

Modern Israel

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For Discussion: War in Israel: A Fulfillment of Bible Prophecy? (harvest.org; October 13, 2023)
<https://harvest.org/resources/gregs-blog/post/war-in-israel-a-fulfillment-of-bible-prophecy/>

Also: Israel and Prophetic Proof Part I by Dave Hunt (1926-2013; thebereancall.org; June 1, 2009)
<https://www.thebereancall.org/content/israel-and-prophetic-proof-part-i?sapurl=Lys5MjZkL2xiL2xpLyt3dm44dWs4P2JyYW5kaW5nPXRYdWUmZWliiZWQ9dHJlZSZyZWNibnRSb3V0ZT1hcHAud2ViLWFwcC5saWJyYXJlLmxcpc3QmcemVjZW50Um9ldGVUbHVnPSUyQnd2bjhlazg=>

How do we know that the Bible is from God?

The prophecies... About 250 years ago, the King of Sweden had troubling doubts about whether the Bible was really true in every word. He asked Count von Zinzendorf, bishop of the Moravian Church, to give him proof that the Bible was truly inspired of God. The King had set aside 10 hours to hear what might be said. To his majesty's surprise, Zinzendorf informed him that the time allotted was far too much. He only needed to say one word. Astonished, the King asked what that could be. The Count replied, "Jews."

Malachi 3:6— *For I am the Lord, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.*

Today we would add one more word, "Israel." In Zinzendorf's day, that tiny and beleaguered nation, born on May 14, 1948, did not yet exist.

Isaiah 66:22 – *For just as the new heavens and the new earth which I make will endure before Me, declares the Lord, So your offspring and your name will endure.*

What relation does the modern state of Israel have with Bible prophecy?

The modern state of Israel is a fulfillment of Bible prophecy and the greatest indication we have that we are nearing the end of the Church Age...

Ezekiel 36:24—*I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.*

The Diaspora was as forewarned by God for Israel's unfaithfulness...

Deuteronomy 28:64 – *The Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other...*

This happened in AD 70 when the Romans conquered Jerusalem & destroyed the 2nd Temple as Jesus prophesied:

Matthew 24:2 – *not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down*

How can modern Israel be a fulfillment of prophecy since they are such a secular nation?

God is bringing them back in unbelief as prophesied; read on in Ezekiel 36...

Ezekiel 36:25-26 – *Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you, I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.*

God returned Israel to the land before only to exile them again; how do we know this time is permanent?

Amos 9:14-15 – *And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them... And they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God"*

This time God will pour out His Spirit on them after He is done working through the church. He has promised to Israel that will be fulfilled in the Millennial Kingdom.

How can people dismiss modern Israel, as a fulfillment of Bible prophecy?

They dismiss the Bible's prophecies as being so general that they could mean anything (they confuse the Bible's prophecies with Nostradamus or horoscopes).

How should we address the sceptics who think the Bible's prophecies could mean anything?

Take a look at an example...

Jeremiah 16:14-15 — *Therefore behold the days are coming, says the Lord, that they shall no longer say 'As the Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt, 'but As the Lord lives who brought up and led the descendants of the house of Israel from the north country and from all the countries where I have driven them. (See also Jeremiah 23:7-8).*

Notice the detailed prophetic elements...

1. a confirmation of many previous prophecies that the Jews were going to be led captive into "every nation" (Lk 21:24), and
2. their eventual deliverance and return to Israel would almost eclipse from the national memory their deliverance from Egypt.

And so, it has happened.

How are we seeing the fulfillment of Joel 3:2?

God declared that the day was coming when all nations would join to divide the land of Israel:

Joel 3:2 – *I will also gather all nations... and will plead with them [punish them] for my people and [for] my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.*

Throughout its entire 3,000plus7year history, the land of Israel had never been divided. It had been conquered by various nations, but even when the Turks held it as part of their Ottoman Empire for 400 years, they did not divide the land. A conqueror keeps the land he has conquered intact for himself. Why divide it?

- This division of Israel has occurred only in our day.

How has the land of Israel been divided by the nations?

Britain, which had been placed in charge of "Palestine" by the allied forces who had conquered it in World War I, had been given the mandate by the League of Nations to, see, that this land should remain as a refuge for the Jews, who had been scattered everywhere.

- Instead of fulfilling this mandate, Britain gave about 75 percent of the land to the Arab Muslims in exchange for oil.
- In 1947, the United Nations through Resolution 181 finally gave Israel a mere 13 percent of what they had been promised.

This is now history. Britain and the UN infamously fulfilled Joel 3:2 and parted God's land.

- After being attacked by Muslim nations, who were following Allah's edict through Muhammad that all Jews must be destroyed, Israel, in self-defense recaptured some of this land.

All the land for peace deals aka the two-state solution seeks to further divide the land of Israel.

- It appears as though Israel has finally wised up to this strategy to divide their land and will no longer entertain the two-state solution.

How are we seeing the fulfillment of Luke 21:24? Christ himself like many other Hebrew prophets, foretold the scattering of Jews all over the earth and the coming Great Tribulation. He also said,

Luke 21:24 – *Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled*

This "treading down" of Jerusalem by Gentiles began with Nebuchadnezzar's destruction of Jerusalem (2 Kings 24:10-11) in 587-586 BC.

- The United Nations played a key role in fulfillment of this: part of UN Resolution 181 was the declaration that Jerusalem would never be under the control of Jews.
- To this day, despite Israel taking possession of Jerusalem in the Six-Day War, the temple mount is under the jurisdiction of Jordan.

How are we seeing the fulfillment of Zech 12:2-3?

Zechariah 12:2-3 – *Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples. when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.*

Two groups are distinguished by the prophet: "all the surrounding peoples of Judah and Jerusalem" and "all nations of the earth." These groups are identified by two separate prophecies...

- To the first group, Jerusalem will be "*a cup of trembling*"
 - and to the second group, "*a burdensome stone.*"
- The first group is further identified as being united together "in a siege" against Judah and Jerusalem, the second group as "gathered together" against her.

Why will Israel be a "cup of trembling" to her neighbors?

Israel is the premier military power in the world; and she could wipe out her Arab neighbors very quickly but refrains from doing so.

- We also see the first, time that all nations surrounding Israel have been united in a common goal. Traditionally, these nations had been enemies.
- What unites them. now? They are all Muslims, and it is Islam (which did not even exist at the time of the prophecy) that joins them in the common desire to destroy Israel.

How has Israel been a "burdensome stone" to the nations of the earth?

How better to show the fulfillment of this specific prophecy than by the fact that from 1967-1989, out of 865 resolutions United Nations, 526 were against Israel.

- For *all nations* to be united against Israel, there would have to be an organization of "all nations."
- The United Nations came into existence in 1945, just in time to be the means of fulfilling this prophecy.

This 2,500-year-old prophecy is both specific in its details and flawless in its accuracy.

How else have we seen the fulfillment of Zech 12:2-3?

Anti-Semitism... there is no rational explanation for this intense hatred that has continued over several thousand years. This is what fuels the insane obsession to exterminate the Jews.

What other prophecies besides the Jews returning to the land of Israel have been fulfilled?

- Israel will be persecuted during the Diaspora (Deuteronomy 29:22-23)
- Israel would be reborn as a nation in a day (Isaiah 66:7-8)
- Israel is Israel (Ezekiel 37:12) ...not Palestine, Galilee, Samaria, or Judah
- Restoration of the Land of Israel (Isaiah 35:1)
- Israel would export fruit (Isaiah 27:6)
- Restoration of the Hebrew Language (Zephaniah 3:9, Jeremiah 31:23)
- Israel & Judah would be re-united (Ezek 37:21-22)
- Israel would be a democracy (Zechariah 12:5)
- Israel's enemies desire genocide (Psalm 83:4)

Have there been any other nationalities besides the Jews that have been long-term targets of genocide?

Many other groups have suffered grievously at the hands of tyrants, but there is a crucial difference...

- In each of these cases, the genocide was intended to serve a deeper purpose; the conquest of territory, the acquisition of wealth, the enlargement of political power.
- In contrast, the genocide of the Jewish people was not attempted in order to achieve another purpose. *It was the fundamental purpose.*

This is what makes the Nazi Holocaust unique.

- The Muslims wiped out more than a million Armenians as well as millions of other peoples throughout history.
- Thousands of blacks were transported from Africa to the American colonies to become slaves in a trade begun by Arabs and assisted by Africans.

However, the intent was not to exterminate these people, as has been (and still is) the Muslims' goal with the Jews.

Why do authorities insist that Islam is a religion of peace?

They are effectively aligned with Islam's goals to annihilate the Jews.

- In contrast to the persistent praise of Islam as a force for peace in the world, Israel, which has never voiced unprovoked threats against other nations and has acted only in self-defense.

What applications do we see from this discussion?

- Fulfilled biblical prophecy stands as undeniable proof that the Bible is God's inerrant Word.
- These many prophecies stand as a warning to the world of coming judgment.