

### 3. ISRAEL : THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE IN BIBLE PROPHECY

#### Abraham And The Land Promised To His Descendants

Both Ur and Haran were cities in Mesopotamia, which refers to the area between the Euphrates and Tigris rivers



Abraham was called out of Haran with God giving Him a promise of a land, descendants and blessing to the nations:

Genesis 12:1-4

1 Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.

2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

4 So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

The promise given to Abraham, was reiterated to his descendants Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph.

The promise was first made to Abraham (Genesis 15:18-21), then confirmed to his son Isaac (Genesis 26:3), and then to Isaac's son Jacob (Genesis 28:13), Abraham's grandson. The promised land was described in terms of the territory from the River of Egypt to the Euphrates river (Exodus 23:31).

**Genesis 15:18**

On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates—

**Deuteronomy 11:24**

Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the River Euphrates, even to the Western Sea, shall be your territory.

**Joshua 1:4**

From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory.

The land promised to Abraham and his descendants is from the river Nile to the river Euphrates, the Mediterranean on the West and "all the land of the Hittites". This is the part that is unclear and most likely included parts of Lebanon and Syria till the Euphrates river. The Hittites are mentioned more than 50 times in the Bible. They were descendants of Heth, the son of Canaan (and great-grandson of Noah, Genesis 10:15). They ruled the area of Syria and eastern Turkey and battled with Egypt and Babylon for territory.

During Moses time God gave them the Mosaic Law, the Tabernacle and the Mosaic Priesthood, and we also see seven main feasts, instituted.

- Passover
- Unleavened Bread
- First Fruits
- Pentecost
- Trumpets
- Atonement
- Tabernacles

Over time, God gave to His people Israel, a series of covenants: the Abrahamic Covenant, the law or Mosaic Covenant, the royal Davidic Covenant, and a new Messianic Covenant.

Following Moses, Joshua, Judges and the kings, the Jewish people were completely scattered from their land. From that time, about 14 different peoples have possessed the land of Israel. The idea that Israel would ever become a nation again was absurd.

## The Nation Of Israel

The following is an overview of major events in the timeline of Israel as a nation. Adapted from (Nyuten, 2008) and (Watts, 2005)

YEAR	MAJOR EVENT IN TIMELINE FROM ABRAHAM TO MODERN DAY ISRAEL
ca 2000 BC	Covenant with Abraham
ca 1940 BC	Abraham 'offers' Isaac at Mount Moriah
ca 1460 BC	The Exodus from Egypt. The Law was given to the Israelites through Moses at Mount Sinai.
ca 1040 BC	King David conquered Jerusalem (also called Zion)
ca 997-990 BC	Building of First Temple by King Solomon
ca 960 BC	End of King Solomon's reign
ca 960 BC	Divided kingdom : Ten tribes of Israel established a separate kingdom in the north. Judah and Benjamin had a kingdom in the south with Jerusalem as its capital. The Northern Kingdom of Israel was destroyed app. 721 BC. The Southern Kingdom of Judah ended about 135 years later—approximately 586 BC.
727 BC	The Assyrians conquered Naphtali and the Israelite tribes east of the Jordan River. [2 Kings 15:29; 1 Chronicles 5:26]. The start of the first exile. The scattering of the Jewish people began.
722 BC	The Assyrians conquered the northern kingdom of Israel. [2 Kings 17:3-7, 13-15]. The survivors of the ten tribes of Israel were taken into exile.
680 BC	The Assyrians attacked Judah. [Isaiah 36:1]. Cities were destroyed, but not Jerusalem.
ca 586 BC	Nebuchadnezzar conquered Judah. The First Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed and the Jews were taken into exile in Babylon. [Jeremiah 52:27-30]
539 BC	Cyrus the Persian conquered Babylon. King Cyrus made a proclamation to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. [Ezra 1:1-4]. Only a few tens of thousands of Jews returned to Israel from the exile in Babylon. Most remained scattered out of the land.
520-515 BC	Zerubbabel built the Second Temple in Jerusalem. The Second Temple (see Ezra 1 to 6) was a shadow of its former glory.
ca 450 BC	Nehemiah rebuilt the wall around Jerusalem. Israel was slowly recovering from its desolation and the first scattering. The regathering was partial and the Jews did not return from all the quarters of the world.
333 BC	Alexander the Great conquered Persia. Alexander brought Greek culture and thinking, and the Greek language, to Israel and the Middle East of the time.
168 BC	The Seleucid empire had succeeded Alexander (312-63 BC). Antiochus IV (175-164 BC), was the 8th ruler of the Seleucid empire. He gave himself the surname "Epiphanes" which means "the visible god" (that he and Jupiter were identical). He was violently bitter against the Jews, and was determined to exterminate them and their religion. He devastated Jerusalem in 168 BC, defiled the Temple, offered a pig on its

YEAR	MAJOR EVENT IN TIMELINE FROM ABRAHAM TO MODERN DAY ISRAEL
	altar, erected an altar to Jupiter, prohibited Temple worship, forbade circumcision on pain of death, sold thousands of Jewish families into slavery, destroyed all copies of Scripture that could be found, and slaughtered everyone discovered in possession of such copies, and resorted to every conceivable torture to force Jews to renounce their religion. This led to the Maccabean revolt, one of the most heroic feats in history.
ca 168-165 BC	Revolt of the Maccabees. The Jews, led by the Maccabees, captured Jerusalem and rededicated the Temple. Jews celebrate the event with the non-biblical Feast of Dedication, also called Hanukkah. John 10:22 shows that Jesus observed this feast.
63 BC	The Romans occupied Israel. Rome became the dominant power in the world and established peace through ruthless suppression of all dissent.
37-4 BC	Herod the Great, king of Judea (Herodian dynasty) and his successors, owed allegiance to Rome. Herod the Great was famous for his many building projects. The Second Temple renovations were started in 18 BC and would take 46 years, being completed after his death.
ca 6 BC	Jesus was born in Bethlehem
66-73	First Jewish Revolt against Roman rule
70	The Romans under Titus captured Jerusalem. The Romans destroyed the Second Temple.
132-135	Second Jewish Revolt under Bar Kochba. The Romans put down the revolt with great ferocity. Hundreds of Jewish communities in Israel were destroyed. The Jews were scattered from the Promised Land for the second time.
135	The Romans conquered Israel. The Temple Mount was ploughed with salt and Jews were banished from Jerusalem on pain of death. Jerusalem was renamed Aelia Capitolina and the land was renamed Syria Palestina (or Palestine, as it was known until 1948). This was done in a deliberate attempt to humiliate Israel by favouring their ancient enemies, the Philistines. The Arabic word for Philistine is Falastin, from which comes the English word for the Palestinians.
476	Last Roman emperor abdicated
622	Moslem religion of Islam established. Islam was established by Mohammed in Mecca.
638	Caliph Omar conquered Jerusalem. Under Moslem rule Jews were permitted to return to the city.
691	Construction of the Dome of the Rock. Moslem presence established on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.
1095-1099	The first Crusade. Jews were massacred across Europe as the Crusader armies marched toward the Holy Land.
1099	Jerusalem captured by Crusaders. The Jewish and Moslem inhabitants were slaughtered.
1187	Moslems under Saladin re-conquered Jerusalem
1517	Start of 400-year occupation of Palestine and Jerusalem by the Ottoman Turks (Turkish Empire)
1888	Start of the First Aliyah ("ascent" migration of Jews from the diaspora to the Land of

YEAR	MAJOR EVENT IN TIMELINE FROM ABRAHAM TO MODERN DAY ISRAEL
	Israel). Continued persecutions prompted the first wave of Jews to migrate from eastern Europe to what was then called Palestine.
1904	Start of the Second Aliyah. A second wave of Jews, mainly from Russia and Poland, migrated to Palestine. They were driven by persecutions.
1909	The first kibbutz (settlement) was established at Degania in the Galilee. Establishment of Tel Aviv. What was to become the largest city in Israel started as a few Jewish homes in the sand dunes north of Jaffa.
1914-1918	World War I
1917	Battle of Jerusalem occurred during the British Empire's "Jerusalem Operations" against the Ottoman Empire. General Edmund Allenby takes Jerusalem. The British defeated the Turkish rulers of Jerusalem, ending 400 years of Ottoman rule. The League of Nations puts Palestine under British Mandate, who gives conflicting promises of independence to Jews & Arabs. The Balfour Declaration of 1917 said Jewish National Home originally included Jordan.
1933	Hitler came to power in Germany
1939-1945	World War II – Holocaust. Six million Jews perished in the Nazi concentration camps. After the War thousands of survivors of the death camps made their way to the Promised Land.
1947	Partition Plan for Palestine. A Partition Plan, calling for separate states within the land for Jews and for Arabs, was adopted on 29 November by the United Nations, supported by the USA and the USSR. Zionist leaders accepted the plan, but the Arabs rejected it.
1948	The State of Israel was declared. Israel was proclaimed a State by David Ben Gurion on 14 May [Isaiah 66:8]. The new State was immediately recognized by the USA and Russia, but not by Britain. The next day, 15 May, the last British troops departed and Israel was invaded by five Arab armies – Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq. The first Arab-Israeli War began. Arrival of 120,000 Jewish immigrants, in spite of the war.
1949	Egyptian army defeated - In January, Israel defeated the Egyptian army – armistice agreement signed the next month. War of Independence ended - In March, the War of Independence was over as Jordan, Syria and Lebanon signed armistice agreements. Jerusalem divided-Israel controlled the west, the new city. Jordan occupied the Old City and the east.
1963	Establishment of the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation)
1967	Six Day War fought between June 5-10, 1967 by Israel against Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon. Israel captured the Old City of Jerusalem. Israel gained control of Jerusalem, the Sinai desert, the Golan Heights, the Gaza Strip and areas of Judea and Samaria which became known as the West Bank. Israel more than tripled the size of the area it controlled. In November, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 242 calling on Israel to withdraw from the territories occupied in the Six-Day War. The Resolution also called on the Arab states to make peace with Israel, and recognized that Israel was entitled to secure boundaries. The Resolution did not

YEAR	MAJOR EVENT IN TIMELINE FROM ABRAHAM TO MODERN DAY ISRAEL
	require that Palestinians be given political rights or territory.
1968	The PLO rejected Resolution 242. In October, in a statement to the UN General Assembly, the PLO rejected Resolution 242.
1973	Yom Kippur War, Israel with Egypt and Syria.
1978	Camp David Accords. Israel, under the Likud Party and Prime Minister Begin, agreed to withdraw from territory in the Sinai Peninsula, and to give the Palestinians autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
1987	PLO starts Intifada ("uprising") terrorist tactics to force Israel to retaliate.
1997	Oslo Peace Process signed by Israel and PLO; Palestine National Authority (PA) created as the legitimate governing entity of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, who receive autonomy in Jericho, Gaza, much of West Bank; but terrorism continues.
1994	Arafat becomes president of Palestinian Authority, never renounces terrorist tactics. Israel & Jordan sign peace treaty.
2000	Intifada resumed after Oslo process fails to produce diplomatic negotiations.
2003	US proposes "Roadmap" for settlement of conflict by 2005 with an independent Palestinian state and withdrawal from West Bank, Gaza & East Jerusalem; to be monitored by US, UN, EU & Russia (the international "quartet"); requires PA to stop terrorism & Israel to withdraw from settlements occupied since 2001. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and PA Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas shook hands and pledged to fulfill the conditions of the Road Map.
2004	Yasser Arafat dies, making way for more moderate leadership of the PA. Israeli – Egyptian relations improve.
2005	Mahmoud Abbas elected president of PA and seems to be more moderate and willing to work toward negotiated settlements.
Ongoing	Struggling peace process in the Middle East

### *The Re-gathering and the Birth of a nation foretold and fulfilled*

For almost 2,500 years starting with the Jewish captivity under Babylon and on through the Centuries the Jews have been dispersed in the nations of the world. It seemed impossible that the Jewish people would be regathered and they would have a nation. But God said He would re-gather Israel back into their Land and a nation would be born in a day. Since 1888, start of the First Aliyah ("ascent" migration of Jews from the diaspora to the Land of Israel) Jews began to move toward their own homeland in large numbers. On May 14, 1948, the nation was born.

**Isaiah 11:12**

**He will set up a banner for the nations, And will assemble the outcasts of Israel, And gather together the dispersed of Judah From the four corners of the earth.**

Ezekiel chapter 36 has several elements to the re-gathering of Israel, restoration of the land, and spiritual renewal in the hearts of people. We only list verses that talk about the re-gathering:

Ezekiel 36:10-12,24

10 I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, all of it; and the cities shall be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt.

11 I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase and bear young; I will make you inhabited as in former times, and do better for you than at your beginnings. Then you shall know that I am the LORD.

12 Yes, I will cause men to walk on you, My people Israel; they shall take possession of you, and you shall be their inheritance; no more shall you bereave them of children."

24 For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.

Ezekiel 37:21

"Then say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land;

Isaiah 66:8

Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, She gave birth to her children.

(fulfilled in one day May 14, 1948)



## Israel and Its Neighbors

A Biblical view point on the following:

- Jerusalem - is a very special city to God. "...for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye." (Zechariah 2:8)
- Palestinians - the Philistines have been ancient enemies of Israel. The Arabic word for Philistine is Falastin, from which comes the English word for the Palestinians.
- Gaza - Gaza is in the land which was given to the tribe of Judah (Joshua 15:1-12)
- West Bank - known in the Bible as areas of Judea and Samaria

West Bank and Gaza, are areas occuppies by the Palestinians.

Israel is surrounded by several Arab nations Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinian Territories.

Several attempts have been made to establish peace between Israel and especially its Palestinian neighbors. Despite efforts to finalize the peace agreement, the conflict continues to play a major role in Israeli and international political, social and economic life.

In Israel the two major political parties are the Labor Part and the Likud party. Labor party leans to socialist policies, often giving up land-for-peace. Held power from 1948 to 1977. The Likud party is conservative, nationalist, free-market, and is less willing to make territorial compromises or negotiate for peace during times of violence.



## The Temple Mount

Jerusalem remains the most contested city on earth, having fallen to invading forces more than 20 times throughout its recorded history. The land to which God sent Abraham some 4,000 years ago lies at the very crossroads of three continents. It is also holy to three religions.

The Temple Mount ("Mount of the House of God"), known to Muslims as the Haram esh-Sharif ("the Noble Sanctuary"), a hill located in the Old City of Jerusalem, is one of the most important religious sites in the world.

### *Background and history of the Temple mount*

- Mt. Moriah is where Abraham brought Isaac to sacrifice.
- Later Israel's King David purchased this site on Mt. Moriah, which was a threshing floor and built an altar on it, offered his sacrifice intending it to be the site of the temple (1 Chronicles 21-22).
- King Solomon build the first Temple (2 Chronicles 3:1). The Temple Mount is so named because it is the location of the temple built by David's son Solomon.
- The Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 B.C.
- Zerubbabel rebuilt the temple (called the second Temple).
- Herod the Great refurbished and enlarged temple (called Herod's Temple).
- This temple was destroyed by the Roman general Titus in A.D. 70.
- The Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem is one of the world's most famous religious shrines. Constructed from A.D. 685 to 691 atop the temple platform erected centuries earlier by the biblical King Herod the Great, it remains a major flash point between Israelis and Arabs.

Play short video:

Jerusalem's Temple Mount/ Haram al-Sharif explained

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-34537296>

The controversy over the Temple Mount (or as the Muslims call it the Haram al-Sharif) : The Muslims believe that Muhammed stepped of his horse and went into heaven from this point. After the Muslim conquest of Jerusalem in 637 A.D., Umayyad Caliphs commissioned the construction of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock on the site in 691. A.D. The Dome was completed in 692 A.D., making it one of the oldest extant Islamic structures in the world, after the Kaabah. The Dome of the Rock currently sits in the middle, occupying or close to the area where the Holy Temple previously stood. The Al-Aqsa Mosque rests on the far southern side of the Mount, facing Mecca.

On June 07, 1967 (Six Day War) the Temple Mount was captured by Israel, however the administration of the Temple Mount was left with the Muslim Waqf.

Vast majority of Jews believe that the Holy of Holies stood where the Dome of the Rock currently stands. The Jews however have made extensive preparations to rebuild a Temple on the Temple Mount and re-institute ceremonial worship.

Both the Old Testament (Isaiah 1:2-3; Ezekiel 37:26-28; 40-48; Daniel 9:27; Micah 4:1-2; Haggai 2:7-9; Zechariah 6:12-15; 14:20) and the New Testament (Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14; 2 Thessalonians 2:4; Revelation 11:1-2) affirm that a new Temple will once again occupy this platform as part of God's end-time program for the nation of Israel.

**READY TO REBUILD: REVISITED FEATURING DR. JIMMY DEYOUNG**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WzT8arVvZp0>

Published on Nov 26, 2015. One of Dr. Jimmy DeYoung's first and most popular videos covered how the Jewish people in Israel were "Ready To Rebuild" the Temple on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

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28,000 priests ready to serve in the Temple | [www.templeinstitute.org](http://www.templeinstitute.org)



Dome of the Rock (golden top) and the Al-Aqsa Mosque (grey top) on the Temple Mount.



Temple Mount



The Western Wall Plaza



Prayer at the Western Wall

The Western Wall is considered holy due to its connection to the Temple Mount. Because of the status quo policy, the Wall is the holiest place where Jews are permitted to pray at this time.

NEWS:

**ARAB NATIONS ASK UN TO DESIGNATE WESTERN WALL AS MUSLIM TERRITORY**

By Cody Derespina Published **October 20, 2015** FoxNews.com

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2015/10/20/un-cultural-arm-sets-vote-on-designating-western-wall-as-muslim-domain.html>

This is what some of the UN representatives of the Arab world (Algeria, Kuwait, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco and the United Arab Emirates on behalf of the Palestinian Authority), is trying to sell to the United Nations' UNESCO Heritage body: that the Western Wall (one of the most admired site in the history of Judaism) is actually in fact Muslim!

**IRAN'S REVOLUTIONARY GUARD 'SIMULATES CAPTURE OF JERUSALEM'S AL-AQSA MOSQUE'**

State media says forces stormed and 'liberated' a replica of the mosque from Israeli control during training exercise

Ali Akbar Dareini Tehran Sunday **22 November 2015**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/irans-revolutionary-guard-simulates-capture-of-jerusalem-al-aqsa-mosque-a6744056.html>

## The Jewish Settlements

The exact location and construction sequence of Jerusalem's nine suburbs was predicted by Jeremiah about 2600 years ago. He referred to the time of this building project as "the last days," that is, the time period of Israel's second rebirth as a nation in the land of Palestine (Jeremiah 31:38-40). This rebirth became history in 1948, and the construction of the nine suburbs has gone forward precisely in the locations and in the sequence predicted.

(Probability of chance fulfillment = 1 in  $10^{18}$ .)

### Jeremiah 31:38-40

38 "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, that the city shall be built for the LORD—from the Tower of Hananel to the Corner Gate.

39 The surveyor's line shall again extend straight forward over the hill Gareb; then it shall turn toward Goath.

40 And the whole valley of the dead bodies and of the ashes, and all the fields as far as the Brook Kidron, to the corner of the Horse Gate toward the east, shall be holy to the LORD. It shall not be plucked up or thrown down anymore forever."





NEWS: FYI ONLY

**ISRAEL AND PALESTINIANS: POWERS WARN OF 'PERPETUAL CONFLICT'**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-36682056>

**ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS: BLAME AND BITTERNESS KEEPING PEACE AT BAY**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-36682062>

The timing of the following events that have to do with Israel and its neighbors, although we are not very definite about the timing, whether these will occur before the Lord's coming or after the second coming. Hence it remains as items we need to keep a close look out for:

- Egypt turns to the Lord (Isaiah 19:18-22).
- A highway connecting Egypt and Syria will be built (Isaiah 19:23).
- Egypt, Syria and Israel will become allies (Isaiah 19:24-25). Thus far, Egypt and Syria have been allies against Israel, but not with Israel.

## **Israel, Zion and Jerusalem**

Israel is used in the Bible to refer to God's chosen people and also to the land promised to them. Zion is used very broadly, initially used to refer to the city of Jerusalem, and later to the whole of Israel, and to the people of God. Zion is also used in reference to the Kingdom of God, and to the Temple.

When we look at how Jerusalem is referred to in Scripture we see that God has a very special place, purpose and plan for this city.

### ***Jerusalem***

Jerusalem referring to the City is of great significance in the Bible. Jerusalem is also called by the following names: The City of David, The City of God, The City of Judah, The City of Joy, The City of Peace, The City of Praise, The City of Righteousness, The City of Solemnities, The City of the Great King, The City of the Lord, A City of Truth, The Faithful City, The Gate of My People, The Holy City, Hephzibah, The Holy Mountain, Holy Temple, The Mountain of the Lord of Hosts, The Perfection of Beauty, Princess Among the Provinces, The Throne of the Lord, Zion, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel, The Eternal City, The Heavenly City

Jerusalem as a city was:

The Place of David's Capital By Divine Appointment

The Place That Became the Home of the Levites

The Place That Became the Home of the High Priests

The Place Where the Feasts Were Observed

The Place Toward Which God's People Prayed

The Place God's People Have Always Loved

The Place That Was Home to Melchizedek, the Ancient King and Priest

The Place That Became Home to the Ark of the Covenant

The Place That David Purchased and Built An Altar to God

The Place Where the Temple Was Built

The Place From Which the Word Would Go Forth

The Place Where the Holy Spirit Was Outpoured

Jerusalem will be the Future Capital of Messiah's Eternal Kingdom

## The Kingdom, Israel and The Church

The Kingdom of God is God's rule and dominion. God is King and He rules amongst His people. At present (this Church age), His Kingdom is spiritual in nature extending in the hearts and lives of His people and through them is manifested in literal (natural) ways in this world, as we see in changed lives, kingdom values, kingdom power, etc.

The literal Kingdom is God's physical rule and reign on the earth which we know will begin at the Millennium.

Israel was part of God's spiritual Kingdom, raised up as a Kingdom of priests. "And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel." (Exodus 19:6). Following Christ's death and resurrection God opened the door of the faith to the Gentiles (Romans chapters 9-11).

God is working with Israel (the Jews) and the Church. Through Jesus salvation is offered to everyone believing in Jesus, both Jews and Gentiles, who make up one new man, part of the one new covenant.

### Ephesians 2:11-16

11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—

12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,

16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

The Church is presently part of the spiritual extension of God's Kingdom and we are advancing against the powers of darkness (Matthew 16:16-18). The Church will be part of God's literal Kingdom administering His rule and reign on the earth (1 Corinthians 6:2-3).

### *The Church's response*

We must understand that God has a covenant with Israel that will never be broken (Jeremiah 31:35-37, Romans chapters 9-11). He has revealed a physical and spiritual destiny for the nation of Israel which will soon be completed.

- Embrace God's heart for the Jewish people, their land, their nation and destiny in God.

- Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you" (Psalm 122:6)
- Bless the Jewish people and the nation of Israel.
- Pray for the Jewish people and proclaim Christ to the Jews that they too can believe and be saved (Romans 1:15-16, Romans 10:1; Romans 11:14,26)

## The Future of Israel Foretold In The Bible

The following provides highlights and key events concerning Israel as foretold in Scripture. Many of these will be re-visited and examined further in upcoming chapters.

### *Jerusalem will become a world trouble spot and all nations will turn against Israel*

All nations will turn against Israel in the last days and the entire world will be focused on Jerusalem. It is possible that the issue of Palestine and the conflict surrounding the Temple Mount, will only increase the world's pressure being placed on Israel.

#### Zechariah 12:1-3

1 The burden of the word of the LORD against Israel. Thus says the LORD, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him:

2 "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem.

3 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.

[Please note: We are not making mention here of things that will happen to the Church, i.e. the Rapture, etc. prior to events listed below. We will cover these in detail in subsequent chapters.]

### *A peace treaty and 3½ years of false peace*

A coming world leader (the 'Antichrist') will rise out of 10 nations which once formed the Roman Empire and will enforce a peace plan or treaty ('covenant') upon Israel. ('false peace' Ezekiel 13:10, Jeremiah 8:11, 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3).

At some point, either just before or soon after the rise of this world leader, The Temple will be rebuilt on the Temple Mount (referred to as the 'Tribulation Temple') because the Antichrist will enter the Temple to desecrate the Temple and blaspheme the God of Israel.

#### Daniel 7:23-26

23 "Thus he said: 'The fourth beast shall be A fourth kingdom on earth, Which shall be different from all other kingdoms, And shall devour the whole earth, Trample it and break it in pieces.

24 The ten horns are ten kings Who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first ones, And shall subdue three kings.

25 He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time.

26 'But the court shall be seated, And they shall take away his dominion, To consume and destroy it forever.

Daniel 9:27

Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."

Matthew 24:15-16

15 "Therefore when you see the 'ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),

16 "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

### *The Great Tribulation*

All the nations of the world will through a fiery trial unlike anything in the history of the world. Two-thirds of the people in Israel will be 'cut off and die' during this time. 144,000 Jews sealed (Revelation 7:3-8) and marked for protection during much of the remaining great tribulation. [There are other details regarding the great tribulation that we will consider in later chapters].

Matthew 24:21-22

21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, nor ever shall be.

22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

Zechariah 13:8-9

8 And it shall come to pass in all the land," Says the LORD, "That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, But one-third shall be left in it:

9 I will bring the one-third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; And each one will say, 'The LORD is my God.' "

Jeremiah 30:7

7 Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble, But he shall be saved out of it.

Daniel 12:1

"At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Everyone who is found written in the book.

### *The Battle of Armageddon and the Second Coming*

God's end-time judgment on the nations will be for 'dividing up His land!'. Then, one day when the armies of the world will gather in and around the nation of Israel (the coming battle of Armageddon) and when all seems lost for the children of Israel, the Lord Jesus Himself will return to save Israel. The Lord Jesus descends on Mount of Olives. They will mourn and turn to the Lord.

(Joel chapter 3 has details of this battle. We only list a few verses)

Joel 3:1-2

1 "For behold, in those days and at that time, When I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem,  
2 I will also gather all nations, And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there On account of My people, My heritage Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; They have also divided up My land.

Revelation 16:12-16

12 Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.  
13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.  
14 For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.  
15 "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."  
16 And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.

Jeremiah 25:30-38

30 "Therefore prophesy against them all these words, and say to them: 'The LORD will roar from on high, And utter His voice from His holy habitation; He will roar mightily against His fold. He will give a shout, as those who tread the grapes, Against all the inhabitants of the earth.  
31 A noise will come to the ends of the earth— For the LORD has a controversy with the nations; He will plead His case with all flesh. He will give those who are wicked to the sword,' says the LORD."  
32 Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Behold, disaster shall go forth From nation to nation, And a great whirlwind shall be raised up From the farthest parts of the earth.  
33 "And at that day the slain of the LORD shall be from one end of the earth even to the other end of the earth. They shall not be lamented, or gathered, or buried; they shall become refuse on the ground.  
34 "Wail, shepherds, and cry! Roll about in the ashes, You leaders of the flock! For the days of your slaughter and your dispersions are fulfilled; You shall fall like a precious vessel.  
35 And the shepherds will have no way to flee, Nor the leaders of the flock to escape.  
36 A voice of the cry of the shepherds, And a wailing of the leaders to the flock will be heard. For the LORD has plundered their pasture,  
37 And the peaceful dwellings are cut down Because of the fierce anger of the LORD.  
38 He has left His lair like the lion; For their land is desolate Because of the fierceness of the Oppressor, And because of His fierce anger."

Zechariah 12:8-11

8 In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the Angel of the LORD before them.  
9 It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

10 "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

11 In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

(The entire chapter of Zechariah 14 is descriptive of all that will take place. We only list a few verses).

Zechariah 14:1-4

1 Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, And your spoil will be divided in your midst.

2 For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

3 Then the LORD will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle.

4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south.

Revelation 19:11-16

11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God,

18 that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great."

19 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.

20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

Isaiah 66:15-16

15 For behold, the LORD will come with fire And with His chariots, like a whirlwind, To render His anger with fury, And His rebuke with flames of fire.

16 For by fire and by His sword The LORD will judge all flesh; And the slain of the LORD shall be many.

FYI:

Valley of Jehoshaphat (Jehoshaphat = Yahweh Judges), is referring to a "Valley of Judgement" or as later mentioned "Valley of decision", which we know is the Valley of Jezreel, where the battle will take place.

The Dragon (Satan), the Beast (Antichrist), the False Prophet (the second Beast, a religious leader).

The Bible depicts this battle will be fought in 3 stages, including: A Russian lead invasion of Israel. A massive invasion of the Middle East by the "kings of the East" (possibly China and other nations). Finally the armies of the Antichrist come from all around the world to "Armageddon" (See also Revelation 1:7, Jude 1:14-15)

### *During the Millennium*

The nation of Israel and the children of Israel will rule over all the nations on Earth, in peace, under her King and Messiah Jesus Christ along with the believers in Jesus (Daniel 7:13-14, 1 Corinthians 6:2-3). The Messiah will reign from Jerusalem, as it will be the place of His throne, and Jerusalem will be the capital of the world. Jerusalem is to be a light to the nations and the nations will have none of it (Isaiah 2:2-4, Micah 4:2, Luke 1:32-33, Jeremiah 3:17). Jerusalem will be the center of worship during the Millennium (Zechariah 14:16-19). Ezekiel 40-48 also shows that there will a Temple (The Millennial Temple) and God will re-institute temple worship and sacrifices in the Millennium. Many believe that the purpose for the sacrifices is to commemorate the sacrificial work that Christ did on the cross, since sacrifices are no longer needed as a covering for sin. Israel will have the entirety of the Land promised to it (Ezekiel 47:13-21). Israel will dominate the entire region (Isaiah 11:11-16; Zechariah 10:10-11).



**USEFUL RESOURCES**



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

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**WEBSITE:** <https://apcwo.org/live>

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**FREE SERMONS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

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**DAILY DEVOTIONALS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

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