

**Bible prophecies sorted by theme:**

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## **Prophecies about Israel's destruction**

### **DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL**

The Assyrians conquered and destroyed the northern kingdom of Israel in about 722 BC (about 2700 years ago). The Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem in 586 BC (about 2600 years ago). Jerusalem and the Temple were later rebuilt but were destroyed again, this time by the Romans 70 AD. In 135 AD, the Romans again attacked and destroyed Jerusalem.

**DAN 9:26** "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

### **Daniel foretold the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple**

**DAN 9:26** "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

**Bible passage:** Daniel 9:26

**Prophet:** Daniel

**Written:** about 530 BC

**Fulfilled:** 70 AD.

In Daniel 9:26, the prophet said that a future ruler over the land of Israel would destroy Jerusalem and the Temple. Daniel said this would happen after an anointed one (messiah) is "cut off," which means "rejected" or "killed." A few centuries later, the Romans had taken control of the land of Israel, Jesus announced himself as the Messiah, and the Romans crucified him. Forty years after Jesus was crucified, the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple.

**Daniel's "Seventy Weeks" prophecy:** A detailed look at Daniel 9:24-27. Below is a detailed look at Daniel 9:24-27. Much of our commentary below is based on Josh McDowell's book, "The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict", pages 197-201:

### **PART ONE: A chronological summary of Daniel 9:24-26**

1. There would be a decree to rebuild Jerusalem.
2. Jerusalem and the Temple would be rebuilt.
3. Then an anointed one (messiah) would be "cut off" (an idiom for "rejected" or "killed").
4. Then Jerusalem and the Temple would be destroyed again.

I came up with this summary after reading various renderings of this verse in various translations of the Christian Bible and of the Jewish Tanakh. (The Tanakh is the Jewish Bible; it contains the writings of what we Christians refer to as the Old Testament). I believe that this chronology fits most of the renderings that I have seen, whether they are translations by Christians or by Judaists. My summary is in no way original - many Christians, such as Josh McDowell, have come up with the same chronology long before I did.

### **PART TWO: A summary of how Daniel 9:24-26 was fulfilled**

All of these events later happened, in the same order in which they are described in Daniel 9:24-26:

1. After the Medo-Persians had conquered the Babylonian empire about 2540 years ago, they ruled a vast empire that included the land of Israel. About 2446 years ago (about 445 BC), Persian king Artaxerxes gave permission to the Jews to rebuild Jerusalem, which was still in ruins after having been destroyed earlier by the Babylonians.
2. The Jews rebuilt the Temple and the city of Jerusalem.
3. Then, in about 33 AD, Jesus entered Jerusalem as the Messiah who had been promised by Old Testament prophets. But, many people rejected Jesus as the Messiah and He was crucified by the Romans.
4. About 40 years after Jesus was crucified, the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple. (The Temple has not been rebuilt since then).

### **PART THREE: How Daniel 9:24-26 was "Fulfilled to the day" according to scholars such as Josh McDowell**

First, McDowell, and other scholars, separate the prophecy into three parts:

1. The "seventy sevens" in Daniel 9:25.
2. The "62 sevens" in Daniel 9:25.
3. And the 70th "seven" in Daniel 9:27.

Then, they combine the first two periods for a total of 69 "sevens." They combined the first two periods because it is at after the completion of those two periods that the anointed one appears, and that's what we are trying to calculate - when the anointed one was supposed to appear. Next, they interpret the "sevens" as "seven years" or periods of seven years, rather than a period of seven days or seven weeks or seven months. Part of the reason that this is interpreted as "years" is because of the reference to "years" in Daniel 9:2. (Daniel 9:2 refers to the "seventy years" prophecy that Jeremiah spoke of in Jeremiah 25).

### **PART FOUR: The mathematics of calculating Daniel 9:24-26 and the issue of the 360-day "prophetic" calendar**

At this point, we're adding the 7 "sevens" and the 62 "sevens" for a total of 69 "sevens". And we are interpreting the 69 "sevens" to mean 69 periods of seven years, for a total of 483 years. So, we are saying that there would be a period of 483 years from the time that a decree is given to rebuild Jerusalem to the time that a Messiah is to appear. Some Christian scholars say that the period of 483 years

should not be thought of in terms of our modern solar calendar which is based on a 365.25 days to a year. Instead, we are to use a "prophetic" calendar which has 360 days to a year. Many ancient calendars, including the Jewish calendar, was based on a lunar year of 12 months, with each month lasting 30 days each. Many ancient peoples, including the ancient Jews, did realize that there actually were more than 360 days to a year and so they would tack on an extra five days at some point during the year.

Another reason some scholars say that we should apply a 360-day calendar to Daniel's prophecy is because of various Bible references that allude to a fixed 30-day month view of time. For example, in Genesis 7:24, it says that the flood lasted 150 days. And, in Genesis 7:11, it says the flood began in the 17th day of the second month. And in Genesis 8:4, it says that the flood subsided on the 17th day of the seventh month, when the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. So, these passages present us a 5-month period of time that is described as being 150 days in length. And that of course is five 30-day months.

There are other Bible passages that indicate that time is being measured in fixed 30-day month periods. Revelation 12:6 mentions a 1,260 day period which, in my view, clearly relates to the three-and-a-half-year period mentioned in Revelation 12:13-14 and in Daniel 9:27. For three-and-a-half years to equal 1,260 days, one would have to measure years in 360-day increments. That of course doesn't mean that the earth's orbit of the sun is going to speed up or change, it just simply means that the prophetic year is a measure of time in which a "year" has 360 days, nothing more, nothing less. It's no different than weighing a bag of groceries using the metric system of kilograms and then using the old English system of pounds and ounces. It is not that one system causes the groceries to weigh more or less, but rather the two systems describe the weight in different units. So too does the prophetic year in comparison to our solar calendar - it uses a different system to measure time. So, we take the 483 years that we had calculated earlier and we multiply the 483 by 360. In other words, we are viewing the 483 year period described in Daniel 9:25 as "prophetic years" of 360 days each. And, 483 times 360 equals 173,880. And that gives us a total of 173,880 days.

Now, we want to apply these 173,880 days to our calendar, which has 365.25 days to a year. Why? So that we can use *our* calendar in trying to figure out the year that this part of Daniel's prophecy was to begin its fulfillment and when this part of Daniel's prophecy was to be completed. So, we divide the 173,880 days into years of 365.25 days. And, that equals 476 (solar) years. Now, we need to figure out when this 476 year period was supposed to begin.

#### **PART FIVE: When was Daniel's "69 weeks of years" supposed to begin?**

At this point we are trying to figure out when the 476-year period begins. The prophecy in Daniel 9:24-26 begins with a decree to rebuild Jerusalem. Many people have proposed different years for different decrees. And I won't pretend to have the "only correct answer," because I don't know if I have that or not. In any event, here are four decrees that are often discussed in relation to Daniel 9:24-26:

1. The decree from Cyrus in 539 BC. (see Ezra 1:1-4)
2. The decree from Darius in 519 BC. (see Ezra 5:3-7)
3. The decree from Artaxerxes to Ezra in 457 BC. (see Ezra 7:11-16)
4. The decree from Artaxerxes to Nehemiah in 444 BC. (see Nehemiah 2:1-8)

As cited in McDowell's book, a Christian scholar named J.D. Wilson contends that only the decree from Artaxerxes to Nehemiah applies to this prophecy. As cited in McDowell's book, Wilson explains: "The words of the decree are not given, but its subject matter can easily be determined. Nehemiah hears of the desolate condition of Jerusalem. He is deeply grieved. The King asks the reason. Nehemiah replies, 'the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchres, lieth waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire.' The King bids him make request. He does so promptly, asking for an order to from the King that 'I be sent to the city that I may build it.' And, as we read, he was sent, and he rebuilt Jerusalem."

And so, that is J.D. Wilson's reason for using the Artaxerxes to Nehemiah. The next issue is finding a date for that decree. McDowell, page 199 of his "The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict," reads: "The decree was given in 444 B.C., based on the following:

1. 'In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' (Nehemiah 2:1).
2. Artaxerxes' accession was in 465 B.C.
3. There is not date specified, so according to the Jewish custom the date is understood as the first day of the month, which would be Nisan 1, 444 BC.
4. March 5, 444 B.C. is our corresponding calendar date." (Many scholars use the March 5 date, but not all use the 444 BC year. Some use 445 BC as the twentieth year of Artaxerxes. I myself haven't done enough research to decide which year is most likely to be the correct year). Regardless of whether you accept the date as being March 5, 444 BC or March 5, 445 BC, we now have a starting point for Daniel's prophecy.

#### **PART SIX: When was Daniel's "69 weeks of years" supposed to end?**

We are now at the point where we can try to pinpoint when the Messiah was supposed to make his appearance. If we agree on the points that have been made earlier, then we simply calculate 476 years into the future, using 444 BC as the starting point. To do that, if I am not mistaken, we count 443 BC as the first of the 476 years. Why - because the first began in 444 BC and it ended in 443 BC. So we start counting from 443 BC. So, we have 443 years on the BC side of measuring time and that leaves us with 33 years on the AD side to account for the full 476 years. Using this formula, we arrive at 33 AD the year in time in which the Messiah was to appear.

And that would correspond to the time that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. The reason the donkey is important is that in Zechariah 9:9, the prophet Zechariah speaks of a King riding a donkey and presenting himself as the King to Jerusalem. Alfred Edersheim, a Christian Jew who lived during the 1800s, studied ancient Rabbinical writings, and said that Zechariah 9:9 was often interpreted as being about a Messiah. In the book, "The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah," Edersheim wrote: "The Messianic application of this verse in all its parts has already been repeatedly indicated. We may here add that there are many traditions about this donkey on which the Messiah is to ride; and so firm was the belief in it, that, according to the Talmud, 'if anyone saw a donkey in his dreams, he will see salvation' (Ber 56 b)."

So then, what better way for a Messiah to announce himself in Jerusalem than to enter the great city on the back of a humble donkey? There are theories that pinpoint the exact date of the exact year that Jesus rode into Jerusalem. The dates that I have seen in my review of other people's research is April 6, either April 6, 32 AD, or April 6, 33 AD. (And, again, the difference in the year depends on whether the 20th year of Artaxerxes was in 444 BC or 445 BC). And, some scholars have claimed that there is exactly 173,880 days from March 5, 444 BC to April 6, 33 AD (and, 173,880 days from March 5, 445 BC to April 6, 32 AD).

#### **PART SEVEN: What ancient Rabbis thought of Daniel 9:24-26**

I found a Web site that pulls together various ancient writings from Rabbis, commenting on Daniel, chapter 9. That Web site's address is: <http://www.inerrancy.org/dan.htm> According to that Web site, at least a handful of ancient Rabbis agree that it is correct to view Daniel 9 as providing a timeline for the arrival of a Messiah. Below are a few examples that I copied verbatim from that Web site: " 1a. Maimonides (Rabbi Moses Ben Maimon): "Daniel has elucidated to us the knowledge of the end times. However, since they are secret, the wise [rabbis] have barred the calculation of the days of Messiah's coming so that the untutored populace will not be led astray when they see that the End Times have already come but there is no sign of the Messiah" (Igeret Teiman, Chapter 3 p.24.) "

" 1b. Rabbi Moses Abraham Levi: "I have examined and searched all the Holy Scriptures and have not found the time for the coming of Messiah clearly fixed, except in the words of Gabriel to the prophet Daniel, which are written in the 9th chapter of the prophecy of Daniel (The Messiah of the Targums, Talmuds and Rabbinical Writers, 1971) p.141-142 (These two quotes were taken from The Creator Beyond Time and Space by Mark Eastman, M.D. and Chuck Missler (The Word for Today, 1996)). " Assuming that these citations are accurate renderings of what the Rabbis had said, it seems clear that these Rabbis believed that Daniel 9:24-26 referred to a Messiah, a very important Messiah, and that the Bible passage provided the information needed to calculate the Messiah's arrival. As for the first example, Maimonides of course was a Judaist, not a Christian, and so from his point of view, the prophecy had not yet been fulfilled. And that would account for his comments about calculating the Messiah's arrival.

#### **PART EIGHT: My conclusions about Daniel's "69 weeks of years"**

Perhaps we can't all agree, at this time, on every specific detail involved in calculating a starting point for Daniel's prophecy about the 69 weeks of years. But, eventually, we might have additional information from archaeologists and historians to help pinpoint that starting point. But at this present time, it seems to me that there is widespread agreement among Christian scholars on the following issues:

1. That there is evidence in the Bible to support the concept of the "prophetic calendar" which measures time in terms of 360-day years.
2. That there is evidence in the Bible to support the view that the decree of Artaxerxes to Nehemiah is, or at least could be, the starting point of Daniel's prophecy.
3. That there is strong evidence from historians and archaeologists to pinpoint "twentieth year of Artaxerxes" as being either 444 BC or 445 BC.
4. That the events described in Daniel's prophecy do line up as follows:
  - That there would be a decree to rebuild Jerusalem.
  - Then Jerusalem and the Temple would be rebuilt.
  - Then an anointed one (messiah) would make his appearance and then be "cut off."
  - Then Jerusalem and the Temple would be destroyed again.

#### **PART NINE:**

##### **Where to get more information about Daniel 9:24-26**

If you're interested in reading more about Daniel's prophecy, try these Web sites:

<http://www.inerrancy.org>

<http://www.marshall.org/70weeks.htm>

#### **The Bible foreshadowed Rome's destruction of Israel**

**DEU 28:49** "The Lord will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flies, a nation whose language you will not understand, 50 "a nation of fierce countenance, which does not respect the elderly nor show favor to the young. 51 "And they shall eat the increase of your livestock and the produce of your land, until you are destroyed; they shall not leave you grain or new wine or oil, or the increase of your cattle or the offspring of your flocks, until they have destroyed you. 52 "They shall besiege you at all your gates until your high and fortified walls, in which you trust, come down throughout all your land; and they shall besiege you at all your gates throughout all your land which the Lord your God has given you.

**Bible passage: Deuteronomy 28:49-52**

**Prophet: Moses**

**Written: perhaps 1400 BC**

**Fulfilled: 70 AD**

The Bible has several prophecies about various destructions of the Jewish homeland. Here is one from the Bible's book of Deuteronomy that foreshadowed the destruction caused by the Romans in the year 70 AD (about 1900 years ago):

"The Lord will bring a nation against you from far away, from the ends of the earth, like an eagle swooping down, a nation whose language you will not understand ... They will devour ... until you are ruined. ... They will lay siege to all the cities throughout your land until the high fortified walls in which you trust fall down." (Deuteronomy 28:49-52 NIV).

And, here's what history says about what happened in the year 70 AD: The Roman Empire sent an army, which marched in a formation called the "flying eagle," and destroyed Jerusalem. Members of the Roman army came from many different countries, speaking languages that the Jews did not understand.

The destruction of Jerusalem and the surrounding area was very complete. Here is an excerpt from page 72 of *The Bible Today and You*, (London: "The Dawn" Book Supply, 1962): "The suppression of Bar Cochba's insurrection, A.D. 135 marks the final desolation of Judaea, and the dispersion of its inhabitants. The whole of Judaea was made like a desert; about 985 towns and villages lay in ashes, 50

fortresses were razed to the ground; the name of Jerusalem itself was changed into 'Aelia Capitolina' . . . from entering which (or even viewing from a distance) every Jew was strictly forbidden on pain of death."

### **Israel would become a wasteland**

**DEU 29:23** 'The whole land is brimstone, salt, and burning; it is not sown, nor does it bear, nor does any grass grow there, like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim, which the Lord overthrew in His anger and His wrath.'

**Prophet:** Moses

**Written:** perhaps 1400 BC

**Fulfilled:** 135-1800s

In Deuteronomy 29:23, the Bible said Israel would become a wasteland. This prophecy certainly was fulfilled. The land has been described many times as having been a wasteland. American writer Mark Twain wrote this, in 1867, about the land of Israel, which at the time was called Palestine: "Palestine sits in sackcloth and ashes... the spell of a curse that has withered its fields and fettered its energies... Palestine is desolate and unlovely... It is a hopeless, dreary, heartbroken land." - from Mark Twain's *Innocents Abroad*. The Bible also said that the land again would become productive. This transformation has been taking place during the past century as many Jews have been working to restore Israel.

### **The Jews would live many days without a king**

**HOS 3:4** For the children of Israel shall abide many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar, without ephod or teraphim.

**Bible passage:** Hosea 3:4-5

**Prophet:** Hosea

**Written:** about 750 BC

**Fulfilled:** Being fulfilled since 70 AD

In Hosea 3:4-5, the prophet said that the people of the Holy Land had turned away from God and would therefore live many days without a king and without the ability to worship in the way that the people were accustomed, such as by being able to offer sacrifices in the Temple. After this, Hosea said, the people would be able to return to their homeland and seek the Lord. This prophecy is two-fold. It includes a promise of desolation followed by a promise of restoration. The desolation took place in 70 AD and in 135 AD when the Romans destroyed the Temple and forced many Jews out of their homeland. During the past 100 years, however, millions of Jews have returned to their homeland and re-established Israel as an independent country.

### **The Jewish homeland would be inhabited by enemies**

**LEV 26:31** I will lay your cities waste and bring your sanctuaries to desolation, and I will not smell the fragrance of your sweet aromas. 32 I will bring the land to desolation, and your enemies who dwell in it shall be astonished at it.

**Bible passage:** Leviticus 26:31-32

**Prophet:** Moses

**Written:** perhaps around 1400 BC

**Fulfilled:** 135 to today

In Leviticus 26:31-32, the Bible said that Israel would become a wasteland and that it would be inhabited by enemies of the Jews. Both parts of this prophecy have been clearly documented throughout history. Many Jews were forced out of their homeland by the Assyrians, Babylonians and Romans. Each time, other people were able to move into the land. When the Jews began returning during the 1800s and 1900s, they had skirmishes with the peoples living there, including the Palestinians, who continue to live in parts of Israel.

### **Jesus said Jerusalem would be destroyed**

**LUK 21:24** "And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

**Bible passage:** Luke 21:24

**Prophet:** Jesus

**Recorded:** about 30 AD

**Fulfilled:** 70 AD

In Luke 21:24, Jesus said that the Jews soon would be forced out of Jerusalem and that the city would be destroyed. He said Jerusalem would be trampled upon by the "Gentiles" (non-Jews), and that the Jews would be scattered to all nations. And, that's exactly what happened. The Romans destroyed Jerusalem in the year 70, and again in the year 135. During the two destructions, the Romans killed an estimated 1.5 million Jews. Hundreds of thousands of Jews were taken as slaves to other countries, mostly throughout Europe and parts of Asia. However, during the next several centuries, Jews had established communities on every inhabited continent, including North America, South America, Australia and Africa.

### **Jesus prophesied that the Temple would be destroyed**

**MAT 24:1** Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. 2 And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

**Bible passage:** Matthew 24:1-2

**Prophet:** Jesus

**Recorded:** about 30 AD

**Fulfilled:** 70 AD

In Matthew 24:1-2, Jesus said that the Temple would be destroyed. The Temple was destroyed about 40 years after Jesus was crucified by the Romans. In 70 AD, the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and killed an estimated 1.1 million Jews. During the destruction, fire was set to the Temple. The fire caused the gold-leaf ornamentation on the Temple ceiling to melt. The melting gold flowed down the

walls and settled into crevices within the stones. The Romans pried apart the stones to remove the gold. This fulfilled Jesus Christ's prophecy that not one stone would be left standing on another. Here are more details about the holy Temple:

1. The first Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BC and was rebuilt 70 years later. The rebuilt Temple stood for 586 years and was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD.
2. Both Temples were destroyed by the most powerful empires of their day. (Babylonian Empire in 586 BC and the Roman Empire in 70 AD).
3. After the destruction of both Temples, hundreds of thousands of Jews were slaughtered, taken as slaves and forced out of Jerusalem.
4. According to the ancient historian Josephus, both Temples were destroyed on the same day of their respective years - the 9th day of the Jewish month of Av.

### **Jerusalem would be destroyed and "plowed like a field"**

**MIC 3:11** Her heads judge for a bribe, Her priests teach for pay, And her prophets divine for money. Yet they lean on the Lord, and say, "Is not the Lord among us? No harm can come upon us." 12 Therefore because of you Zion shall be plowed like a field, Jerusalem shall become heaps of ruins, And the mountain of the temple Like the bare hills of the forest.

**Bible passage:** Micah 3:11-12

**Prophet:** Micah

**Written:** sometime between 750-686 BC

**Fulfilled:** 135 AD

In Micah 3:11-12, the prophet Micah said that Jerusalem would be destroyed and that "Zion" - a central part of Jerusalem - would be "plowed like a field." Micah's prophecy is believed to have been delivered in about 730 BC (about 2700 years ago). Since that time, Jerusalem was destroyed in 586 BC by the Babylonians and by the Romans in 70 AD. The Romans destroyed it again in 135 AD to crush a Jewish rebellion for independence. According to a text in the Gemara - a collection of ancient Jewish writings - the Romans ran a plow over Zion on the 9th day of the Jewish month of Ab. The Gemara said that Turnus Rufus, a Roman officer, plowed the area of the Temple. This prophecy was fulfilled in literal detail. Incidentally, there was a Roman coin minted during that era that shows an image of Hadrian on one side and, on the other side, an image of a man riding a plow. The coin was intended to commemorate the founding of the pagan Roman city called Aelia Capitolina on the site of Jerusalem. The Romans sometimes minted coins showing the plowing motif as a symbol of the establishment of a new Roman city.

The Jews fast (go without food) on the 9th day of the Jewish month of Ab (sometimes spelled Av) in remembrance of five historic events that are believed to have taken place on that date. One of those events, according to Jewish history, is the plowing of all or part of Jerusalem that took place during a Roman destruction of Jerusalem (probably the destruction that took place in about 135 AD). More information about the 9th of Ab fast can be found on various Web sites, including the link provided here: <http://www.thejec.org/sections/Torah/devarim/devarim1.htm>

Here is a related paraphrasing from page 1015 of *A Dictionary of the Bible*, by William Smith, (London: John Murray, 1863), and also page 132 of *The History of the Jews*, by Henry Milman, (London: Dent, 1939): After the Roman general, Hadrian, suppressed the Bar Kochba revolt in 135 AD, he sought to destroy Jerusalem, which had been destroyed earlier by Titus in 70 AD. Hadrian's troops razed to the ground the ruins left behind by Titus and ran a plow over the foundations of the temple as a symbol of perpetual desolation.

## **Prophecies about Israel's exile**

### **EXILE OF ISRAEL**

Many people in the northern kingdom of Israel were exiled by the Assyrians in about 722 BC, about 2700 years ago. And many people in the southern kingdom of Judah, which included Jerusalem, were exiled by the Babylonians between 605 BC and 586 BC, about 2600 years ago. But, shortly after the fall of Babylon in 539 BC, many Jews returned to their homeland. However, when the Romans exiled the Jews from their homeland between 70 AD and 135 AD, they were scattered throughout the world and were unable to return to their homeland in large numbers until recently, during the past two centuries.

### **Moses prophesized the worldwide persecution and scattering of Jews**

**DEU 4:25** "When you beget children and grandchildren and have grown old in the land, and act corruptly and make a carved image in the form of anything, and do evil in the sight of the Lord your God to provoke Him to anger, 26 "I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that you will soon utterly perish from the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess; you will not prolong your days in it, but will be utterly destroyed. 27 "And the Lord will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the Lord will drive you. 30 "When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, when you turn to the Lord your God and obey His voice

**Bible passage:** Deuteronomy 4:25-27,30

**Prophet:** Moses

**Written:** perhaps 1400 BC

**Fulfilled:** During the past 3000 years

In Deuteronomy 4:25-30, and in other passages, the Bible said that the Jews would be scattered worldwide and persecuted, and that they would return to their homeland. The Bible said that these things would happen if Israel disobeyed God. And according to the Bible, there were times in the past when the nation did turn away from God and worship the false gods of other nations. The severity of the punishment perhaps reflects the importance of the task for which the Jews were chosen - to teach the world about the one true God. The Jewish teachings have had a worldwide impact. Today, more than half of the world's people have abandoned paganism and now follow a monotheistic religion, the largest of which is Christianity. There are at least six major events that contributed to the forced, worldwide scattering of Jews, and their return to Israel:

1. The conquest and deportations of Jews in the northern kingdom of Israel by the Assyrians in about 722 BC. (About 2700 years ago). Jews were taken to countries in Asia Minor.
2. The deportations of Jews in the southern kingdom of Judah by the Babylonians from about 605 BC to about 586 BC. (About 2600 years ago). Many Jews were taken as captives to Babylon. Others fled to Egypt and other Mediterranean countries.
3. The Romans suppressed a Jewish uprising for independence in 70 AD. They destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple and forced many Jews into exile. Jews were scattered to many countries around the Mediterranean Sea.
4. The Romans suppressed another Jewish uprising in about 135 AD. The Romans destroyed Jerusalem, again. Jews were banned, temporarily, from living in Jerusalem. Jews again were scattered throughout north Africa, Europe and Asia Minor.
5. In 1492, Jews were banned from living in Spain. Many fled to other parts of Europe, Asia Minor and north Africa. The oppression of Jews in Spain even contributed to the migration of Jews to South America.
6. The rise of the Nazi empire and the intense persecution of European Jews during that era contributed to the scattering of European Jews to North America, South America, Africa, Asia and Australia.

The centuries of persecutions and scatterings of Jews gave rise to Zionism - a movement that began in the late 1800s to encourage Jews to return to their ancient homeland to establish a new, independent Israel. The migrations trickled during the late 1800s. Hundreds of thousands returned before and during World War II. And a few million have returned since then. Israel declared independence in 1948, marking the second time in 2900 years that Israel was both independent and united. Today, more than 5 million Jews live in Israel and about 10 million to 15 million live in other countries worldwide. No other group of people has ever been forcibly scattered to as many countries as the Jews.

### **The Jews would be exiled, scorned and ridiculed**

**DEU 28:36** “The Lord will bring you and the king whom you set over you to a nation which neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you shall serve other gods—wood and stone. 37 “And you shall become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword among all nations where the Lord will drive you.

**Bible passage:** Deuteronomy 28:36-37

**Prophet:** Moses

**Written:** perhaps 1400 BC

**Fulfilled:** 135-1900s

In Deuteronomy 28:36-37, the Bible said that the Jews would be exiled, ridiculed and scorned. This prophecy has certainly found fulfillment in many events throughout history. The Jews have been expelled from their homeland by the Assyrians, Babylonians and Romans. And the Jews - perhaps more than any other group of people - have been subject to hatred, scorn and persecution throughout the world. Until 1948, the Jews did not have sovereign control over any part of their homeland since the Hasmonaean Period more than 2000 years ago. And, until 1948, Israel had not been a united and sovereign country for nearly 2900 years.

### **Jews would be persecuted in many nations**

**DEU 28:65** “And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the Lord will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul. 66 “Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life. 67 “In the morning you shall say, ‘Oh, that it were evening!’ And at evening you shall say, ‘Oh, that it were morning!’ because of the fear which terrifies your heart, and because of the sight which your eyes see.

**Bible passage:** Deuteronomy 28:65-67

**Prophet:** Moses

**Written:** perhaps 1400 BC

**Fulfilled:** 1940s, 1930s, 135 AD, 721 BC, etc.

In Deuteronomy 28:65-67, the Bible said that the Jews would be scattered worldwide and persecuted. Jewish tradition maintains that the Book of Deuteronomy was recorded by Moses about 3400 years ago. At about that time, the Jews were conquering the land of Canaan and establishing Israel. The Jews were enjoying a string of military victories, as described in the Bible's book of Joshua. It might have seemed odd to Jews living 3400 years ago to hear that they would one day be scattered throughout the world and persecuted. But history is full of accounts of the scattering of the Jews and of the atrocities committed against them, including the World War II Holocaust during which an estimated 6 million Jews were killed. Winston Churchill, the prime minister of England during the Holocaust era, said: "The Final Solution is probably the greatest, most horrible crime ever committed in the whole history of the world."

### **The Jews would be like wanderers in other nations**

**HOS 9:17** My God will cast them away, Because they did not obey Him; And they shall be wanderers among the nations.

**Bible passage:** Hosea 9:17

**Prophet:** Hosea

**Written:** about 750 BC

**Fulfilled:** 70 AD and 135 AD

In Hosea 9:17, the prophet said that the people of the Holy Land had turned away from God and would therefore become wanderers among the nations. This began to be fulfilled more than 2500 years ago when the Assyrians and Babylonians had conquered, respectively, the northern and southern portions of the Jewish homeland, and forced many Jews out of their homeland. But many returned only to be forced out again, this time by the Romans about 1900 years ago. The Romans exiled the Jews to many different countries. But, during the past 100 years, millions of Jews have returned to Israel. Today, about 6 million Jews live in Israel and an estimated 12 million live in other countries.

## **Prophecies about the scattering of Israel**

## **Moses prophesized the worldwide persecution and scattering of Jews**

**DEU 4:25** “When you beget children and grandchildren and have grown old in the land, and act corruptly and make a carved image in the form of anything, and do evil in the sight of the Lord your God to provoke Him to anger, 26 “I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that you will soon utterly perish from the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess; you will not prolong your days in it, but will be utterly destroyed. 27 “And the Lord will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the Lord will drive you. 30 “When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, when you turn to the Lord your God and obey His voice

**Bible passage:** Deuteronomy 4:25-27,30

**Prophet:** Moses

**Written:** perhaps 1400 BC

**Fulfilled:** During the past 3000 years

In Deuteronomy 4:25-30, and in other passages, the Bible said that the Jews would be scattered worldwide and persecuted, and that they would return to their homeland. The Bible said that these things would happen if Israel disobeyed God. And according to the Bible, there were times in the past when the nation did turn away from God and worship the false gods of other nations. The severity of the punishment perhaps reflects the importance of the task for which the Jews were chosen - to teach the world about the one true God. The Jewish teachings have had a worldwide impact. Today, more than half of the world's people have abandoned paganism and now follow a monotheistic religion, the largest of which is Christianity. There are at least six major events that contributed to the forced, worldwide scattering of Jews, and their return to Israel:

7. The conquest and deportations of Jews in the northern kingdom of Israel by the Assyrians in about 722 BC. (About 2700 years ago). Jews were taken to countries in Asia Minor.
8. The deportations of Jews in the southern kingdom of Judah by the Babylonians from about 605 BC to about 586 BC. (About 2600 years ago). Many Jews were taken as captives to Babylon. Others fled to Egypt and other Mediterranean countries.
9. The Romans suppressed a Jewish uprising for independence in 70 AD. They destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple and forced many Jews into exile. Jews were scattered to many countries around the Mediterranean Sea.
10. The Romans suppressed another Jewish uprising in about 135 AD. The Romans destroyed Jerusalem, again. Jews were banned, temporarily, from living in Jerusalem. Jews again were scattered throughout north Africa, Europe and Asia Minor.
11. In 1492, Jews were banned from living in Spain. Many fled to other parts of Europe, Asia Minor and north Africa. The oppression of Jews in Spain even contributed to the migration of Jews to South America.
12. The rise of the Nazi empire and the intense persecution of European Jews during that era contributed to the scattering of European Jews to North America, South America, Africa, Asia and Australia.

The centuries of persecutions and scatterings of Jews gave rise to Zionism - a movement that began in the late 1800s to encourage Jews to return to their ancient homeland to establish a new, independent Israel. The migrations trickled during the late 1800s. Hundreds of thousands returned before and during World War II. And a few million have returned since then. Israel declared independence in 1948, marking the second time in 2900 years that Israel was both independent and united. Today, more than 5 million Jews live in Israel and about 10 million to 15 million live in other countries worldwide. No other group of people has ever been forcibly scattered to as many countries as the Jews.

## **The Jews would be scattered worldwide**

**DEU 28:64** “Then the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known—wood and stone.

**Bible passage:** Deuteronomy 28:64

**Prophet:** Moses

**Written:** perhaps 1400 BC

**Fulfilled:** 721 BC, 586 BC, 70 AD, 135 AD

In Deuteronomy 28:64, the Bible said the Jews would be scattered worldwide. This prophecy has certainly been fulfilled. Take a look at the explanation of the Jewish "Diaspora," which means "scattering," from the Columbia Encyclopedia, Fifth Edition: "... by 70 A.D. Jewish communities existed in Babylonia, Syria, Egypt, Cyrene, Asia Minor, Greece, and Rome. Jews followed the Romans into Europe and from Persia and Babylonia spread as far east as China. In modern times, Jews have migrated to the Americas, South Africa, and Australia. The Jewish population of Central and Eastern Europe, until World War II the largest in the world, was decimated in the Holocaust. Despite the creation of the state of Israel in 1948, the vast majority of the Jewish people remains in the Diaspora, notably in North America, Russia, and Ukraine."

## **Jews would be persecuted in many nations**

**DEU 28:65** “And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul. <sup>66</sup>“Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life. <sup>67</sup>“In the morning you shall say, ‘Oh, that it were evening!’ And at evening you shall say, ‘Oh, that it were morning!’ because of the fear which terrifies your heart, and because of the sight which your eyes see.

**Bible passage:** Deuteronomy 28:65-67

**Prophet:** Moses

**Written:** perhaps 1400 BC

**Fulfilled:** 1940s, 1930s, 135 AD, 721 BC, etc.

In Deuteronomy 28:65-67, the Bible said that the Jews would be scattered worldwide and persecuted. Jewish tradition maintains that the Book of Deuteronomy was recorded by Moses about 3400 years ago. At about that time, the Jews were conquering the land of

Canaan and establishing Israel. The Jews were enjoying a string of military victories, as described in the Bible's book of Joshua. It might have seemed odd to Jews living 3400 years ago to hear that they would one day be scattered throughout the world and persecuted. But history is full of accounts of the scattering of the Jews and of the atrocities committed against them, including the World War II Holocaust during which an estimated 6 million Jews were killed. Winston Churchill, the prime minister of England during the Holocaust era, said: "The Final Solution is probably the greatest, most horrible crime ever committed in the whole history of the world."

### **The Jews would be scattered to other countries**

**EZE 22:14** "Can your heart endure, or can your hands remain strong, in the days when I shall deal with you? I, the LORD, have spoken, and will do it. <sup>15</sup>"I will scatter you among the nations, disperse you throughout the countries, and remove your filthiness completely from you.

**Bible passage:** Ezekiel 22:14-15

**Prophet:** Ezekiel

**Written:** between 593-571 BC

**Fulfilled:** since 70 AD

In Ezekiel 22:14-15, the prophet said that the Jews would be scattered to other countries. When Ezekiel delivered this prophecy, he was in Babylon with many other Jews who had been exiled from their homeland and taken as captives to Babylon. But, after the Babylonian Captivity, many Jews had returned to their homeland only to be exiled and scattered by the Romans. The Romans, in the hopes of preventing the Jews from ever organizing another attempt to secure sovereignty for their homeland, scattered the Jews to several different countries. The plan successfully contributed to the worldwide dispersion of Jews. Even so, millions of Jews returned to their ancient homeland during the past century and successfully re-established independence for Israel in 1948.

### **Jacob saw a vision of Israel's future**

**GEN 28:10** Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran. <sup>11</sup>So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. <sup>12</sup>Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder *was* set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. <sup>13</sup>And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I *am* the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. <sup>14</sup>"Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

**Bible passage:** Genesis 28:10-15

**Prophet:** Jacob

**Written:** perhaps 1400 BC

**Fulfilled:** Throughout history

In Genesis 28:10-15, the Bible says that Jacob, who lived about 4000 years ago, received a vision from God about the future of his descendants (the Jews). The vision accurately foretold the future of the Jews. Here is our summary of Jacob's vision:

1. The Jews would have Israel as their own country. This was fulfilled about 3400 years ago when the Jews first established Israel.
2. The Jews would be scattered worldwide. This was fulfilled when the Jews were forced out of Israel more than 2500 years ago by the Assyrians and Babylonians and again about 1900 years ago by the Romans.
3. The Jews would have a worldwide impact. Jews have had a tremendous worldwide impact in science, art, literature, economics, music and theology. The worldwide spread of Christianity began about 2000 years ago by a group of Jews who were followers of Jesus.
4. The Jews would be brought back to Israel. This began to be fulfilled during the late 1800s when many Jews worldwide began returning to their ancient homeland. They re-established Israel's independence in 1948, after 19 centuries of exile and persecution throughout the world.

### **The Jews would be like wanderers in other nations**

**HOS 9:17** My God will cast them away, Because they did not obey Him; And they shall be wanderers among the nations.

**Bible passage:** Hosea 9:17

**Prophet:** Hosea

**Written:** about 750 BC

**Fulfilled:** 70 AD and 135 AD

In Hosea 9:17, the prophet said that the people of the Holy Land had turned away from God and would therefore become wanderers among the nations. This began to be fulfilled more than 2500 years ago when the Assyrians and Babylonians had conquered, respectively, the northern and southern portions of the Jewish homeland, and forced many Jews out of their homeland. But many returned only to be forced out again, this time by the Romans about 1900 years ago. The Romans exiled the Jews to many different countries. But, during the past 100 years, millions of Jews have returned to Israel. Today, about 6 million Jews live in Israel and an estimated 12 million live in other countries.

## **Prophecies about the persecution of Jews**

### **PERSECUTION OF ISRAEL**

Many people today are aware of the Holocaust in which Nazi's murdered 6 million Jews in Europe. But Jews have endured intense persecutions for many centuries before that. From 70 AD to 135 AD, the Romans killed about 1.8 million Jews in Jerusalem. Later, various Crusades and Pogroms resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands of Jews and the burning of entire Jewish villages. Many European nations exiled Jews from their borders at different times throughout the past 19 centuries. And, the ancient destructions of Israel by the Assyrians and Babylonians nearly destroyed the Jewish people and the country of Israel.

### **The Jews would be exiled, scorned and ridiculed**

**DEU 28:36** “The LORD will bring you and the king whom you set over you to a nation which neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you shall serve other gods—wood and stone.<sup>37</sup>“And you shall become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword among all nations where the LORD will drive you.

**Bible passage:** Deuteronomy 28:36-37

**Prophet:** Moses

**Written:** perhaps 1400 BC

**Fulfilled:** 135-1900s

In Deuteronomy 28:36-37, the Bible said that the Jews would be exiled, ridiculed and scorned. This prophecy has certainly found fulfillment in many events throughout history. The Jews have been expelled from their homeland by the Assyrians, Babylonians and Romans. And the Jews - perhaps more than any other group of people - have been subject to hatred, scorn and persecution throughout the world. Until 1948, the Jews did not have sovereign control over any part of their homeland since the Hasmonaean Period more than 2000 years ago. And, until 1948, Israel had not been a united and sovereign country for nearly 2900 years.

### **Jews would be persecuted in many nations**

**DEU 28:65** “And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul.<sup>66</sup>“Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life.<sup>67</sup>“In the morning you shall say, ‘Oh, that it were evening!’ And at evening you shall say, ‘Oh, that it were morning!’ because of the fear which terrifies your heart, and because of the sight which your eyes see.

**Bible passage:** Deuteronomy 28:65-67

**Prophet:** Moses

**Written:** perhaps 1400 BC

**Fulfilled:** 1940s, 1930s, 135 AD, 721 BC, etc.

In Deuteronomy 28:65-67, the Bible said that the Jews would be scattered worldwide and persecuted. Jewish tradition maintains that the Book of Deuteronomy was recorded by Moses about 3400 years ago. At about that time, the Jews were conquering the land of Canaan and establishing Israel. The Jews were enjoying a string of military victories, as described in the Bible's book of Joshua. It might have seemed odd to Jews living 3400 years ago to hear that they would one day be scattered throughout the world and persecuted. But history is full of accounts of the scattering of the Jews and of the atrocities committed against them, including the World War II Holocaust during which an estimated 6 million Jews were killed. Winston Churchill, the prime minister of England during the Holocaust era, said: "The Final Solution is probably the greatest, most horrible crime ever committed in the whole history of the world."

### **The Jews would face many disasters and difficulties**

**DEU 31:16** And the LORD said to Moses: “Behold, you will rest with your fathers; and this people will rise and play the harlot with the gods of the foreigners of the land, where they go *to be* among them, and they will forsake Me and break My covenant which I have made with them.<sup>17</sup>“Then My anger shall be aroused against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide My face from them, and they shall be devoured. And many evils and troubles shall befall them, so that they will say in that day, ‘Have not these evils come upon us because our God *is* not among us?’

**Bible passage:** Deuteronomy 31:16-17

**Prophet:** Moses

**Written:** perhaps 1400 BC

**Fulfilled:** Throughout history

In Deuteronomy 31:16-17, the Bible said that the Jews would face many difficulties if they turned away from God. And, according to the Bible, many people in ancient Israel did at times turn away from God and worship the false gods of pagan Gentiles. This prophecy of persecution has been fulfilled many times. During the past 1900 years in Europe, for example, Jews were often heavily taxed, robbed of their possessions, stripped of their civil rights, forced into ghettos, tortured and slaughtered. Government leaders and church leaders at times banished the Jews from living in Spain, England, France, Belgium and Italy. During the Crusades, Jewish villages were often destroyed and men, women and children were burned alive. Those centuries of persecutions culminated with the Holocaust of the 1930s and 1940s, when the Nazis killed an estimated 6 million Jews. When Israel reclaimed independence in 1948, the surrounding countries invaded and tried to destroy the tiny nation.

### **The Jews would be persecuted, but preserved**

**ZEC 8:13** And it shall come to pass *That* just as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, So I will save you, and you shall be a blessing. Do not fear, Let your hands be strong.’

**Bible passage:** Zechariah 8:13

**Prophet:** Zechariah

**Written:** between 520 and 518 BC

**Fulfilled:** 135 to today

In Zechariah 8:13, the prophet said that although the Jews would be scorned and hated throughout the world, God would preserve them. The Jews have been subject to hatred in many, if not all, of the countries in which they have lived throughout the world. Even today in the United States people sometimes vandalize Jewish synagogues and slander the Jews. But God is more powerful than the vandals, the persecutors and the political leaders who have tried to destroy the Jewish people. God has indeed preserved the Jews.

## **Prophecies about the regathering of Israel**

### **The Jews would regain control of Israel**

Amos 9:14-15

**Bible passage:** Amos 9:14-15  
**Prophet:** Amos  
**Written:** about 750 BC  
**Fulfilled:** 1948

In Amos 9:14-15, the prophet said that there would come a time when the Jews would again have Israel as their own land and that they would never be uprooted again. Amos delivered this prophecy about 2700 years ago, shortly before the kingdom of Israel lost its independence to the Assyrian Empire. Israel was not an independent nation again until May 14, 1948. Within hours of declaring independence in 1948, the surrounding countries attacked tiny Israel. But Israel prevailed and was able to expand Israel's borders.

### **The fortunes of the Jews would be restored**

**Deuteronomy 30:3-5**  
**Bible passage:** Deuteronomy 30:3-5  
**Prophet:** Moses  
**Written:** perhaps 1400 BC  
**Fulfilled:** 1948, etc.

In Deuteronomy 30:3-5, the Bible said the Jews would be scattered worldwide as punishment for turning away from God, and that they would return to their homeland and have their fortunes restored. This prophecy began to be fulfilled in the late 1800s when many Jews returned to Israel, from as far away as China and the United States, Russia and South Africa. Israel declared independence in 1948. Today, Israel is among the world's most prosperous countries. In 1999, for example, Israel's per capita Gross Domestic Product was twice as prosperous than the neighboring countries.

### **Ezekiel said the Jews would return to Israel**

**Ezekiel 20:34**  
**Bible passage:** Ezekiel 20:34  
**Prophet:** Ezekiel  
**Written:** between 593-571 BC  
**Fulfilled:** late 1800s to today

In Ezekiel 20:34, the prophet said God would gather the Jews from around the world and bring them home to Israel. The Jews were forced out of their homeland by the Romans in the year 135. But, in the late 1800s, thousands of Jews began returning to the Holy Land, which at that time was part of the Ottoman Empire. Millions of other Jews returned during the early and mid 1900s, when the land was controlled by the British.

### **The Jews would return to "their own land"**

Ezekiel 34:13

**Bible passage:** Ezekiel 34:13  
**Prophet:** Ezekiel  
**Written:** between 593-571 BC  
**Fulfilled:** after May 14, 1948

In Ezekiel 34:13, the prophet said that God would gather the Jews scattered throughout the world and bring them back to "their own land." The Jews began to return in large numbers to their ancient homeland during the late 1800s and early 1900s. During that time, the land was called Palestine and was ruled by foreign powers. In 1948, the Jews declared independence for Israel for the first time in more than 2000 years. Since 1948, millions of other Jews have returned to "their own land."

### **Israel would be re-gathered**

Ezekiel 36:24

**Bible passage:** Ezekiel 36:24  
**Prophet:** Ezekiel  
**Written:** between 593-571 BC  
**Fulfilled:** Partially in the 1900s

In Ezekiel 36:24, the prophet said that the Jews would be re-gathered to Israel. This prophecy was partially fulfilled after the Babylonian Captivity, which took place about 2600 years ago. This prophecy has been partially fulfilled again during the 1900s when millions of Jews returned to their ancient homeland. As of the year 2001, about 6 million Jews reside in Israel and an estimated 12 million Jews live in other countries, including the United States.

### **Jacob saw a vision of Israel's future**

Genesis 28:10-15

**Bible passage:** Genesis 28:10-15  
**Prophet:** Jacob  
**Written:** perhaps 1400 BC  
**Fulfilled:** Throughout history

In Genesis 28:10-15, the Bible says that Jacob, who lived about 4000 years ago, received a vision from God about the future of his descendants (the Jews). The vision accurately foretold the future of the Jews. Here is our summary of Jacob's vision:

1. **The Jews would have Israel as their own country.** This was fulfilled about 3400 years ago when the Jews first established Israel.

2. **The Jews would be scattered worldwide.** This was fulfilled when the Jews were forced out of Israel more than 2500 years ago by the Assyrians and Babylonians and again about 1900 years ago by the Romans.
3. **The Jews would have a worldwide impact.** Jews have had a tremendous worldwide impact in science, art, literature, economics, music and theology. The worldwide spread of Christianity began about 2000 years ago by a group of Jews who were followers of Jesus.
4. **The Jews would be brought back to Israel.** This began to be fulfilled during the late 1800s when many Jews worldwide began returning to their ancient homeland. They re-established Israel's independence in 1948, after 19 centuries of exile and persecution throughout the world

### **God promised to restore the Jews**

Isaiah 27:12-13

**Bible passage:** Isaiah 27:12-13  
**Prophet:** Isaiah  
**Written:** perhaps between 701-681 BC  
**Fulfilled:** Since late 1800s

In Isaiah 27:12-13, the prophet said that the exiled Jews would return to their homeland. During the time of Isaiah, about 2700 years ago, the Assyrians were conquering the northern part of the Jewish homeland and forcing many Jews into exile. A few hundred years later, the Babylonians did the same to the southern part of the homeland. Many Jews did return during the centuries that followed. They rebuilt the Temple and worshipped at the Temple. But, in 70 AD and in 135 AD, the Romans suppressed two uprisings among Jews in Jerusalem, who fought, unsuccessfully, for independence from the Roman Empire. After each of the uprisings, the Romans exiled hundreds of thousands of Jews. After the second uprising, the Romans temporarily banned Jews from living in Jerusalem. But the Jews have been returning in large numbers since the late 1800s. So far, about one of every three Jews in the world now live in Israel.

### **Isaiah foretold of the worldwide return of Jews to Israel**

Isaiah 43:5-6

**Bible passage:** Isaiah 43:5-6  
**Prophet:** Isaiah  
**Written:** perhaps between 701-681 BC  
**Fulfilled:** late 1900s

In Isaiah 43:5-6, the prophet Isaiah said that the Jews would return to their homeland from the east, the west, the north and the south. Isaiah lived about 2700 years ago. At that time, the Assyrians had forced many Jews in the northern kingdom of Israel into exile. Those Jews were taken to other areas in the Middle East. Then, about 1900 years ago, the Romans destroyed the city of Jerusalem and killed and exiled hundreds of thousands of Jews. Since then, the Jews have been scattered to virtually every country in the world. But, during the past century, millions of Jews have returned to Israel, from the east, the west, the north and the south.

**From the east:** Many Jews living in the Middle East moved to Israel by the early 1900s.

**From the west:** During mid-1900s, hundreds of thousands of Jews living in the West (Europe and the United States) began moving to Israel.

**From the north:** The former Soviet Union (Russia) is north of Israel. It refused to allow its Jewish residents to move to Israel. But, after years of pressure from other countries, Russia finally began to allow Jews to return to Israel during the 1980s. So far, hundreds of thousands of Russian Jews have moved to Israel.

**From the south:** Ethiopia, which is south of Israel, also refused to allow its Jews to return to Israel. But, in 1985, Israel struck a deal with Ethiopia's communist government to allow the Jews of Ethiopia to move to Israel. On the weekend of May 25, 1991, 14,500 Ethiopian Jews were airlifted to Israel.

Isaiah's prophecy was also correct in saying that the north (Russia) and the south (Ethiopia) would have to be persuaded to give up their Jews. Many countries pressured Russia for years before it began to allow its Jews to leave. And Ethiopia had to be paid a ransom to allow its Jews to leave.

Isaiah's prophecy was also correct in saying that the Jews would return "from the ends of the earth," and Isaiah said that many centuries before the Jews had been scattered to the ends of the earth. During the past 100 years, Jews living as far east as China, as far west as the West Coast of the United States, as far north as Scandinavia, and as far south as South Africa, have moved to Israel.

### **The Messiah will appear after the Jews return to Israel**

Jeremiah 23:3-6

**Bible passage:** Jeremiah 23:3-6  
**Prophet:** Jeremiah  
**Written:** sometime from 626 to about 586 BC  
**Fulfilled:** end times

In Jeremiah 23:3-6, the prophet said that the Jews throughout the world would be re-gathered and brought back home to Israel and that a descendant of King David would reign as king. We Christians believe this has already been partially fulfilled and will be completely fulfilled in the future. More than 2500 years ago, the Jews were forced out of Israel by the Assyrians and the Babylonians. But many Jews returned to their homeland before Jesus was born about 2000 years ago. Jesus, according to the book of Matthew, is a descendant of King David, and He will return in the future to establish an everlasting kingdom. About 40 years after Jesus was crucified by the Romans, the Jews were again forced out of their homeland and scattered worldwide.

But, during the past 200 years, many Jews have been returning to their ancient homeland. They re-established independence for Israel in 1948. This marked the second time in history that Israel was a sovereign nation. Christians believe that Jesus will return a second time too, to bring justice to the world, and to judge the living and the dead.

### **The Jews would survive Babylonian rule and return home**

Jeremiah 32:36-37

**Bible passage:** Jeremiah 32:36-37  
**Prophet:** Jeremiah  
**Written:** sometime from 626 to about 586 BC  
**Fulfilled:** 536 BC

In Jeremiah 32:36-37, the prophet said that the Jews would survive their captivity in Babylon and return home. Both parts of this prophecy were fulfilled. Many Jews had been taken as captives to Babylon beginning around 605 BC. But, in 538 BC, they were released from captivity and many eventually returned to their homeland.

### **The Jews would return to Israel**

Jeremiah 32:37-41

**Bible passage:** Jeremiah 32:37-41  
**Prophet:** Jeremiah  
**Written:** sometime from 626 to about 586 BC  
**Fulfilled:** late 1800s to today

In Jeremiah 32:37-41, the prophet said the Jews would return to their homeland. Jeremiah lived during a time when the Babylonians were forcing the Jews out of their homeland about 2600 years ago. Many Jews later returned but again were forced out, this time by the Romans, about 1900 years ago. During the past 100 or so years, however, millions of Jews have returned to Israel from countries all over the world.

### **Zechariah prophesied the Jews return to Jerusalem**

Zechariah 8:7-8

**Bible passage:** Zechariah 8:7-8  
**Prophet:** Zechariah  
**Written:** between 520 and 518 BC  
**Fulfilled:** 1967, etc.

In Zechariah 8:7-8, the prophet said God would bring the Jews back from the east and the west to their homeland (Israel) and that they would be able to live in the city of Jerusalem again. This prophecy has been fulfilled more than once. About 2600 years ago, Babylon destroyed Jerusalem and took many Jews as captives to Babylon. But many Jews later returned from Babylon. The Jews rebuilt Jerusalem but the city was destroyed about 1900 years ago by the Romans. The Romans killed more than 1 million Jews and forced many more into exile. The Jews did not have control of Jerusalem again until 1967 when the Jews recaptured the city during the Six Day War.

## **Prophecies about Nationhood (Israel)**

### **The Jews would regain control of Israel**

Amos 9:14-15

**Bible passage:** Amos 9:14-15  
**Prophet:** Amos  
**Written:** about 750 BC  
**Fulfilled:** 1948

In Amos 9:14-15, the prophet said that there would come a time when the Jews would again have Israel as their own land and that they would never be uprooted again. Amos delivered this prophecy about 2700 years ago, shortly before the kingdom of Israel lost its independence to the Assyrian Empire. Israel was not an independent nation again until May 14, 1948. Within hours of declaring independence in 1948, the surrounding countries attacked tiny Israel. But Israel prevailed and was able to expand Israel's borders.

### **Ezekiel predicted when Israel would be re-established**

Ezekiel 4:3-6

**Bible passage:** Ezekiel 4:3-6  
**Prophet:** Ezekiel  
**Written:** between 593-571 BC  
**Fulfilled:** 1948

In Ezekiel 4:3-6, the prophet said the Jews, who had lost control of their homeland, would be punished for 430 years. This prophecy, according to Bible scholar Grant Jeffrey, pinpointed the 1948 rebirth of Israel. Here's a summary of Jeffrey's theory:

1. Ezekiel said the Jews were to be punished for 430 years because they had turned away from God. As part of the punishment, the Jews lost control of their homeland to Babylon. Many Jews were taken as captives to Babylon.
2. Babylon was later conquered by Cyrus the Great, in 539 BC. Cyrus allowed the Jews to leave Babylon and to return to their homeland. But, only a small number of the Jews returned. The return had taken place sometime around 536 BC, about 70 years after Judah lost independence to Babylon.
3. Because most of the Jews chose to stay in pagan Babylon rather than return to the Holy Land, the remaining 360 years of their punishment was to be multiplied by 7. The reason is explained in Bible's book of Leviticus. (Leviticus 26:18, 26:21, 26:24 and 26:28). In Leviticus, the Bible says that if the people did not repent while being punished, the punishment would be multiplied by 7. And, by staying in pagan Babylon, most of the people had refused to repent for turning away from God.

4. So, if you take the remaining 360 years of punishment and multiply by 7, you get 2,520 years. But, Jeffrey says those years are actually "lunar" years, based on a 360-day lunar calendar that was in use during the time of this prophecy. If you convert the 2,520 lunar years to our modern solar calendar, the result is 2,484 years.
5. And, there were exactly 2,484 years from 536 BC to 1948, which is the year that Israel regained independence.

### **The Jews would have Israel as their country, again**

**Ezekiel 11:17**

**Bible passage:** Ezekiel 11:17  
**Prophet:** Ezekiel  
**Written:** between 593-571 BC  
**Fulfilled:** 1948

In Ezekiel 11:17, the prophet reveals that although the people will be scattered throughout the world, they will return and have Israel as their own, again. During the time of Ezekiel, who lived about 2600 years ago, the Babylonians had destroyed Jerusalem and had taken many Jews as captives to Babylon. Other Jews fled to Egypt and other countries in north Africa. Some Jews returned to their homeland after Babylon was conquered by the Medo-Persians, but they were again scattered by the Romans. The Romans scattered the Jews to several countries. But since the late 1800s, millions of Jews have returned to Israel and reclaimed independence in 1948. About one of every three Jews in the world now live in Israel. But the Bible says that someday all Jews will return and seek the Lord.

### **Israel would be re-gathered**

**Ezekiel 36:24**

**Bible passage:** Ezekiel 36:24  
**Prophet:** Ezekiel  
**Written:** between 593-571 BC  
**Fulfilled:** Partially in the 1900s

In Ezekiel 36:24, the prophet said that the Jews would be re-gathered to Israel. This prophecy was partially fulfilled after the Babylonian Captivity, which took place about 2600 years ago. This prophecy has been partially fulfilled again during the 1900s when millions of Jews returned to their ancient homeland. As of the year 2001, about 6 million Jews reside in Israel and an estimated 12 million Jews live in other countries, including the United States.

### **Israel would be brought back to life**

**Ezekiel 37:10-14**

**Bible passage:** Ezekiel 37:10-14  
**Prophet:** Ezekiel  
**Written:** between 593-571 BC  
**Fulfilled:** 1948

Ezekiel 37:10-14 states that the prophet Ezekiel received a vision about 2600 years ago in which Israel was seen as a scattering of dried-up bones. In this vision, God tells Ezekiel that the bones (Israel) would be brought back to life. Just as Ezekiel had prophesized, the Jews were brought back to the land, and the country of Israel was brought back to life, when it declared independence in 1948. This was the first time in about 2900 years that Israel was both united and independent.

### **The Jews again would be a united people**

**Ezekiel 37:15-19**

**Bible passage:** Ezekiel 37:15-19  
**Prophet:** Ezekiel  
**Written:** between 593-571 BC  
**Fulfilled:** since late 1800s

In Ezekiel 37:15-19, the prophet said that God would make the Jews a united people again. This prophecy began to be fulfilled in an important way during the late 1800s, when leaders of the Zionist Movement began uniting Jews around the world for the common goal of creating a new and independent Israel. This was the first time in centuries that the Jews had been united in such a significant way. The Jews had become a divided people in about 926 BC (2900 years ago), when Israel broke up into two smaller kingdoms called Israel and Judah.

### **Israel would be re-established as a united nation**

**Ezekiel 37:21-22**

**Bible passage:** Ezekiel 37:21-22  
**Prophet:** Ezekiel  
**Written:** between 593-571 BC  
**Fulfilled:** 1948

In Ezekiel 37:21-22, the prophet said about 2600 years ago that God would one day bring the Jews back to Israel, as a united nation. Israel had been split into two kingdoms in about 926 BC, called Judah and Israel. But, when the Jews reclaimed sovereignty in 1948, they did so as a united people, creating one nation - Israel.

### **The Jews would have their own country**

**Bible passage:** Genesis 15:18  
**Prophet:** Abraham  
**Written:** perhaps 1400 BC  
**Fulfilled:** 1400 BC and in 1948

In **Genesis 15:18**, the Bible said the descendants of Abraham (Abram) would have their own country, between Egypt and the Euphrates. This prophecy has been fulfilled more than once. About 3400 years ago, the Jews first established Israel. Then, about 2900 years ago, Israel divided into two kingdoms, called Judah and Israel. Both kingdoms were later conquered by the Assyrians and Babylonians. But, in 1948, the Jews regained independence for Israel. It was the first time in 2900 years that Israel was both united and independent.

### **Jacob saw a vision of Israel's future**

**Genesis 28:10-15**

**Bible passage:** Genesis 28:10-15

**Prophet:** Jacob

**Written:** perhaps 1400 BC

**Fulfilled:** Throughout history

In Genesis 28:10-15, the Bible says that Jacob, who lived about 4000 years ago, received a vision from God about the future of his descendants (the Jews). The vision accurately foretold the future of the Jews. Here is our summary of Jacob's vision:

1. The Jews would have Israel as their own country. This was fulfilled about 3400 years ago when the Jews first established Israel.
2. The Jews would be scattered worldwide. This was fulfilled when the Jews were forced out of Israel more than 2500 years ago by the Assyrians and Babylonians and again about 1900 years ago by the Romans.
3. The Jews would have a worldwide impact. Jews have had a tremendous worldwide impact in science, art, literature, economics, music and theology. The worldwide spread of Christianity began about 2000 years ago by a group of Jews who were followers of Jesus.
4. The Jews would be brought back to Israel. This began to be fulfilled during the late 1800s when many Jews worldwide began returning to their ancient homeland. They re-established Israel's independence in 1948, after 19 centuries of exile and persecution throughout the world.

### **Jacob's descendants (the Jews) would inherit the land of Israel**

**Genesis 35:9-12**

**Bible passage:** Genesis 35:9-12

**Prophet:** Jacob

**Written:** perhaps 1400 BC

**Fulfilled:** Throughout history

In Genesis 35:9-12, Jacob is given a prophecy that Jacob's descendants would inherit the land of Israel. Jacob was the grandson of Abraham. And Jacob was the father of the 12 Tribes of Israel. Jacob's descendants - the Jews - claimed Israel as their own country in about 1400 BC (that's about 3400 years ago). Israel was later conquered by other nations and the Jews were forced into exile. But many Jews returned during the past two centuries and re-established independence for Israel in 1948. In Genesis 15:18, the Bible said the descendants of Abraham would have their own country, between Egypt and the Euphrates river. And here, in Genesis 35:9-12, the promise is handed down to the descendants of Abraham's grandson Jacob.

### **Isaiah spoke of a Israel being reborn in one day**

**Isaiah 66:7-8**

**Bible passage:** Isaiah 66:7-8

**Prophet:** Isaiah

**Written:** perhaps between 701-681 BC

**Fulfilled:** 1948

In Isaiah 66:7-8, the prophet foreshadowed the re-birth of Israel in 1948. Isaiah describes a woman giving birth *before* going into labor, and he speaks of a country being born in one day. This accurately describes what happened on May 14, 1948 - when the Jews declared independence for Israel as a united and sovereign nation for the first time in 2900 years.

During that same day, the United States issued a statement recognizing Israel's sovereignty. And, only hours beforehand, a United Nations mandate expired, ending British control of the land. During a 24-hour span of time, foreign control of the land of Israel had formally ceased, and Israel had declared its independence, and its independence was acknowledged by other nations. Modern Israel was literally was born in a single day.

But there's more: Isaiah said the birth would take place before there would be labor pains. And that too is precisely what happened. A movement called Zionism began in the 1800s to encourage Jews worldwide to move to Israel, which at that time was called Palestine. Within hours of the peaceful declaration of independence in 1948, Israel was attacked by the surrounding countries of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Israel prevailed in that war and expanded the size of the country by 50 percent. So, when you read Isaiah 66:7-8, keep in mind that Israel became a country in a single day, and that it was born of a movement called Zionism, and that the birth was peaceful but the aftermath was painful.

### **The second Israel would be more impressive than the first**

**Jeremiah 16:14-15**

**Bible passage:** Jeremiah 16:14-15

**Prophet:** Jeremiah

**Written:** sometime from 626 to about 586 BC

**Fulfilled:** 1948

In Jeremiah 16:14-15, the prophet said the second Israel would be more impressive than the first. And in many regards, it is. The first time that Israel was established as a country was after Moses led the Jews out of Egypt, where they had been enslaved for 400 years. The

Jews then conquered Canaan and established Israel sometime about 3400 years ago. But the second time that Israel was established was after the Jews had been scattered worldwide, for nearly 2000 years. This time the Jews had to return from as far away as the United States, China, Russia and South Africa.

### **Jeremiah said the Jews would buy back land**

**Jeremiah 32:44**

**Bible passage:** Jeremiah 32:44  
**Prophet:** Jeremiah  
**Written:** sometime from 626 to about 586 BC  
**Fulfilled:** late 1800s, 1900s

In Jeremiah 32:44, the prophet said that the exiled Jews would one day return to their homeland and buy land. During the life of Jeremiah, the Babylonians had destroyed Jerusalem and had forced out many Jews. Centuries later, the Romans also destroyed Jerusalem and banned Jews from living there. But, during the late 1800s and early 1900s, large numbers of Jews began returning to their ancient homeland. At that time, the land was called Palestine and was controlled by the British. The Jews began buying back parcels of the land and repopulating their ancient cities. In 1948, the Jews declared Israel as a sovereign nation, marking the second time in history that Israel was both a united and independent country.

### **Israel would rise again**

**Micah 7:8-11**

**Bible passage:** Micah 7:8-11  
**Prophet:** Micah  
**Written:** sometime between 750-686 BC  
**Fulfilled:** beginning late 1800s

In Micah 7:8-11, the prophet said that Israel would one day rise again. During Micah's lifetime about 2700 years ago, the Assyrians were destroying the northern kingdom of Israel. The Jews began returning to Israel during the late 1800s from countries throughout the world. In 1948, the Jews reclaimed independence for Israel. Within hours, Israel was attacked by armies from the surrounding countries. But, Israel prevailed and was able to extend its boundaries, increasing Israel's size by about 50 percent.

## **Prophecies of Israel's preservation**

### **Counting Abraham's descendants would be like counting the stars**

**Genesis 15:5**

**Bible passage:** Genesis 15:5  
**Prophet:** Abraham  
**Written:** perhaps 1400 BC  
**Fulfilled:** Throughout history

In Genesis 15:5, the Bible said that Abraham would have many descendants and that counting them would be like counting the stars. Today, scientists say it is impossible to count the stars because the universe is too vast. Today, we also know that counting Abraham's descendants is also impossible. There are about 20 million Jews in the world today. But, it is impossible to know how many people today are descendants of the 10 lost tribes of Israel. History lost track of the 10 tribes when they were forced out of Israel by the Assyrians 2700 years ago. And, millions of Arabs are descendants of Abraham, through his son Ishmael. The Bible was very correct when it said that counting Abraham's descendants would be like counting the stars.

### **Isaiah said God would preserve the Jews**

**Isaiah 66:22**

**Bible passage:** Isaiah 66:22  
**Prophet:** Isaiah  
**Written:** perhaps between 701-681 BC  
**Fulfilled:** 1940s, 1930s, 135 AD, 721 BC, etc.

In Isaiah 66:22, the prophet said that the Jews would endure and survive as a people, despite the persecution that they would face throughout the world. Isaiah delivered this prophecy 2,700 years ago. Since then, the Jews have been massacred at various times by the thousands, by the hundreds of thousands, and by the millions. The Jews have endured tremendous atrocities by the Assyrians, Babylonians, Romans and Nazis. But the Jews are still with us. The Assyrians nearly destroyed the Jewish people and the Jewish nation. And the Nazi's sought to kill all Jews. Yet, the Jews continue to endure, just as God had promised in Isaiah 66:22. However, the Assyrian Empire has not endured, and neither has the Babylonian kingdom or Roman Empire. And the Nazi era crumbled shortly before the Jews reclaimed Israel as a sovereign country in 1948. The Jews - and the Jewish nation of Israel - have continued to endure even though the empires that sought to destroy them no longer exist.

### **God will save the Jews and destroy their enemies**

**Jeremiah 30:11**

**Bible passage:** Jeremiah 30:11  
**Prophet:** Jeremiah  
**Written:** sometime from 626 to about 586 BC  
**Fulfilled:** Throughout history

In Jeremiah 30:11, the prophet Jeremiah said the enemies of Israel will be destroyed but that the Jews will never perish. History has many examples of how nations have tried to destroy Israel and the Jews:

- In about 721 BC (about 2700 years ago), Assyria destroyed the northern kingdom of Israel. They tortured, killed and exiled many Jews.
- In 586 BC (about 2600 years ago), Babylon destroyed the southern kingdom of Judah. They killed and exiled many Jews.
- In 70 AD (about 1900 years ago), the Romans killed an estimated 1.1 million Jews and destroyed Jerusalem & the Temple.
- In 135 AD, the Romans killed an estimated 580,000 Jews and exiled many others.
- In the 1930s and 1940s, the Nazis killed an estimated 6 million Jews. The Nazi plan, called the "final solution," was to kill all Jews.

Since then, millions of Jews worldwide have returned to their ancient homeland. Today, Israel again is a vibrant, independent country. But, the empires of the Nazis, Romans, Babylonians and Assyrians have vanished. Today, we can judge with our own eyes as to whether Jeremiah was correct when he said, 2600 years ago, that the enemies of the Jews would be destroyed, but that the Jews would be preserved.

### **God would watch over the Jews**

**Jeremiah 31:10**

**Bible passage:** Jeremiah 31:10

**Prophet:** Jeremiah

**Written:** sometime from 626 to about 586 BC

**Fulfilled:** 1948, etc.

In Jeremiah 31:10, the prophet said that God would one day gather the Jews back to Israel and that He would watch over them like a shepherd. Believe what you wish, but there is evidence that God indeed has watched over the re-established nation of Israel. Hours after Israel declared independence in 1948, the surrounding countries attacked, hoping to kill the newly reborn country. These countries are much larger than Israel. But tiny Israel prevailed in that war and was able to capture additional land, increasing the land size of Israel by 50 percent.

### **The Jews will never cease to be a nation of people**

**JER 31:35** Thus says the Lord, Who gives the sun for a light by day, The ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, And its waves roar (The Lord of hosts is His name): 36 "If those ordinances depart From before Me, says the Lord, Then the seed of Israel shall also cease From being a nation before Me forever."

**Bible passage:** Jeremiah 31:35-36

**Prophet:** Jeremiah

**Written:** sometime from 626 to about 586 BC

**Fulfilled:** Today

In Jeremiah 31:35-36, the Bible said that as surely as God has decreed the sun to shine, he too has decreed that the Jews will never cease to be a nation of people. This prophecy continues to be fulfilled today, despite the attempts of many powerful nations throughout history to destroy the Jews. Many empires - including those of the Assyrians, Babylonians, Romans and Nazis, have tried to destroy the Jewish people. The Jews were exiled from their homeland more than once, most recently for about 19 centuries. But, the Jews never lost their identity as a group of people. And in 1948, the Jews reclaimed Israel as their sovereign homeland.

### **The Jews would survive Babylonian rule and return home**

**Jeremiah 32:36-37**

**Bible passage:** Jeremiah 32:36-37

**Prophet:** Jeremiah

**Written:** sometime from 626 to about 586 BC

**Fulfilled:** 536 BC

In Jeremiah 32:36-37, the prophet said that the Jews would survive their captivity in Babylon and return home. Both parts of this prophecy were fulfilled. Many Jews had been taken as captives to Babylon beginning around 605 BC. But, in 538 BC, they were released from captivity and many eventually returned to their homeland.

### **Enemies of the Jews will cease to be nations**

**Jeremiah 46:28**

**Bible passage:** Jeremiah 46:28

**Prophet:** Jeremiah

**Written:** sometime from 626 to about 586 BC

**Fulfilled:** Today

In Jeremiah 46:28, the prophet says that God will never allow the Jews to be completely destroyed and that God will completely destroy all of the nations to which the Jews have been scattered. Many Christian scholars view this as an End Time prophecy, which will take place in the future, when the world is destroyed, except for the Holy Land. But part of this prophecy is being fulfilled already - despite the attempts of the Assyrians, Babylonians, Romans and Nazis to destroy the Jews, the Jews are still with us and Israel again is a sovereign nation. But the empires of the Assyrians, Babylonians, Romans and Nazis have been destroyed.

### **The Jewish army would be disproportionately powerful**

**Leviticus 26:3, 7-8**

**Bible passage:** Leviticus 26:3, 7-8

**Prophet:** Moses

**Written:** perhaps around 1400 BC  
**Fulfilled:** 1948-49, 1967, etc.

In Leviticus 26:3, 7-8, the Bible says that the army of Israel would have a supernatural power to prevail during times of conflict, if the people have faith to God. This Bible passage says that 5 people would be able to chase away 100 people, and that 100 would be able to chase away 10,000. Is there any proof to this incredible claim? Judge for yourself:

**Example 1:** Within hours of Israel's declaration of independence in 1948, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, and Lebanon invaded Israel. The combined population of those countries was at least 20 million at that time. Israel had fewer than 1 million Jews. Even so, the Jews won the war and expanded the size of Israel by 50 percent.

**Example 2:** During the War of 1967, Israel attacked the air force bases of the surrounding countries and took control of Jerusalem for the first time in about 2000 years. They also seized additional territory. That war lasted 6 days.

**Example 3:** On Oct. 6, 1973, Israel was attacked by Egypt and Syria. Other countries later joined the attack. But the Jews were able to push back the attacking armies and occupy land outside of Israel's borders.

### **The Jews will never be completely destroyed**

**LEV 26:44** Yet for all that, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, nor shall I abhor them, to utterly destroy them and break My covenant with them; for I am the Lord their God.

**Bible passage:** Leviticus 26:44

**Prophet:** Moses

**Written:** perhaps around 1400 BC

**Fulfilled:** Beginning in 721 BC

In Leviticus 26:44, the Bible said that God would never allow the Jews to be completely destroyed. Even so, many governments have tried during the past 3000 years to destroy Israel and the Jews. About 2700 years ago, the Assyrians destroyed a large part of the Jewish homeland and exiled 10 of the 12 Tribes of Israel. The Babylonians later conquered the remaining part of the Jewish homeland and forced the remaining Tribes of Israel into exile. Many Jews later returned only to be exiled again by the Romans who killed more than 1 million Jews in the Jerusalem area. The Nazis had a plan during the Second World War to exterminate all Jews. But the Jews were never completely destroyed. In fact, after many centuries of being scattered to countries worldwide, millions of Jews returned to their ancient homeland and were able to re-established Israel's independence in 1948.

### **The Jews would be persecuted, but preserved**

**ZEC 8:13** And it shall come to pass That just as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, So I will save you, and you shall be a blessing. Do not fear, Let your hands be strong.'

**Bible passage:** Zechariah 8:13

**Prophet:** Zechariah

**Written:** between 520 and 518 BC

**Fulfilled:** 135 to today

In Zechariah 8:13, the prophet said that although the Jews would be scorned and hated throughout the world, God would preserve them. The Jews have been subject to hatred in many, if not all, of the countries in which they have lived throughout the world. Even today in the United States people sometimes vandalize Jewish synagogues and slander the Jews. But God is more powerful than the vandals, the persecutors and the political leaders who have tried to destroy the Jewish people. God has indeed preserved the Jews.

## **Prophecies of Israel's restoration**

### **RESTORATION OF ISRAEL**

Bible prophets, more than 2000 years ago, often spoke of a future restoration of the land of Israel. Many of those prophets lived during times in which their homeland was being conquered and destroyed by a succession of ancient empires. Today, we can see with our own eyes what some of those prophets saw with theirs - the current restoration of Israel - a nation that until 1948 had not been a united and sovereign nation for nearly 2900 years.

### **The ruins of Israel would be rebuilt**

**Amos 9:11, 13**

**Bible passage:** Amos 9:11, 13

**Prophet:** Amos

**Written:** about 750 BC

**Fulfilled:** late 1900s

In Amos 9:11, 13, the prophet said that God would restore the land of David. (King David ruled Israel from about 1010 BC to about 970 BC). The land of David - Israel - was conquered and destroyed by the Babylonians, Assyrians and Romans. The land has been in ruins for much of the past 2000 years. The Jews, who had been scattered throughout the world, began to return in large numbers during the past 100 years. Since then, they have been rebuilding many of Israel's ancient cities. Amos also said there would be continuous planting and harvesting. During the past 100 years, the Jews have been using advanced farming and irrigation techniques to turn barren land into productive farmland. Today, Israel is a source of food for many countries.

### **The Jews would regain control of Israel**

**AMO 9:14** I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; They shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; They shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. 15 I will plant them in their land, And no longer shall they be pulled up From the land I have given them," Says the Lord your God.

**Bible passage:** Amos 9:14-15  
**Prophet:** Amos  
**Written:** about 750 BC  
**Fulfilled:** 1948

In Amos 9:14-15, the prophet said that there would come a time when the Jews would again have Israel as their own land and that they would never be uprooted again. Amos delivered this prophecy about 2700 years ago, shortly before the kingdom of Israel lost its independence to the Assyrian Empire. Israel was not an independent nation again until May 14, 1948. Within hours of declaring independence in 1948, the surrounding countries attacked tiny Israel. But Israel prevailed and was able to expand Israel's borders.

### **The fortunes of the Jews would be restored**

**Deuteronomy 30:3-5**

**Bible passage:** Deuteronomy 30:3-5  
**Prophet:** Moses  
**Written:** perhaps 1400 BC  
**Fulfilled:** 1948, etc.

In Deuteronomy 30:3-5, the Bible said the Jews would be scattered worldwide as punishment for turning away from God, and that they would return to their homeland and have their fortunes restored. This prophecy began to be fulfilled in the late 1800s when many Jews returned to Israel, from as far away as China and the United States, Russia and South Africa. Israel declared independence in 1948. Today, Israel is among the world's most prosperous countries. In 1999, for example, Israel's per capita Gross Domestic Product was twice as prosperous than the neighboring countries.

### **Israel would be restored and repopulated**

**Ezekiel 36:8-10**

**Bible passage:** Ezekiel 36:8-10  
**Prophet:** Ezekiel  
**Written:** between 593-571 BC  
**Fulfilled:** late 1900s

In Ezekiel 36:8-10, the prophet Ezekiel said that the Jews would return, rebuild and repopulate their fallen cities. Ezekiel, according to the Bible, lived about 2600 years ago during the time of the Babylonian Captivity, when many Jews, including Ezekiel, were taken as captives to Babylon. After the Babylonian Captivity ended, many Jews left Babylon and returned to their homeland. But about 1900 years ago, the Jews again were forced into exile, this time by the Romans. However, since the late 1800s, millions of Jews have returned to their ancient homeland. And, once again, they have been rebuilding and repopulating their ancient cities. In 1948, there were about 600,000 Jews living in Israel. Today there are about 6,000,000. And more Jews throughout the world are returning to Israel each year.

### **Ezekiel prophesied prosperity for modern-day Israel**

**Ezekiel 36:11**

**Bible passage:** Ezekiel 36:11  
**Prophet:** Ezekiel  
**Written:** between 593-571 BC  
**Fulfilled:** late 1900s

In Ezekiel 36:11, the prophet said that there would come a time when Israel would be more prosperous than it was in the past. The Bible describes Israel as being a prosperous nation during the time of King David and King Solomon about 3000 years ago. But, Ezekiel knew a very different Israel. In Ezekiel's day (he lived about 2600 years ago), the northern kingdom of Israel already had been decimated by the Assyrians, and the southern kingdom (called Judah) was being destroyed by the Babylonians. In the centuries that followed these destructions, Jews rebuilt the city of Jerusalem, but their homeland was destroyed again, by the Romans, about 1900 years ago. Since then, a majority of Jews have lived in exile. But during the past 100 years, millions of Jews from around the world moved to Israel and they have been rebuilding the country once again. Today, Israel again is an independent nation, as it was in the days of King David, and it is one of the world's most prosperous countries. In 1999, Israel had the highest per capita Gross Domestic Product of any nearby country, even though the surrounding countries have many oil resources.

### **Israel would be rebuilt and resettled**

**Ezekiel 36:33-35**

**Bible passage:** Ezekiel 36:33-35  
**Prophet:** Ezekiel  
**Written:** between 593-571 BC  
**Fulfilled:** 1900s

In Ezekiel 36:33-35, the prophet gave another prophecy about the re-population and rebuilding of Israel's ruined cities. American author Mark Twain described the land of Israel as being a desolate wasteland in the late 1800s. But since that time, millions of Jews have moved to Israel and have been rebuilding their ancient homeland. Since that time, some of the parched desert has been converted into productive farmland. And Israel has undertaken one of the world's largest reforestation programs, planting more than 200 million trees during the past century. And Israel's population of Jews has grown 10 times over during a 50-year period, from 600,000 in 1948 to about 6,000,000 in 1998.

### **Israel would be brought back to life**

**Ezekiel 37:10-14**

**Bible passage:** Ezekiel 37:10-14  
**Prophet:** Ezekiel

**Written:** between 593-571 BC

**Fulfilled:** 1948

Ezekiel 37:10-14 states that the prophet Ezekiel received a vision about 2600 years ago in which Israel was seen as a scattering of dried-up bones. In this vision, God tells Ezekiel that the bones (Israel) would be brought back to life. Just as Ezekiel had prophesized, the Jews were brought back to the land, and the country of Israel was brought back to life, when it declared independence in 1948. This was the first time in about 2900 years that Israel was both united and independent.

### **The Jews again would be a united people**

**Ezekiel 37:15-19**

**Bible passage:** Ezekiel 37:15-19

**Prophet:** Ezekiel

**Written:** between 593-571 BC

**Fulfilled:** since late 1800s

In Ezekiel 37:15-19, the prophet said that God would make the Jews a united people again. This prophecy began to be fulfilled in an important way during the late 1800s, when leaders of the Zionist Movement began uniting Jews around the world for the common goal of creating a new and independent Israel. This was the first time in centuries that the Jews had been united in such a significant way. The Jews had become a divided people in about 926 BC (2900 years ago), when Israel broke up into two smaller kingdoms called Israel and Judah.

### **The Jews would live many days without a king**

**Hosea 3:4-5**

**Bible passage:** Hosea 3:4-5

**Prophet:** Hosea

**Written:** about 750 BC

**Fulfilled:** Being fulfilled since 70 AD

In Hosea 3:4-5, the prophet said that the people of the Holy Land had turned away from God and would therefore live many days without a king and without the ability to worship in the way that the people were accustomed, such as by being able to offer sacrifices in the Temple. After this, Hosea said, the people would be able to return to their homeland and seek the Lord. This prophecy is two-fold. It includes a promise of desolation followed by a promise of restoration. The desolation took place in 70 AD and in 135 AD when the Romans destroyed the Temple and forced many Jews out of their homeland. During the past 100 years, however, millions of Jews have returned to their homeland and re-established Israel as an independent country.

### **God promised to restore the Jews**

**Isaiah 27:12-13**

**Bible passage:** Isaiah 27:12-13

**Prophet:** Isaiah

**Written:** perhaps between 701-681 BC

**Fulfilled:** Since late 1800s

In Isaiah 27:12-13, the prophet said that the exiled Jews would return to their homeland. During the time of Isaiah, about 2700 years ago, the Assyrians were conquering the northern part of the Jewish homeland and forcing many Jews into exile. A few hundred years later, the Babylonians did the same to the southern part of the homeland. Many Jews did return during the centuries that followed. They rebuilt the Temple and worshipped at the Temple. But, in 70 AD and in 135 AD, the Romans suppressed two uprisings among Jews in Jerusalem, who fought, unsuccessfully, for independence from the Roman Empire. After each of the uprisings, the Romans exiled hundreds of thousands of Jews. After the second uprising, the Romans temporarily banned Jews from living in Jerusalem. But the Jews have been returning in large numbers since the late 1800s. So far, about one of every three Jews in the world now live in Israel.

### **Isaiah foretold the restoration of Israel**

**Isaiah 35:1-2**

**Bible passage:** Isaiah 35:1-2

**Prophet:** Isaiah

**Written:** perhaps between 701-681 BC

**Fulfilled:** 1900s

In Isaiah 35:1-2, the prophet said that although Israel would become a desolate land, its deserts would one day bloom again. This Bible verse foreshadows the restoration of Israel that has been taking place since the 1900s. Million of Jews have returned to their ancient homeland and have developed sophisticated farming techniques and extensive reforestation programs to convert the parched desert into productive farmland. More than 200 million trees have been planted in Israel since 1900, according to the Jewish National Fund.

### **Trees again would grow in Israel**

**Isaiah 41:18-20**

**Bible passage:** Isaiah 41:18-20

**Prophet:** Isaiah

**Written:** perhaps between 701-681 BC

**Fulfilled:** late 1900s

In Isaiah 41:18-20, the prophet's talk of a future restoration of Israel coincides with an occurrence in modern Israel - the construction of a vast irrigation system to improve farming. The lack of available water, including rain, is one reason why Israel had been a desolate, unproductive land during much of the past 2000 years. But, during the 1900s, when many Jews returned to their ancient homeland, they built a network of irrigation systems. And during the past century, more than 200 million trees have been planted in Israel.

## **Isaiah foretold of the worldwide return of Jews to Israel**

### **Isaiah 43:5-6**

**Bible passage:** Isaiah 43:5-6

**Prophet:** Isaiah

**Written:** perhaps between 701-681 BC

**Fulfilled:** late 1900s

In Isaiah 43:5-6, the prophet Isaiah said that the Jews would return to their homeland from the east, the west, the north and the south. Isaiah lived about 2700 years ago. At that time, the Assyrians had forced many Jews in the northern kingdom of Israel into exile. Those Jews were taken to other areas in the Middle East. Then, about 1900 years ago, the Romans destroyed the city of Jerusalem and killed and exiled hundreds of thousands of Jews. Since then, the Jews have been scattered to virtually every country in the world. But, during the past century, millions of Jews have returned to Israel, from the east, the west, the north and the south.

**From the east:** Many Jews living in the Middle East moved to Israel by the early 1900s.

**From the west:** During mid-1900s, hundreds of thousands of Jews living in the West (Europe and the United States) began moving to Israel.

**From the north:** The former Soviet Union (Russia) is north of Israel. It refused to allow its Jewish residents to move to Israel. But, after years of pressure from other countries, Russia finally began to allow Jews to return to Israel during the 1980s. So far, hundreds of thousands of Russian Jews have moved to Israel.

**From the south:** Ethiopia, which is south of Israel, also refused to allow its Jews to return to Israel. But, in 1985, Israel struck a deal with Ethiopia's communist government to allow the Jews of Ethiopia to move to Israel. On the weekend of May 25, 1991, 14,500 Ethiopian Jews were airlifted to Israel.

Isaiah's prophecy was also correct in saying that the north (Russia) and the south (Ethiopia) would have to be persuaded to give up their Jews. Many countries pressured Russia for years before it began to allow its Jews to leave. And Ethiopia had to be paid a ransom to allow its Jews to leave.

Isaiah's prophecy was also correct in saying that the Jews would return "from the ends of the earth," and Isaiah said that many centuries before the Jews had been scattered to the ends of the earth. During the past 100 years, Jews living as far east as China, as far west as the West Coast of the United States, as far north as Scandinavia, and as far south as South Africa, have moved to Israel.

## **Israel's deserts will become like the Garden of Eden**

### **Isaiah 51:3**

**Bible passage:** Isaiah 51:3

**Prophet:** Isaiah

**Written:** perhaps between 701-681 BC

**Fulfilled:** Being fulfilled now

In Isaiah 51:3, the prophet said that God will restore Israel and make it a paradise, like the garden of Eden. This foreshadows what is currently happening in Israel. The Jews have been irrigating, cultivating and reconditioning the land during much of the 1900s. Many of the country's swamps, which had been infested with malaria, have been converted into farmland. And water from the Sea of Galilee has been channeled through portions of the deserts, allowing some of the deserts to bloom. Much work remains, but parts of Israel are blooming again. Although it was described as a wasteland as recently as the late 1800s, Israel is now a food source for many countries. And at least 200 million of trees have been planted there during the past century.

## **Jeremiah said the Jews would buy back land**

### **Jeremiah 32:44**

**Bible passage:** Jeremiah 32:44

**Prophet:** Jeremiah

**Written:** sometime from 626 to about 586 BC

**Fulfilled:** late 1800s, 1900s

In Jeremiah 32:44, the prophet said that the exiled Jews would one day return to their homeland and buy land. During the life of Jeremiah, the Babylonians had destroyed Jerusalem and had forced out many Jews. Centuries later, the Romans also destroyed Jerusalem and banned Jews from living there. But, during the late 1800s and early 1900s, large numbers of Jews began returning to their ancient homeland. At that time, the land was called Palestine and was controlled by the British. The Jews began buying back parcels of the land and repopulating their ancient cities. In 1948, the Jews declared Israel as a sovereign nation, marking the second time in history that Israel was both a united and independent country.

## **Israel would again become a prosperous land**

### **Joel 2:22**

**Bible passage:** Joel 2:22

**Prophet:** Joel

**Written:** about 400 BC

**Fulfilled:** 1900s

In Joel 2:22, the prophet said that God will again make the land of Israel productive again. After centuries of being desolate, Israel's land is again fruitful. Food is one of modern Israel's most important exports. Millions of trees have been planted and a vast network of irrigation canals have been built during the past 200 years by Jews who have returned to their ancient homeland from countries around the world.

## **Israel would rise again**

### **Micah 7:8-11**

**Bible passage:** Micah 7:8-11

**Prophet:** Micah

**Written:** sometime between 750-686 BC

**Fulfilled:** beginning late 1800s

In Micah 7:8-11, the prophet said that Israel would one day rise again. During Micah's lifetime about 2700 years ago, the Assyrians were destroying the northern kingdom of Israel. The Jews began returning to Israel during the late 1800s from countries throughout the world. In 1948, the Jews reclaimed independence for Israel. Within hours, Israel was attacked by armies from the surrounding countries. But, Israel prevailed and was able to extend its boundaries, increasing Israel's size by about 50 percent.

### **Israel's land would again become fruitful**

**Zechariah 8:12**

**Bible passage:** Zechariah 8:12

**Prophet:** Zechariah

**Written:** between 520 and 518 BC

**Fulfilled:** 1900s

In Zechariah 8:12, the prophet said that God would allow Israel to become a prosperous land again. Israel had been described as being a wasteland between the time that the Jews had been forced out of their homeland by the Romans (about 1900 years ago) and the time when the Jews began returning to and restoring Israel during the 1900s. Although the restoration continues, Israel is able to export food to many countries.

## **Prophecies that have had a worldwide impact**

### **WORLDWIDE IMPACT**

There are many prophecies in the Bible that foretold of worldwide impact - prophecies that said the Jews would be scattered worldwide, that they would have an impact on the world, that God's salvation would reach the ends of the earth, that the teachings of Jesus would be taught worldwide, etc. Today, with our own eyes, we can see that the Jews indeed have had a worldwide impact, in arts, politics, economics, science and religion. More than half the world today worships a monotheistic God, mostly due to the spread of Christianity, which has its origins in Judaism.

### **The Jews would be scattered worldwide**

**Deuteronomy 28:64**

**Bible passage:** Deuteronomy 28:64

**Prophet:** Moses

**Written:** perhaps 1400 BC

**Fulfilled:** 721 BC, 586 BC, 70 AD, 135 AD

In Deuteronomy 28:64, the Bible said the Jews would be scattered worldwide. This prophecy has certainly been fulfilled. Take a look at the explanation of the Jewish "Diaspora," which means "scattering," from the Columbia Encyclopedia, Fifth Edition: "... by 70 A.D. Jewish communities existed in Babylonia, Syria, Egypt, Cyrene, Asia Minor, Greece, and Rome. Jews followed the Romans into Europe and from Persia and Babylonia spread as far east as China. In modern times, Jews have migrated to the Americas, South Africa, and Australia. The Jewish population of Central and Eastern Europe, until World War II the largest in the world, was decimated in the Holocaust. Despite the creation of the state of Israel in 1948, the vast majority of the Jewish people remains in the Diaspora, notably in North America, Russia, and Ukraine."

### **The Jews would have a worldwide impact**

**Genesis 12:2-3**

**Bible passage:** Genesis 12:2-3

**Prophet:** Abraham

**Written:** perhaps 1400 BC

**Fulfilled:** Throughout history

In Genesis 12:2-3, and in Genesis 28:10-15, the Bible said that the descendants of Abraham and the descendants of Abraham's grandson, Jacob, would be a blessing for people worldwide. Jacob is the father of the 12 Tribes of Israel (the Jews). In 1898, Mark Twain wrote an essay for Harper's New Monthly Magazine that discussed how the Jews have had an impact on the world: "... the Jews constitute but one percent of the human race. It suggests a nebulous dim puff of stardust lost in the blaze of the Milky Way. Properly, the Jew ought hardly to be heard of, but he is heard of, has always been heard of. He is as prominent on the planet as any other people, and his commercial importance is extravagantly out of proportion to the smallness of his bulk. His contributions to the world's list of great names in literature, science, art, music, finance, medicine, and abstruse learning are also way out of proportion to the weakness of his numbers. He has made a marvelous fight in this world, in all the ages; and had done it with his hands tied behind him. He could be vain of himself, and be excused for it. The Egyptian, the Babylonian, and the Roman followed, and made a vast noise, and they are gone. Other peoples have sprung up and held their torch high for a time, but it burned out, and they sit in twilight now, or have vanished. The Jew saw them all, beat them all... All things are mortal but the Jew; all other forces pass, but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality?"

### **Jacob saw a vision of Israel's future**

**Genesis 28:10-15**

**Bible passage:** Genesis 28:10-15

**Prophet:** Jacob

**Written:** perhaps 1400 BC

**Fulfilled:** Throughout history

In Genesis 28:10-15, the Bible says that Jacob, who lived about 4000 years ago, received a vision from God about the future of his descendants (the Jews). The vision accurately foretold the future of the Jews. Here is our summary of Jacob's vision:

1. **The Jews would have Israel as their own country.** This was fulfilled about 3400 years ago when the Jews first established Israel.
2. **The Jews would be scattered worldwide.** This was fulfilled when the Jews were forced out of Israel more than 2500 years ago by the Assyrians and Babylonians and again about 1900 years ago by the Romans.
3. **The Jews would have a worldwide impact.** Jews have had a tremendous worldwide impact in science, art, literature, economics, music and theology. The worldwide spread of Christianity began about 2000 years ago by a group of Jews who were followers of Jesus.
4. **The Jews would be brought back to Israel.** This began to be fulfilled during the late 1800s when many Jews worldwide began returning to their ancient homeland. They re-established Israel's independence in 1948, after 19 centuries of exile and persecution throughout the world.

### **Isaiah said Israel's fruit would fill the world**

**Isaiah 27:6**

**Bible passage:** Isaiah 27:6

**Prophet:** Isaiah

**Written:** perhaps between 701-681 BC

**Fulfilled:** late 1900s

In Isaiah 27:6, the prophet said Israel would one day blossom and fill the world with fruit. This prophecy has been at least partially fulfilled, literally and symbolically. Today, the land of Israel, which had been barren for centuries, is a leading producer of agricultural products, exporting food to many countries. This prophecy also has been fulfilled symbolically with the worldwide spread of Christianity. Christianity, which began with Jesus in Israel, now has about 2 billion followers worldwide.

### **Jesus' life was foreshadowed by the prophet Isaiah**

**Isaiah 42:1-9**

**Bible passage:** Isaiah 42:1-9

**Prophet:** Isaiah

**Written:** perhaps between 701-681 BC

**Fulfilled:** About 2000 years ago

In Isaiah 42:1-9, the prophet Isaiah speaks of a servant of God who will be a light to the Gentiles (non-Jews) and bring justice to the world. Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of this promise. Jesus' teachings govern the lives of Christians throughout the world. There are an estimated 2 billion Christians worldwide. More people follow the teachings of Jesus than those of any other person in history.

### **God's salvation would reach the ends of the earth**

**Isaiah 49:6**

**Bible passage:** Isaiah 49:6

**Prophet:** Isaiah

**Written:** perhaps between 701-681 BC

**Fulfilled:** 32 AD

In Isaiah 49:6, the prophet speaks of a servant of God who would be a light to Gentiles (non-Jews) so that God's salvation could reach the ends of the earth. Christians believe that Jesus is the fulfillment of this promise. Jesus and His followers who helped spread Christianity about 2000 years ago have certainly been an inspiration to Gentiles - there are now about 2 billion Christians worldwide. And Christians believe that salvation is available to anyone who accepts Jesus Christ as their savior.

### **Jesus said His words would never be forgotten**

**Luke 21:33**

**Bible passage:** Luke 21:33

**Prophet:** Jesus

**Written:** about 30 AD

**Fulfilled:** At this very moment

In Luke 21:33, Jesus said that regardless of what happens to the world, His words will never be forgotten. Here we are 2000 years later and the words of Jesus are all around us: There are 2 billion Christians worldwide and the Bible is most circulated book in the world. Of all the people who have ever lived, can you think of a single person who could have made this claim more effectively than Jesus - that his words would never be forgotten?

### **Jesus told Peter that the church would survive and thrive**

**Matthew 16:17-18**

**Bible passage:** Matthew 16:17-18

**Prophet:** Jesus

**Recorded:** about 30 AD

**Fulfilled:** Throughout history

In Matthew 16:17-18, Jesus told the Apostle Peter (Simon) that he would be the rock or foundation on which Jesus will build His church, and that the church would not be conquered or wiped out by non-believers (as expressed in the phrase "gates of hell" or "gates of Hades"). Within a few decades after the crucifixion of Jesus, Peter was able to see firsthand that the early Christians would endure tremendous persecution. The church endured intense persecution for about three centuries by the Roman Empire. But, the church survived and thrived during that time, even though the Roman Empire itself disintegrated. Although the majority of the world's religions have died out, Christianity flourished and has become the first religion to have spread worldwide.

### **The Gospel will be preached to the entire world**

**Matthew 24:14**

**Bible passage:** Matthew 24:14

**Prophet:** Jesus

**Recorded:** about 30 AD

**To be fulfilled:** End Times

In Matthew 24:14, the Bible says that the Gospel (the New Testament books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) will be preached throughout the world. The Bible also says that after this happens, the end times will come. The Bible has been preached throughout the world for a long time. But now, with the increasing worldwide availability of television and the Internet, there is greater potential for the Gospel to be preached to everyone, everywhere.

## **Messianic prophecies**

### **Daniel predicted when an anointed one would be rejected**

**Daniel 9:24-26**

**Bible passage:** Daniel 9:24-26

**Prophet:** Daniel

**Written:** about 530 BC

**Fulfilled:** about 33 AD

The prophet Daniel was a Jew who lived during the time of the Babylonian Captivity, about 500 years before the birth of Jesus. During Daniel's lifetime, the Babylonians had destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple and had taken many Jews as captives to Babylon. Daniel, while in Babylon, delivered a prophecy of what would happen during the centuries that followed. Here is our summary of Daniel 9:24-26:

1. There would be a decree to rebuild Jerusalem.
2. Jerusalem and the Temple would be rebuilt.
3. Then an anointed one (messiah) would be "cut off" (an idiom for "rejected" or "killed").
4. Then Jerusalem and the Temple would be destroyed again.

All of these events later happened, in the same order in which they are described in Daniel 9:24-26:

1. After the Medo-Persians had conquered the Babylonian empire about 2540 years ago, they ruled a vast empire that included the land of Israel. About 2446 years ago (about 445 BC), Persian king Artaxerxes gave permission to the Jews to rebuild Jerusalem, which was still in ruins after having been destroyed earlier by the Babylonians.
2. The Jews rebuilt the Temple and the city of Jerusalem.
3. Then, about 2000 years ago, Jesus entered Jerusalem as the Messiah who had been promised by Old Testament prophets. But, many people rejected Jesus as the Messiah and He was crucified by the Romans.
4. About 40 years after Jesus was crucified, the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple. (The Temple has not been rebuilt since then).

### **God promised another prophet like Moses**

**Deuteronomy 18:15-18**

**Bible passage:** Deuteronomy 18:15-18

**Prophet:** Moses

**Written:** perhaps 1400 BC

**Fulfilled:** about 5 BC to 30 AD

In Deuteronomy 18:15-18, Moses told the Jews that God would raise up another prophet like Moses. After Moses, there was a succession of prophets, including Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel, and finally Jesus Christ. Jesus was very much like Moses: Both were delivered from death as infants. Both were prophets. Both performed miracles. Both were leaders. And both were intermediaries between God and man. No other prophet is as much like Moses than Jesus. Moses led the Jews out of the bonds of slavery in Egypt into the Promised Land of Israel. Moses died shortly before the Jews entered Israel. Jesus leads people - anyone who accepts Jesus as their Savior - out of the bonds of sin and into the Promised Land of Heaven. Jesus died for our sins so that people could enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

### **The Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah**

**Genesis 49:10**

**Bible passage:** Genesis 49:10

**Prophet:** Jacob

**Written:** perhaps 1400 BC

**Fulfilled:** 5 BC

In Genesis 49:10, Jacob is blessing his 12 sons. This blessing was also a prophecy. Jacob told his son Judah that his descendants will be rulers and that one of his descendants will be an ultimate ruler. According to the NIV translation: "The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his." Christians believe that this is a reference to Jesus Christ who will establish an everlasting kingdom in the future. Jesus was born about 2000 years after Jacob died. Jesus' ancestry is traced back to Jacob's son, Judah, in Luke 3:23-34 and in Matthew 1:1-16. Today, about 2 billion Christians worldwide follow the teachings of Jesus.

### **Nations would seek the counsel of Jesse's descendant**

**Isaiah 11:1-10**

**Bible passage:** Isaiah 11:1-10

**Prophet:** Isaiah

**Written:** perhaps between 701-681 BC

**Fulfilled:** 538 BC

In Isaiah 11:1-10, the prophet Isaiah speaks of a ruler who would be a descendant of Jesse. Jesse was the father of ancient Israel's great King David. This descendant would rule with true justice and true faith, and he would establish true peace. This peace would be so great that even wild animals would be able to lie down next to one another. This descendant would also become a standard for people throughout the world. And, this descendant would be sought by people throughout the world.

This is an important prophecy for Christians because we believe that Jesus is the fulfillment of this Old Testament promise. Jesus, as explained in the New Testament, is a descendant of Jesse. And Jesus has become a standard for peoples throughout the world. In fact, Christianity is the first religion to spread to every country in the world. The words of Jesus, which speak of true justice, true faith and true peace, have been taught to people in every country in the world. We Christians also believe that Jesus will return in the future to establish a kingdom on earth, a kingdom of justice and righteousness.

There is an ancient Hebrew text, called the Targum Jonathan, in which Rabbis sought to interpret passages of the Old Testament scriptures. The Targum Jonathan shows that at least some of the ancient Rabbis believed that the message contained in Isaiah 11:1-10 was a reference to a Messiah. Here is an excerpt from the Targum Jonathan: "And there shall go forth a King from the Sons of Jesse, and the Messiah shall be anointed from his children's children." Jesse was the father of King David. But the Messiah would be a descendant of both Jesse and David.

### **The Messiah would be preceded by a messenger**

**Isaiah 40:3**

**Bible passage:** Isaiah 40:3

**Prophet:** Isaiah

**Written:** perhaps between 701-681 BC

**Fulfilled:** 27 AD

In Isaiah 40:3, the prophet writes about a person in the desert who prepares the way for the Lord. Christians historically have believed that this passage foreshadowed the life of John the Baptist, who played an important role in laying the groundwork for the ministry of Jesus Christ. Jesus was born shortly after John the Baptist about 2000 years ago. The book of Matthew records many events of the life of Jesus and of John the Baptist. In Matthew 3:1-2, it says: "In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea, and saying, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

### **Jesus' life was foreshadowed by the prophet Isaiah**

**Isaiah 42:1-9**

**Bible passage:** Isaiah 42:1-9

**Prophet:** Isaiah

**Written:** perhaps between 701-681 BC

**Fulfilled:** About 2000 years ago

In Isaiah 42:1-9, the prophet Isaiah speaks of a servant of God who will be a light to the Gentiles (non-Jews) and bring justice to the world. Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of this promise. Jesus' teachings govern the lives of Christians throughout the world. There are an estimated 2 billion Christians worldwide. More people follow the teachings of Jesus than those of any other person in history.

### **God's salvation would reach the ends of the earth**

**Isaiah 49:6**

**Bible passage:** Isaiah 49:6

**Prophet:** Isaiah

**Written:** perhaps between 701-681 BC

**Fulfilled:** 32 AD

In Isaiah 49:6, the prophet speaks of a servant of God who would be a light to Gentiles (non-Jews) so that God's salvation could reach the ends of the earth. Christians believe that Jesus is the fulfillment of this promise. Jesus and His followers who helped spread Christianity about 2000 years ago have certainly been an inspiration to Gentiles - there are now about 2 billion Christians worldwide. And Christians believe that salvation is available to anyone who accepts Jesus Christ as their savior.

### **The Messiah would suffer and be rejected**

**Isaiah 53:3**

**Bible passage:** Isaiah 53:3

**Prophet:** Isaiah

**Written:** perhaps between 701-681 BC

**Fulfilled:** 32 AD

In Isaiah 52:13-53:12, the prophet foreshadowed the life and mission of Jesus, who was born about 700 years later. In Isaiah 53:3, the prophet said that a servant of God would be rejected and despised. Jesus was indeed rejected by many people living in the land of Israel, and He was later crucified by the Romans. It has been claimed by some scholars that Isaiah 52:13-53:12 actually refers to Israel as a nation and not to an individual Messiah. But, at least some of the ancient Rabbis believed that this passage from Isaiah is indeed about an individual Messiah. Hal Lindsey, in his book, "The Promise of Bible Prophecy," wrote the following: *Rabbi Moshe Alshekh, one of the great seventeenth-century expositors from Safed, Israel, said "Our Rabbis with one voice accept and affirm the opinion that the prophet is speaking of the King Messiah, and we shall ourselves also adhere to the same view.*

### **God's servant would be wounded and whipped**

**Isaiah 53:5**

**Bible passage:** Isaiah 53:5

**Prophet:** Isaiah

**Written:** perhaps between 701-681 BC

**Fulfilled:** 32 AD

In Isaiah 53:5, prophet described a servant as being punished for the sins of others, and that others would be healed by the wounds of this person. As explained in the Gospel - the four New Testament books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John - Jesus was crucified for our sins, even though He was sinless. Christians believe that this ultimate sacrifice redeemed us all from sin in the same way that lambs were once sacrificed as a symbolic way of cleansing people from sin. And so, all of us can be accepted into the Kingdom of God, as though we were sinless, if we accept Jesus as our Savior. Christians believe that we are healed through the wounds that Jesus suffered.

### **God's servant would be silent before His accusers**

**Isaiah 53:7**

**Bible passage:** Isaiah 53:7

**Prophet:** Isaiah

**Written:** perhaps between 701-681 BC

**Fulfilled:** 32 AD

In the book of Isaiah, chapter 53, Isaiah the prophet wrote about a servant of God. Many people believe this was a prophecy about the life of Jesus Christ, who lived about 700 years later. In Isaiah 53:7, the prophet said that the servant would be afflicted and accused, but like a lamb being led to slaughter, he would remain silent. As explained in Matthew 27:12-14, which was recorded about 700 years after the time of Isaiah, this is what happened to Jesus. He was falsely accused but remained silent and did not protest the accusations. Jesus was crucified by the Romans a short time later.

### **God's servant would be buried in a rich man's tomb**

**Isaiah 53:9**

**Bible passage:** Isaiah 53:9

**Prophet:** Isaiah

**Written:** perhaps between 701-681 BC

**Fulfilled:** 32 AD

In Isaiah 53:9, the prophet wrote about a sinless servant being put to death with the wicked and buried with the rich. About 700 years after this was believed to have been written, Jesus was put to death along with two criminals and was buried in a tomb owned by a wealthy man, as explained in the New Testament. The New Testament says that Jesus was resurrected three days later and ascended into Heaven.

### **God's servant would be crucified with criminals**

**Isaiah 53:12**

**Bible passage:** Isaiah 53:12

**Prophet:** Isaiah

**Written:** perhaps between 701-681 BC

**Fulfilled:** 32 AD

In Isaiah 53:12, the prophet wrote about a servant who would bear the sins of many people and be punished side-by-side with criminals. Christians believe that Isaiah's description of this servant was a prophecy that was fulfilled during the life of Jesus Christ. As explained in the book of Matthew, Jesus, though sinless, was "numbered with the transgressors" and crucified along with two criminals.

### **The Messiah will appear after the Jews return to Israel**

**Jeremiah 23:3-6**

**Bible passage:** Jeremiah 23:3-6

**Prophet:** Jeremiah

**Written:** sometime from 626 to about 586 BC

**Fulfilled:** end times

In Jeremiah 23:3-6, the prophet said that the Jews throughout the world would be re-gathered and brought back home to Israel and that a descendant of King David would reign as king. We Christians believe this has already been partially fulfilled and will be completely fulfilled in the future. More than 2500 years ago, the Jews were forced out of Israel by the Assyrians and the Babylonians. But many Jews returned to their homeland before Jesus was born about 2000 years ago. Jesus, according to the book of Matthew, is a

descendant of King David, and He will return in the future to establish an everlasting kingdom. About 40 years after Jesus was crucified by the Romans, the Jews were again forced out of their homeland and scattered worldwide.

But, during the past 200 years, many Jews have been returning to their ancient homeland. They re-established independence for Israel in 1948. This marked the second time in history that Israel was a sovereign nation. Christians believe that Jesus will return a second time too, to bring justice to the world, and to judge the living and the dead.

### **The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem**

**Micah 5:2**

**Bible passage:** Micah 5:2

**Prophet:** Micah

**Written:** sometime between 750-686 BC

**Fulfilled:** 5 BC

In Micah 5:2, there is a prophecy that many Christians point to as evidence that Jesus is the Messiah. In this Bible passage, Micah said that a great ruler would be born in Bethlehem, a small town in southern Israel. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, as recorded in Matthew 2:1, about 2000 years ago. Aside from being the spiritual leader of 2 billion Christians worldwide, Christians believe that Jesus will return in the future to rule over an everlasting kingdom. There is disagreement regarding the translation of Micah 5:2. Some people say that the reference to "Bethlehem" is simply a reference to the bloodline of King David. Other people say that it is a reference to the town of Bethlehem. However, as explained in the book of Matthew, Jesus meets both criteria - He is a descendant of King David and He was born in Bethlehem.

### **The Messiah would enter Jerusalem while riding on a donkey**

**Zechariah 9:9**

**Bible passage:** Zechariah 9:9

**Prophet:** Zechariah

**Written:** between 520 and 518 BC

**Fulfilled:** 32 AD

In Zechariah 9:9, the prophet speaks of a future king presenting himself to Jerusalem while riding on a humble donkey. This foreshadowed something that happened about 500 years later: As explained in Luke 19:35-37, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and presented Himself as the Messiah, the King. Alfred Edersheim, a Christian Jew who lived during the 1800s, studied ancient Rabbinical writings, and said that Zechariah 9:9 was often interpreted as being about a Messiah. In the book, "The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah," Edersheim wrote: "The Messianic application of this verse in all its parts has already been repeatedly indicated. We may here add that there are many traditions about this donkey on which the Messiah is to ride; and so firm was the belief in it, that, according to the Talmud, 'if anyone saw a donkey in his dreams, he will see salvation' (Ber 56 b)."

### **Zechariah foreshadowed the betrayal of Jesus for 30 pieces of silver**

**Zechariah 11:12-13**

**Bible passage:** Zechariah 11:12-13

**Prophet:** Zechariah

**Written:** between 520 and 518 BC

**Fulfilled:** 32 AD

In Zechariah 11:12-13, the prophet spoke of a person being paid 30 pieces of silver to betray someone. This foreshadowed something that happened to Jesus about 500 years later. As explained in Matthew 26:15, Judas was paid 30 silver coins for his betrayal of Jesus. Judas told the Romans when and where they could arrest Jesus without being surrounded by a large crowd of Jesus' followers. But, as explained in Matthew 27:5-7, Judas later tossed the money into the Temple (the house of the Lord) and the money was used to buy a potter's field as a burial place for foreigners.

## **Prophecies about other nations**

**Amos 1:9-10**

Tyre's fortresses would fail

**Ezekiel 25:14**

The Jews would avenge the Edomites

**Ezekiel 26:3**

Tyre would be attacked by many nations

**Ezekiel 26:4**

Tyre would be scraped and made bare

**Ezekiel 26:7-9**

Tyre's mainland would be destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar

**Ezekiel 26:12**

Tyre's stones, timber and soil would be cast into the sea

**Ezekiel 26:21**

Tyre would never again be found

**Ezekiel 29:15**

Egypt would never again rule over other nations

**Isaiah 13:17**

Babylon would be attacked by the Medes

**Isaiah 13:19**

Babylon's kingdom would be overthrown, permanently

**Isaiah 14:23**

Babylon would be reduced to swampland

**Isaiah 45:1**

Babylon's gates would open for Cyrus

**Jeremiah 25:11-12**

Babylon would rule Judah for 70 years

**Jeremiah 32:36-37**

The Jews would survive Babylonian rule and return home

**Jeremiah 49:16**

Edom would be toppled and humbled

**Nahum 1:8-9**

Nineveh's destruction would be permanent

**Nahum 1:10**

Ninevites would be drunk in their final hours

**Nahum 1:14**

Ninevites would be wiped out

**Nahum 2:6**

Nineveh would be hit with a flood

**Nahum 3:12**

Nineveh's fortresses would be easily captured

**Nahum 3:15**

Nineveh would be destroyed by fire

**Nahum 3:17**

Nineveh's army officers would desert

**Nahum 3:19**

Nineveh would be destroyed, permanently

**Zechariah 9:3-4**

Tyre would lose its power over the sea

## **End Time prophecies**

### **The Messiah will appear after the Jews return to Israel**

**Jeremiah 23:3-6**

**Bible passage:** Jeremiah 23:3-6

**Prophet:** Jeremiah

**Written:** sometime from 626 to about 586 BC

**Fulfilled:** end times

In Jeremiah 23:3-6, the prophet said that the Jews throughout the world would be re-gathered and brought back home to Israel and that a descendant of King David would reign as king. We Christians believe this has already been partially fulfilled and will be completely fulfilled in the future. More than 2500 years ago, the Jews were forced out of Israel by the Assyrians and the Babylonians. But many Jews returned to their homeland before Jesus was born about 2000 years ago. Jesus, according to the book of Matthew, is a descendant of King David, and He will return in the future to establish an everlasting kingdom. About 40 years after Jesus was crucified by the Romans, the Jews were again forced out of their homeland and scattered worldwide.

But, during the past 200 years, many Jews have been returning to their ancient homeland. They re-established independence for Israel in 1948. This marked the second time in history that Israel was a sovereign nation. Christians believe that Jesus will return a second time too, to bring justice to the world, and to judge the living and the dead.

### **Enemies of the Jews will cease to be nations**

**Jeremiah 46:28**

**Bible passage:** Jeremiah 46:28

**Prophet:** Jeremiah

**Written:** sometime from 626 to about 586 BC

**Fulfilled:** Today

In Jeremiah 46:28, the prophet says that God will never allow the Jews to be completely destroyed and that God will completely destroy all of the nations to which the Jews have been scattered. Many Christian scholars view this as an End Time prophecy, which will take place in the future, when the world is destroyed, except for the Holy Land. But part of this prophecy is being fulfilled already - despite the attempts of the Assyrians, Babylonians, Romans and Nazis to destroy the Jews, the Jews are still with us and Israel again is a sovereign nation. But the empires of the Assyrians, Babylonians, Romans and Nazis have been destroyed.

### **Israel would be partitioned by other nations**

**Joel 3:2**

**Bible passage:** Joel 3:2

**Prophet:** Joel

**Written:** about 400 BC

**Fulfilled:** 1900s

In Joel 3:2, the prophet said that the nations of the world will be judged for having scattered the people of Israel and for having "divided up" (or "parted" or "partitioned") the land of Israel. Christian scholars believe that this is a prophecy that will be fulfilled during the End Times. But, portions of the prophecy already have been fulfilled. The Jews have been scattered to nations throughout the world, and the nations of the world have divided up the land of Israel. On November 29, 1947, when the United Nations General Assembly approved a motion to partition the land, which at that time was called "Palestine." The partition plan divided the land into two separate states, one for Jewish people and another for Arab people. Today, that partitioning is interlocked with many political problems as the Jews seek to reclaim the land promised to them in the Bible (see Genesis 15:18, Genesis 28:10-17 and Genesis 35:9-12), and the Arabs seek to create a homeland for "Palestinians" - Arabs who have lived in that land for many generations.

### **When Israel blooms again, the Kingdom of God will be near**

**Luke 21:29-31**

**Bible passage:** Luke 21:29-31

**Prophet:** Jesus

**Recorded:** about 30 AD

**To be fulfilled:** End Times

In Luke 21:29-31, Jesus said that when the fig tree blooms again, people will know that the End Times and Kingdom of God is near. The fig tree is understood by some Bible scholars as a symbol for Israel. This passage is often interpreted to mean that the End Times will begin sometime after Israel blooms again. When Jesus delivered this prophecy about 2000 years ago, Israel was ruled over by the Roman Empire - the Jews did not have independence. Shortly after Jesus was crucified by the Romans, the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and forced many Jews into exile. But, in 1948, the Jews regained control of part of their ancient homeland and re-established independence.

### **Jesus said His words would never be forgotten**

**Luke 21:33**

**Bible passage:** Luke 21:33

**Prophet:** Jesus

**Written:** about 30 AD

**Fulfilled:** At this very moment

In Luke 21:33, Jesus said that regardless of what happens to the world, His words will never be forgotten. Here we are 2000 years later and the words of Jesus are all around us: There are 2 billion Christians worldwide and the Bible is most circulated book in the world. Of all the people who have ever lived, can you think of a single person who could have made this claim more effectively than Jesus - that his words would never be forgotten?

### **The Gospel will be preached to the entire world**

**Matthew 24:14**

**Bible passage:** Matthew 24:14

**Prophet:** Jesus

**Recorded:** about 30 AD

**To be fulfilled:** End Times

In Matthew 24:14, the Bible says that the Gospel (the New Testament books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) will be preached throughout the world. The Bible also says that after this happens, the end times will come. The Bible has been preached throughout the world for a long time. But now, with the increasing worldwide availability of television and the Internet, there is greater potential for the Gospel to be preached to everyone, everywhere.

### **Jesus spoke of a day of unequalled destruction and suffering**

**Matthew 24:21-22**

**Bible passage:** Matthew 24:21-22

**Prophet:** Jesus

**Recorded:** about 30 AD

**To be fulfilled:** End Times

In Matthew 24:21-22, Jesus says there will come a time when a calamity strikes that will be unequalled by anything that has ever taken place. He indicates that this calamity would have the power to kill all people. Obviously, the world has never seen a calamity that kills *all* people. But, with the production of nuclear weapons, and the growing number of countries that have them, we now have a way to see how such a calamity might happen. Such a calamity also could be caused by disease or plague. The world has been hit by plagues that have killed tens of millions. But, today, with worldwide travel, it could be more of a challenge to contain a plague or virus to the particular region of the world from which it originates. In fact, the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, is at least partly due to travelers who carried the disease from one part of the world to another. The same also is said to be true for a late-1990s outbreak of tuberculosis.

### **Jerusalem would become the world's most important religious site**

**Micah 4:1**

**Bible passage:** Micah 4:1

**Prophet:** Micah

**Written:** sometime between 750-686 BC

**Fulfilled:** Today

In Micah 4:1, the prophet said that the Temple mount in Jerusalem would become the focal point of the world. This prophecy has not yet been fulfilled. But, it is interesting to note that Jerusalem is, and has been for centuries, the world's most important religious site. Christians and Jews regard the city as the world's most important, and Christians and Jews comprise about one-third of the world's population. No other city in the world is a religious focal point to as many people.

### **The Bible foreshadowed modern warfare**

**Revelation 8:7-11**

**Bible passage:** Revelation 8:7-11

**Prophet:** Jesus

**Written:** sometime between 54 and 95 AD

**To be fulfilled:** End Times

In Revelation 8:7-11, the Bible describes an End Time event that sounds like a description of modern warfare or possibly a meteor shower. These Bible passages talk about objects from the sky striking the earth and causing the earth's waters to turn "bitter," which could mean "contaminated." It also says that many people will die when the waters become bitter. Some scholars have speculated that this could be a reference to a future radioactive contamination of the earth's waters.

### **Book of Revelation envisioned an army of 200 million**

**Revelation 9:16**

**Bible passage:** Revelation 9:16

**Prophet:** Jesus

**Written:** sometime between 54 and 95 AD

**To be fulfilled:** End Times

In Revelation 9:16, the Bible says that an army of 200 million will one day march toward Israel. Of course, this prophecy hasn't been fulfilled yet, at least not literally. But, as the world's population rises above 6 billion, it is increasingly possible for a coalition of countries to amass an army of 200 million, and this would have been have been unthinkable even 100 years ago.

### **The world would be able to simultaneously witness events**

**Revelation 11:9-10**

**Bible passage:** Revelation 11:9-10

**Prophet:** Jesus

**Written:** sometime between 54 and 95 AD

**To be fulfilled:** End Times

In Revelation 11:9-10, the Bible gives a prophecy that has not yet been fulfilled, at least not in a literal sense. But, perhaps for the first time in history, it can be fulfilled. The prophecy says that people all over the world will be able to simultaneously witness a particular event (the death of two prophets). This of course would have been difficult before the popularization of television and the Internet. But it is now common for people worldwide to simultaneously witness events via television and the Internet.

### **People would be forced to receive the mark of the beast**

**Revelation 13:16-18**

**Bible passage:** Revelation 13:16-18

**Prophet:** Jesus

**Written:** sometime between 54 and 95 AD

**To be fulfilled:** End Times

In Revelation 13:16-18, the Bible says that there would come a time when a powerful leader would force people to receive a "mark" on or in their right hand or forehead, and that no one would be able to buy or sell unless they had that mark. When the book of Revelation was written about 1900 years ago, it would have been nearly impossible for a world leader to force everyone to receive such a mark. But, today, with modern technology, it would be much easier. Today, for example, it would be possible to implant under a person's skin a small microchip that could be used like a credit card.

### **The troops would cross the Euphrates**

**Revelation 16:12**

**Bible passage:** Revelation 16:12

**Prophet:** Jesus

**Written:** sometime between 54 and 95 AD

**To be fulfilled:** End Times

In Revelation 16:12, the Bible says there will come a time when the Euphrates River becomes dry so that an army can cross it and march into Israel. When the book of Revelation was written 1900 years ago, it would have taken a great natural disaster, or a great amount of labor to divert the flow of the Euphrates so that an army could cross it. (In 539 BC, Cyrus and his army diverted the flow so that his troops could march across the riverbed and conquer Babylon). But, today, there are a series of dams that would make it much easier to divert the flow of the powerful river.

### **Many people will go to Jerusalem to seek God's favor**

**Zechariah 8:22**

**Bible passage:** Zechariah 8:22

**Prophet:** Zechariah

**Written:** between 520 and 518 BC

**To be fulfilled:** End Times

In Zechariah 8:22, the prophet said 2500 years ago that a time will come when many people go to Jerusalem to seek and honor God. This prophecy has been at least partially fulfilled already. The Jews recaptured Jerusalem during the Six Day War in 1967. Since then, people from around the world have toured Jerusalem to visit various sites that are important to the history of Judaism and Christianity. Jerusalem is also an important city to Moslems.

### **Jerusalem would become an international problem**

**Zechariah 12:1-5**

**Bible passage:** Zechariah 12:1-5

**Prophet:** Zechariah

**Written:** between 520 and 518 BC

**To be fulfilled:** End Times

In Zechariah 12, the prophet said Jerusalem would become an international problem, that the nations of the world will attack Jerusalem, and that God will protect Jerusalem during that time. During the time of Zechariah, who lived about 2500 years ago, Jerusalem, and the rest of Israel, was controlled by the Medo-Persian empire. The Jews did not have independence. The Jews regained control of Jerusalem for a brief time about 2100 years ago. And it wasn't until the Six Day War in 1967 that Jews regained sovereign control of Jerusalem. Today, the Palestinians (Arabs who have lived in the land for many, many years) are trying to claim a portion of Jerusalem as the capital of an independent Palestinian state within the borders of Israel. Many countries are trying to persuade Israel to give up part of Jerusalem to the Palestinians. This has not yet happened. But, Jerusalem has indeed become an international problem, just as Zechariah had prophesized 2500 years ago. Many Bible scholars believe that the Battle of Armageddon will be fought over the issue of Jerusalem. But the Bible makes it clear that God, and the Jews, will ultimately prevail.

### **Zechariah foreshadowed modern warfare**

**Zechariah 14:12**

**Bible passage:** Zechariah 14:12

**Prophet:** Zechariah

**Written:** between 520 and 518 BC

**To be fulfilled:** End Times

In Zechariah, chapter 14, the prophet says a time will come when nations gather to attack Jerusalem. In Zechariah 14:12, the prophet says the nations that attack Jerusalem will be struck with a "plague" that will cause their flesh to rot while they are still standing. This might be a fitting description for modern warfare if it were described by a person who lived 2500 years ago, as Zechariah did. Chemical weapons are capable of causing rapid deterioration of flesh. And a blast of heat from a nuclear weapon could have a similar affect. Some Bible scholars, however, believe that this plague could refer to a supernatural event from God to protect the Holy Land.