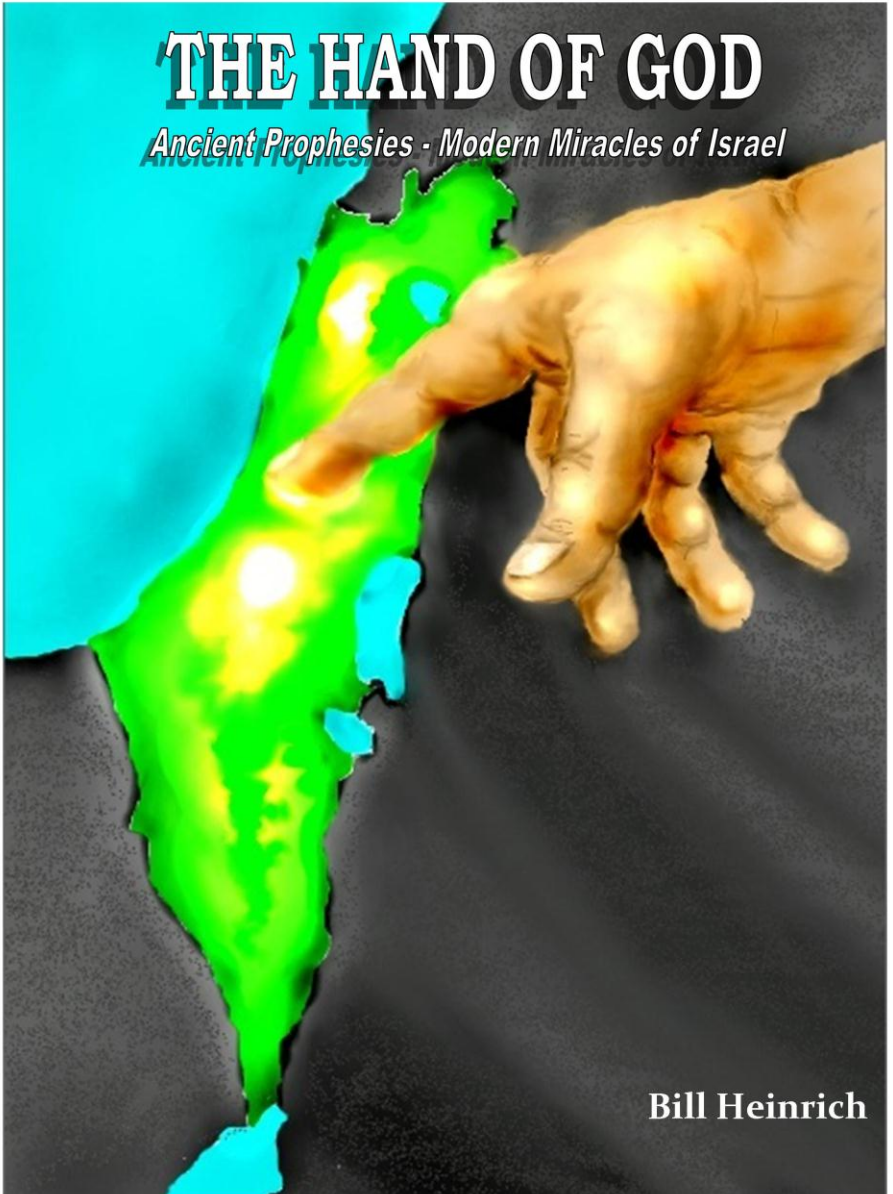


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# THE HAND OF GOD

*Ancient Prophecies - Modern Miracles of Israel*



Bill Heinrich

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**This book reveals biblical prophecies  
concerning the Jewish people that,  
to date, are either partially or  
completely fulfilled and  
thereby provide a  
witness to the  
world of  
God's  
faithfulness (Isaiah 43:9-12; 44:8)**

**A  
photographic  
presentation that challenges you to respond.**

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## THE HAND OF GOD: Ancient Prophecies – Modern Miracles in Israel

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## Why Should I Read This Book?

### Preface

What makes this book uniquely different from hundreds of other books on biblical prophecy? All too many writers have attempted to become speculators of future events that were presumably based on biblical passages. The result has been fuel for critics and an embarrassment for the Church. This book presents hard core evidence of what *has* happened or is in the process of developing and it thereby underscores the truthfulness of the Bible. It avoids the speculative and concentrates on **nearly forty prophecies that have been unquestionably fulfilled or are being fulfilled today**. The probability of so many ancient predictive writings, the most recent of which are two thousand years old, becoming a reality within the same short period of time (our generation), is absolutely mind-boggling. It is statistically impossible. If the evidence of biblical passages is found to be true, the question for the reader is, “How will you live your life?”

Galatians 4:4 indicates that in the “fullness of time” Jesus came to earth as the Christ child. It is this writer’s opinion that in the fullness of time Jesus will return. While there are strong opinions as to what may happen in the near future it is equally important not to be dogmatic, lest like so many others, we become fuel for critics and an embarrassment. There is ample evidence of God’s prophetic Scriptures being fulfilled in Israel today, so there is no need to venture into the world of speculation. This book is about what God has done and is doing in the Holy Land. It points to the evidence of truth that is laid out for the world to see at the eastern edge of the Mediterranean Sea. More than three dozen prophetic Scriptures, written between 2,000 and 3,500 years ago, either **have been literally fulfilled or are in the process of being fulfilled**. These fulfillments point to the Word of God as being a realistic entity that needs to be seriously considered. If God’s Word concerning the Jewish people and Israel is being fulfilled, then how does one deal with the instruction in God’s Word of how we should live our lives?

Most of these prophecies were written in the Old Testament, some copies of which have been found in Dead Sea Scrolls. The significance of the Scrolls is that they demonstrate that the Bible was accurately transferred from one copyist to another throughout the centuries. Therefore, the reader is faced with a mathematical probability: what is the likelihood that **more than three dozen prophecies**, written over a period of 15 centuries by different authors, would be fulfilled more than 2,000 years later at approximately the same time? Furthermore, these prophecies are all related to one particular group of people and their land. Since it is a statistical impossibility that so many prophetic utterances would be literally fulfilled, then the only logical conclusion is that there must be an Intelligent Being who orchestrated these events, or at least could see into the future and tell His prophets what to write.

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This book simply reports the fact that the Intelligent Being (God) is real and that His book, the Bible, is true. It presents historical and pictorial evidence concerning prophetic passages to support that conclusion. This then leads to another question: “If the Bible is true, how will I live my life?” If you believe that you can live your life any way you wish and that heaven and hell do not exist, you had better be right, especially since the Bible clearly states these two eternal abodes are realities. They are just as real today as are Israel and the Jews. You may not *want* to believe in a place called hell, but that does not mean it does not exist. There is a cliché that says, “Decisions determine destiny.” Whatever your decision, understand that ultimately you cannot escape truth. This writer suggests you consider the alternative plan of life that is offered at the end of this book.

The Greek philosopher Porphyry (AD 234?–305?) was highly critical of biblical prophecies. He concluded that so-called prophecies were written by religious leaders after the events occurred to manipulate the masses to believe their God was real. In particular, the prophetic book of Daniel was so accurate in its foreknowledge that the atheistic Porphyry said it was humanly impossible for Daniel to have written it. Porphyry was right, but he ignored the factor of Divine inspiration. Unfortunately, Porphyry’s theory is popular today in mainline denominations as well as with a growing number of evangelicals. Therefore, this text reveals nearly four dozen recent events of predictive Scripture that cannot be ignored or “explained away” by any interpretation other than they have been fulfilled or are in the process of fulfillment by God Himself. The statistical probability that these would occur at about the same time after more than two millennia of predictions of various authors who themselves were spread over fifteen centuries (Moses 1450 BC to New Testament Era 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD), is unimaginable. The only conclusion is that there must be a “God factor” involved in these events.

### **Acknowledgements**

I am gratefully thankful to my lovely wife, Paivi, for her encouragement and sacrifice of many hours while I was buried in research and computer activities. No work can be published without the insightful assistance of dedicated friends and scholars. Whatever merits this work has are theirs and the errors are mine.

“About the Time of the End, a body of men will be raised up who will turn their attention to the prophecies, and insist upon their literal interpretation, in the midst of much clamor and opposition.”

- Sir Isaac Newton

What would you do if there was repeated  
evidence that the Bible is true?

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## Chapter 1

### The Scattering

The entire Bible – from the Garden in Genesis (Ch. 2 & 3) to the new heaven and new earth in Revelation (Ch. 21) – is a love story. It is a story of God who created man and desires to have a relationship with him. However, man has so often decided to live his life his own way, and be his own god. He was given rules to obey that would bless and prosper him, but if he disobeyed there would be consequences (ie., Deut. 28). In essence, man has always had to decide between two options: to obey or to disobey. Decisions determine destiny. This is true for nations as well as individuals.

The Old Testament book of Judges records the story of the Hebrew Children (former name of the Jews) when they repeatedly decided not to follow God's commands. This resulted in suffering and being defeated by their enemies. When they repented God graciously forgave and prospered them. However, eventually they lived their lives in their own way again. The cycle continued thirteen times.

In the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC, the ten northern Hebrew/Israelite tribes (collectively known as Israel) established their own religious system. God became so furious with them that He permitted the Assyrians to conquer and deport them to the east. Later, in the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC, when the two southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin sinned, God permitted the Babylonians to capture and deport them to Babylon where they became slaves. However, seventy years later God permitted them to return.

While these deportations were significant, the worst was yet to come. The Old Testament prophets predicted a scattering that was beyond anything the Jews had experienced by the first century, and they knew it. Therefore, in the time of Jesus, they tried desperately to prevent it by strict observance of their Oral Laws, but to no avail. Biblical predictions included their being outcasts from the synagogues, being subjects of horror and mockery, having their land become desolate and being without a king for many years. In essence, they would live in misery without a home or country and wander aimlessly throughout the earth. This is precisely what happened. The literal fulfillment of those prophetic passages is described in the following pages.

All this occurred as the result of the Jewish leadership rejecting their Messiah - Jesus. As punishment, God permitted a final scattering to take place. This was accomplished when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem in AD 70 and again in AD 135. Thousands were slaughtered and survivors were sold into slavery. Some were sent into the mines of Egypt, others became oarsmen chained in Roman war ships and still others found themselves in every unimaginable occupation. So many Jews saturated the slave markets that they became nearly worthless. Only a remnant token remained in the land.

## 1. The Demise of Three Villages

**“Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes ... And you Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths.”**

**Matthew 11:21, 23a**

The ruins of three villages known as Capernaum, Chorazin, and Bethsaida are located along the northern edge of the Sea of Galilee. They formed the points of the “evangelical triangle” where Jesus performed many miracles and taught the people of the coming Kingdom of God.

While He grew up in Nazareth, He relocated to Capernaum, from which He traveled to do most of His healing and teaching (Mt. 4:13). In this village along the Sea of Galilee, He attended the local synagogue and performed numerous miracles such as healing the mother-in-law of Peter (Mk. 1:29-31) and healing a demoniac (Mk. 1:23-26). He was there so often that eventually He called the village His own town (Mt. 9:1). Yet after repeated miracles and teachings, local citizens chose not to believe Him to be the Messiah. Consequently, in due time, destruction would fall upon them. However, in spite of the destructive prophetic judgment, the villages continued to thrive for centuries as if the words of Jesus were meaningless.

Capernaum survived both the First and Second Jewish Revolts (AD 66-70, 132-135). In 363 the synagogue in which Jesus ministered and many homes were destroyed by an earthquake. Today’s visitors see the grandeur of a reconstructed synagogue that historians believe may have been financed by Emperor Julian “the Apostate” who rejected Christianity and was determined to disprove biblical prophecies.

However, in the seventh century profound changes occurred. In 636 Jerusalem surrendered to Muslims and four years later Capernaum was partially destroyed by raiding Muslims. Yet the words of Jesus were not fulfilled until January 18, 749 when a massive earthquake destroyed it and several other villages. The people of Capernaum, Chorazin and Bethsaida deserted their homes and these villages became ghost towns. Since the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century many other ruined towns and villages in Israel were rebuilt, but these three villages remain in ruins.

Sodom and Gomorrah and their three sister villages were also cursed and remain desolate. Likewise, the ancient city of Jericho remains desolate, although a new village with the same name was built a short distance from the original, and it was there where Jesus healed the blind Bartimaeus.

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The 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD synagogue walls stand upon a foundation of the previous synagogue where Jesus taught. The ruins reflect the fulfillment of the words of Jesus and some Jews lived there for centuries after the dispersion.



The author's family admires the grandeur of the partially reconstructed synagogue built with massive blocks of limestone.

## 2. Israel Symbolized by a Dead Fig Tree

Seeing the fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, "May you never bear fruit again." Immediately the tree withered.

**Matthew 21:19**

The fig tree (*figus carica*) was symbolic of both the king and people of Israel since the early days of the judges. It was also a symbol of hope as well as divine prophetic warnings.

Modern readers often question why an innocent tree was cursed. In Israel when the fig tree begins a new growth cycle, the first figs are known as *early figs* or *green figs* (Heb. *pa-ge*). They sprout forth quickly and the tree continues to produce fruit three times a year. In this case, when Jesus walked by the tree it had not yet produced the early figs (cf. Micah 7:1; Nahum 3:12). It is the only tree in the Middle East where the fruit appears *before* the leaves in early spring.

While both the early fruit and later fruit are figs, the taste is clearly different. The early figs appear only for a brief period, and clusters of the later figs ripen throughout the year. Mark referred to the latter fruit since this is the fruit that would be eaten by travelers along the roads.

The fig tree is a well established symbol of Israel in the Old Testament (Hos. 9:10; Na. 3:12). For generations, rabbis would sit under the tree and teach their students. As the students would "eat the word of Scripture," they would also enjoy some tasty figs. Just as the rabbis taught under the fig tree, so Israel was to be the nation that was to spread the Word of God throughout the world. It failed and the proverbial fig tree was cursed.

The imagery was used by Amos (Ch. 8) when God referred to His people as the "summer fruit" that would be destroyed. The tree Jesus cursed had an abundance of leaves and gave the appearance of being fruitful, but was barren. Israel was the same -- the religious nation gave the appearance of being full of life but was, in fact, a barren people.

Interestingly, the accounts of the fig tree are placed on either side of the cleansing of the temple, a structure that represented God to Israel and the nations. Not only did it fail to do so, but it also was about to condemn the Messiah. The fig tree story had full significance in A.D. 70 when the temple was destroyed and judgment fell upon the Jewish nation. When Jesus spoke these words, he was announcing the coming judgment upon the spiritually dead religious leaders. Three parables follow which also condemned them.

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The branch of a fig tree displays the early figs before leaves mature. Jesus cursed the fig tree because it did not produce the fruit when it was supposed to, an action symbolic of the curse that would destroy the Jewish people and evict them from their homeland.

A late first century book known as *The Apocalypse* (or *Revelation*) of Peter is an account of a discussion (cf. Mt. 24) that took place as Jesus was on the Mount of Olives with all of His disciples. There He gave His famous Olivet Discourse. According to this *Apocalypse*, the disciple Peter recorded the following words concerning the discussion.

And I, Peter, answered and said to him, “Explain to me concerning the fig tree, and how shall we perceive it, for throughout all its days does the fig tree sprout and every year it brings forth its fruit (and) for its master. What does the parable of the fig tree mean? We do not understand.” And the Master answered and said unto me, “Do you not understand that the fig tree is the house of Israel? Even as a man had planted a fig tree in his garden and it brought forth no fruit, and he looked for its fruit for many years. When he did not find it he said to the keeper of his garden ‘Uproot the tree that our land may not be unfruitful for us.’”

*Apocalypse of Peter* Ch. 2 <sup>1</sup>

### **3. You Will be Evicted from the Synagogue.**

Jesus said these words to His disciples. Some have argued that these words referred to His followers, while others suggest they were intended for the Jewish people. However, an overview of history reveals that persecution has frequently followed both Jews and Christians who were true to their faith. Jewish believers today are rejected in Israel. Notice His words,

**“Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.”**

**Matthew 24:9**

**“They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God.”**

**John 16:2**

Matthew quoted Jesus as having said, “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me” (Mt. 24:9). John was more informative in saying, “They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God” (Jn. 16:2). These words were addressed to His disciples who were Jewish. Therefore, the question today is whether His words can be applied to Jews or Christians or both.

What can be historically confirmed is that the Jewish people have been persecuted for centuries because of their faith. Likewise, Christians have been persecuted for their faith. Unfortunately, since the closing days of the apostles, many so-called Christians have persecuted the Jewish people, believing that since God condemned them, they could do likewise. This persecution was based on the erroneous doctrine of replacement theology. The Holocaust can, without question, be considered the culmination of planned genocides for the persecuted Jews. Throughout the centuries many have tried to kill the Jews, but Adolf Hitler’s hatred for them was formulated into a planned genocide.

Hitler declared his calling to have been divinely inspired and said, “I believe that I am acting in accordance with the will of the Almighty Creator: by defending myself against the Jew, I am fighting for the work of the Lord.” Today he is no longer with us and the Jewish people are thriving in Israel. Yet he has been replaced by hundreds of radical Islamic Imams who have committed themselves to a similar calling – a calling upon the name of Allah to kill all the Jews. Their quest has nothing to do with the establishment of a Palestinian state, but rather, to restore the dignity that Allah lost when the Jewish state was founded.

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In 1475 Jews were burned alive in Trent, Germany because they refused to convert to Catholicism.



Jesus was depicted in Nazi art as carrying the Swastika instead of the Cross. The image caused little, if any, protest from the German Church.

#### **4. The Jews Were Broken off Because of Their Unbelief.**

In the centuries that have passed since the Temple was destroyed in 70 AD, the Jewish people have maintained their unique identity. Yet they have also become involved in many religious systems. The Apostle Paul said that the Jews were broken off from God's blessings because they rejected their Messiah Jesus. In the intervening centuries they have become agnostics, atheists, mystics, New Agers and a variety of orthodox and ultra-orthodox Jews. Interestingly, seven centuries before Christ, the Prophet Ezekiel indicated God promised that, "I will sprinkle clean water on you and you will be clean" (36:25), meaning He would restore their faith.

**"They (the Jews) were broken off because of unbelief."**

**Romans 11:20**

Today the influence of Judaism in Israeli culture is largely ceremonial. It is estimated that approximately 80 percent of the Israeli Jews are secular, meaning they are either atheistic or agnostic. Yet nearly all are married and buried by orthodox rabbis, all celebrate the feast holidays of the Old Testament, and all sing traditional songs based upon biblical passages. For them Judaism is not a biblical faith but a cultural tradition. It was not always like that.

As a reaction to the restrictive rabbinic legalism that had become established in 18<sup>th</sup> century Europe, when the Age of the Enlightenment became popular, many Jewish youths left their orthodox faith and became agnostic or atheistic. Eventually, to fill their spiritual void some became involved in numerous cultic/occult belief systems such as the Kabala (a Jewish mysticism), yoga, New Age, astrology, Taoism, self-actualization, and other various mysticisms. Others just became involved in a Western materialistic culture as did many Christians.

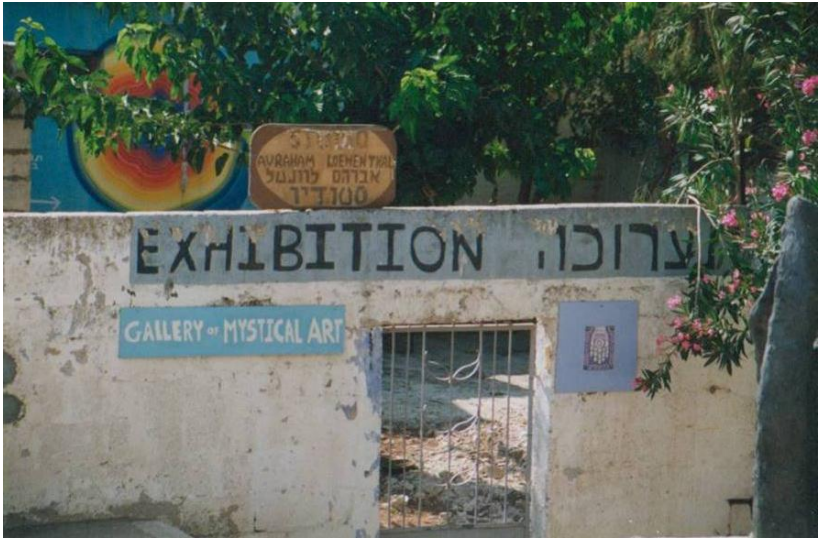
Of these cults, millions believe in reincarnation as taught in the Kabala book known as the *Zohar*, a massive text of 23 volumes. Nearly all Chassidic Jews and the majority of Orthodox Jews believe that Kabala and the *Zohar* are valid Jewish teachings. It claims to teach insight into the secret knowledge of God and the laws of the physical universe.

Among the extremely conservative ultra-orthodox Jews are the Lubavitchers. Many of this 200,000 member sect believe that the late Rabbi Schneerson is their messiah. Instead of focusing their faith on the Jewish Bible (Old Testament), they base their theology and doctrines on a book called *Tanya*.

Today a majority of Israelis have rejected Judaism but respect their heritage and culture. Never have Jewish people held such a wide variety of religious viewpoints as they do today. However, the Lord will one day cleanse them because He is a covenant-keeping God.

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The entrance to an exhibition of a mystical art studio in the northern Israeli city of Sefed, a city that has long been known as the center of Kabala mysticism.



A New Age worshiper meditates on a mountain rock in the Negev Desert of southern Israel. One of the largest annual gatherings is a New Age retreat in the Negev Desert.

## 5. Jerusalem Was Destroyed by Gentiles

Jesus said the destruction would come because the Jewish leadership not only failed to recognize Him as their Messiah, but they also rejected Him (Lk. 19:44). While Jesus did not indicate when these events would occur, forty years later in AD 70, – the time span of a generation – the Roman army led by General Titus devastated the city, destroyed the Temple, and slaughtered thousands. While it is often said that the Jews at this time were disbursed into various nations, the statement is only partially true. Many were taken as slaves to other parts of the Roman Empire. However, after peace was restored the Jews rebuilt Jerusalem and by the early second century planned to rebuild the temple.

**“The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another.”**

**Luke 19:43-44a**

**“Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.”**

**Luke 21:24**



Stones that once were a part of the temple where Jesus taught now lay beside the retaining wall of the Temple Mount. In AD 70 the Romans disassembled the temple believing that gold was hidden between the stones.

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After peace was restored in AD 73, the Jewish people rebuilt their Holy City. However, in AD 132 Simon Bar Kokhba declared himself to be the messiah and initiated the Second Jewish Revolt. In response, Emperor Hadrian and his Roman Legions destroyed Jerusalem again, killing thousands. Only in the distant countryside such as in Tiberias were they permitted to remain.

Hadrian's unfortunate legacy is the name he applied to the Jewish land. He called it *Palestina*, in honor of the Philistines. He did not originate it because it was used previously by the Greeks to degrade the Jews. However, he did popularize it and it has since been an anti-Semitic curse word. In AD 135, the revolt was crushed and the Church in Jerusalem had changed from Jewish leadership to Gentile leadership. Prior to this time there were no Gentile names in Church records; afterwards there were no Jewish names recorded.

Nonetheless, throughout the countryside there has always been a Jewish presence as revealed by archaeology, manuscripts and cemeteries. For example, the oral "traditions of the elders" of Matthew 15:1-2 were recorded in Tiberias in the second century, and today this volume is known as the *Mishnah*. Later in the 5<sup>th</sup> century, a commentary on the *Mishnah* was written in the same city and is known as the *Jerusalem Talmud*. For centuries the Jewish high court, the Sanhedrin, met in Tiberias. Another example is the walls of the 4<sup>th</sup> century (AD) synagogue in Capernaum frequently visited by tourists (see page 11). None of these events would have occurred had the Jews been totally evicted from the land.



A Roman coin illustrates the fulfilled prophecy of Jesus. The coin, minted after the destruction of Jerusalem, highlights a victorious Roman centurion standing behind a defeated Jewish woman who symbolized the Jewish land of Judah.

## **6. The Jewish People Were Scattered among the nations**

The Jewish leadership rejected Jesus as their Messiah and consequently they lost custody of their land and were scattered to the four corners of the world. This prophecy was fulfilled by the Jewish people themselves when they revolted against their Roman overlords in AD 66-70 and again in 132-135. The prophecy of this event was made by Moses nearly fifteen centuries before the birth of Jesus. Other prophets made similar predictions.

**“I will scatter you among the nations and will draw out my sword and pursue you. Your land will be laid waste and your cities will lie in ruins.”**

**Leviticus 26:33 (see also Deut. 28:64a)**

**“Therefore, Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.”**

**Micah 5:3**

**“There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people. They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.”**

**Luke 21:23b-24**

The sufferings endured by the Jewish people during the Roman siege of Jerusalem in AD 70 are beyond imagination. General Titus was determined to kill the Jews either by the sword or starvation. Yet Moses had given a description of how his descendants would respond. While the city had been besieged numerous times previously, never until the Romans arrived had they been so desperate that they literally became cannibalistic. Moses predicted,

**It shall besiege you in all your towns until your high and fortified walls in which you trusted come down throughout your land, and it shall besiege you in all your towns throughout your land which the LORD your God has given you. Then you shall eat the offspring of your own body, the flesh of your sons and of your daughters whom the LORD your God has given you, during the siege and the distress by which your enemy will oppress you.**

**Deut. 28:52-53**

Without question this was one of the darkest times in Jewish history. The people were so incredibly destitute that, according to the first century

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witness and historian Josephus, some would steal food out of the mouths of others in their own family. Others terrorized those suspected of harboring food in their homes. He also stated that at no time in history had such wickedness fallen upon his people. A brief segment of his detailed account is this:

**Now of those perished by famine in the city, the number was prodigious and the miseries they underwent were unspeakable; for if so much as a shadow of any kind of food did anywhere appear, a war was commenced presently; and the dearest friends fell fighting one with another about it, snatching from each other the most miserable supports of life.**

**Josephus *Wars* 6.3.3**

Among the many descriptions of misery he recorded, is the account of a mother who devoured her own child.

**She then attempted a most unnatural thing; and snatching up her son who was a child sucking at her breast, she said, “O thou miserable infant! For whom shall I preserve thee in this war, this famine ...? Come now, be thou my food....”**

**Josephus *Wars* 6.3.4**

The first century historian Josephus described the horrible act, and recorded the unimaginable prediction of Moses that was fulfilled (Deut. 28:52-53).

At various times some rabbis attempted to bring a congregation back to the land, often to escape persecution. A few succeeded but most failed. Those who returned found life to be extremely difficult as the land was relatively unproductive. In the year 1500 there were an estimated 10,000 living in the Sefed region of northern Palestine (Israel). In 1563 the first printing press on the Asian continent was established in Sefed, obviously a sign of a significant Jewish population that was both literate and industrious. The return continued sporadically, but it was not until the 19<sup>th</sup> century when they began to return to their Promised Land en mass. By 1886 a police force was established in Jerusalem, a fire department in the mid-1890s, a municipal hospital in 1891 and between 1897 and 1916 Arabic newspapers appeared. From the time of the 6<sup>th</sup> century Babylonian conquest until today, the Jews had independence for merely a century (160-63 BC). During the intervening centuries they were occupied by some fourteen different governments. The prophecy of the scattering was literally fulfilled, and when in God’s judgment that scattering was to end, the Jewish people began returning home.

## 7. The Jews will be a Subject of Scorn and Ridicule

Throughout history, as the Jewish people were scattered from one nation to another, they have suffered incredible humiliation, usually at the command of both Muslim and Church leaders.

**“You will become a thing of horror and an object of scorn and ridicule to all the nations where the Lord will drive you.”**

**Deuteronomy 28:37 (see also 28:66)**

Local governments often placed legal and social restrictions on the Jewish people. For example, they were at times required to wear identifying hats and/or badges and synagogues had to be lower in height and elevation than mosques. They were prohibited from riding a horse, donkey or camel when in the presence of a Muslim. When they encountered a Muslim, they had to dismount and after the Muslim passed by, they could remount and continue. If they failed to comply the Arab beat them. In some communities, if a Jew passed a Muslim, it had to be on the Muslim's left side as it was believed to be Satan's side. Jews were ordered to clean public toilets and remove dead animals off the streets with no regard to the Sabbath. They lived in a constant fear of attack and were often spat upon in the marketplace. Where Christians ruled, church leaders adopted and enforced Muslim restrictions upon Jews. These restrictions added to the existing anti-Semitic feelings in their communities.



A Medieval woodcut illustrates a Jew with a forked tongue to impress upon the reader that Jews are of the devil and are constant deceivers.

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Unfortunately, the days of ridicule and scorn were not confined to the Dark Ages. Throughout history there have been those who desired a greater evil and attempted to put an end to the Jewish people, as well as to those who were true followers of Christ. While there has been persecution of both groups, more Jews and Christians were martyred in the past century than in the past nineteen centuries combined. Jesus predicted the day would come when some would think they were doing God a service by killing His Chosen People.

**“They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God.”**

**John 16:2**



The Nazi belt buckle reads “God with us,” which was worn by soldiers who killed Jews.

On January 30, 1933, Hitler became the German Chancellor and within three months he established the first concentration camp at Dachau. The results of his demonic leadership are legendary, resulting in the deaths of millions of Christians and Jews. His actions against them were founded by this statement, “I believe that I am acting in accordance with the will of the Almighty Creator: by defending myself against the Jew, I am fighting for the work of the Lord.”<sup>1</sup> As such he was one of many who fulfilled the prophetic words of John 16:2. As would be eventually revealed, he also planned to remove all the Jews from the Holy Land with the help of the Grand Mufti Hussein of Jerusalem.

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<sup>1</sup> Glock and Stark, xv.



## 8. The Land Will be Desolated During the Diaspora

When touring Israel today it is difficult to imagine that a major portion of the country was once heavily forested (1 Sam. 22:5; 2 Sam. 6, 8, 17). In fact, trees needed to be cleared to build settlements and establish agriculture (Josh. 17:15, 18). From Jewish writings and the first century historian, Josephus, we know that in the first century the land was very productive. However, after the Jews were scattered (living in the Diaspora) the land became increasingly desolate until they returned. Hence, the prophetic words of Moses were again fulfilled.

**“Now the generation to come, your sons who rise up after you and the foreigner who comes from a distant land, when they see the plagues of the land and the diseases with which the Lord has afflicted it, will say, ‘All its land is brimstone and salt, a burning waste, unsown and unproductive, and no grass grows on it, like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboiim, which the Lord overthrew in His anger and in His wrath. And all the nations shall say, “Why has the Lord done thus to this land? Why this great outburst of anger?”**

**“Then men shall say, because they forsook the covenant of the Lord, the God of their fathers, which He made with them when He brought them out of the land of Egypt. And they went as served other gods and worshiped them, gods whom they have not known and whom He had not allotted to them. Therefore, the anger of the Lord burned against that land, to bring upon it every curse which is written in this book, and the Lord uprooted them from their land in anger and in fury and in great wrath, and caste them into another land, as it is this day.”**

**Deuteronomy 29:22-28 (see also Lev. 26:32-33)**

According to the Bible, the land promised for the Jews was bountiful upon their arrival and remained bountiful when they occupied it. The bountiful food supply was described in the year AD 95 by the first century historian Flavius Josephus, who wrote the following description:

The country also that lies over against this lake has the same name of Gennesaret; its nature is wonderful as well as its beauty. Its soil is so fruitful that all sorts of trees can grow upon it, and the inhabitants accordingly plant all sorts of trees there; for the temper of the air is so well mixed that it agrees very well with those several sorts, particularly

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walnuts which require the coldest air flourish there in vast plenty; there the palm trees also, which grow best in hot air; fig trees and olives grow near them which yet require an air that is more temperate. One may call this place the ambition of nature, where it forces those plants that are naturally enemies to one another to agree together.

Josephus *Wars*, 3.10.8 <sup>2</sup>

In the centuries that followed the land deteriorated and agriculture suffered immensely. Land that once exported large volumes of olive oil, wheat and other foods could hardly sustain itself. The words of the historian are enlightening when compared to those of Mark Twain who toured the land in 1867. He recorded the following description,

Israel is a desolate country whose soil is rich enough, but is given over wholly to weeds - a silent mournful expanse ... We have never seen a human being on the whole route ... There was hardly a tree or a shrub anywhere. Even the olive and the cactus, those fast friends of worthless soil, had almost deserted the country.

In the Jezreel Valley there is not a solitary village throughout its whole extent.... Come to Galilee ... that melancholy ruin of Capernaum, this stupid village of Tiberius ... We reached Tabor safely. We never saw a human being the whole route.

Mark Twain *Innocents Abroad*, 358-59

Twain not only described the desolate conditions of the land, but also stated that there was hardly a human being encountered in his journey. While he was not necessarily a devoutly religious writer, he clearly set forth his opinion that a divine curse was visible upon the land.

The desolation he described began in the second century and escalated during the control of the Ottoman Empire (1517-1917). The Ottomans were absentee landlords who eventually placed a tax on trees in Palestine. To avoid taxation, the peasant farmers cut them, thus making the land more barren. However, the major desolation came in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century when the Ottoman Empire contracted with a Belgium company to build a railroad line through the Jordan Valley to carry pilgrims from Istanbul to Mecca and Medina.

The line had a series of branch lines connecting to cities such as Jerusalem, Tiberias and Haifa, but its primary purpose was for religious pilgrimages. The construction and subsequent operation of the trains deforested

the land of any remaining trees except for a forest near Nazareth, one in the Galilee Mountains and one near Mount Carmel. Whatever trees survived the previous taxation were cut and used for railroad ties and fuel for the steam engines. Since the Middle East has no natural coal reserves, trees became a valued commodity. Hence, by the time the Ottomans lost control of the Middle East in 1917, it was completely desolated, much more so than was described by Mark Twain.

However, Twain was not alone in his observations. Since the British had occasion to travel to Palestine, officially and unofficially, they made a number of insightful reports. In 1913 the British Palestine Royal Commission made the following report concerning the inhabitants along the Mediterranean coast. It stated that,

“The road leading from Gaza to the north was only a summer track suitable for transport by camels and carts ... no orange groves, orchards or vineyards were to be seen until reached Yabna Village ... not in a single village in all this area was water used for irrigation .... Houses were all of mud. No windows were anywhere to be seen ... the ploughs used were of wood... the [crop] yields were very poor ... the sanitary conditions in the village were horrible. Schools did not exist ... the rates of infant mortality were very high .... The western part, towards the sea, was almost a desert...the villages in this area were few and thinly populated. Many ruins of villages were scattered over the area, as owing to the presence of malaria; many villages were deserted by their inhabitants.”<sup>3</sup>

- 1913 British Palestine Royal Commission Report

Interestingly, in the first century Josephus said the land produced sufficient food supplies for exportation. It is a well-known historical fact that the Romans exported wheat, olives, and figs from Galilee and Judah throughout the Empire, but mostly to Rome. However, by the early 1900s the British reported the agricultural potential to be incredibly poor because observers said the crop “yields were very poor.” Nonetheless, as will be shown, when the Jews returned they applied scientific principles to the barren land to transform it into the most productive land (per acre) in the world. In addition, the discoveries related to agricultural research have benefited people worldwide, especially those living in arid and semi-arid climates.

The message of Ezekiel is that God desires to “return” His people to their Promised Land, where He will “restore” them and in the process “redeem” them. The hand of God performing miracles is an object lesson of His desire to have all humanity return to Him, so that He can restore them in His image (character) in the process of redemption. His ultimate purpose is that all men and women chose salvation through Christ Jesus.

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## 9. Israel Will be without a King for Many Days

When first written, this prediction was worrisome because in ancient times, people without a king were under the subjection or enslavement of a foreign monarch or dictator.

**“For the sons of Israel will remain for many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar and without ephod or household idols. Afterward the sons of Israel will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king; and they will come trembling to the LORD and to His goodness in the last days.”**

### Hosea 3:4-5

Hosea lived in the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC and wrote prior to the Assyrian invasion and the relocation of the ten northern Israelite tribes to the east. His prediction of days without a monarch and the loss of sacrifice, meaning no temple sacrifice, has at times been interpreted as meaning the 70 year span between Solomon’s Temple destruction and the reconstructed second temple (586-516 BC). It was during that time that the Jews of Judah were taken captive by the Babylonians.

However, the phrase “many days” (Heb. *yamim rabbim*) in verse 4 is an idiomatic expression denoting a long indefinite time period. For centuries, meaning “many days,” the Jewish people wandered from nation to nation, often being evicted from one and left to search desperately for another. Therefore, Hosea could not have referred to the seven decades between the two temples, but to the centuries that followed after the second temple’s destruction in AD 70.

Furthermore, Hosea predicted that for a long time his people would have not a king or prince, would not have opportunity for temple worship (sacrifice and sacred stones) and no ephod (a reference to Urim and Thummin in 1 Sam. 23:9-12; 30:7-8). Hosea also said they would be without their idols, something they were cured of during their stay in Babylon.

Later he said that “after two days he (God) will revive us; on the third day he will restore us that we may live in his presence” (6:2). According to 2 Peter 3:8 one day equals a thousand years. There has been some debate as to when the time era of “two days” begins. But it is agreed that after 2,000 years there shall be a restoration of the Jewish people to their land and a restoration of worship in the temple. What is universally agreed upon is that today we are near the end of the second day. World events of the past century seem to indicate that the transition from the “second day” to the “third day” has begun.

## 10. The Eastern Gate Will be Shut

The Prophet Ezekiel prophesied that the Eastern Gate of Jerusalem would remain shut until the Messiah comes. More specifically, he said,

**“Then He brought me back by the way of the outer gates of the sanctuary, which faces the east; and it was shut. And the Lord said to me, “This gate shall be shut; it shall not be opened, and no one shall enter it, for the Lord God of Israel has entered by it; therefore it shall be shut.” As for the prince, he shall sit in it as prince to eat bread before the Lord; he shall enter by way of the porch of the gate and shall go out by the same way.”**

**Ezekiel 44:1-3**



In 1514 Muslim authorities sealed the Eastern Gate and placed a cemetery in front of it to prevent the Messiah from entering Jerusalem.

The prophecy was written in the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC, but it was not until the 16<sup>th</sup> century AD that the gate was permanently closed. It was this gate through which Jesus rode His donkey on Palm Sunday. Both Jews and Christians believe that one day their Messiah will ride again through this gate.

Over the centuries the walls and gates became dilapidated, but in 1538, the Ottoman monarch Suleiman the Magnificent rebuilt the walls and gates. However, when he was told of the Messianic prophecies of the Christians and Jews, he sealed the Eastern Gate and placed a cemetery in front of it with the belief that the Messiah would never defile Himself by walking across a cemetery, nor would He be able to penetrate a stone wall. Hence, the Eastern Gate was permanently closed, thus fulfilling the first part of Ezekiel's prophecy.

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## 11. False Christs and False Prophets Continue to Appear

**“For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect – if that were possible.”**

**Matthew 24:24**

Over the years Judaism had its share of false messiahs (christs) and the Church had an abundance of false prophets who attempted to predict the end of the world or the return of Christ. Historically, these characters arose most frequently during times of persecution, created a false hope and swayed the hearts of many. Today many ultra-orthodox Jews are looking for their messiah who will deliver them from death and terrorism and give them peace. This messiah is the late rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson (1902-1994).



LEFT: A wall poster reads, “Long live the King Messiah.” RIGHT: A street sign in Jerusalem welcomes the return of the Rabbi Schneerson as the Messiah.

Posters of the late Rabbi Schneerson adorn many walls, lampposts, cement pillars and buildings in Brooklyn, Jerusalem and other ultra-orthodox communities. He lived in Crown Heights in Brooklyn and refused to go to Israel until the messiah comes to legitimize the state. His followers believe he will one day rise from the dead and restore Israel to her former glory. <sup>4</sup>

The Jews have been plagued with many messiah wannabees. Below is a partial listing of those who thought they were someone else created by God for a prophetic purpose. While they fulfilled Matthew 24:24, they did not fulfill the prophetic characters they had in mind.

### **Jewish Messiahs:**

630s     Some rabbis believed the rise of Islam was the messianic army coming to deliver them from Christian persecution.

1136     Abraham bar Hiyya (1070-1136) was a Spanish Jew and well known mathematician, astronomer and theologian. He struggled to calculate and theorize when the messiah would come and eventually arrived at several possible dates. The first was 1136, the irony of which is that this was the year of his death.

1360     Levi ben Gershon (Gersonides, 1288-1344) calculated there would be 1,290 years from the destruction of the temple to the messianic wars with Gog and Magog.

1453     When Constantinople fell to the Turks in 1543, the Jews again looked to them to bring their messiah who would deliver them from Christian oppression.<sup>5</sup>

1648     Shabetai Zvi (1626-1676), was a follower of Jewish mysticism known as the Kabala and announced that he was the Jewish messiah. At first he was rejected. Later in 1665, he entered Jerusalem with his friend Nathan, who served as the “Elijah” and announced that the messiah had come. Word of the messiah’s arrival spread like wild fire throughout Europe and northern Africa and Jews returned to Palestine by the thousands, hoping that Zvi would establish a Jewish kingdom.

The Turks, who ruled Jerusalem at the time, viewed Zvi with great skepticism. However, they feared that if he was the real Messiah there would be a serious military conflict. Therefore, the Turks offered Zvi the opportunity to either convert to Islam or be killed. The self-appointed messiah suddenly received a stroke of reality wisdom, and converted to Islam. When his Jewish followers heard of this, they were devastated and discouraged. Yet by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century he continued to have 15,000 Jewish followers known as the Donmeh Sect.<sup>6</sup>

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## False Christian prophets who predicted the end time or return of Christ:

172 Montanus: A teacher who said that (1) the New Jerusalem would soon descend near Phrygia (in modern Turkey), (2) that the Millennium had begun and (3) he and his two women associates, Prisca and Maximilla, were given authority over the Church. To reject him was the unforgivable sin. He was condemned and called a heretic by the church, but not for reasons related to the return of the Messiah.

950 Adso: Adso was a monk who had written the most comprehensive work on the anti-Christ. His thesis was that this wicked ruler would come from the tribe of Dan somewhere in the East. However, before the anti-Christ could come, a Frankish king would arise and conquer the world and introduce peace and tranquility. The king, who would become known as “The Last World Emperor,” would then go to Golgotha in Jerusalem, surrender his crown, and then the anti-Christ would come forth. Adso’s Last World Emperor theory lingered on for centuries to come.

Later, in 1096, Count Emich of Leisingen, a leader of the First Crusade, massacred Jews who refused to convert to Catholicism because he believed he would become the Last World Emperor. In 1494 French King Charles VIII conquered parts of Italy in his attempts to be the Last World Emperor. Many others followed claiming to be the same. It has been suggested that the idea of some modern politicians to become the “First World Emperor” may be rooted in Adso’s theory.

1840 William Miller was a New York farmer who became a Baptist preacher. He calculated that Christ would return sometime between March 21, 1843 and March 21, 1844. He was so convincing that his followers quit their jobs, put on white robes and went on a mountain to wait for the return of Jesus. Four years later his disciple, Samuel Snow, made similar predictions.

Whereas the Bible gives clear signs of events that will occur *prior* to the return of Christ, there are no signs specifically as to the date *of* His return. Centuries of false prophets and messiahs have given unlimited fuel for critics and scoffers with their false predictions. However, if it were not for the fact that Jesus will truly return one day, there would be no imitators or wannabe prophets. The true believer will continue to be faithful to Jesus, work diligently to complete his responsibilities and expect a momentary reunion with Him. When asked of the signs of His return, He said the first one would be the sign of deception (Mt. 24:4). There have never been as many deceptions as today.

## Chapter 2

### The Return of the Jews to Their Promised Land

God, in His foreknowledge, knew that the leadership of His people would reject their Messiah. Therefore, centuries earlier when His prophets wrote of their future scattering they also wrote their future return to their Promised Land.

The return of the Jewish people in the past century and a half is not related to repentance or anything they did. God brought them back because of the integrity of His holy Name and because He promised the land to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their descendants. The Jewish people are a testimony of God's faithfulness to all humanity.

The prophets not only wrote that the Jews would return, but also recorded some amazing details. For example, the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC prophet Isaiah said that they would return a *second time* as opposed to the first time that occurred in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC when the Jews returned from Babylon. That second time began in the 1800s and continues today.

Isaiah also said they would return from the four corners of the earth – north, south, east, and west. He indicated they would return flying in the clouds and Jeremiah said Jerusalem would expand beyond the city walls – two thoughts that were beyond human comprehension at the time these were written. Jeremiah also said they would buy land upon their return. Amazingly, these predictions have become reality.

The irony is that today the entire world can see the fulfillment of these prophetic words, yet to most the idea that these could have resulted by a Divine intervention is either ignored or is the subject of humor. Even evangelicals who tout Replacement Theology and mainline denominations fail to see the obvious. They have chosen to look at Israel either through a “political lens,” an incorrect “theological lens,” or in a “multi-cultural perspective.” Still others claim that all the biblical prophecies concerning the return were fulfilled when the Jews returned from Babylon. However, that interpretation does not agree with Amos 9:15 that states, “I will also plant them on their land, and they will not again be rooted out from their land which I have given them,” says the LORD your God.” Clearly the Jews were uprooted in the years AD 70 and 135.

However, the current return is the one that will culminate in the return of the Messiah. This chapter reveals the literal fulfillment of God's promises. If we can see the Word of the Lord being literally fulfilled in our lifetimes, should we not thank God for the opportunity to have lived in this day and age? Should we not make the best of what He has given us? Israel is a witness to the reality of God and His faithfulness to the promises written in the Holy Writ.

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## 12. The Lord Is Now Gathering the Dispersed of Judah.

The regathering or return of the Jewish people to their Promised Land is without question one of the most profound indicators that the “signs of the times” are coming into fulfillment. However, before delving into this subject, there are three distinct biblical “regatherings” that must be briefly described.

For the Jewish people to be regathered, they would first have to be scattered. The first scattering occurred over a 116 year period. Beginning in 702-701 BC the Assyrians took most of the ten northern Israelite tribes to the east in an attempt to destroy their culture. So many Israelites were relocated that Isaiah referred to Galilee as the Galilee of the Gentiles (Isa. 9:1). The few who were not exported eventually intermarried with the new groups of people the Assyrians imported from the east and their descendants became known as the Samaritans.

To the south, in the years 605, 597 and 586 BC the Babylonians attacked Jerusalem. Each time they relocated Israelites from the tribes of Benjamin and Judah to Babylon. In their final attack they also destroyed Solomon’s temple. Jeremiah, whose prophetic ministry was from 640-609 BC, predicted that the Babylonian captivity would last 70 years, and thereafter they would be able to return home.

Seventy years later, in 516 BC, the first return occurred when the Israelites, known by this time as “Jews,” relocated to Jerusalem under the guidance of Nehemiah and Ezra. However, many stayed in Babylon because they established homes, businesses, synagogues, and prospered there. As a result, in the years that followed, the number of returnees declined and finally ceased when a Syrian Greek dictator, Antiochus IV Epiphanes came to power in 175 B.C. He introduced horrible persecution and desecrated the temple in 168 BC in an attempt to convert the Jews to the Greek culture. However, the straggling band of farmers revolted and by 165 BC they had defeated the professional 50,000 man Greek army with 32 war elephants.

As a result of this incredible victory, the immigration of Jewish people from Babylon increased and many archaeologists believe it was during this time that Nazareth and a number of other villages were established. This immigration lasted until 63 BC when the Romans took control of Judea, Samaria, and Galilee. That ended the first return.

A few decades later the ministry of Jesus began, but He was rejected as their Messiah. He said that destruction would come because they did not recognize the time of His visitation, meaning, they not only failed to recognize Him as their Messiah, but they also rejected Him (Lk. 19:44). He cursed the fig tree – symbolic of national Israel – to fulfill Jeremiah’s prophecy (8:12-13). Just as that fig tree withered and died, Israel as a nation withered and died. However, since God is faithful to His many promises to Abraham, David and others, the proverbial fig tree would have to resurrect.

As the result of the two Jewish revolts against Roman rule, thousands of Jewish men, women and children were either executed or exported as slaves by the Romans. Israel, symbolized as the cursed fig tree, died. From then until the recent 19<sup>th</sup> century there have been numerous attempts to return en masse, but none was successful until the 1880s when the prophetic second return began.

A major distinctive feature of the second return is that Prophet Isaiah said the Jews would return from four corners of the world – north, south, east and west. That did not happen in the first return. More specifically he said,

**“Then it will happen on that day that the Lord will again recover the *second time* with His hand the remnant of His people, who will remain from Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he will lift up a standard for the nations, and will assemble the banished ones of Israel, and will gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.”**

**Isaiah 11:11-12 <sup>7</sup>**

**“Do not be afraid for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’ Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”**

**Isaiah 43:5-6**

The phrase “second time” is the most significant element of verses 11 and 12. Furthermore, Isaiah stated from where the Jewish people would be coming and he did not mention Babylon – the origin of their first return. He witnessed the horrific events that fell upon them and knew that God would demonstrate His mercy in spite of their disobedience, which was the cause of their demise. Therefore, the amazing point of this passage is that the prophet obviously must have realized that there would be a deportation and a *first return*, of his people. These two events would be followed by a second deportation and a second return.

The predicted *second time* return of the Jewish people is one of the most common prophecies of the Old Testament, although the precise phrase appears only once. The descriptions of how they would return and from where clearly did not depict their first return from Babylon. It is as if God wanted His people to know in no uncertain terms that one day He would restore them to their Promised Land. These prophecies were written over a period of several centuries by various authors. The return of the Jews is a key factor in

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understanding the approximate time of the return of Jesus. Jesus said that they would be scattered until the times of the Gentiles were fulfilled, after which He would return (Luke 21:24-27). Therefore, if the Jews are returning then obviously the “times of the Gentiles” are about to close. To this Zechariah, who lived approximately between the years of 530 and 480 BC, also said,

**“Come! Come! Flee from the land of the north,’ declares the Lord, ‘for I have scattered you to the four winds of heaven,’ declares the Lord.”**

**Zechariah 2:6**

Some prophets predicted that the Lord would return His people, but were not specific as to where they would come from. Ezekiel is a typical example.

**“And I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are scattered, with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out.”**

**Ezekiel 20:34**



Homes built by the Rothschild Family in Rosh Pina, in what is now northern Israel. Jews were returning so quickly that homes could not be built fast enough for them. Photo by R.E.M. Bain, May 10, 1894.

It is ironic that most Jews who returned did not do so for religious reasons. They were secular Zionists who rejected the legalistic religious Judaism of their grandfathers and the whole culture of the European ghettos. They were socialists who wanted their own nation, their own military, and wanted to serve their communities and nation, patriotically fly their flag, and learn Hebrew – all of which was their new spiritual identification.



A 1937 poster proclaims the words of Jeremiah and encourages Jews to immigrate to "Palestine." (The name was popularized by Hadrian in AD 135.)

This second return of the Jews is sometimes known as the "The pre-Tribulation Regathering." Study references are: Ezekiel 20:33-38; 22:17-22 (gather the Jews [v. 19] and then will come the fire of God's wrath [v. 22]); 36:22-24; 37:1-14; Isaiah 11:11-12; Zephaniah 2:1-2 (gathering before "the day of the Lord"); Ezekiel 38-39.<sup>8</sup>

Throughout the 1800s there was a trickle of Jewish immigrants coming to Palestine. However the tide of immigration changed in 1882 as an increasing number made "Aliya." It is the Hebrew word "aliya" that refers to the return of Jewish people to their biblical homeland. Thousands poured in.

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In the first aliya (1882-1903) 25,000 came from Russia and Romania. In the second aliya (1904-1914) more than 35,000 emigrated from Russia, Poland and Eastern Europe. The third aliya occurred during World War I (1914-1918) when more than 40,000 came from Russia, Poland, Lithuania, Romania and Germany. The fourth aliya (1924-1929) consisted of 67,000 who escaped mounting persecution in Russia and the Soviet bloc nations. Yet all of these aliyas did not compare with the fifth aliya (1932-1938) when nearly a quarter of a million poured in from European and Arab countries as Hitler was beating the drums of war. Like the proverbial snowball coming down the mountain, at first a few came and soon there was a huge momentum. So many came, that often they lived in tents until permanent homes were constructed. After Israel became a sovereign state, Jews living in Muslim countries feared for their lives as much as did those living under Hitler. Hence, another mass exodus to Israel.

As of today at the writing of this book, approximately half of the world Jewry lives in Israel. Prior to World War II there were 18 million Jews world wide and a third of them died in the Holocaust. They have recovered to about 14 million. Israeli officials continue to plan for a future emigration as anti-Semitism grows globally.

Some Gentile scholars believe the third regathering of Jews is a reference to the Jewish people returning home during the Tribulation Period, which is also known as the time of Jacob's Trouble. This return is of those Jews who failed to return during the second return (pre-Tribulation Regathering). Study references are Deuteronomy 4:29-31; 30:1-10; Isaiah 27:12-13; 43:5-7; Jeremiah 16:14-15; 31:7-10; Ezekiel 11:14-18; Amos 9:14-15; Zechariah 10:8-12; Matthew 24:31 [ Jews gathered when the Lord returns at the end of the Tribulation]), et al.

Finally, some of the Scriptures that foretell the return also describe other events that have not been fulfilled. For example, there are several references to the relationship being re-established between God and His Jewish people. Since a vast majority of Jews have not yet recognized Jesus as their Messiah, that relationship remains broken. Note the words of Jeremiah,

**“At that time,’ declares the LORD, ‘I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be My people.’ ”**

**Jeremiah 31:1**

Obviously that passage has yet to be fulfilled. Yet fifteen verses later is the prophetic passage that describes the horrors of the innocent boys being slaughtered by Herod the Great shortly after Jesus was born. Old Testament prophets frequently intermingled predictions pertaining to the first coming of Jesus in with predictions of His second coming.

### 13. The Miracle of December 9, 1917

The miracle of December 9 is a fascinating historical account. For centuries the Muslims had controlled Jerusalem and Palestine. In the early 1900s the Ottoman Empire allied with Germany and together were defeated in World War I. At the close of the war, British General Edmund Allenby and his army approached the walled city of Jerusalem. Fearing a great loss of life due to hand to hand combat in the narrow streets, he sent two airplanes over the city to drop leaflets calling for surrender. The Arabs saw the mysterious flying machines, picked up the leaflets and misinterpreted the name “Allenby” to mean “Allah.” Consequently, they could not surrender fast enough and Allenby captured the city without a shot being fired.

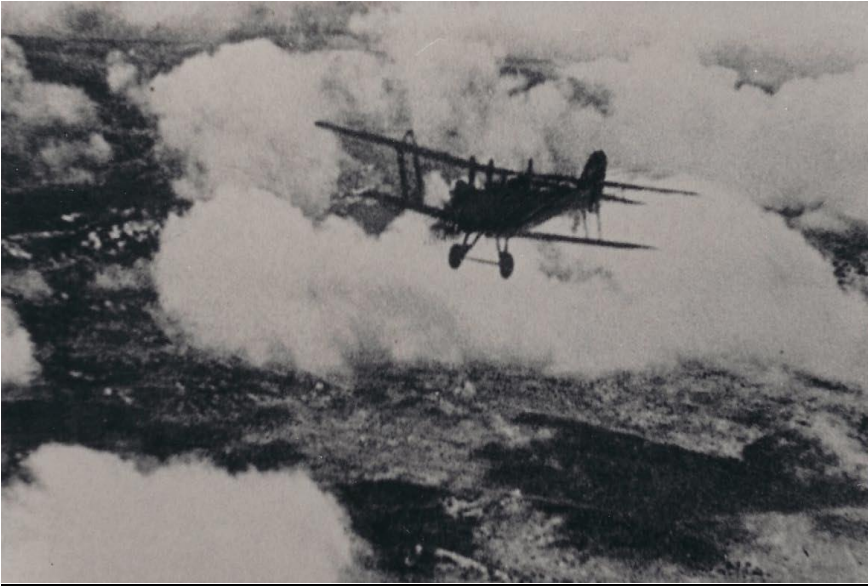
Miraculously, this history-making event took place on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of Chislev, the ninth month that is significant on the Hebrew calendar. In 168 BC, the pagan tyrant Antiochus IV Epiphanes desecrated the temple in Jerusalem and attempted to eradicate Judaism. His plan was to have all his subjects share the same culture and worship the same gods. However, in a small village of Modin, Mattathias the *Kobein* (a member of the priestly class), started the Maccabean Revolt. The Jewish farmers fought with farming implements, bows and arrows against a well trained and equipped Greek army that had 32 war elephants. Three years later to the day the Jewish people enjoyed an incredible victory. After cleansing and purifying the temple, it was dedicated on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of Chislev. Chislev is the third month in the Jewish civil calendar and the ninth month in the Jewish religious calendar. It spans portions of November and December on the modern Western calendar and is significant in Jewish history.

Since General Allenby captured Jerusalem on the same date as the Temple dedication in 165 BC, some rabbis believed the Allenby's capture looked forward prophetically to a soon to come third Temple. This interpretation was based on the words of the prophet Haggai, who said, that “for over 3,000 years in its history, the Holy City has been captured and destroyed many times causing death and pain. General Allenby's victory, however, was the first time it was captured for the welfare of the Jewish people and not for their destruction or annihilation.

**“Do consider from this day onward, from the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month; from the day when the temple of the LORD was founded, consider: Is the seed still in the barn? Even including the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate and the olive tree, it has not borne fruit. Yet from this day on I will bless you.”**

**Haggai 2:18-19**

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One of two airplanes British General Edmund Allenby sent over Jerusalem from which leaflets were dropped demanding surrender.



General Allenby accepted the surrender of Jerusalem on Dec. 9, 1917, the 24<sup>th</sup> day of Chislev of the Hebrew calendar. This was the initial step to bring the Holy Land to Jewish control.

## 14. Men Purchased Fields

The ability for Jewish people to buy land in Palestine has a unique history. From 1517 until 1917 it was part of the Turkish Ottoman Empire and by the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Empire was experiencing various political struggles. Monarchs were known for their greed, but when they discovered that the Jews were interested in returning, they relaxed laws pertaining to land ownership.

Hence, the land reforms of 1839 and 1856 permitted non-citizens to own property. Europeans quickly took advantage of the opportunity to foster religious and cultural penetration and thereby increase the existing religious rivalries. In 1901 the Jewish National Fund was established to buy land. One of its first projects was a purchase near the ancient city of Jaffa. Upon this land the modern city of Tel Aviv was established.

**“Men shall buy fields for money, sign and seal deeds, and call in witnesses in the land of Benjamin, in the environs of Jerusalem, in the cities of Judah, in the cities of the hill country, in the cities of the lowland, and in the cities of the Negev; for I will restore their fortunes, declares the Lord.”**

**Jeremiah 32:44**

Some have said that this prophecy is a reference to when the Jews of Babylon returned to Jerusalem in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC. However, King Cyrus *gave* the land and Jerusalem to them and, therefore, this prophecy could only have a reference to the current return that began in the 1800s.

However, not everyone was delighted about the land reforms. Many Arab immigrants entered Palestine to find jobs after completing the construction of the Suez Canal in 1870. They, along with the few Arabs who lived in Palestine for generations, believed that since Palestine was a Muslim controlled land, Jews should not be permitted to enter.

However, the arriving Jews purchased large tracts of land and, consequently, some leading Arabs became intolerant of them. First there were protests, then fights, then riots. Finally, in the January 30, 1936 edition of the *Palestine Post*, Arab leaders petitioned England to pass legislation that would prohibit fellow Arabs from selling land to Jews. The English surrendered to their demands and the same edition had this headline: “Land Sale Restrictions Announced by Sir Arthur, High Commissioner.”

It was not one of England’s better decisions. Ironically, the same edition of the paper reported the Nazi genocide of the Jews. Yet Arab landowners continued to sell to Jews while their leaders continued to threaten them. Nearly six decades later in 1995, the Palestinian Authority publicized death threats to any Arab who sold land to a Jew.

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# PA law: Death to any Arab who sells land to Jews

THE Palestinian Authority will uphold a Jordanian law permitting anyone who sells land to Jews to be killed, Palestinian Authority Justice Minister Freih Abu Medein said last week.

**EVELYN GORDON**

been quoting from Jordanian law. This law, he added, is still in force in Judea and Samaria.

no justification for the continued existence of a law passed when Israel and Jordan were at war.

Abu Medein, however, insisted that Israel freeze the current status of all lands in Jerusalem.

On June 24, 1995, the international edition of the Jerusalem Post reported that the Palestinian Authority will uphold a Jordanian law permitting the killing of anyone who sells land to a Jew.

In the early years vast areas were purchased from Turks and Arabs, and approximately one-fourth of that land acquired was purchased from Christian Arabs -- the Sursuq family who lived in Beirut.<sup>9</sup> The influx of Jews was a gold mine for Turkish and Arab landholders, who eagerly sold swamps and desert lands at outrageous prices. The European Jews, not familiar with farming but knowledgeable in science, applied scientific principals to the land and transformed it into an agricultural miracle. In the process, they created jobs and needed Arab laborers. Most Palestinians are immigrants who came because (1) they were removed from other Arab lands, (2) they wanted a better life and better jobs, and (3) Jewish modernizations attracted them.

The question may be asked, "Would this be considered a miracle if the reasons behind the land purchases and its transformation were obvious?" Yes. And that is because for nearly 2,000 years most Jews were not permitted to own property. Secondly, only with scientific technology were they able to transform the land -- technology that was still in its infancy when they arrived. These two events coincided with numerous other events to demonstrate that God was orchestrating these events.

Recently the Palestinians have promoted the myth that the Jews stole the land. This is hardly the case. Prior to 1948 all lands acquired by Jews were purchased. After 1948 some areas were acquired by military conquest, while the Israelis lost Gaza and Jericho for the elusive hope for peace.

## 15. Gentiles Are Bringing Your Sons and Daughters Home

This prophecy was hardly understood by anyone because for centuries the Church promoted anti-Semitism based upon the doctrine of replacement theology which in essence stated that because the Jews crucified Jesus, God had permanently condemned them and had no further plans for them as a nation.

Seldom, since the destruction of Jerusalem, have Gentile Christians extended aid to the Jewish people. The Roman Catholic Crusades and the Spanish Inquisition are two examples of Church sponsored anti-Semitism. In good times Jews were the subject of mockery and persecution rather than kindness. However, beginning with the rise of 16<sup>th</sup> century Puritanism in England, a few Christians believed that God still had a plan for the Jews and, therefore, they demonstrated true love and kindness to them. Among the early Christian Zionists who disagreed with the Church was Frances Kett. He is considered to be the first Gentile martyr to die for proclaiming the return of the Jewish people to their Promised Land. In the course of time, the fledgling movement grew and small church groups aided their return to Palestine. Today many Israelis consider evangelical Christians most supportive and trustworthy, more so than American or European political leaders.<sup>10</sup>

**“Thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Behold, I will lift up My hand to the nations (Gentiles) and set up My standard to the peoples; and they will bring your sons in their bosom, and your daughters will be carried on their shoulders.’”**

**Isaiah 49:22**

The Jewish people are painfully aware of their history, yet Isaiah predicted Gentiles would help bring them home. This prophecy was completely contrary to 2,000 years of history and must have been a mystery to them until recently. Today ministries such as the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, Bridges for Peace, and the Christian Friends for Israel continue to be a significant element in the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy, as they literally financed the return of thousands of Jewish people. However, they are faced with numerous challenges. The first is that many Jews still do not trust Christians, and who can blame them? Second, due to theological misunderstandings, these ministries are challenged by some churches. Many well meaning Christians have accepted so-called scholarly anti-Israel rhetoric by both church leaders and the media. Nonetheless, Gentile Christians have financed schools, hospitals, transport, food, clothing and other necessities to thousands throughout the Holy Land. These evangelical ministries touch every level of Israeli society, from the homeless to the president and in every geographical area.<sup>11</sup>

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## 16. Foreigners Now Give Aid to the Jewish People

**“Foreigners will build up your walls, and their kings will minister to you; for in My wrath I struck you, and in My favor I have had compassion on you.”**

**Isaiah 60:10**

The words of Isaiah are proleptic prophecy, meaning these were first fulfilled in 445 BC when King Artaserxes issued the decree allowing Nehemiah to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem (Neh 2:8). While the ancient king financed the reconstruction of the city walls, today the phrase is believed to have a broader meaning to include the nation’s infrastructure and defense. The prophecy is finally being fulfilled to its intended fullness, as evidenced in nearly two centuries of Gentile believers who were committed to rebuilding the State of Israel and provide aid to the Jewish people. These believers have become known as Biblical or Christian Zionists and they see themselves as the rebuilders spoken of in Acts 15:14-16 (cf. Amos 9:11).

Among the earliest 19<sup>th</sup> century Christian Zionists was a group of German Moravian missionaries who established Hanson’s Hospital for lepers. Built in 1865 outside the Old City walls of Jerusalem, it served both Jews and Arabs, although leprosy was most common among the Arabs.

In 1860 the Swiss-German Brotherhood opened an Arab orphanage outside Jaffa Gate. In 1866 George Jones Adams brought 153 Christians from Springfield, Massachusetts to establish a Christian colony in Palestine. In 1871 German Protestants from Wurttemberg built the German Colony and in the 1880s American missionaries established a mission north of the Damascus Gate that eventually became known as the American Colony. By the year 1900 there was hardly a Jewish or Arab family anywhere that was not aware of the humanitarian work of evangelical missionaries. This work continues today by various messianic and Christian ministries who demonstrate the love of Jesus to all who are in need.

In addition to hospitals, evangelical missionaries also built and operated other social institutions such as trade schools and orphanages. Most of these originated prior to Israel’s independence in 1948.

In the 1970s and 1980s evangelical Christians founded various ministries such as Bridges for Peace, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, and Friends for Israel. Today these and other ministries touch the lives of thousands in every strata of Israeli society and demonstrate the true love and compassion of Jesus. Some ministries also provide humanitarian aid to Arabs, simply because Jesus died for them as well. However, for obvious reasons this kind of activity must remain highly secretive. They are also in

frequent need of short and long term volunteers – an experience that will last a lifetime for all who can participate. The demonstration of the love of Jesus is freely given to all in one of the most critical times in history.



The entrance of the former Hanson's Hospital (a leprosy hospital), outside of Jerusalem's Old City. The German inscription engraved in the lintel reads, "Jesus Helps."

Also significant was Germany. As part of the required World War II war reparations, they were required to fund Israel's national water system, bus lines and other infrastructure systems. In an irony of history, while Adolf Hitler tried to exterminate the Jewish people, he was effectively responsible for the global compassion after the war to establish the Jewish nation and pay for a major part of its modernization. Even the Soviets contributed arms and four planes to Israel during the 1948-49 war of Independence. What Satan intended for evil God restructured for His ultimate purpose.

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## **17. The Jewish People have Rebuilt Ruined Cities**

It is incredibly clear, especially when reviewing numerous prophetic topics, that God is a God of restoration. Ezekiel 36 describes the blessings the Jews will enjoy during the 1,000 year millennial reign of the Messiah. These blessings include the restoration of ancient Jewish towns and villages. Except for the villages of Bethsaida, Chorizim and Capernaum, in the past century many ruined towns and villages have been resurrected and today are thriving communities. One could only conclude that the millennial reign may not be too far into the future. This restoration of the land and its communities reveal the heart of God – He is a God of restoration “as it was before” (Joel 2:23).

**“Confirming the word of His servant and performing the purpose of His messengers it is I who says of Jerusalem, ‘She shall be inhabited!’ And of the cities of Judah, ‘they shall be built.’ And I will raise up her ruins again.”**

**Isaiah 44:26**

**“Those from among you will rebuild the ancient ruins; you will raise up the age-old foundations; and you will be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of the streets in which to dwell.”**

**Isaiah 58:12**

**“I will multiply men on you, all the house of Israel, all of it; and the cities will be inhabited and the waste places will be rebuilt.”**

**Ezekiel 36:11**

**“They will say, ‘This desolate land has become like the Garden of Eden;’ and the waste, desolate and ruined cities are fortified and inhabited. Then the nations that are left round about you will know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted that which was desolate; I, the LORD, have spoken and will do it.”**

**Ezekiel 36:35-36**

**“Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel, and they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them; They will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, and make gardens and eat their fruit.”**

**Amos 9:14**



After being deserted for centuries, the ruins of Magdala appear to lie still. Yet behind this archaeological treasure, a new community is being rebuilt where people live, work, play, and prosper.

The names of most biblical sites have remained unchanged throughout history. While numerous rulers dominated the land over time – the Christian Byzantines, the Arabs, Turks, Egyptians and others – the pronunciations varied with different language groups, but never changed. The only notable exception was when Emperor Hadrian renamed Judah to be “Palestine.”

Therefore, when archaeologists and researchers wanted to identify a site, they first spoke with the local Arabs or Jews concerning the place-name. When new communities were built, they were usually constructed beside the ancient ruined cities so as not to destroy historical treasures that would eventually become the subject of archaeological research. Hence, cities such as Magdala and Arad have both an archaeological site and an adjacent modern city. On the other hand, some cities such as Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Nazareth have had continuous Jewish occupation for centuries.

It should be noted that some scholars believe the words of Isaiah refer to the decrees of King Cyrus who declared that the Holy City should be rebuilt. This was in the year 516 BC that Nehemiah and Ezra led Jews back to Jerusalem. While the critics have a valid reason, there is a broader context of prophecy that was partly fulfilled at one time in history, but it will have a second and complete fulfillment in the future. They fail to realize that if God rebuilt cities and planted vineyards after the first return, He would surely do that again after the second. God is in the process of restoring all things – cities, farmland and crops, people, and His Spirit in people – as it was before (Joel 2:23).

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## 18. The Hebrew Language Has Been Restored

In the days of Jesus there were three major languages in Judah and Galilee. Hebrew was the mother tongue of the Jews and was used in schools, religious services and sometimes at home. Aramaic was the language they brought back from Babylon and was used in the daily affairs of life. Finally, Greek was the official language for business and government transactions as the result of Greek domination during the inter-Testamental period.

In the course of time Jews who lived in other countries adopted local languages and customs. Hence, when they returned to Palestine in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries from more than a hundred nations, they spoke every imaginable language and dialect. To bring so many people from so many nations into a new country would create a scenario similar to the language confusion at the Tower of Babel (Gen. 11:5-9). Therefore God, in His foreknowledge, told the prophet Zephaniah that the people would be given “purified lips.” This Hebraic phrase means they would one day speak the Hebrew language.

**“For then I will give to the people purified lips, that all of them may call on the name of the Lord, to serve Him shoulder to shoulder.”**

**Zephaniah 3:9**

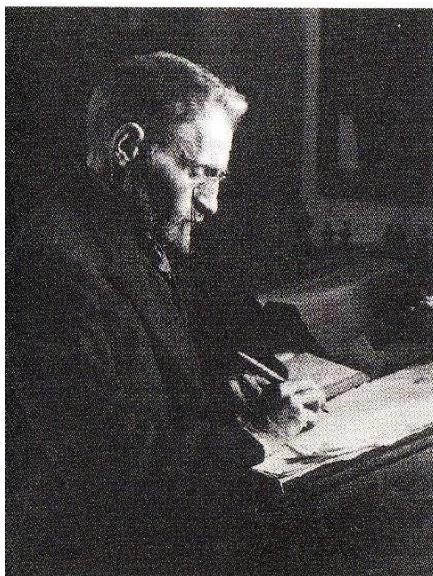
Seldom has the fulfillment of a prophecy fallen as heavily upon the life of a single individual as it did upon Eliezer ben Yehuda (1858-1922). He was born by the name of Eliezer Yitzhak Perelman in Lithuania. In his youth he became interested in the Zionist movement as nations were becoming established throughout Eastern Europe. Thus he dreamt that one day his people could have a land of their own where they would not be persecuted. He authored several articles on the renaissance of the Jews, their land and their language; articles that became the forerunners of modern Jewish Zionism. So enthused was he that he changed his last name to Ben Yehuda, meaning “Son of Judah,” and became involved in the Jewish Zionist movement.<sup>12</sup>

Ben Yehuda studied medicine in Paris but had to drop out because he contracted tuberculosis. He immigrated to Palestine in 1881 with plans to revive the Hebrew language which had not changed since biblical times. He prayed that God would give him the strength to upgrade it even though he received numerous death threats from ultra-orthodox Jews who claimed he was polluting the “holy tongue.” He often expressed his passion, “Let the remnants of our people return to the land of their fathers; let us revive the nation and its tongue will be revived too!”<sup>13</sup> In all the affairs of daily life, he and his wife spoke only Hebrew. For other Jews a conversation of this kind was somewhat unfamiliar and cumbersome since there were no Hebrew words for many elements of the modern culture. Ben Yehuda wrote in his introduction of his dictionary, “If a language which has stopped being spoken, with nothing

remaining of it save what remains of our language – (if there is such a language) can return and be the spoken tongue of an individual for all necessities of life, there is no room for doubt that it can become the spoken language of a community.”<sup>14</sup>

The biblical Hebrew language until this time remained limited in its ancient form – a vocabulary of less than 6,000 words. The modern context, however, obviously required some changes. Not only would new words have to be invented, such as for “trains” and “airplanes,” but linguistic problems with verbs and adjectives had to be resolved. In 1882 he began teaching at the Alliance Israelite Universelle School in Jerusalem. For the first time children from different cultural backgrounds and languages were learning their ancient language within a modern context.

In 1890 he founded the Hebrew Language Council and soon rabbis and school teachers were trained to teach modern Hebrew. The Council was the forerunner of today’s Hebrew Language Academy. It is the supreme arbiter and authority on all matters relating to the Hebrew language. Ben Yehuda’s success was nothing less than phenomenal. In 1881 any conversation in Hebrew was at best cumbersome, but by November 29, 1922 the British mandate authorities recognized Hebrew as the official language of Jewish Palestine. The dream of Ben Yehuda was fulfilled; his life’s goal was completed. A month later he succumbed to the tuberculosis and prophecy was fulfilled.



Eliezer Ben-Yehuda at his desk in 1912. Photograph by Ya’akov Ben-Dov, Jerusalem.

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## 19. Jewish Exiles from the Sepharad Are Moving into the Negev

Among the prophetic mysteries is that Spanish Jews would one day live in the Negev Desert. For many Christians it is hard to imagine that a Jew could be of Spanish origin, yet it is true. But to understand, it is important to review history for a moment.

In the years 605, 597, and 586 BC King Nebuchadnezzar and his Babylonian army attacked Jerusalem. One tradition states that several wealthy families realized that their lives and wealth were in danger, they packed up their belongings and sailed westward and settled in what is today Spain.

Another tradition, recorded in the *Shevet Yehudah*,<sup>15</sup> states that King Nebuchadnezzar transported Jews to Spain as slaves to serve the needs of the Spanish conquerors. These Jews were of the priestly Kohanim family and of the royal Davidic line. However, a majority of Jews who relocated there did so between the years 700 and 1100 to escape persecution elsewhere.<sup>16</sup> During the Middle Ages, while subservient to Arab rulers, they became wealthy landowners, merchants, bankers, importers, and farmers. Unfortunately, they were expelled in 1492 due to the Roman Catholic Inquisition and they relocated to North Africa and later to South America. Their descendents became known as Sephardic Jews.

However, even though they left their Promised Land, God did not leave or forget them. In fact, the Prophet Obadiah said that those living in “Sepharad” would one day live in the Negev Desert of southern Israel. God not only said He would bring them home, but also indicated where they would live. More specifically, Obadiah said,

**“This company of Israelite exiles who are in Canaan will possess the land as far as Zarephath; the exiles from Jerusalem who are in Sepharad will possess the towns of the Negev.”**

**Obadiah 20**

The Prophet Zechariah also said the Negev Desert would be inhabited, although he did not specifically identify the future occupants. Note his words,

**“Are these not the words the Lord proclaimed through the earlier prophets when Jerusalem and its surrounding towns were at rest and prosperous and the Negev and the western foothills were settled?”**

**Zechariah 7:7**

Anticipating the growing need to increase livable areas for a future influx of Jewish people, Israeli leaders in the 1990s began to plan development of the Negev Desert. By 2006, six communities had been completed and 25 more were in the planning stages or under construction – for a total population of 250,000 people. One town included a 3,000 seat amphitheater and another will have a 25 acre rehabilitative village for the disabled. While Obadiah said that Jews from Spanish-speaking nations would one day live there, he did not restrict the desert only to them.



The feature story of the February 11, 2002 edition of *The Jerusalem Report* described proposed developments for the construction of small cities in the Negev Desert.

The Jewish National Fund (JNF) has been in the forefront of establishing new communities in the Negev Desert. The primary reason for developing the desert is that until the 1990s, nearly 70 percent of Israeli citizens lived within a triangle between Jerusalem, Haifa and Tel Aviv. The property values are so high in this area that it is unaffordable for most young families. However, life in the Negev is an affordable alternative and has all the amenities of any major Israeli city, and most of the new residents are of Spanish origin.

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Road signs welcome immigrants to a new village under construction in the Negev Desert. Photographed in 2003.



The first house is under construction in a new Negev community in 2003. The landscape was void of any vegetation although the water source is from an underground aquifer.

## **20. The Desolated Land is Being Restored**

One of the most profound changes in the Middle East pertains to the phenomenal change in agricultural production. When Mark Twain toured the land in the 1860s he described it as barren and “even the olive and the cactus, those fast friends of worthless soil, had almost deserted the country.” But that has changed. Amazingly, the secret behind the profound change is a direct result of discrimination the Jews suffered in Europe.

Due to centuries of anti-Semitic legislation, European Jews were not permitted to engage in farming or, own farmland. Nor were they permitted to function in “Christian trades” such as carpentry or shoe-making. They were, however, permitted to engage in business, scientific studies, education and similar professions. Thus when they came to Palestine they did not know how to farm, and most certainly did not know how to apply scientific methodology, especially since the five distinct climate zones are remarkably different from the climate in Europe. Therefore, they looked upon the land as a scientific laboratory rather than with a preconditioned farmer’s mind set. They matched the climate and soil composition to the needs of various plants they wanted to grow. Obviously with the various climate zones the potential for a wide variety of foods is huge. The results were astonishing.

**“I will multiply the fruit of the tree and the produce of the field, so that you will not receive again the disgrace of famine among the nations .... The desolate land will be cultivated instead of being a desolation in the sight of everyone who passes by. They will say, ‘This desolate land has become like the Garden of Eden; and the waste, desolate and ruined cities are fortified and inhabited .... I, the Lord, have spoken it.’”**

**Ezekiel 36:30, 34-35, 36b**

When God foretold that the land would become desolated, enemies would live there and His people would be scattered among the nations of the world (Lev. 26:31-32), He also said that one day He would remember His covenant and the land. Note predictive words of Moses,

**“I will remember my covenant with Jacob and my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land.”**

**Leviticus 26:42**

The fact that the people did not honor God’s laws, including those concerning the Sabbaths and the rejection of the Messiah, are the reasons why they were exiled.

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**“For the land will be deserted by them and will enjoy its Sabbaths while it lies desolate without them. They will pay for their sins because they rejected my laws and abhorred my decrees.”**

#### **Leviticus 26:43**

Yet verse 42 offers hope that the desolation will not last forever. God is a God of restoration. Even though His people rejected Him, He honored the covenant He made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. We are the beneficiaries of that covenant.

The prophet Amos predicted a restoration of the land and the people to the land. He wrote that the land would become so productive, that the plowman would overtake the reaper. In essence, a harvester would not be able to work fast enough because he would be in the way of the planter who was behind him planting the next crop. This was unheard of in the biblical days. In fact, it has never been true until the 20<sup>th</sup> century. How is this possible? It is possible because in many areas two crops are planted yearly. If no irrigation is available, one is planted for the rainy winter season and another for the dryer summer season.

**“‘The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman and the planter by the one treading grapes. New wine will drip from the mountains and flow from all the hills.’”**

#### **Amos 9:13**

In the following verse Amos said that God would bring His exiled people back home and they would rebuild ruined cities, and plant vineyards and gardens. The 15th verse states that the Jewish people would never be uprooted again. Hence, the future demise of those who wish to destroy Israel or make a division of the land is a foregone conclusion. The Palestinians and other Muslims, nations of the world and even Christians who choose not to believe the prophetic Word, will be in for a rude awakening.

**“I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them,” says the LORD your God.”**

#### **Amos 9:15**

While Mark Twain, the British Exploration Fund, and others verified the desolation of the land more than a century ago, visitors today can witness the prophetic fulfillment of ancient biblical prophecies.





A tourist stands upon a hill crest that overlooks the valley of palm trees and vineyards that grow on land which, less than a century ago, was covered by the Dead Sea.



Wild flowers bloom along the side of Route 1 northwest of Jerusalem. Only Switzerland has more wild flowers than Israel.

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Wes Miller, an American volunteer with a ministry known as HaYovel, tends to a newly planted vineyard in the hills of Samaria for a Jewish farmer.

**“Again you will plant vineyards on the hills of Samaria; the planters will plant and will enjoy them.”**

**Jeremiah 31:5**

At no time in history have so many prophetic Scriptures come into fulfillment than in the past century and a half. Israel is a land of agricultural wonders. Thousands of Gentile Christians, working through various ministries, have participated in one way or another in the plan of God – a plan that is beyond human ability to bring fulfillment to many prophetic Scriptures.

Hybrids of apples and peaches have been developed to permit them to grow in the near-desert climate along with citrus fruits. Melons, cucumbers and tomatoes are grown in the Negev Desert with brackish water that is slightly salty. In essence, the marvel of Israel is that this nation has developed ways to grow food-bearing plants in vegetation zones out of their biological traditions. Fresh and salt water fish farms boast a large production sufficient for export.

However, the restoration process goes beyond the farmland. The Hai Bar Nature Reserve is reintroducing all the biblical animals. Some endangered species are that were once thought to have been extinct are now multiplying.

The restoration of the physical land from desert or near-desert wasteland to highly productive agricultural cropland may be one of the most visible miracles of Israel. For example, there are eight Hebrew words for “desert.” In Isaiah 35:1-2 the prophet used a word that referred to the huge Aravat (or Arabah) Desert south of the Dead Sea. It is about 20 miles wide and 120 long (north-south). It is part of the larger Negev Desert. This massive area was a bone-dry desert when Isaiah lived and it was just as dry centuries later in the days of Jesus. For such a prophecy to have been written Isaiah certainly had to know that he was hearing from God. To drive through the Aravat Desert today leads one to conclude that he heard correctly.

**“The wilderness and the desert will be glad, and the Arabah will rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it will blossom profusely ...”**

**Isaiah 35:1-2a**

**“In the days to come Jacob will take root, Israel will blossom and sprout, and they will fill the whole world with fruit.”**

**Isaiah 27:6**

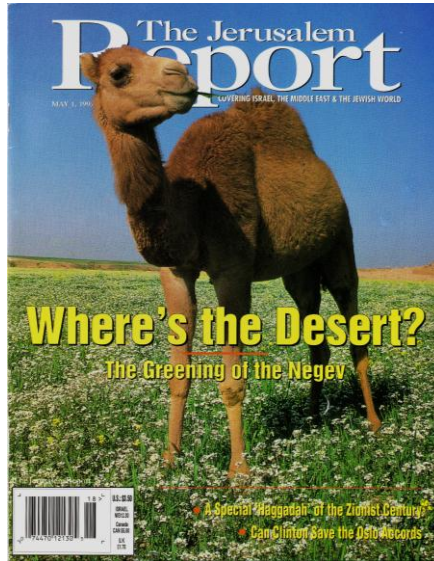
In the desert laboratories scientists not only developed the drip-irrigation system that is now used worldwide, but they also genetically engineered dozens of foods such as grape and plum tomatoes. Another development was the treatment of waste water, which is deemed to be as much of an asset as is land. Israel was the first nation to treat municipal waste water and use it in various applications such as orchards and cotton fields. With computer technology, plants are automatically watered with recycled water that contains the necessary nutrients for maximum growth.

Nearly 400,000 acres of land are available for agriculture in the Negev, and 30,000 acres are designated for orchards. The water is routed through sandy soil which naturally filters it. It then reaches natural aquifers where it is stored as ground water. From there, the nearly drinking-quality water is drawn and routed to the Negev to help “make the desert bloom.”

Dairy herds in semi-arid deserts consist primarily of Holstein cows, which are naturally adapted to a cooler northern climate. On large dairy farms Holstein cows are constantly monitored and milked three times a day. In the summer heat they are cooled with a water spray for maximum comfort since bovine comfort is related to milk production. As a result, Israeli cows are the highest milk-producers in the world. Other areas of agriculture are equally impressive which is why in the 1990s Israel became a major global exporter of flowers and a supplier of 90 percent of Europe’s citrus fruits.

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The cover story of *The Jerusalem Report* May 1, 1997 describes the profound changes in the Negev Desert which include the Aravat Desert.

There is no question that desert farming is one of their revolutionary ideas. This area of science has benefited thousands who live in hot desert regions around the world. After a NASA satellite identified massive underground aquifers in the desert south of the Dead Sea, the Israelis began to drill wells. The newly discovered water resources are sufficient to supply future cities as well as miles of greenhouses and orchards for many years. Hence, today there are farms where in the days of Ezekiel there was only desert.

The opening in the “springs in the midst of the valley” is clearly noticeable today as one drives on Route 90 from the Dead Sea south to Eilat. While large areas of desert remain untouched, the trend is clearly evident. The drip irrigation system has made the fulfillment of this Isaiah 41:18-20 a reality.

**“I will open rivers on the bare heights and springs in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water and the dry land fountains of water. I will put the cedar in the wilderness, the acacia and the myrtle and the olive tree; I will place the juniper in the desert together with the box tree and the cypress, that they may see and recognize, and consider and gain insight as well, that the hand of the LORD has done this, and the Holy One of Israel has created it.”**

**Isaiah 41:18-20**



A water pumping station at an artesian well in the Aravat (or Arabah) Desert is part of southern Israel's larger Negev Desert. Photographed in 2006.



Fruit trees in the Aravat Desert are in full bloom by early March. Photographed in 2006.

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Whereas Isaiah 27:6 and 35:1-2a refer mainly to the desert, other areas of the Promised Land are also in the restoration process. In fact, in Israel there is the restoration of the land, of the people and even of wildlife. They may think they have made many accomplishments, but God is at work behind the scenes. For that reason so many accomplishments have been achieved in spite of overwhelming odds. Note the following words from Isaiah:

**“I will put the cedar in the wilderness, the acacia and the myrtle and the olive tree; I will place the juniper in the desert together with the box tree and the cypress, that they may see and recognize, and consider and gain insight as well, that the hand of the LORD has done this, and the Holy One of Israel has created it.”**

**Isaiah 41:19-20**



Beef cattle graze comfortably and enjoy a pool of water in a second generation forest in the Golan Heights (the biblical Bashan).

Even though there have been impressive strides in agriculture and reforestation, the context of the passage indicates God’s restoration of the land will be far grander than what is seen today. There is obviously a serious trend going in the direction of a literal fulfillment. When the Israelites lived in Egypt they had to irrigate their land, but when they came to the land of Canaan, Moses

said they would no longer have to irrigate their fields and gardens. The day will come when irrigation will not be necessary. Note the words of Moses:

**“For the land, into which you are entering to possess it, is not like the land of Egypt from which you came, where you used to sow your seed and water it with your foot like a vegetable garden. But the land into which you are about to cross to possess it, a land of hills and valleys, drinks water from the rain of heaven ...”**

**Deuteronomy 11:10-11**

En route to Canaan, Moses died and Joshua took command of the Israelite people. When they arrived they defeated the indigenous Canaanite tribes and Joshua divided the land among his twelve tribes. In that division process, some complained that they lacked sufficient land area. In response Joshua told them to clear some forested land and live there. Note his rebuke,

**“Then the sons of Joseph spoke to Joshua, saying, ‘Why have you given me only one lot and one portion for an inheritance, since I am a numerous people whom the LORD has thus far blessed?’ Joshua said to them, ‘if you are a numerous people, go up to the forest and clear a place for yourself there in the land of the Perizzites and of the Rephaim, since the hill country of Ephraim is too narrow for you .... For though it is a forest, you shall clear it, and to its farthest borders it shall be yours; for you shall drive out the Canaanites, even though they have chariots of iron and though they are strong.’”**

**Joshua 17:14-15, 18**

Since Joshua’s day the forests have been under vicious attack. Throughout the centuries, the number of natural forests declined to make way for additional farmland until only one forest survived north of Nazareth and a larger one in the Galilee mountains. Generally speaking, all but a few trees were destroyed in massive destruction occurring in the nineteenth century when the Ottoman Empire constructed the railway system.

However, since 1948, four million trees have been planted annually and today more than 250 million trees cover 250,000 acres. Little wonder that by the end of the twentieth century Israel was the only nation that had more timberland than it had in the beginning of the century.<sup>17</sup> Reforestation efforts have expanded to 5,000 acres per year in spite of occasional forest fires set by Palestinian arsonists.

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After more than two thousand years, many of the prophetic words of God have become the revealed works of God. The “redemption” of the land from lifeless barren wilderness to premier agricultural production is one of the most visible signs of the hand of God. Another example is this: the prophet Hosea said,

**“Therefore, behold, I will allure her, bring her into the wilderness and speak kindly to her. Then I will give her vineyards from there, and the valley of Achor as a door of hope.”**

**Hosea 2:14-15a**

In 1878, four years before the first major aliya a group of European Jews established the first agricultural settlement in the Valley of Achor near Jericho. They purchased the wilderness land and chose the name Petah Tikva (*Opening of Hope*) from Hosea’s prophecy. However, the sultan of the Ottoman Empire cancelled the sale and the group moved north and purchased swamp land along the Yarkon River. They drained the mosquito-infested swamp, suffered from malaria, but eventually established the beginning of Israel’s citrus industry.

Their enterprise did not come without pain and suffering. A sign of future violent times occurred in 1886 when the Arabs attacked them. Later, in 1921 Arab rioters killed four Jews in this village. Nonetheless, they prospered and in the years that followed, they returned to the Valley of Achor and it too became highly productive in fruits, vineyards, and vegetables.

The restoration of the land is one of the most common prophecies of the entire Bible. As with the regathering of the Jews to their Promised Land, the restoration is still a prophecy in process – it has not been completed. There is, abundant evidence to illustrate that God is a God of restoration. Hence, Israel is a visual object lesson that points to the truthfulness of the divinely inspired Holy Writ. Most significant is the fact that God’s desire is not limited to real estate located in the Middle East, but that parcel of ground is a witness to the world of what He desires to do in the hearts of men and women – to restore them.

Just as God promised to regather the sons and daughters from the four corners of the world, Jesus desires to have you “regathered” unto Himself. The Jewish people have returned with a host of problems and difficulties and the Lord is with them through those difficulties simply because He said He would do so. Likewise, Jesus desires to be a part of your life and walk with you through your difficulties. Just as the Bible prophesied God would help the Jewish people, the Bible also promises God will be with you.

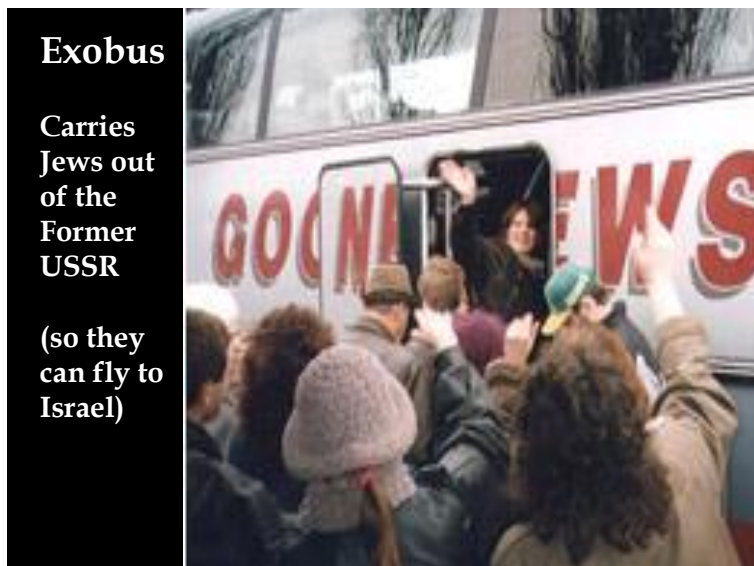


## 21. Gentiles Fish and Hunt for Jews (to Bring Them Home)

**“Behold, I am going to send for many fishermen,’ declares the LORD, ‘and they will fish for them; and afterwards I will send for many hunters, and they will hunt them from every mountain and every hill and from the clefts of the rocks.”**

### **Jeremiah 16:16**

The name “Exobus” was created by combining biblical word “exodus” to the modern transport vehicle, a “bus.” Exobus is a charity that goes out to “hunt” and identify lost Jews and helps them acquire the necessary documents required by the Jewish Agency for their return to Israel. Due to the nature of this ministry, obviously not much information can be revealed. Unfortunately, Hitler used this verse to justify his demonic search for Jews. Nonetheless, this ministry has searched for, found, and helped transport a significant but undisclosed number of Jewish people to their homeland. Many Jews in Russia and the former Soviet bloc states no longer practice their faith due to persecution and/or economic and social pressures, making identity all the more difficult. Yet many have been brought home by Gentile believers.



The Exobus is a ministry that searches for Jews in the former Soviet Union, and helps them with visas and supplies to get to a European country. From there the Jewish Agency arranges their flights to Israel.

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## 22. Jews Have Been Airlifted to Israel by Gentiles

**“Who are these that fly along like clouds, surely the islands look to me; in the lead are the ships of Tarshish, bringing your sons from afar with their silver and gold.”**

**Isaiah 60:8-9**

When Isaiah wrote that the Jews would “fly along like clouds,” he probably thought they would return home with great speed. The phrase “ships of Tarshish” meant that the Gentiles would bring them home. Little did he know that one day men would literally fly among the clouds. Ministries such as the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ) paid for thousands to fly home “along the clouds.”



Jewish refugees in flight from the Soviet Union to Israel. Christian ministries have sponsored the flights of thousands of Jewish refugees to their Promised Land. One must wonder if they thought of Isaiah 60:8-9 when they looked out the airplane windows and saw the clouds. Photo by the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem.

The stories of how the Jewish people returned could fill volumes. For example, in 1991, 14,000 Falasha Jews, descendants from a son born to the

Queen of Sheba by King Solomon (1 Kings 10), were airlifted from Ethiopia. Approximately another 8,000 were secretly airlifted in November, 1984 and every year more return from nearly every corner of the world. It was one of the few times that the United Nations helped the Jewish people. However, to make their escape, many had to walk across Lybia to airplanes hidden in the desert. Many died along the way while others were kidnapped and sold into slavery. But not all could leave.

Later, the communist government in Ethiopia said in 1990 it would permit the Ethiopian Jews to leave, but the promise was not fulfilled until 1991. With the assistance of U.S. President Bush, Israel sent some three dozen planes to Ethiopia in “Operation Solomon.” In a single day some 15,000 Ethiopian Jews were airlifted into Israel. Never before were Africans taken out of Africa and given freedom instead of slavery. Imagine what the prophet Isaiah would have said if he could have literally seen into the future.

Another example was sent to this writer by a friend in Jerusalem. She told of the story of the B’nei Menashe (Sons of Manasseh) who returned to Israel from India. Their oral history taught that after exile from their homeland they lived in China for many centuries. Then the Chinese emperor, who did not appreciate their worship of the one God, took away their ancient scroll, desecrated it and began to persecute them.

They fled China for India and over time memories of the writings on the scroll became faint. But one of their remaining folk songs was called the “Separation of the Red Sea” song about their ancestors crossing the Red Sea on solid ground. Their day of rest used to be Saturday and, therefore, they never worked in the rice paddy fields or went hunting on Saturday until the British missionaries came to India and changed their day of rest to Sunday.

Finally, they discovered that their ancestor, who they called Manmashi, was none other than Manasseh the son of Joseph. After a careful investigation, the government of Israel officially recognized that they are indeed the lost tribe of Manasseh and flew them home to Israel. Furthermore, the first flight was completely funded by one of the major evangelical ministries in Jerusalem – the International Christian Embassy. No other people group in history survived an exile and was re-established themselves in its ancient land as a nation again. Yet the Jewish people survived exile – TWICE! Furthermore, for most of Jewish history, Gentiles, including so-called Christians, have been the enemies of the Jewish people. The day has finally arrived when true believers in Christ Jesus are demonstrating His love to them.

The book of Psalm, every major prophet, and most of the minor prophets, predicted the return of the Jewish people. Some even indicated they would return from *all* the nations. Today it is difficult to find a nation from where they did *not* come. These feats alone demonstrate the faithfulness of God.

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## Chapter 3

### The National Struggle of Life and Death

The Bible is not only a love story between God and man, but is also a story of conflict between good and evil. At one time Satan, also known as Lucifer, was an angelic director of music in Heaven. When he decided to position himself upon God's throne he was evicted from the heavenly portals and thrown to earth along with the angels who followed him.

When Adam and Eve accepted his deceptive encouragement in the Garden of Eden, Satan had entered the human race and introduced conflict, war, and death. He also dedicated himself to oppose God's plans, but his eventual fate was sealed when Jesus arose from the grave. Nonetheless, in the present age an ongoing conflict continues between good and evil; a battle between God and Satan.

Moses recorded the words of God saying in part, "I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse and in you all the families of the earth will be blessed" (Gen. 12:3). Hidden in this passage is an element of today's conflict – that is those who bless Israel and the Jewish people are opposed by those who wish to destroy them.

Many people attempt to understand the Middle East conflict and make inaccurate conclusions. Politicians and the media are more interested in convincing listeners than informing them. Deception is rampant and the only true basis of truth is the Bible. It is the filter one needs to wear when interpreting the daily events.

The conflict in the Holy Land is, and always has been, a question of whose god is God? The Bible clearly states that one day Jesus will rule and rein on the earth while seated in Jerusalem. For that to happen, the Jews must first return to their Promised Land to fulfill prophetic promises God made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Little wonder that Satan tried to kill them in the Holocaust.

While in Heaven, Satan desired to be seated on God's throne. He led a rebellion against God and was thrown down to earth. He has been opposing God's people ever since. The Bible clearly states that one day Jesus will rule and reign upon the earth and do so from the city of Jerusalem. Consequently, Satan is doing everything possible to prevent that from happening. Just as God is seated upon Heaven's throne, so Jesus will be seated upon earth's throne in Jerusalem. Satan will fight just as hard on earth as he did in Heaven. He will succeed for a short time as the anti-Christ, but eventually Jesus will win and, with His followers, will rule the earth for a thousand years. We are living in an era of that final demonic battle when the forces of Satan will oppose the people of God who are preparing the way for the coming of the Messiah.

## 23. The Birth of Israel

Isaiah witnessed the political turmoil and moral decay of his people. He wrote so many prophecies concerning the coming Messiah that his book is often referred to as the “gospel of the Old Testament.” Included were his predictive words that one day the Jewish nation would be born in a single day. Such an event was unheard of in his time, but his words were literally fulfilled 27 centuries later in 1948.

**“Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Can a land be born in one day? Can a nation be brought forth all at once? As soon as Zion travailed she also brought forth her sons. ‘Shall I bring to the point of birth and not give delivery?’ says the Lord. ‘Or shall I who gives delivery shut the womb?’ says your God.”**

**Isaiah 66:8-9**

On November 29, 1947 the United Nations voted to partition Palestine and thereby make it possible for a Jewish nation to be created. Six months later on May 14, 1948, David Ben Gurion declared the birth of the state of Israel, a proclamation of prophetic fulfillment and significance. The following is his declaration,

ACCORDINGLY WE, MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE'S COUNCIL, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF ERETZ-ISRAEL, AND OF THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT, ARE HERE ASSEMBLED ON THE DAY OF THE TERMINATION OF THE BRITISH MANDATE OVER ERETZ-ISRAEL AND, BY VIRTUE OF OUR NATURAL AND HISTORIC RIGHT AND ON THE STRENGTH OF THE RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HEREBY DECLARE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JEWISH STATE IN ERETZ-ISRAEL TO BE KNOWN AS THE STATE OF ISRAEL.

WE DECLARE that, with effect from the moment of the termination of the Mandate being tonight, the eve of Sabbath, the 6th Iyar, 5708 (15th May, 1948), until the establishment of the elected, regular authorities of the State in accordance with the Constitution which shall be Adopted by the Elected Constituent Assembly not later than the 1st October 1948, the People's Council shall act as a Provisional Council of State, and its executive organ, the People's Administration, shall be the Provisional Government of the Jewish State, to be called “Israel.”

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THE STATE OF ISRAEL will be open for Jewish immigration and for the Ingathering of the Exiles; it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of ISRAEL; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

THE STATE OF ISRAEL is prepared to cooperate with the agencies and representatives of the United Nations in implementing the resolution of the General Assembly of the 29th November, 1947, and will take steps to bring about the economic union of the whole of Eretz-Israel.

WE APPEAL to the United Nations to assist the Jewish people in the building-up of its State and to receive the State of Israel into the community of nations.

WE APPEAL - in the very midst of the onslaught launched against us now for months - to the Arab inhabitants of the State of Israel to preserve peace and participate in the upbuilding of the State on the basis of full and equal citizenship and due representation in all its provisional and permanent institutions.

WE EXTEND our hand to all neighboring states and their peoples in an offer of peace and good neighborliness, and appeal to them to establish bonds of cooperation and mutual help with the sovereign Jewish people settled in its own land. The State of Israel is prepared to do its share in a common effort for the advancement of the entire Middle East.

WE APPEAL to the Jewish people throughout the Diaspora to rally round the Jewish people of Eretz-Israel in the tasks of immigration and upbuilding and to stand by them in the great struggle for the realization of the age-old dream - the redemption of Israel.

PLACING OUR TRUST IN THE ALMIGHTY, WE AFFIX OUR SIGNATURES TO THIS PROCLAMATION AT THIS SESSION OF THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE, ON THE SOIL OF THE HOMELAND, IN THE CITY OF TEL-AVIV, ON THIS SABBATH EVE, THE 5TH DAY OF IYAR, 5708 (14TH MAY, 1948).

David Ben-Gurion, et.al.



David Ben Gurion in Tel Aviv on May 14, 1948, stands before dignitaries and the international press to announce the birth of the state of Israel. Even secular Jews began to reflect upon the prophetic words of their Bible. Note carefully the vision of dry bones by the prophet Ezekiel.

<sup>1</sup>The hand of the LORD was upon me, and He brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; and it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>He caused me to pass among them round about, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley; and lo, they were very dry.

<sup>3</sup>He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know." <sup>4</sup>Again He said to me, "Prophecy over these bones and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.'

<sup>5</sup>"Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones, 'Behold, I will cause breath to enter you that you may come to life.

<sup>6</sup>'I will put sinews on you, make flesh grow back on you, cover you with skin and put breath in you that you may come alive; and you will know that I am the LORD.'"

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<sup>7</sup>So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone.

<sup>8</sup>And I looked, and behold, sinews were on them, and flesh grew and skin covered them; but there was no breath in them.

<sup>9</sup>Then He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they come to life.'""

<sup>10</sup>So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

### The Vision Explained

<sup>11</sup>Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off.' <sup>12</sup>"Therefore prophecy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, My people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel.

<sup>13</sup>"Then you will know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves and caused you to come up out of your graves, My people. <sup>14</sup>"I will put My Spirit within you and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken and done it," declares the LORD."

### Ezekiel 37:1-14

There is no question that the Holocaust directly led to the birth of Israel because it stirred great empathy among world leaders. In addition, many survivors of the death camps came to Palestine where they established the Jewish nation thereby giving the words of Ezekiel unique understanding.

Today the Israel is a witness of the faithfulness of God. The proverbial bones of the Jewish nation are coming together. Those who cannot equate modern Israel with biblical Israel do so because of the general agnostic and atheistic attitudes of a vast majority of Israeli people. However, it is only *after* the bones are brought together that God will breathe into them His Holy Spirit – then they will recognize Him and be a biblical nation. In essence, Ezeiel 37:4 refers to the physical restoration while verse 5 is a reference to the spiritual restoration.

For 2,000 years Christians have pondered when the Messiah will return. Often they have failed to relate His return to the fulfillment of prophetic Scriptures that pertain to the Jewish people. Nonetheless, now that this link has

become evident, it is also evident that we live in a window of time that is between verses 4 and 5. What a privilege to live in this incredible period of human history. Let us not waste the opportunities that are before us.



A German soldier kills a Jewish woman in a mass grave, who survived the gas chamber at the Auschwitz Concentration Camp. The horror of the Holocaust is a reminder of the depravity of the human nature without God. Yet God knew this would happen and said that from the “valley of dry bones” a nation would rise. What Satan meant for evil, God turned into prophetic fulfillment. As explained in *In the Shame of Jesus: The Hidden Story of Church-Sponsored Anti-Semitism*, when the world community realized what the German Nazis had done, they had compassion on the Jewish people, and that compassion was instrumental in the establishment of the modern state of Israel.

On February 16, 2010, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu proclaimed the fulfillment of Ezekiel 37, when speaking at the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. Many rabbis agreed, and said that chapters 38 and 39 will also be literally fulfilled in the near future.

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## 24. The Enemies of Israel Cannot Win

When listening to the evening news it is difficult to imagine that Israel might have Divine protection, especially with the numerous terrorist attacks and threats of war. Yet many Israeli military officers will state that in the past there were times when the enemy should have won. Western military strategists have often used the “M” word – miracle – especially when discussing the 1948 War of Independence and the Six-Day War of 1967. That is not to say that the battles were easy or without sacrifice. The War of Independence alone cost Israel one percent of her population -- a huge loss. Yet they survived.

**“The LORD shall cause your enemies who rise up against you to be defeated before you; they will come out against you one way and will flee before you seven ways.”**

**Deuteronomy 28:7**

One of the many “M” stories of the 1948 War is that of a few Israeli soldiers who were stationed on a hill top overlooking northern Israel. A Syrian battalion arrived and parked in the valley overnight in front of them. On the adjacent hill were the Israelis with only one small mortar and a few shells. At night they fired a shell at the enemy and moved the mortar to another location to fire another shell. They repeated this throughout the night. The Syrians, thinking that they were confronting a huge army, retreated. The mortar has become known as “The Little David” and is on display in Jerusalem.



“The Little David” mortar reminds residents and visitors of an incredible 1948 military victory.

## 25. Israel Has Established a Democratic Government

One cannot imagine that the prophet Zechariah could have predicted a democratic government, when the idea of such a governmental structure was unknown to him. He did, however, carefully describe a future government as having a multitude of “governors of Judah” or “clans of Judah.” This was unheard of in his culture when people were ruled by a single monarch, or on rare occasions when two monarchs would co-reign. Yet today, the governmental structure consists of “governors of Judah.”

On January 20, 1949 the people of Israel elected their “governors” to represent them in the First Knesset Assembly that met a month later on February 14. The Knesset, formally known as the *Knesset Hagedolah*, (Great Assembly) and its 120 members was originally established in Jerusalem by Ezra and Nehemiah in the fifth century BC. The prophet Zechariah said that the “clans of Judah” would have a single voice. The people in various Israeli districts today are represented by a *Knesset* member, a fulfillment of these prophetic words:

**“Then the clans of Judah will say in their hearts, ‘A strong support for us are the inhabitants of Jerusalem through the Lord of Hosts, their God. In that day I will make the clans of Judah like a firepot among pieces of wood and a flaming torch among sheaves, so they will consume on the right hand and on the left all the surrounding peoples, while the inhabitants of Jerusalem again dwell on their own sites in Jerusalem.’ ”**  
**Zechariah 12:5-6**



The Knesset is Israel’s legislative body of 120 members who represent the “clans of Judah” meaning, the people of Israel - both Jews and Arabs.

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## 26. Ancient Monetary System was Re-established in 1980

**“The shekel shall be twenty gerahs; twenty shekels, twenty-five shekels, and fifteen shekels shall be your maneh .... All the people of the land shall give to this offering for the prince in Israel.”**

**Ezekiel 45:12, 16**

Throughout biblical history the shekel was the currency of Jewish choice, from the time when Abraham paid 400 shekels for a burial site for his wife Sarah (Gen. 23:15). Only when they were dominated by foreign powers did they use a different currency. Use of the shekel died in AD 135 when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem as the result of the bar Kokhba Revolt. However, the biblical currency was restored in 1980 by the Knesset, Israel's Parliament.



The New Shekel was revived in 1980, 1,845 years after its demise in AD 135.

To understand the significance of Ezekiel's prophecy concerning the shekel, it is important to understand the divisions of his book. The first 24 chapters pertain to the ancient Israelite people, chapters 25 - 32 are judgments against neighboring enemy nations, and chapters 33 - 48 are consolations for the Jews. In chapters 40 - 48 Ezekiel discusses the revived temple worship in the still-to-be-constructed third temple. He did not predict that the shekel would come into existence in a revived nation, nor that it would be associated in some way to the coming of the Messiah, but rather, it would be the currency of offering in the temple during the reign of the Messiah.

## 27. Jerusalem Is an International Problem

Of all the cities in the world, Jerusalem should be among the least likely to be problematic to anyone. It is not along any major trade routes, rivers, nor has it any strategic military significance. It has never been a capital city for any group of people except the Jews – a small and seemingly insignificant group when compared to the regional population. Yet today it is the center of global attention.

**“I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling ... On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations.”**

**Zechariah 12:2a-3**

So why is Jerusalem the “immovable rock?” It is because Jerusalem is where Abraham was about to offer Isaac as a sacrifice and where Jesus offered Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of humanity. But more significantly, while in Heaven, Satan desired to be on God’s throne (Isa. 14:12-14), which is the reason he and his angels were removed. Since Jesus will one day rule and reign from Jerusalem for a thousand years, Satan is now doing everything possible to prevent that from occurring. This spiritual war is visible in the military conflicts and terrorist actions throughout this region. The number of nations that have consistently voted against Israel on one matter or another is absolutely amazing.



All around the world there are many protests against but only a few in support of Israel. Shown are demonstrators in Haifa, South Korea, Prague, San Francisco, and Berlin.

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## History Anti-Semitism by the UNITED NATIONS<sup>2</sup>

(A partial listing)

### **1950 United Nations Relief and Works Agency**

The UNRWA, as a humanitarian organization to aid Palestinian refugees was created and now manages sprawling camps where terrorist forces have taken root, operate and train the next generation of suicide bombers. No action has ever been taken to prevent or end this criminal activity. After more than a half century of managing refugee camps, the Agency still receives UN funds and terrorists still have freedom within the camps.

### **1971 Nazi Officer heads U.N.**

Former Nazi officer Kurt Waldheim is elected Secretary General of the United Nations.

### **1975 Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People**

The Committee was established with a budget of more than \$5 million and regularly meets around the world to condemn Israel and blame the Israelis for Arab suffering. Featured speakers at Committee meetings have accused Israel of war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, while ignoring the horrific acts of terrorism perpetrated against the Israeli people on a regular basis.

### **1975 Zionism is Racism**

The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution equating Zionism with racism.

### **1979 Jewish Organization Compared to Nazi Gestapo**

At a meeting of the United Nations Security Council, Jordanian Ambassador Hassem Nuseibeh, calls a major Jewish organization “the Gestapo of the Zionist movement.”

### **1980 “Jews Control the World”**

At a United Nations Assembly meeting, Jordanian Ambassador Hassem Nuseibeh declares that there is a Jewish “Cadel which controls, manipulates and exploits the rest of humanity by controlling the money and wealth of the world...It is a well-known fact that Zionists are the richest people in the world and control much of its destiny...”

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<sup>2</sup> Newsletter of the World Jewish Congress (American Section), Inc. Edgar M. Bronfman, ed. (501 Madison Avenue, New York, NY, Dec. 2005), p. 2-3.

**1985     “Jews Killed Jesus”**

In a debate on the elimination of religious intolerance, the representative of Bahrain states that the “Jews had killed Jesus Christ.”

**2001     World Conference on Racism Turns Anti-Semitic**

The U. N. Conference in Durban, South Africa, becomes an orgy of anti-Semitic rhetoric and propaganda, while statements condemning anti-Semitism were deleted from the final draft resolutions.

**2002     UNRWA Chief Spreads Vicious Lie**

UNRWA Chief Peter Hansen promotes the Jenin massacre myth: “I had hoped that the horror stories of Jenin were exaggerated...but I am afraid these were not exaggerated and the Jenin camp residents lived through a human catastrophe that has few parallels in recent history.” The exaggerations included claims of thousands of Palestinians killed; the true toll was 52, more than half of them were armed combatants.

**2003     Suicide Bombers Endorsed / Israel Condemned**

Under the chairmanship of Libya, the U.N. Human Rights Committee endorses the Palestinian use of suicide bombers. At the same session, Syria refers to Israel as a “cancer,” and called on the world to eliminate “the new Zionist Nazism.”

Palestinian Observer Ramlawi states that the Government of Israel has and is still perpetuating crimes of genocide against Palestinians.

Proposed General Assembly resolution condemning anti-Semitism is withdrawn in the face of Arab and Muslim opposition.

Sub-commission on the Promoting and Protection of Human Rights Chair Halima Warzazi says that Israel, “sowed death, massive destruction, terror, despair, and perpetuated persecution and torture.”

Security Council convenes to address Israeli retaliatory attack on Hezbollah bases in Syria (no injuries reported) but is unwilling to address any of the previous Arab attacks in Israel that led to the retaliatory strike.

U.N. report on democracy in Arab states suggests that Israel is to blame for the lack of democratic government in the region.

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## **28. The Repeating Psalm 83 Conspiracy**

On November 29, 1947 the United Nations voted to partition Palestine and thereby permit the Jews to create a sovereign Jewish state. Hence, the Arabs immediately stockpiled weaponry and planned to “drive the Jews into the sea.” On May 14, 1948, following the declaration of Israel’s independence, they attacked with the sole objective of completing Hitler’s work.

Not only was the conspiracy and attack predicted three thousand years ago, but the attacking nations are also identified in the Holy Writ. The unique feature of Psalm 83 is that there is no historical evidence these nations had ever formed a similar conspiracy previously.<sup>18</sup> Therefore, it must be assumed that this passage is prophetic. And prophetic it was because in the nineteen month War of Independence, Israel fought the Arabs who lived in the lands identified in the passage. The ancient people groups described in Psalm 83 no longer exist as they have either disappeared from history or became absorbed into another culture. However, the attacking Arab armies did come from the territories of those ancient biblical people groups. Note the prophetic Psalm with the modern nations identified:

**<sup>1</sup> “O God, do not remain quiet;**

**Do not be silent and, O God, do not be still.**

**<sup>2</sup> For behold, Your enemies make an uproar,**

**And those who hate You have exalted themselves.**

**<sup>3</sup> They make shrewd plans against Your people,**

**And conspire together against Your treasured ones.**

**<sup>4</sup> They have said, "Come, and let us wipe them out as a nation,**

**That the name of Israel be remembered no more."**

**<sup>5</sup> For they have conspired together with one mind;**

**Against You they make a covenant:**

**<sup>6</sup> The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites.**

**(SAUDI ARABIA, JORDAN)**

**Moab and the Hagrites;**

**(JORDAN; EGYPT)**

**<sup>7</sup> Gebal and Ammon and Amalek,**

**(SYRIA, LEBANON, JORDAN, SAUDI ARABIA)**

**Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre;**

**(PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY/HAMAS, LEBANON /  
HEZBOLLAH)**

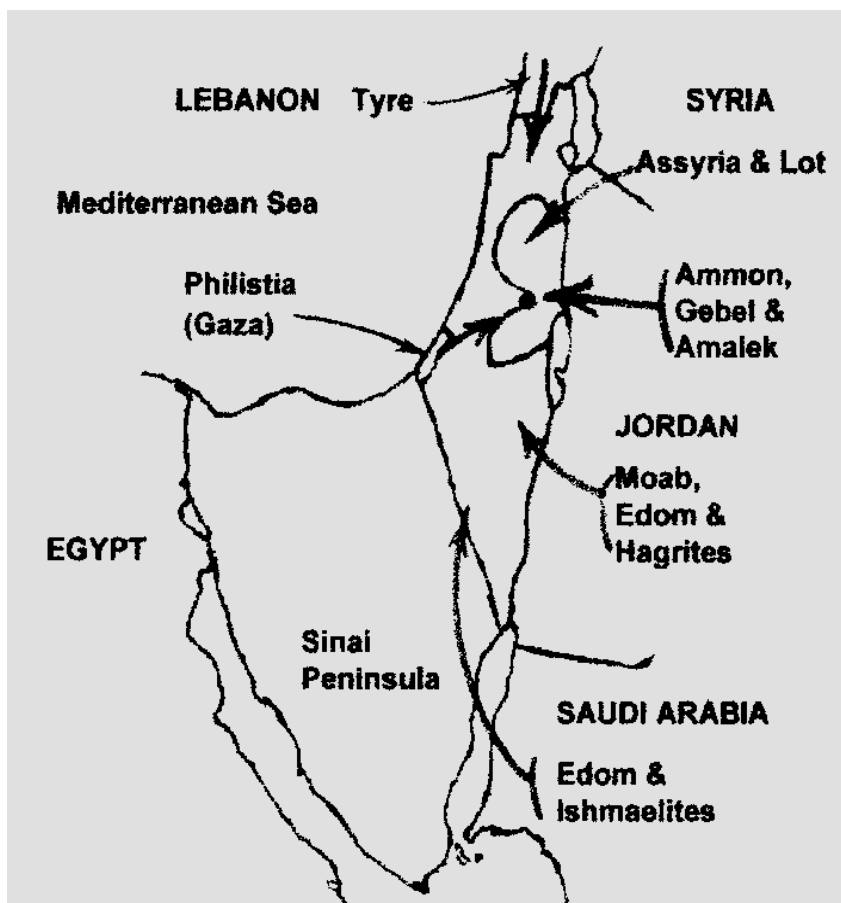
**<sup>8</sup> Assyria also has joined with them;**

**(TURKEY, SYRIA)**

**They have become a help to the children of Lot. Selah.**

<sup>12</sup> Who said, "Let us possess for ourselves  
The pastures of God."

Psalm 83:1-8, 12



The nations mentioned in Psalm 83 perfectly match the Arab nations that have repeatedly attacked Israel since 1948.

For centuries the nations of Psalm 83 were a mystery to scholars because they were little more than impoverished Muslim people groups. Today, however, they have been motivated by Islamic *Sharia Law* and petrodollars to destroy the Jewish nation. This prophecy will have its final fulfillment when these Arab states join forces with the anti-Christ for the Battle of Armageddon.

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## 29. Hamas and Hezbollah

Obviously the biblical writers never heard of Hamas or the Hezbollah, yet how would they identify Israel's passionate enemies more than 2,500 years into the future? They described them by using names with which their readers were familiar – names of the regions where the future enemies would live and have a base of operation. Today the Hamas occupies the biblical Philistine land while the Hezbollah is in the biblical land of Tyre and Sidon.

While both biblical and secular histories reveal that ancient tribal groups often combined into a unified force to defeat a common enemy, never has there been a concerted effort by the people of Tyre, Sidon and Philistia to fight against the Jewish people. Yet the prophet Joel wrote this question by God that, in essence, reveals that the inhabitants of Tyre and Sidon will one day fight against God's people.

**“Now what have you against me, O Tyre and Sidon and all you regions of Philistia? Are you repaying me for something I have done ...?”**

**Joel 3:4 (See also Psalm 83; Isaiah 14:12, 29-32; Ezekiel 28)**

### HAMAS

HAMAS is an Arabic acronym for the Islamic Resistance Movement. This group and Hezbollah are both focused on the destruction of Israel and the eradication of every Jewish person from the land.

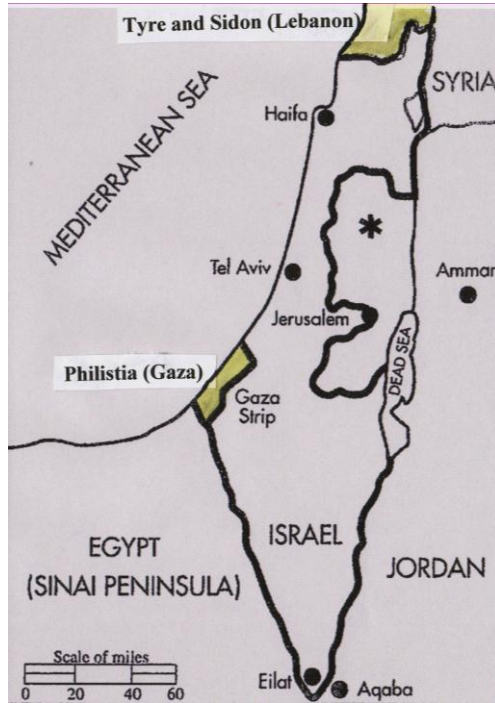
To the southwest of Israel is a long narrow strip of land known as Gaza. It was the home of the ancient Philistines and recently, it given to the Palestinian Authority. At this writing it is ruled by the Islamic terrorist group known as HAMAS.

Although the Philistines no longer exist, they are mentioned by the prophet Joel and are listed in the books of Zephaniah, Psalms, Ezekiel, and Zechariah. They no longer exist but the land obviously does. The Palestinians, especially the Palestinian leaders and clerics, have the same hatred and animosity as did their ancient counterparts. Ezekiel 25:15-27 indicates that the people in the land of the Philistines are incredibly vengeful towards the people of Israel, whom they despise. Zechariah 9:1-8 specifically mentions Gaza, where today the Palestinian people suffer under extreme political corruption and unemployment in excess of 50 percent. Hence, they will fight for the hope of a better life either here, or in the Muslim view of heaven.

The fact remains, that in spite of various conspiracies, wars, rumors of wars, and terroristic attacks, God will preserve the nation of Israel. The reason is not for the sake of the Jewish people, but for the honor and persevation of His Holy Name.

## Hezbollah

The name “Hezbollah” means “Party of God,” or more precisely, “Party of Allah.” The unrelenting violence, death, and destruction of these terrorist organizations are totally opposite of the characteristics of Jesus.



Tyre and Sidon are ancient cities in modern Lebanon located north of Israel and are now the homes for the Hezbollah. Hamas, and to a lesser extent the Palestinian Authority, control ancient Philistia (Gaza), the home of the biblical Philistines.

When Ezekiel gave his prophecies against Tyre and Sidon in chapter 28, he placed a description of Satan in the middle of the chapter (verses 13-19). More importantly, in an allegorical genre he described the king of Tyre as Satan in verse 12.

**“Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, You had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God ....’ ”**

**Ezekiel 28:12-13a**

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Obviously the king of Tyre never set foot in the Garden of Eden, but Satan had done so. Since the characteristics of Muhammad are diabolically opposite to those of Jesus, and the *Sharia Law* is likewise opposite of biblical law, there can be no question that Ezekiel's description of the kings of Tyre and Sidon refers to the Hezbollah of modern Lebanon.

One day, at the end of the final battle and the defeat of Israel's enemies, the Jews will recognize the true God of the universe. In fact, all will recognize the God of the Jews and Christians. Ezekiel often used the phrase, "Then they will know that I am the LORD." This is significant because the Muslims shout "Great is Allah" as they proceed to kill their victims – but then they too will recognize the true God of the universe. Since most of the Jewish people have rejected their Messiah, this common phrase will one day be significant to them.



An Israeli school bus was hit by Hezbollah rockets in November, 2000. Nine children were severely wounded, some losing arms and legs.

Because Islamic groups have repeatedly said they are in a religious war against the Jews, Christians and the West, they provide the evidence that we are in a spiritual battle. For when Jesus said, kingdom shall be against kingdom, Matthew used the Greek word *bascilla* meaning spiritual kingdom (Mt. 24:4).

### 30. The Stones Cry Out

For centuries this phrase “the stones cry out,” was believed to be a mere figure of speech, but in the past century and a half, it took on a new and literal meaning as the emerging science of archaeology provided evidential support of the historical accuracy of various biblical narratives. Little wonder, that in face of critics, Jesus responded,

**“But Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, if these become silent, the stones will cry out!’”**

**Luke 19:40**

In the past three centuries there has been a movement in a growing number of seminaries to remove the literal interpretation of the Bible. The major argument of critics has been that, in their view, biblical history was written to prove a theological point. Hence the biblical history of the Jewish people is a fabrication. Nonetheless, archaeologists have routinely uncovered evidence that supports the literal interpretation of Scripture.<sup>19</sup> Archaeologists meticulously dig through the dirt at ancient sights to uncover the tell-tale secrets of past occupants. They examine pottery shards, buried walls, foundations and other clues.

In 1947 the first of the Dead Sea Scrolls was discovered in clay jars. The event was significant because it included two complete copies of the book of Isaiah, in which God promised to reestablish national Israel (66:1-10). Amazingly, the Israelis purchased the Isaiah scrolls on November 29, 1947, the same day the United Nations voted to partition Palestine, which would permit the creation of Israel on May 14, 1948. Until this time, the oldest existing Isaiah text was only a thousand years old, now scholars had two copies that were twice as old. Both are identical to today’s biblical book.

Currently there are two attacks against God. The first is to destroy the authenticity, accuracy and, therefore, the inspiration of the Bible. The second is the destruction of Israel by Islamic states and to remove all evidence of Jewish and Christian history. Archaeology reveals the historic accuracy of the Bible and the historic existence and occupation of the Jewish people in the land. Ironically, the Israelis must prove to the world they have an historic tie to the land against a people who have none. The second irony is that while an increasing number of textbooks claim the Jews have no historical roots to the land, archaeologists are constantly uncovering new evidence to prove the opposite – the Jewish people do have a history in the land and the biblical narratives are accurate. The science of archaeology thus reveals amazing historical details that some would rather forget. “The stones cry out!”

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The cave entrance in Qumran, where in 1947, a Bedouin boy inadvertently discovered a cache of clay jars filled with 2,000-year old scrolls. The accumulated contents of the 11 caves totaled to over 15,000 fragments and 800 copies of biblical and non-biblical books.

For more than a century the Bible has come under attack by critics inside and outside the Church. When the accepted methodology of interpretation of archaeological data is equally applied, meaning equal to biblical and non-biblical sites, the science speaks for itself, and the historical accounts of the Bible are found to be accurate. For example, for decades critics have said that there was no record of the existence of King David outside of the Bible. However, in 1993 a pottery fragment was discovered at Tel Dan with the inscribed name of “David.” However, critics argued over its date saying it was not of the biblical era of 1000 BC.

Then in November of 2008, an archaeological team from the University of Haifa discovered in Khirbet Qeiyafa (Arabic name for the ancient Hebrew fortress Sha'arayim), a 3000 year old pottery shard 6 in by 6.4 inches. Written in early Hebrew, it mentions Sha'arayim, which is mentioned three times in the

Bible (Josh. 15:3; 1 Sam. 17:52 and 1 Chron. 4:31-32). It is associated with the city where David killed Goliath.

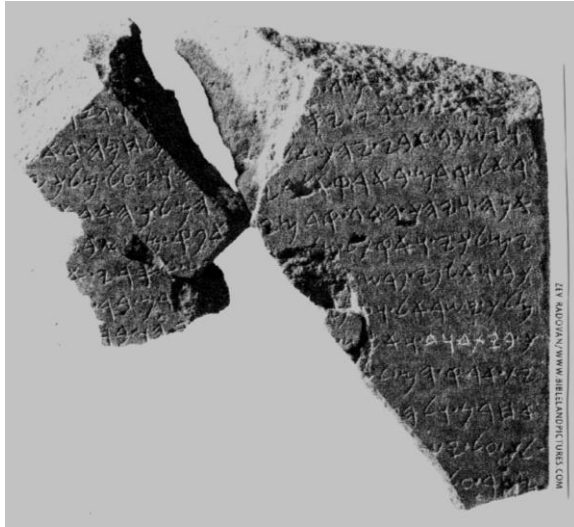
The discovery is significant for several reasons. First, it is another archaeological indicator that the Palestinians are wrong in their claim that there never was a Jewish presence in the land during biblical times. Second, it challenges Bible critics who claim that the written Hebrew language was not developed by the 10<sup>th</sup> century BC. While the letters are different from the modern Aramaic Hebrew alphabet, 3,000 years ago the written Hebrew language was better defined than languages of neighboring cultures. This was noted because the text uses verbs that were rarely used in other regional languages, indicating the ancient Hebrew language was highly developed.



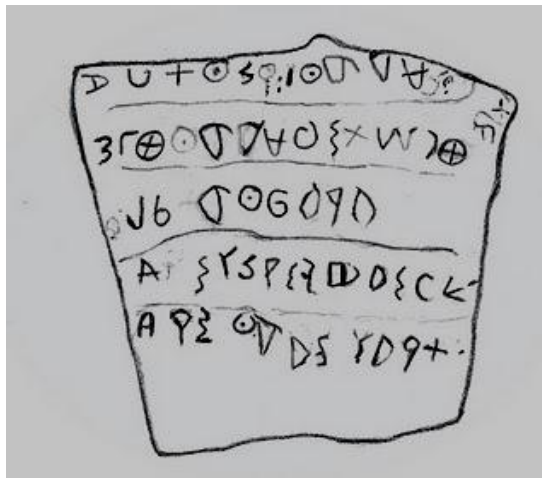
The Isaiah Scroll is the only complete biblical book found among the Dead Sea Scrolls. Found in Cave 1 at Qumran, it was written about 100 BC.

The original locations of towns and villages were never lost because today local people, including the Arabs, identified them to archaeologists and researchers. In recent years, when new communities were built they were constructed beside the ancient ruins as not to destroy historical treasures that would eventually become the subject of archaeological research. Hence, cities such as Magdala and Arad have both an archaeological site and an adjacent modern city. On the other hand, some cities such as Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Nazareth have had continuous Jewish occupation for centuries. Yet it is an irony that the Jewish people, who have a long documented history in the land, must defend their position to a people who have either a limited history or none at all.

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This 3,000-year-old clay fragment with the earliest known Hebrew inscription was found in 1993. It refers to the “HOUSE OF DAVID.” The name “David” had never appeared in any ancient record outside the Bible. Now it is accepted that King David established a dynasty that ruled from Jerusalem.



An illustration of the 3000 year old pottery shard (6 x 6.4 inches) with the biblical name Sha’arayim, who lived at the time of King David. While the fragment was found where David killed Goliath, it cannot be determined if it refers to the biblical figure, but there is that possibility. It does, however, affirm the historicity of language development that is significant to biblical studies.



### 31. Declarations and Peace Treaties

**“For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. While they are saying, ‘Peace and safety!’ then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.”**

#### 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3

The confrontation between Israel and the Palestinians is more than an issue of land, it is a conflict concerning Israel’s right to exist. If the issue were between two people groups who were seriously interested in peace, the land issues would have been resolved decades ago. But unfortunately, while many Palestinians desire peace, their religious and political leaders have other plans. Needless to say, nearly every treaty Israel has had with her Arab neighbors has been broken. This is especially true since the 1993 Oslo Accords. The fact that there have been so many treaties is indicative that new ones are just as likely to fail as did the old ones. Consecutive failed treaties indicate that at least one party is not honest and truthful.

Nov. 2, 1917	Balfour Declaration
Jan. 3, 1919	Faisal-Weizmann Agreement
July 24, 1922	Mandate for Palestine
Nov. 29, 1947	UN General Assembly Resolution 181
<b>May 14, 1948</b>	<b>Declaration of Independence</b>
June 27, 1967	Protection of Holy Places Law
Sept. 1, 1967	Khartoum Resolutions
Nov. 22, 1967	UN Security Council Resolution 242
Oct. 22, 1973	UN Security Council Resolution 338
May 31, 1974	Israel and Syria sign Separation Agreement.
Mar. 19, 1978	UN Security Council Resolution 425
Sept. 17, 1978	Camp David Accord
Mar. 26, 1979	Peace Treaty between Israel and Egypt
July 30, 1980	Jerusalem legal capital of Israel
Dec. 14, 1981	Golan Heights Law
May 14, 1989	Israel’s Peace Initiative
Oct. 30, 1991	Madrid Peace Conference

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### **The Agreement:**



Oslo Accords participants. Yitzhak Rabin, Bill Clinton and Yasser Arafat agree on the progressive peace plan. Peace agreements have generally initiated more violence than peace.

### **The Results of the Agreement:**



Bus bombed. After Oslo was signed the Israelis faced a new form of terrorism – suicide bombers. In the bus above 19 were killed and more than 50 wounded.

Sept. 9, 1993	Israel - PLO Recognition
Sept. 13, 1993	Oslo Accord (Israel-Palestinian Declaration of Principles)
Sept. 14, 1993	Israel - Jordan Common Agenda
May 4, 1994	Agreement on Gaza Strip and Jericho
July 25, 1994	Israel - Jordan (and US) Washington Agreement
Aug. 25, 1994	Israel - PLO Agreement on Transfer of Powers
Oct. 26, 1994	Israel - Jordan Peace Treaty
Sept. 28, 1995	Israel - Palestinian Interim Agreement
Mar. 13, 1996	Summit of Peacemakers
April 26, 1996	Israel - Lebanon Cease-fire
May 9, 1996	Israel - PLO Agreement on Temporary International Presence in Hebron
Oct. 23, 1998	Wye River Memorandum
Sept. 4, 1999	Sharm El Sheikh Memorandum
July, 2000	Camp David Accord

The treaties and declarations of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century are radically different from the latter ones. The first ones emphasized the rights of the Jewish people to their ancient homeland. The excitement of the Balfour Declaration and the Sykes-Picot Agreement was all but an illusion by the year 1947 when the United Nations passed Resolution 181. As time progressed it was evident that one partition plan after another would not bring peace. The latter ones either denied the Jewish rights or promoted the Palestinian so-called historic claim to a land they have actually occupied only about 150 years. Yet every time there was a partition plan, the Jews hoped for the elusive peace.

What is next, national suicide and the surrender of Jerusalem? Clearly there is a global movement against the Jewish state. The German anti-Semitism of the 1930s and 1940s subsided after World War II only to be resurrected into a global phenomena structured in elegant political correctness. International alliances are fluid and they change almost daily – seldom in Israel's favor.

In the 1990s Turkey and Israel had a military agreement (not listed above) making the secular Islamic country one of Israel's greatest allies, along with the United States and Great Britain. Israel had a long-standing military and commercial relationship with Turkey, the only Muslim country with such a relationship. However, by the end of 2009 Turkey terminated that relationship. Now she is in alignment with Syria and Iran, completing the prophetic Ezekiel

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38 map. In the meantime, the US and Great Britain are pressuring Israel to make more concessions with the Palestinians in the name of peace.

Israel has peace treaties with both Egypt (1979) and Jordan (1994), but these have been treaties under tension, especially the one with Egypt. The Egyptian treaty is essentially a “we might not shoot you today” treaty. The peace treaty with King Abdullah of Jordan is more amicable, but since he is pro-western and a moderate Muslim, his life is in constant danger. Should radical elements assassinate or dethrone him, the climate for war will immediately skyrocket.

Unfortunately the supportive positions of the United States, Great Britain, Germany and France appear to change with every new national leader. Since the US has been the bulwark of Israel’s support, Muslims perceive Israel as an extension of America. Therefore, to successfully destroy Israel there is a growing opinion that first they must destroy America. While the West is caving in to Islamic demands in the name of “cultural sensitivity,” Israel finds herself becoming increasingly isolated in a hostile world. Whatever treaties are written it is evident that in only a matter of time these will fail. The result is that Israelis have become desperate for anyone who can promise peace. As one Israeli woman once said, “We want peace, even if it is with the anti-Christ.”



LEFT: The late Palestinian President Yasser Arafat who came from a long line of terrorists was known as “The Teflon Terrorist” because he never got caught. RIGHT: Jerusalem’s Grand Mufti Hajj el-Husseini, the uncle of Arafat who was known in the 1930s as “The Butcher of the Middle East.” Neither desired peace.

In July of 2001, after another so-called peace discussion, the late Palestinian President Yasser Arafat again told his people, “Do not pay attention to what I say to the media, the television or public appearances. Pay attention only to the written instructions that you receive from me.” Yet Western leaders chose to believe that he was an honest peace broker.

There are a number of reasons as to why American and European leaders are rendering decisions that are leading to national and cultural suicides, all of which are beyond the focus of this book. To summarize, they have no understanding of the demonic passion that motivates terrorism. Second, they value oil more than their own freedom, but believe that if they compromise with the Muslims they can continue to enjoy both. Third, they refuse to recognize that strict Islamic ideals and adherents are incompatible with non-Islamic systems. Fourth, the essence of peace in the Western mind was established within the Judaeo-Christian history and culture. However, peace in the Islamic mind is only a military instrument used for the purpose to gain time to build additional strength for a future total destruction of the enemy. That is also the mind-set of the biblical anti-Christ.

Is there hope for peace? In spite of the long history of broken peace treaties, there will be a time when a peace treaty will be attained. The Apostle Paul said that the Day of the Lord would come like a thief in the night when people would be proclaiming peace and safety (1 Thess. 5:2-3). However, he was speaking of a peace that will, in fact, be an entrapment of death for Israel without a Divine intervention.

The Qur’an permits Muslims to make peace treaties if the ultimate intention is to destroy the enemy. This is found in the Koran, in Sura 9:16, that reads, “If you fear treachery from any of your allies, you may fairly retaliate by breaking off your treaty with them.” Furthermore, according to Sura 3:53-54 and 8:30, Allah is the best of deceivers. A Muslim peace treaty, known as a *hudnab*, is completely opposite to the Western concept of a peace treaty. Therefore, it should not surprise anyone when the anti-Christ breaks off his treaty with Israel. Whether it will be a *hudnab* is unknown and not speculated, but clearly there exists today the purpose of using a treaty to destroy the Jewish people and the state of Israel.

Possibly the greatest danger to the evangelical church is that a growing number of theologians are interpreting prophetic Scriptures as allegorical or assigning them to an historical event, rather than recognizing prophecy as being literally fulfilled before their eyes. Hence, they tend to look for a political peace-maker. This is particularly true of a growing number of churches where “peace” is a major theological focal point. When their theological position is coupled to a lack of cultural and theological knowledge of the Muslim peace makers, they will seek a political solution to the Middle East crises that is destined for suicide. Hence, another peace treaty will be broken.

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## **32. The Ezekiel 38 Alliance**

Ezekiel 38 is best understood in context. Chapters 37-39 refer to a future time after Israel will be established as a sovereign state. One of the amazing predictions of the Bible is the alliance of nations described in verses 1-12, who will attempt to destroy Israel at what many believe to be the infamous Battle of Armageddon. Throughout church history scholars have always interpreted this alliance to take place during the Tribulation; a time of the proverbial “hell on earth,” when the anti-Christ rules the world. Their opinions may be accurate. The amazing feature of current events is that those nations have been forming an alliance since the early 2000s. Today they are Muslim and have military technology agreements with Pakistan, North Korea and China.

Because of past persecutions against the Jewish people, God will permit these nations to come against Israel and, in fact, He will draw or entice them to come for their final judgment. The biblical place names were common when the Scriptures were written, but those ancient groups of people have disappeared or merged with other groups throughout history and new names have been given to those geographical regions. The names of these places and their corresponding modern locations are as follows:

**<sup>1</sup> “And the word of the LORD came to me saying,**

**<sup>2</sup> ‘Son of man, set your face toward Gog of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him**

GOG a city or region in modern Russia

MAGOG is due north of Jerusalem and is modern-day Russia and includes the Islamic nation of Kazakhstan. The name “Moscow” originated with the name “Magog.”

ROSH has two possible definitions. It either is a reference to a people group associated with Gog and Magog, or a chief, commander or prince of Gog and Magog.

MESHECH can include the southern part of Russia by the Black Sea, as well as Georgia and Armenia. Some believe Turkey is included.

TUBAL is an area of debate. Some claim it is part of Russia between the Black and Caspian Seas that comprise the Islamic states of the Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan. Others say it is in western Turkey or a city in Russia.

**<sup>3</sup> and say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I am against you, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal.**

**<sup>4</sup> “I will turn you about and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them splendidly**

**attired, a great company with buckler and shield, all of them wielding swords;**

**<sup>5</sup> Persia, Ethiopia and Put with them, all of them with shield and helmet;**

PERSIA is modern-day Shi'ite Muslim nation of Iran.

ETHIOPIA is also known as Cush and consists of modern day Sudan and a small nation to the east, Eritrea.

PUT is modern Libya.

**<sup>6</sup> Gomer with all its troops; Beth-togarmah from the remote parts of the north with all its troops -- many peoples with you.**

GOMER is a region that includes the Ukraine, Georgia and the areas southeast of the Black Sea in modern Turkey. (Older sources identify Gomer as Germany.)

BETH (the House of) TOGARMAH from the remote parts of the north is known as Armenia in modern Turkey and the surrounding Islamic regions. Until 2009 Turkey was the missing link in the Islamic Alliance, but then she broke alliance with Israel and sided with the Syrians and the Ezekiel's alliance was complete.

MANY PEOPLES (or nations) with you. The composition of international treaties and alliances are often secret. This phrase indicates that other nations, that are not listed, will ally against Israel. Likely candidates are China and North Korea which already have technological agreements with numerous Islamic states, as well as Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon.

**<sup>7</sup> Be prepared, and prepare yourself, you and all your companies that are assembled about you, and be a guard for them.**

**<sup>8</sup> After many days you will be summoned; in the latter years you will come into the land that is restored from the sword, whose inhabitants have been gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel which had been a continual waste; but its people were brought out from the nations, and they are living securely, all of them.**

LAND THAT IS RESTORED FROM THE SWORD. Throughout the centuries the sword was the primary instrument of warfare, especially for Muslims. However, this passage may have significant meaning today as the sword is an Islamic icon. In ancient times the moon god of the Babylonians was the god of war and the sword. Since

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Allah is a resurrected Babylonian deity, the crescent moon is upon every mosque and the sword is depicted on most flags of Muslim nations.

**<sup>9</sup> 'You will go up, you will come like a storm; you will be like a cloud covering the land, you and all your troops, and many peoples with you.'**

**<sup>10</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD, 'It will come about on that day, that thoughts will come into your mind and you will devise an evil plan,**

**<sup>11</sup> and you will say, 'I will go up against the land of unwallled villages I will go against those who are at rest, that live securely, all of them living without walls and having no bars or gates,**

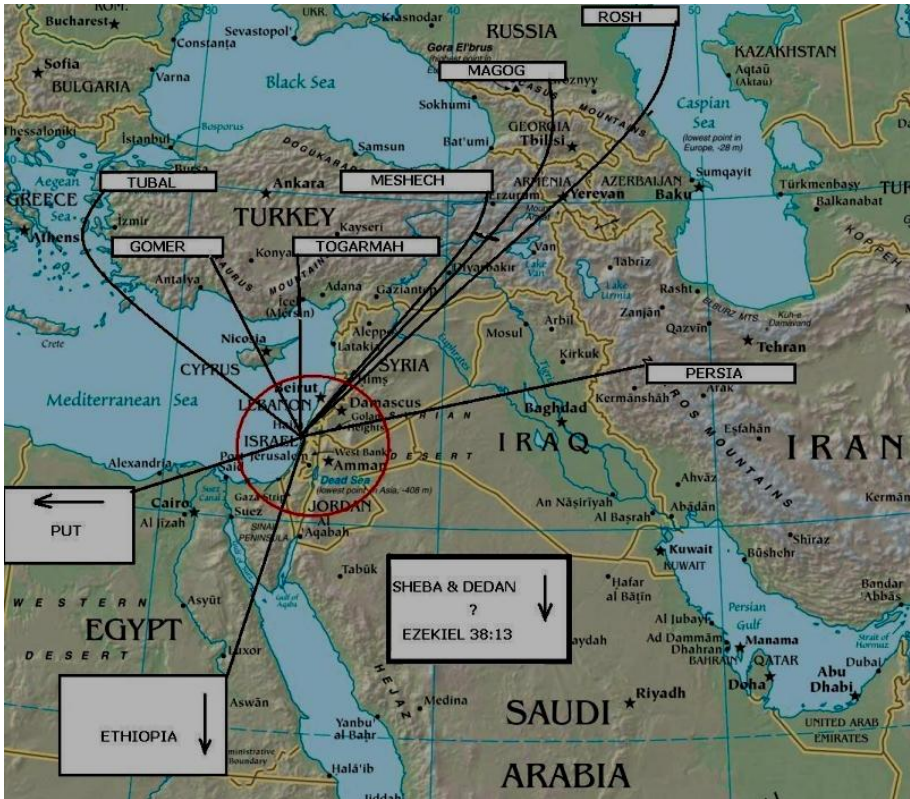
**<sup>12</sup> to capture spoil and to seize plunder, to turn your hand against the waste places which are now inhabited and against the people who are gathered from the nations, who have acquired cattle and goods, who live at the center of the world.' "**

Passages in Ezekiel 38:2-4, 8, 15-16 along with Daniel 11:40 and Joel 2:1-27 describe a phenomenal military conflict with an enemy who invades from the north. Ezekiel said this powerful enemy would be in the "last days" prior to the coming of the Messiah.

In the past two decades the Russians have again become a major world power with military interests in the Middle East. She is determined to control this region in an attempt to regain her former global pride and the role she once enjoyed prior to the fall of communism. This is evident by the construction of military sea ports in Libya, Syria and Iran as well as the massive military build-up of Muslim nations. The predictive warnings of Gog and Magog appear nineteen times in Ezekiel 38 and 39.

To further accelerate matters, Iran has been developing its nuclear program in multiple underground sites with scientists from Pakistan, China and North Korea.

Just as Psalm 83 has been problematic to understanding though out history, so has Ezekiel 38. Never have these nations simultaneously had the power to mount a military strike as described by the prophet. When the Egyptians were the world power, the Persians were weak and the northern people groups such as those of Magog and Gomer were all but unknown. Today, however, these nations have become major players of global influence and strategies. Ezekiel 36-39 emphasizes that God's people, the enemies of His people, and the nations will "know that I am God." It is a repeated theme. Why? It concerns the integrity and holiness of His Name (36:21,22,23; 39:25).



The nations of Ezekiel 38 have formed a military alliance against Israel and are Muslim, including the southern states of Russia.

Most Gentile prophetic observers believe that these nations will go to war against Israel at some point during the Tribulation Period. Yet these nations are coming into alliances today. If the observers are correct, the prophetic timeline is about to culminate with the blowing of the trumpets and the rapture of the church. Assuming the rapture will occur prior to the Period, then the obvious question is “How close are we” to “rapture time?”

Many Messianic Jews, however, do not accept this interpretation. They believe they will experience the Tribulation, but the Lord will protect them as He protected the Israelites from the plagues of Egypt. They also believe that Jesus will return at a point to prevent their annihilation after which He will rule the kingdoms of the earth from His Holy Mountain in Jerusalem.

Regardless of the events that may follow Ezekiel 38, what is known is that this alliance is incredibly significant in God’s eschatological plan. Today’s front page reports have incredible correlations with God’s Word.

33. Injustice Prevails

Zechariah said that one day all the nations of the earth would come against Jerusalem (12:3). For the tide of world opinion to go against the Jewish state, there would first need to be a sense of gross injustice with the Jewish people blamed to be the aggressors or agitators. This is precisely what has happened in recent decades and nations and some Christian denominations have been growing increasingly anti-Israel (a synonym for anti-Semitic).

The purported victims are the Palestinians, according to media reports and Saudi-funded academic think tanks. When a nation is criticized for defending her citizens from terrorist rocket attacks and car bombs, there is little question that injustice has reached a grand scale. Little wonder that Isaiah wrote the following words nearly twenty-seven centuries ago:

**“Therefore justice is far from us, and righteousness does not reach us; we wait for light, and lo, there is darkness; and for brightness, but we walk in gloom.”**

**Isaiah 59:14**

While Isaiah was speaking of social injustice in his own time, his words also have an eerie predictive element. This is evident by the resolutions of the United Nations, which from 1948 to 2009 passed 221 resolutions to condemn Israel, even though Israeli actions were usually for defensive military purposes. No other nation has as many condemnations, not even the former Soviet Union or Communist China. See also the number of human rights resolutions against Israel in recent years. Note the comparison with other nations.

**UN Human Rights Resolutions 2003-2009<sup>20</sup>**

<b>Israel</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>Haiti</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Sudan</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>North Korea</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Congo</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>Iraq</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Ivory Coast</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>USA</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Afghanistan</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Iran</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Somalia</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Cuba</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Myanmar</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Syria</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Lebanon</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Turkey</b>	<b>1</b>



Furthermore, of the 175 UN Security Council resolutions passed prior to 1990, 97 were against Israel. Of the 690 UN General Assembly resolutions passed prior to 1990, 429 were against Israel. Yet between the years 1948 and 1967 the UN was silent when the Jordanians destroyed 58 Jerusalem synagogues, desecrated the Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives, and enforced apartheid-like policies preventing Jews from visiting the Temple Mount and Western Wall.

While Israel has been the target of media bias and UN injustice, the Israeli Arabs likewise have been victimized. Israel's failure has been to provide adequately for the "foreigners" (Isa. 61:4-5; Num. 15:15-16), meaning that they have not received the same government benefits as have the Jewish people. Public services such as sewer, water, and roads have generally been in deplorable conditions. In essence, Israeli Arabs have some legitimate complaints. In Palestinian areas their plight has been compounded by gross Palestinian government corruption. Such discrimination in past decades has fueled current anti-Israel hatred and made peace impossible. This is especially true when the Western media inflates the discrimination issues out of proportion, but fails to mention similar discrimination against the Jewish state.



Ironically, the United Nations' Israeli headquarters are located on a hilltop, on the southern edge of Jerusalem, known as "The Hill of Evil Council." This hill is where 3,000 years ago Ahithophel advised Absalom on how to overthrow his father King David (2 Sam. 16:21, 17:2). At times God appears to speak mysteriously through the convergence of people and places.

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## 34. Kingdom against Kingdom

**“Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom.”  
Matthew 24:7a**

It has been said that there have always been wars and rumors of wars and likewise there have always been kingdoms fighting other kingdoms. So what makes the prediction of Matthew 24:7a different? When examining the key Greek words of this passage, a slightly different meaning emerges. The word “nation” is from the Greek *Eth-nos*, meaning “a people group, tribe or clan.” The 20<sup>th</sup> century has seen the horrors of multiple ethnic cleansings and by some estimates, more than all previous centuries combined. The word “kingdom” is from the Greek *Bas-il-eia*, meaning religious realm, royalty or kingdom. Clearly the meaning is related to religious or spiritual warfare. More specifically, Jesus said that (Muslim?) nations would be at war, and that conflict would be religiously motivated. It is the perfect description of the Islamic war with Israel and the West. As to underscore the importance of the words *ethnos* and *basileia*, note the following inscription that is on the Dome of the Rock: “There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his prophet.” This inscription and the violence that is associated is a visible sign of an invisible spiritual warfare.



The inscription repeated on the Dome of the Rock, “There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his prophet.”

Possibly one of the more worrisome predictions is that of violence (Mt. 24:7; Lk. 21:10; Jude 7; Gen 6:5, 11; 13:13) and apparently it is not limited to the Middle East. Luke 17:26 states that prior to the return of Christ, violence will be as bad as it was in the days of Noah. Obviously no one knows how violent it was at that time, but clearly it was sufficient enough for God to destroy the

earth. However, if the level of violence that is commonly reported in the media is compared to that of 30 or 40 years ago, clearly it is at a heightened status. Furthermore, it is now global in nature and escalation – sometimes at double digit rates. Yet the violence Jesus mentioned is of a physical nature as well as a spiritual one.

The world would be considerably more peaceful if all Muslims lived as moderate Muslims. Their sense of hospitality, courtesy and respect is beyond American imagination. One has not learned how to be gracious to others until one has become friends with a Muslim. Unfortunately, they are cordial not because of the Koran, but in spite of it. Those who live by the strict *Sharia Law* of the Qur'an are committed to perform whatever violence is necessary to accomplish their religious goals. Therein lies one element of the coming global violence. The other element lies in the morally bankrupt Western culture, especially in America. Today's youthful generation is saturated in the pleasures of sex, drugs, alcohol and whatever video games are the latest rage. These experiences have desensitized an entire generation. The breakup of the family unit on a global scale builds anger and frustration in children that will eventually be expressed in violence – if not to self then to others.

Jesus said that “The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly” (Jn. 10:10). In this passage, the word “abundantly” is from the Greek word *dzo-ay*, meaning “God’s highest and best.” The word “thief” is from the Greek word *klep-tace* meaning one who steals or is a thief.

If one compares current media sources with equal sources of a few decades ago, the cultural trend of violence is clearly evident. However, the prophetic words of Matthew 24:7 are more significant than a cultural trend. While the trend of violence abroad appears to be of a religious nature to most Americans, missionaries and church leaders living in those areas will clearly attest that it is purely religiously motivated. Islamic radicals are determined to either convert or kill all whom they meet. Add to the mix the concept of a “pure race” as in the days of Hitler’s genocide, and there exists the perfect storm for a major blood bath. This was also seen in the 1980s and 1990s when Iraqi President Saddam Hussein gassed the Kurdish people of his nation. It was also seen when the Young Turks massacred more than a million Armenian Christians in 1915.

The fact remains that the hour of the Lord’s return is close at hand. One needs not be as concerned how one will survive the next year or decade, but needs to be concerned about being the “pure and unspotted bride” for whom Jesus will return. Jesus will come for those who are actively doing His work while anticipating His return. Violence will come as will deceptions, a false peace, and so forth. But the proverbial main thing is the main thing – to keep faithful and obedient to Jesus even in the difficult circumstances that will surely come.

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### 35. Israel Must Control Jerusalem

This topic has become a popular point of discussion among prophecy preachers, but this writer has some reservations regarding it. The issue is whether Israel is presently in control of the entire city of Jerusalem. The answer may lie in the interpretation. Some argue that Israel must be in control of Jerusalem prior to the return of Jesus and that this requirement was fulfilled as the result of the 1967 Six-Day War. It was then that the Temple Mount, also known as the *Har Hakodesh* (the Holy Mountain), as well as East Jerusalem was captured from the Jordanians. However, shortly after the War ended, one of Israel's most decorated generals, Gen. Moshe Dayan, a devout atheist who saw little value in the Temple Mount, returned its control to the Muslims. It has been a point of regret and controversy for Israel ever since.

Therefore the lingering question is this: Does Israel have to be in full control of the Temple Mount and East Jerusalem prior to the return of Jesus? In other words, could His return happen with the Jewish people controlling Jerusalem but without full control of the Temple Mount? The current political climate is one whereby the Temple Mount and East Jerusalem could be in full Palestinian control tomorrow. Could it then be said that these prophecies have been fulfilled? Obviously not.

Prophecies concerning the Jewish people must not only be fulfilled to the honor and glory of God, but also because one day Jesus will rule the world and His throne will be in Jerusalem (also known as Zion). Note these passages:

1. God chose Jerusalem (1 Kings 8:48; 11:13; Ps. 132:13-14).
2. The apple of God's eye (Zech. 2:8)
3. The place chosen above others for His habitation (Ps. 132:13-14)
4. The place for the throne of the Lord (Jer. 3:17)
5. The mountain of the house of the Lord (Isa. 2:2)
6. The Holy Mountain, City of Truth (Dan. 9:20; Zech. 8:3)
7. Jerusalem is the center of the nations (Ezek. 5:5).
8. Where Abraham offered Isaac (Gen. 22:2-14)
9. Where David brought the ark of the covenant (2 Sam. 6:12-17)
10. Solomon's Temple and the presence of God (I Kings 8:10:13)
11. The Messiah will one day defend this city from the nations of the world (Zech. 14:2-4).
12. The city to be the "light to the nations" (Isa. 49:6)
13. The Lord will never forget her (Ps. 137:5-6).
14. "But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living

God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels”  
(Heb. 12:22).

15. Jesus will rule and reign from Jerusalem for 1,000 years  
(Rev. 20:1-6).



Israeli paratroopers secured the Western Wall, also known as the Wailing Wall on June 7, 1967. It is Judaism’s holiest site as it is the retaining wall built by Herod the Great when he enlarged the temple area 2,000 years ago.

The nations of the world will honor Jesus during His millennial (1,000 year) reign from Jerusalem. This underscores the core issue of the Middle East conflict – it is control of Jerusalem as the seat of the future global capital (Rev. 20:6). In the meantime, the Holy City will captivate the world’s attention and be the subject of increased controversy.

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## Chapter 4

### The Focus of Worship

As was stated in Chapter 1, the entire Bible – from the Garden in Genesis to the Garden in Revelation – is a love story. It is a story of God who created man and desires to have a relationship with him. Worship is the demonstration of man's love for God toward God.

True worship is coupled to true love. True love is to seek the highest and best good of the one loved, regardless of the cost. It makes little difference if the recipient is your spouse, child, or God. Coupled with true love is obedience; not obedience for the sake of obedience, but for the love of pleasing the High and Holy One. Such love of God is springing forth today among both Jews and Arabs in Israel and Palestine and around the world.

For many orthodox Jews, the focus of worship is reflected in obedience as they have defined it, as well as the goal of rebuilding the temple, recreating the vessels of worship, and resurrecting the ancient religious services.

For those who have placed their faith in Christ Jesus, the focus of life and God has a different structure. It is to demonstrate the love of Jesus to the lost and share the good news of salvation when the opportunity arises. While there have been missions and missionaries in Palestine/Israel for more than two centuries, the work and message appear to have taken root only recently. After centuries of humiliation, persecution and ill-treatment, the true love demonstrated by believers and by the work of the Holy Spirit is making an impact on both Jews and Arabs.

Most Jews returned to Israel as atheists or agnostics and continue as such. However, they have come to realize in recent decades that evangelical Christians are their strongest and most faithful supporters in a world of growing anti-Semitism. Hence, some are looking closely at the New Testament. In light of this, note the words of Ezekiel who said that first God would bring them home physically and then would “sprinkle clean water” on them (Ezek. 36:24-25). The “sprinkling of clean water,” meaning the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is today in its early stages. Unfortunately, the world of evangelical Christians is splitting. There are a growing number who are reinterpreting the Bible in light of liberation theology and, therefore, are disregarding the literal meaning of Scriptures and fulfillment of various prophecies. Consequently they have a strong tendency to move toward a pro-Palestinian position.

In the late 1950s, there was hardly a messianic synagogue anywhere – in Israel, the United States, or any where else. Today, hundreds of Jewish people have accepted Jesus as their Messiah. Likewise among the Arabs, the Spirit of God is bringing many to faith. More and more Jews and Arabs are making the decision to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Messiah in spite of threats of harmful consequences by families and communities.

### 36. The Feast of Booths (Tabernacles) was Re-established in 1980

This feast is a feast of the Lord and is to be celebrated by all believers (Lev. 23). It honors God living in the midst of His people (Lev. 23). Zechariah said it will be celebrated during the millennial reign of the Messiah. The first annual celebration of this feast by Christians was held in 1980. At this time only a few thousand Christians come to Jerusalem, but the day will come when *all* nations will be represented in the City of God.

**“Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths. And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, there will be no rain on them.”**

**Zechariah 14:16-17**



Christians from various nations march in the annual Feast of Tabernacles parade sponsored by the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem. Shown are Finnish supporters in their national costumes. Photo by ICEJ.

While Christians have been celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles, the feast that is prophesied will be a far greater event that will include all the people of the earth. Truly Christ, living among men, will be a point of celebration.

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### **37. The Temple Vessels, Garments and Worship have been Restored**

The accounts related to the restoration of the temple, the temple vessels and temple worship could easily compose volumes of books. For centuries at Passover, Jews prayed “next year in Jerusalem,” as they reminisced about their homeland. Then in the 19<sup>th</sup> century they began to return and some promoted the idea of rebuilding the temple. However, Jews are of various opinions as to whom should build the temple. Some believe the Messiah will build it while others believe they are to build it for Him. Since there is no biblical mention of the vessels to be used, orthodox Jews have carefully recreated all Second Temple garments and vessels of worship and these will be available to the Messiah when He comes. He can then determine whether to use them.

That issue, however, is not significant. What is important is that architectural plans have been prepared for the new temple and all of the temple vessels and priestly garments have been made. In a school located 12 miles northeast of Jerusalem in Mitzpe Yericho, students who are descendants of Cohanim (priests) and Levites are trained for a future worship service. The requirements are rigorous and include DNA testing for all candidates to prove they are pedigree descendants. The temple priest hopefuls learn exactly how to conduct the daily service and offer the required sacrifices. The first sacrifice since AD 70 was held on March 29, 2010. They are anticipating that someday their temple will be rebuilt and at that time the sacrificial system will be relocated to the Holy City.

However, most Israelis consider “being Jewish” as a culture and Judaism as the religion of their forefathers. Consequently, they have had little or no interest in rebuilding a temple. However, at the end of the 1967 Six-Day War, Rabbi Chaim Richmond and Gershon Solomon realized there was a need to prepare for the reconstruction of the Temple and its services. The rabbi established the Temple Institute which to date has reproduced approximately all of the 120 vessels that were used during the second temple period services. Solomon, on the other hand, established the Temple Mount Faithful which calls for the legal removal of the Dome of the Rock that is upon the Temple Mount and the reconstruction of the Jewish temple. For nearly forty years these two men and their followers have called attention to this need.

The organization that has been on the forefront of recreating worship implements and appropriate garments has been the Temple Institute located in Jerusalem. Since early 2008 the Institute has also been rehearsing the procedures for a future temple sacrificial service. This caused an uproar among some animal rights groups and on April 4, 2008, the Israeli animal rights group, “Let the Animals Live,” filed suit in Jerusalem’s Magistrate Court, seeking to block the planned sacrifice. The spokesperson for the Temple Institute said the priests would be licensed butchers and will kill the animals in a humane manner as in the food service industry. The court ruled in favor of the Institute.



A model of Ezekiel's Temple (Ezek. 40) will be a massive structure when compared to Solomon's and Herod's Temples. It is also referred to as the Third Temple. However, not all rabbis have agreed on this design and the actual building may be different than is represented by this model.

From a Christian perspective, there are several different viewpoints as to what will happen when the temple is constructed. Most agree that it will be the temple from which the anti-Christ will reign during the Tribulation Period. Whether it will be replaced by Jesus when He destroys the anti-Christ is a subject of controversy. Regardless of one's viewpoint, there is one point on which all agree: after centuries of waiting for Jesus to return, more signs point to His imminent return than ever before.

The Prophet Daniel says that the anti-Christ will end the Jewish sacrificial system. This will occur during the period of time known as "the Tribulation." Notice the words of Daniel,



**“And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.”**

**Daniel 9:27**



LEFT: Manikins at the Temple Institute in Jerusalem display garments that will be worn by future priests and Levites for temple worship. Since 2008 linen garments for priests have been produced for the first time in 1,938 years. RIGHT: Gershon Salomon (left), founder of the Temple Mount Faithful, describes a temple laver to the author.

There are some important factors to consider relative to this passage. The Romans destroyed the Jewish temple in AD 70, an event that ended the sacrificial system and there obviously was no anti-Christ at that time. Therefore, for the anti-Christ to end the sacrificial system “in the middle of the week” (the phrase “week” means a seven-year period), obviously the sacrificial system must first be reinstated. From the time of the temple destruction until March 29, 2010, there has not been a reinstatement of the Jewish sacrificial system. In recent years the first steps have been taken toward the re-establishment of that religious system. Israeli Arabs are observing these things and are saying any attempt to rebuild the temple will lead directly to the Battle of Armageddon. NOTE: The planned temple will be the one from which the anti-Christ will rule and the millennial temple will be built by the true Messiah.

## 38. Distant Foreigners Are Coming to Build the Temple

**“Those who are far off will come and build the temple of the LORD. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you and it will take place if you completely obey the LORD your God.”**

**Zechariah 6:15**

The prophet Zechariah predicted in the future that a people living in a distant land, a foreign people, would help in the reconstruction of the temple. He did not indicate who these people would be, but the cultural implication is that those who live at a great distance from the Jewish homeland would not be Jewish. There is no indication that only one people group will come, but most likely, many will come to contribute toward the building project.

While some Christian Zionists have contributed to this project, an interesting event occurred in October of 2007. On the last day of the Sukkot Festival (Feast of Tabernacles) a 34-person delegation of Christians and representative officials of the government of West Papua, came to Jerusalem to give incredible gifts to the Temple Institute. They presented to Rabbi Ariel, founder of the Temple Institute, a financial gift and one kilogram of pure gold. They told the rabbi that they are involved in regular Bible studies and became aware of Zechariah's prophecies. They took note of chapter 6, verse 15 and decided to do their part to fulfill that portion of Scripture.

Since West Papua is located in the southwestern Pacific and is rich in gold mines, it was only natural for them to bring their finest gold. The gold will be used for the recreation of temple worship vessels and the funds are reserved for temple construction.

Rabbi Ariel said the episode was emotional as it constituted the fulfillment of the words of the prophets that nations will come from afar to help build the House of God in Jerusalem.

“There is no doubt that this is a sign that the rest of our prophets' prophecies will soon be fulfilled as well,” he said. Delegation members said that although this is their first contribution for the temple, it will certainly not be their last. They have the finest trees for lumber that one day will be shipped to Israel for the building of the Holy Temple.

However, they were not the first to help in this cause and certainly will not be the last. The day has come when many foreigners will contribute gifts for the temple of the Lord. Obviously the West Papua delegation alone most certainly did not fulfill this prophetic passage, but they are typical of the many who are participating in the reconstruction. Jews who know their history realize this is a radical departure from how the Church has treated them over the centuries.

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### 39. The Spirit of God is Changing Lives

“I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will clean you from all your impurities and from your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.”

Ezekiel 36:25-26 (See also Jeremiah 33:6-8; Zechariah 13:1-2)

Ezekiel said that after God would bring His people home, He would clean them – meaning to cleanse them spiritually. It has generally been misunderstood that this event would occur *in its completeness* after the Church is raptured from the earth. However, there appears to be evidence that this anticipated move of God has already begun and the ultra-orthodox Jews are not too happy about it. In the 1990s they placed numerous advertisements in the *Jerusalem Post* warning their fellow brethren of the dangers of Christian “missionaries.” Whether the ad was placed for a real religious concern or for raising funds is unknown, but some have said it only raised Jewish interests in Yeshua (Jesus).

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An advertisement in response to Messianic Jews and Christian “missionaries” in Israel appeared frequently in the *Jerusalem Post* in the 1990s.

In the late 1950s it would have been difficult to find a Messianic congregation anywhere. Jews who made a decision to accept Jesus (Yeshua) as their Messiah were generally silent about their decision. Even a decade later in 1967 there was not a single Messianic congregation in Israel. However today there are more than fifty in Israel and an estimated 350 throughout the world. Since 1997 the Messianic congregations have been exploding. Could the words of Ezekiel be coming into full bloom? One should not underestimate the move of God. Read the amazing account of a rabbi who encountered Jesus.

One of the most prominent ultra-orthodox rabbis in Israel was Yitzhak Kaduri. When he died in April of 2006, at the remarkable age of 108, over 200,000 attended his funeral. A few months before he died, he wrote a small note, which he requested should remain sealed for a year after his death. When it was unsealed, it is now obvious why his last wish was to wait one year before revealing what he wrote. (The custom is that for one so long departed he is less vulnerable to post-mortem derogatory attacks.) The secret note that he wrote in Hebrew stated the following:

Regarding the Reishei-Tivot of Mashiach: He will lift the people and prove that his word and law are valid. Written with my signature in the month of Rachamim [Elul], 5765,

Yitshak Kaduri.

The term Reishei-Tivot is a reference to a common mode of Kabbalistic “coding,”<sup>21</sup> wherein a name or phrase is spelled using the first letters of the words in a sentence or paragraph. The Hebrew sentence contains the hidden name of the Messiah as an acrostic: Yarim Ha’am Veyokhiakh Shedvaro Vektorato Omidim. The initial letters form an acrostic for Yehoshua (or Yeshua, which is the same name),<sup>22</sup> derived from same Hebrew root for “salvation.” Yehoshua is the English spelling for YHWH (“Yahweh is salvation” or “Yahweh saves”). Most English Bibles mistakenly translate YHWH as “the LORD.” But God said, literally, “I am YHWH; that is my name” (Isa. 42:8). The Messiah’s name is Jesus! When the name of Yehoshua was revealed in Rabbi Kaduri’s message, Jewish rabbis—especially the ultra-Orthodox—have found this extremely unsettling. There were some initial attempts to deny the authenticity of the note (even by Kaduri’s son, Rabbi David Kaduri), but they have proven futile. A popular messianic publication, *Israel Today* has confirmed the reliability of the report.

The Jews in his ultra-orthodox community are wondering if their rabbi had become a “Christian” and had “met” Yeshua. Some deny it, as is understandable. Nonetheless, in his last years the rabbi frequently spoke of the coming Messiah, but only mentioned His name in the note.

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Not only in Israel, but worldwide an increasing number of Jewish people are coming to faith in Yeshua. As of this writing the numbers are still rather small, but enough to notice that a trend has become established. And that's not all. Yet God is moving among Muslims as well.

But God is moving among the Arabs as well. A survey was conducted by Fuller Theological Seminary between 1991 and 2007, among 750 Muslims who became Christians. They were asked what influenced them to make a decision for Jesus. More than one in four respondents (27 percent) said dreams and visions were a factor in their decision to commit themselves to follow Christ. For 40 percent of respondents, visions or dreams occurred at the time of conversion, and for 45 percent they occurred after they committed to following Christ (*Christian Post*, Nov. 16, 2007).

Recently in Jericho two American women established a church that, contrary to most Muslim communities, was welcomed and found great success. Surely the Spirit of the Lord is moving across the world.



In 2007 a congregation of Palestinian Christians in Jericho fill the church. The Spirit of God is calling Jews and Arabs to Himself.

In the meantime, more Muslims have been coming to faith in Christ Jesus in recent decades than in any other time in history. A survey was conducted by Fuller Theological Seminary's School of Intercultural Studies between the years 1991 and 2007 among 750 Muslims who had converted to Christianity. The purpose was to determine what influences enabled them to make the decision to accept Jesus as their Messiah. The respondents were from

30 countries and 50 ethnic groups – representing every major region of the Muslim world.<sup>23</sup>

The survey revealed that 27 percent said they experienced dreams or visions and therefore converted to Christ. Forty percent of the respondents had visions or dreams occur at the time of conversion while 45 percent stated such experiences occurred after they decided to follow Christ. Many were attracted to the assurance of salvation and forgiveness, whereas in Islam, Allah forgives and punishes whoever he will so Muslims have no certainty of salvation. But by trusting Jesus, a person can be sure of his/her salvation.

Yet the price of faith in Jesus can be high. Numerous reports have indicated that more believers have been martyred in the 20<sup>th</sup> century than in all previous centuries combined. With the rise of radical Islam, that trend will only continue. Truly this is an age when the challenge of life and death, on a global basis, is more profound than ever. Labor pains come before the birth, so this world will anguish before the return of the Messiah. Those who remain faithful until the end will be saved.

The true biblical perspective of the Middle East is that while God has specific eschatological plan for the Jewish people and national Israel, that does not diminish His love and concern for the Arabs or anyone else. As St. Augustine said, “Jesus died for every one of us, as if there was only one of us.” That is why ministries in Israel hold to biblical perspective rather than a “pro-Israel” perspective. What appears to be “pro-Israel” on the part of these ministries is that they recognize God has clearly promised the land to the Jewish people, and therefore, it should not be surrendered. Nonetheless, they demonstrate the love of Jesus to all, regardless of religion or ethnicity.

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## **Chapter 5**

### **Conclusion**

#### **Why is God restoring the people and the land of Israel?**

Israel is a “witness” to the world concerning God’s faithfulness.

Isaiah 43:9-10, 12; 44:8

#### **Therefore the Question Is ...**

If the ancient prophets who wrote predictive prophecies were alive today, they would be utterly amazed at the fulfillment of their words. Yet so often divine revelation is before our eyes and we fail to recognize it. This book is presented to create an awareness that the fulfillment of biblical promises is a sign that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is not dead; but alive, active and faithful in keeping His Word. Furthermore, since most of the prophetic subjects presented are to be fulfilled prior to the Second Coming of Jesus, we need to be aware of the times in which we live.

If the literal fulfillment of God’s Word can be seen in modern Israel, then how do I respond to God concerning my life? His promises of love, mercy, forgiveness, and salvation are just as true for those who accept Jesus as Lord and Savior, as are His promises of judgment for those who reject Jesus. Therefore, the question is ...

#### **How do I begin my life with God?**

Your new life begins by accepting Jesus as your Lord and Savior. In the Bible you will see that God loves you and offers a wonderful plan for your life (Jer. 29:11). The Bible describes God’s incredible love for you: “God so loved the world (including you) that He gave His one and only Son (Jesus), that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life” (Jn. 3:16). Jesus said, “I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly [that it might be full and meaningful]” (Jn. 10:10).

However, man is sinful and, therefore, separated from God. No one can experience God’s love and plan for his life because, “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23). Man was created to have fellowship with God; but, because of his stubborn self-will, he chose to go his own independent way and the relationship with God was broken. This self-will, characterized by an attitude of active rebellion or passive indifference, is an evidence of what the Bible calls sin. “The wages of sin is death [spiritual separation from God; i.e. hell]” (Rom. 6:23).

Jesus Christ is God's only provision for your sin. Through Him you can know and experience God's love and plan for your life. The sacrificial death of Jesus on a Roman cross paid for your sin. "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8). However, Jesus rose from the grave so we too might have eternal life. "Christ died for our sins ... He was buried ... He was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures ... He appeared to Peter, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred ..." (1 Cor. 15:3-6).

Jesus is the only way to have eternal life with God. "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me'" (Jn. 14:6). You must personally accept Jesus and the gift of eternal life. "For as many as received [accept] Him [Jesus], to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name" (Jn. 1:12). By simple faith you receive Jesus. Jesus said, "Behold, I stand at the door [of your heart] and knock; if any one hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him" (Rev. 3:20). "By grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works that no one should boast" (Eph. 2:8, 9). When you have accepted Jesus you have been born again (see Jn. 3:1-8).

You can receive Jesus right now by faith through prayer (talking to God). God knows your heart and is not as concerned with your words as He is with the attitude of your heart. The following is a suggested prayer:

*"Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be." Amen.*

You have made the best decision of your life. Now become part of a Bible-believing church where you can grow in your faith. Remember that Satan is not too delighted with your decision, but Almighty God and the angels of Heaven are rejoicing. Your pastor and new believer friends as well as the Holy Spirit will help you in your new journey. It is just for you that this book was written. Today the Spirit of God is changing lives in Israel and around the world. He can do the same for you.

**"For You, O LORD, have made me glad by what You have done,  
I will sing for joy at the works of Your hands."**

**- Psalm 92:4**

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## Endnotes:

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<sup>1</sup> Schneemelcher, “Apocalypse of Peter.” *New Testament Apocrypha* Vol. 2. This passage is written in King James English and has been modified by this writer for easier reading for a modern audience.

<sup>2</sup> See also Josephus, *Wars* 3.3.2. Critics are quick to indicate that Josephus was prideful, biased, and exaggerated the value of the land. However, Roman records reveal that after the first century, the exportation foods such as wheat, olives and figs greatly diminished.

<sup>3</sup> Larson, Daniel L. *Jews Gentiles and the Church*. Grand Rapids: Discovery House, 1995. 172.

<sup>4</sup> Kjaer Hansen, Kai. *The Death of Messiah*. Kai Kjaer-Hansen, ed. Jerusalem: Caspari Center, 1994. 1.

<sup>5</sup> Pritz, Ray. “On Calculating the Time of the Messiah’s Appearance.” *The Death of Messiah*. Kai Kjaer-Hansen, ed., Jerusalem: Caspari Center, 1994. 85.

<sup>6</sup> Kjaer Hansen, Kai. *The Death of Messiah*. Kai Kjaer-Hansen, ed. Jerusalem: Caspari Center, 1994. 2.

<sup>7</sup> Emphases is mine.

<sup>8</sup> Note that some Jewish people have accepted Jesus as their Messiah and are known as Messianic Jews.

<sup>9</sup> Lawson, 185.

<sup>10</sup> It should be noted that in recent years, within the evangelical community there have been a growing number of congregations who have become pro-Palestinian / anti-Israel. These include some Mennonites, Brethren and others who have been historically “fundamentalists.”

<sup>11</sup> As part of his graduate studies at Lancaster Bible College and Graduate School, in 2001, this author spent three months observing how the theology and philosophy of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem is applied in Israeli society. ICEJ and other ministries such as Bridges for Peace, effectively demonstrate the love of Jesus to those who for centuries have been persecuted in the name of Jesus. Furthermore, the author has concluded that both ministries do so cost effectively.

<sup>12</sup> Larson, 144.

<sup>13</sup> Shlomo Avineri, *The Making of Modern Zionism*. New York: Basic Books, 1981, 3.

<sup>14</sup> Jack Fellman “Eliezer Ben-Yehuda and the Revival of Hebrew.” [www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org). 12/30/07.

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<sup>15</sup> The *Shevet Yehudah*, by Shlomo ibn Virga, is a historical work written 16<sup>th</sup> century and is discredited by some scholars as fiction.

<sup>16</sup> Berel Wien. *Herald of Destiny*. Brooklyn, NY: Shaar Press, 1993. 27-27.

<sup>17</sup> Aviel Schneider. "4 Million Trees a Year." *Israel Today*. March, 2007. 16.

<sup>18</sup> The conspiracy included Arabs and non-Arabs, all of whom are Islamic. Today the term "Arab" includes all Middle Eastern Muslims such as the Egyptians who are not Arab.

<sup>19</sup> For more information, contact the Associates for Biblical Research located in Akron, PA.

<sup>20</sup> Source: *Israel Today*. Nov. 2009, p 5 citing Hudson Institute and Touro College. New York, NY.

<sup>21</sup> The Kabala is a form of Jewish mysticism.

<sup>22</sup> Cf. Zechariah 6:11; Ezra 3:2. The same priest adds the holy abbreviation of God's name, "ho", in the father's name and Yeshua.

<sup>23</sup> Jennifer Riley. "Analysis: Why Muslims Follow Jesus" *Christian Post*. Nov. 16, 2007.

**"Let Your work appear to Your servants  
And Your majesty to their children."  
- Psalm 90:16**

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