall not fail from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor oracle from the prophet. Come, let us strike him with the tongue, and we shall no longer have to listen to all those words of his."

דברים י"ז: <sup>8</sup> כי יפלא ממך דבר למשפט ביוֹדֵם לְדָם בְּיוֹדֵינוּ לְדוֹנוֹ וּבִין נָגַע לְנָגַע דְּבָרֵי רִיבֹת בְּשַׁעֲרֵיהָ וְנִמְתָּ וְעֵלִית אֶל-הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר יִבְחַר ה' אֱלֹהֶיהָ בּוֹ:  
<sup>9</sup> וּבָאת אֶל-הַכֹּהֲנִים הַלְוִיִּם וְאֶל-הַשֹּׁפֵט אֲשֶׁר יִהְיֶה בְּיָמֶיךָ וְדַרְשֶׁתָּ וְהִגִּידוּ לְךָ אֵת דְּבַר הַמִּשְׁפָּט:  
<sup>10</sup> וְעֵשִׂית עִלְ-פִּי הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר יִגִּידוּ לְךָ מִן-הַמָּקוֹם הַהוּא אֲשֶׁר יִבְחַר ה' וְשָׁמַרְתָּ לַעֲשׂוֹת כְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר יִרְוֶה:  
<sup>11</sup> עִלְ-פִּי הַתּוֹרָה אֲשֶׁר יִרְוֶה וְעִלְ-הַמִּשְׁפָּט אֲשֶׁר-יֵאמְרוּ לְךָ תַעֲשֶׂה לֹא תִסּוּר מִן-הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר-יִגִּידוּ לְךָ מִן וּשְׁמַאל:

**Deuteronomy 17:** <sup>8</sup> If a case is too baffling for you to decide, be it a controversy over homicide, civil law, or assault -- matters of dispute in your courts -- you shall promptly repair to the place that the LORD your God will have chosen,

<sup>9</sup> and appear before the levitical priests, or the magistrate in charge at the time, and present your problem. When they have announced to you the verdict in the case,

<sup>10</sup> you shall carry out the verdict that is announced to you from that place that the LORD chose, observing scrupulously all **their instructions** to you.

<sup>11</sup> You shall act in accordance with the **instructions** given you and the ruling handed down to you; you must not deviate from the verdict that they announce to you either to the right or to the left.

מלאכי ב': <sup>7</sup> כִּי-שִׁפְתֵי כֹהֵן יִשְׁמְרוּ-דַעַת וְתוֹרָה יִבְקֹשׁוּ מִפִּיהוּ כִּי מִלֶּאֱהָ ה'-צִבְאוֹת הוּא:

**Malachi 2:** <sup>7</sup> For the lips of a priest guard knowledge, And men seek **rulings** from his mouth; For he is a messenger of the LORD of Hosts.

ישעיה י"א: וְנִצָּא חֹטֵר מִגֹּזַע יִשְׂרָאֵל וְנִצָּר מִשְׁרָשָׁיו יִפְרָה וְנִנְחָה עָלָיו רוּחַ ה' רוּחַ חֲכָמָה וּבִינָה רוּחַ עֲצָה וּגְבוּרָה רוּחַ דַּעַת וְיִרְאַת ה':

<sup>3</sup> וְהִרְיָחוּ בִירְאֵת ה' וְלֹא-לְמַרְאֵה עֵינָיו יִשְׁפּוֹט וְלֹא-לְמִשְׁמַע אָזְנוֹ יוֹכִיחַ:

<sup>4</sup> וְשֹׁפֵט בְּצִדְקָה דְלִים וְהוֹכִיחַ בְּמִישׁוֹר לְעֵגְוֵי-אֲרָץ וְהִפְהֵ-אֲרָץ בְּשִׁבְט פִּיו וּבְרוּחַ שְׁפָתָיו יִמִּית רָשָׁע:

<sup>5</sup> וְהִנֵּה צִדְקָה אֲזוּר מִתְּנִי וְהֶאֱמַנְהָ אֲזוּר חֲלָצִיו:

<sup>6</sup> וְגַר זָאב עִם-כֶּבֶשׂ וְנֹמֵר עִם-גְּדִי יִרְבֹּץ וְעֹגֵל וְכַפִּיר וּמְרִיא יִחַדּוּ וְנַעַר קִטָּן נִהַג בָּם:

<sup>7</sup> וּפְרָה וְדָב תִּרְשָׁעִינָה יִחַדּוּ יִרְבְּצוּ וְלִדְיָהוּן וְאַרְיֵה כִּבְקָר יֹאכַל-תְּבָן:

<sup>8</sup> וְשַׁעֲשַׁע יוֹנֵק עִלְ-חֵר פֶּתֶן וְעַל מְאוֹרֹת צִפְעוֹנֵי גְמוּל יְדוּ הַדָּה:

<sup>9</sup> לֹא-יִרְעוּ וְלֹא-יִשְׁחִיתוּ בְכָל-חֵר קִדְשֵׁי כִּי-מִלְאָה הָאֲרָץ דַּעַה אֶת-ה' כַּמִּים לְיָם מְכַסִּים:

<sup>10</sup> וְהִנֵּה בַיּוֹם הַהוּא שָׂרֵשׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל עִמָּד לְגַם עַמִּים אֲלֵיו גּוֹיִם יִדְרָשׁוּ וְהִיָּתָה מְנַחְתּוֹ כְּבוֹד:

<sup>11</sup> וְהִנֵּה בַיּוֹם הַהוּא יוֹסִיף אֲדָנֵי שְׁנֵית יְדוּ לְקַנּוֹת אֶת-שְׂאֵר עַמּוֹ אֲשֶׁר יִשְׂאֵר מֵאֲשׁוּר וּמִמִּצְרַיִם וּמִפְתְּרוֹס וּמִכּוּשׁ וּמִעֵילָם וּמִשְׁנַעַר וּמִחֲמַת וּמֵאֵי הַיָּם:

<sup>12</sup> וְנִשָּׂא גַם לְגוֹיִם וְאָסַף נְדָחֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וּנְפֻצוֹת יְהוּדָה יִקְבֹּץ מֵאַרְבַּע כְּנֹפֹת הָאָרֶץ:  
<sup>13</sup> וְסָרָה קִנְיַת אֲפָרַיִם וְצַרְרֵי יְהוּדָה יִפְרֹתוּ אֲפָרַיִם לֹא־יִקְנֹא אֶת־יְהוּדָה וַיְהוּדָה לֹא־יִצַּר אֶת־אֲפָרַיִם:  
<sup>14</sup> וְעָפוּ בְּכַתְף פְּלִשְׁתִּים יָמָּה יִחַדּוּ יִבְזוּ אֶת־בְּנֵי־קֶדֶם אָדוֹם וּמוֹאָב מִשְׁלוּחַ יָדָם וּבְנֵי עַמּוֹן מִשְׁמַעְתָּם:  
<sup>15</sup> וְהִחָרִים ה' אֶת לְשׁוֹן יַם־מִצְרַיִם וְהִנְיִף יָדוֹ עַל־הַנְּהָר בְּעֵינֵם רוּחוֹ וְהִקְהוּ לְשִׁבְעָה נְחָלִים וְהִדְרִיף בְּנַעֲלִים:  
<sup>16</sup> וְהִיְתָה מִסְלָה לְשֹׁאֵר עַמּוֹ אֲשֶׁר יִשְׂאָר מֵאֲשׁוּר כִּאֲשֶׁר הִיְתָה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל בְּיוֹם עָלְתוֹ מֵאֲרֶץ מִצְרַיִם:

**Isaiah 11:** A shoot shall grow out of the stump of Jesse, A twig shall sprout from his stock.

<sup>2</sup> The spirit of the LORD shall alight upon him: A spirit of wisdom and insight, A spirit of counsel and valor, A spirit of devotion and reverence for the LORD.

<sup>3</sup> He shall sense the truth by his reverence for the LORD: He shall not judge by what his eyes behold, Nor decide by what his ears perceive.

<sup>4</sup> Thus he shall judge the poor with equity And decide with justice for the lowly of the land. He shall strike down a land with the rod of his mouth And slay the wicked with the breath of his lips.

<sup>5</sup> Justice shall be the girdle of his loins, And faithfulness the girdle of his waist.

<sup>6</sup> The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard lie down with the kid; The calf, the beast of prey, and the fatling together, With a little boy to herd them.

<sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze, Their young shall lie down together; And the lion, like the ox, shall eat straw.

<sup>8</sup> A babe shall play Over a viper's hole, And an infant pass his hand Over an adder's den.

<sup>9</sup> In all of My sacred mount Nothing evil or vile shall be done; For the land shall be filled with devotion to the LORD As water covers the sea.

<sup>10</sup> ¶ In that day, The stock of Jesse that has remained standing Shall become a standard to peoples -- Nations shall seek his counsel And his abode shall be honored.

<sup>11</sup> ¶ In that day, My Lord will apply His hand again to redeeming the other part of His people from Assyria -- as also from Egypt, Pathros, Nubia, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, and the coastlands.

<sup>12</sup> He will hold up a signal to the nations And assemble the banished of Israel, And gather the dispersed of Judah From the four corners of the earth.

<sup>13</sup> Then Ephraim's envy shall cease And Judah's harassment shall end; Ephraim shall not envy Judah, And Judah shall not harass Ephraim.

<sup>14</sup> They shall pounce on the back of Philistia to the west, And together plunder the peoples of the east; Edom and Moab shall be subject to them And the children of Ammon shall obey them.

<sup>15</sup> The LORD will dry up the tongue of the Egyptian sea. -- He will raise His hand over the Euphrates with the might of His wind and break it into seven wadis, so that it can be trodden dry-shod. <sup>16</sup> Thus there shall be a highway for the other part of His people out of Assyria, such as there was for Israel when it left the land of Egypt.

ישעיה י"ט: 18 ביום ההוא יהיו חמש ערים בארץ מצרים מדברות שפת כנען ונשבעות לה צבאות עיר ההרס  
יאמר לאחת:

19 ביום ההוא יהיה מזבח לה בתוך ארץ מצרים ומצבה אצל-גבולה לה:

20 והיה לאות ולעד לה צבאות בארץ מצרים כייצעקו אליה מפני לחצים וישלח להם מושיע ורב והצילם:

21 ונודע ה' למצרים וידעו מצרים את-ה' ביום ההוא ועבדו זבח ומנחה ונדרו-גדר לה ושלמו:

22 ונגף ה' את-מצרים נגף ורפוא ושובו עדה ונעתר להם ורפאם:

23 ביום ההוא תהיה מסלה ממצרים אשורה ובא-אשור במצרים ומצרים באשור ועבדו מצרים את-אשור:

24 ביום ההוא יהיה ישראל שלישיה למצרים ולאשור ברכה בקרב הארץ:

25 אשר ברכו ה' צבאות לאמר ברוך עמי מצרים ומעשה ידי אשור ונתתני ישראל:

**Isaiah 19:** 18 In that day, there shall be several towns in the land of Egypt speaking the language of Canaan and swearing loyalty to the LORD of Hosts; one shall be called Town of Heres.

19 ¶ In that day, there shall be an altar to the LORD inside the land of Egypt and a pillar to the LORD at its border.

20 They shall serve as a symbol and reminder of the LORD of Hosts in the land of Egypt, so that when the Egyptians cry out to the LORD against oppressors, He will send them a savior and champion to deliver them.

21 For the LORD will make Himself known to the Egyptians, and the Egyptians shall acknowledge the LORD in that day, and they shall serve *Him* with sacrifice and oblation and shall make vows to the LORD and fulfill them.

22 The LORD will first afflict and then heal the Egyptians; when they turn back to the LORD, He will respond to their entreaties and heal them.

23 ¶ In that day, there shall be a highway from Egypt to Assyria. The Assyrians shall join with the Egyptians and Egyptians with the Assyrians, and then the Egyptians together with the Assyrians shall serve the LORD.

24 ¶ In that day, Israel shall be a third partner with Egypt and Assyria as a blessing on earth;

25 for the LORD of Hosts will bless them, saying, "Blessed be My people Egypt, My handiwork Assyria, and My very own Israel."