

Israel in History and Prophecy





- Israel
 - About the size of New Jersey
 - 50 Miles across
 - Surrounded by enemies
- What about this land causes the nations to care?

Care Indeed!

The burden of the word of the Lord concerning Israel. Thus declares the Lord who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him,

“Behold, I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that causes reeling to all the peoples around; and when the siege is against Jerusalem, it will also be against Judah.

“It will come about in that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who lift it will be severely injured. And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it. (Zechariah 12:1-3)

Is this about today?



Moses' Prophecy

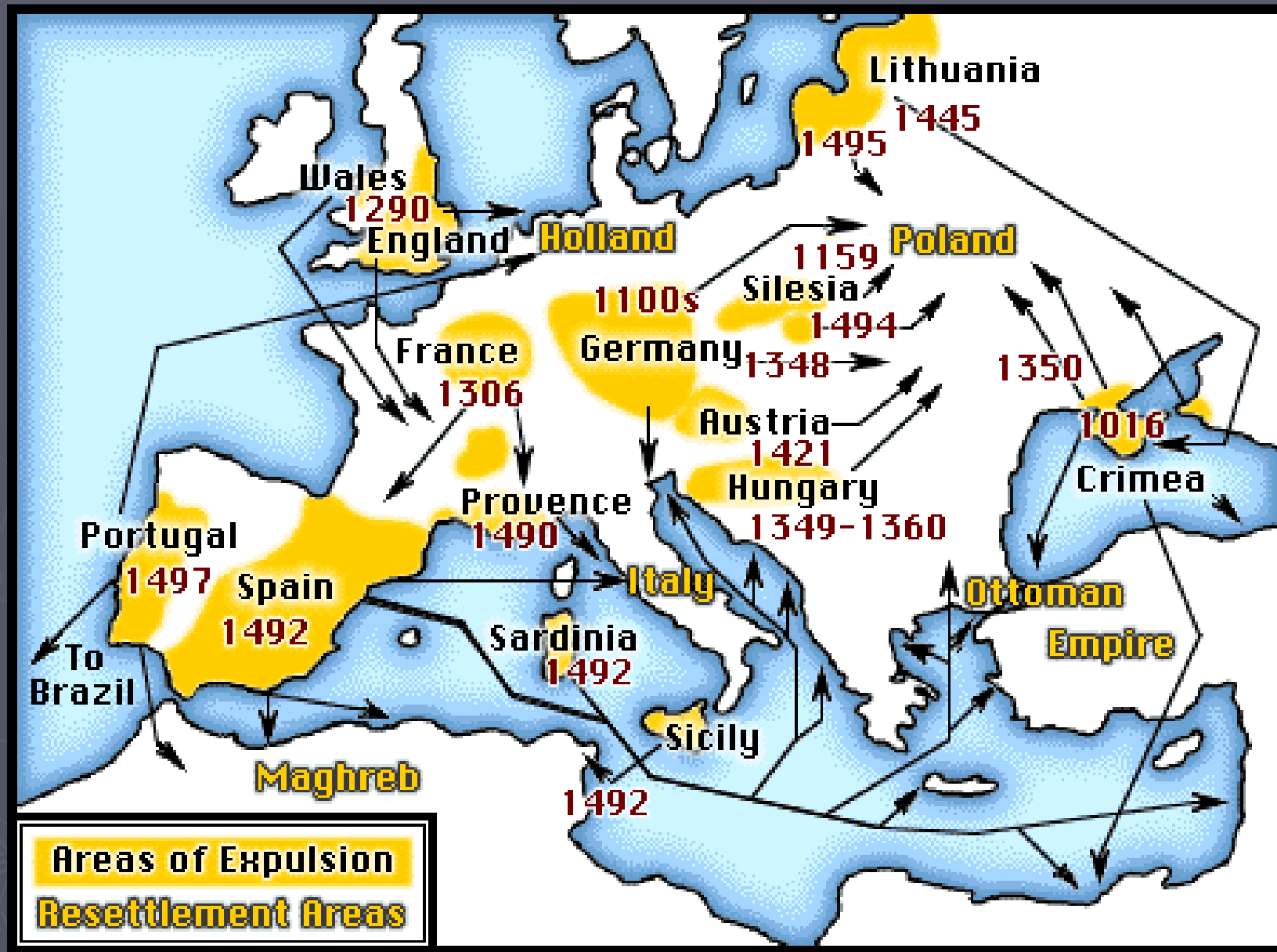
Moreover, the Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other end of the earth; and there you shall serve other gods, wood and stone, which you or your fathers have not known.

Among those nations you shall find no rest, and there will be no resting place for the sole of your foot; but there the Lord will give you a trembling heart, failing of eyes, and despair of soul. So your life shall hang in doubt before you; and you will be in dread night and day, and shall have no assurance of your life. In the morning you shall say, 'Would that it were evening!' And at evening you shall say, 'Would that it were morning!' because of the dread of your heart which you dread, and for the sight of your eyes which you will see. (Deuteronomy 28:64-67)

Movie Clip

Fiddler on the Roof: Russian Jews
learn they must leave their
homes.

Anti-Semitism – Expulsions



The Beginning of a Return

- ▶ **1882** As a result of the persecution of Jews in Russia and Romania a year earlier, the first large-scale immigration of Jewish settlers to Palestine takes place.
- ▶ **1896** Austrian journalist Theodor Herzl, the founder of modern Zionism, publishes his pamphlet *The Jewish State*, which argues that the "Jewish Problem" can be solved only by setting up a Jewish state in Palestine, or somewhere else, so that Jews can live freely without fear of persecution. A year later, Herzl organizes the first Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland, to promote immigration to Palestine.

The Promise of The Return

For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land.

Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God. (Ezekiel 36:24-28)

This is phase 1

The Promise of The Return

“So it shall be when all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind in all nations where the Lord your God has banished you, and you return to the Lord your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today, you and your sons, then the Lord your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you.

“If your outcasts are at the ends of the earth, from there the Lord your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you back. (Deuteronomy 30:1-4)

This is phase 2

Nations in the Hand of God

- ▶ **1917** The Balfour Declaration is issued by British Foreign Secretary Arthur J. Balfour, endorsing the idea of establishing a "national home" for the Jewish people in Palestine.
- ▶ **1947** The United Nations votes to partition Palestine into two states, one for the Jews and one for the Palestinian Arabs, with Jerusalem to become an international enclave.

An Ancient Hint

“Before she travailed, she brought forth; Before her pain came, she gave birth to a boy.

Who has heard such a thing?

Who has seen such things?

Can a land be born in one day?

Can a nation be brought forth all at once?

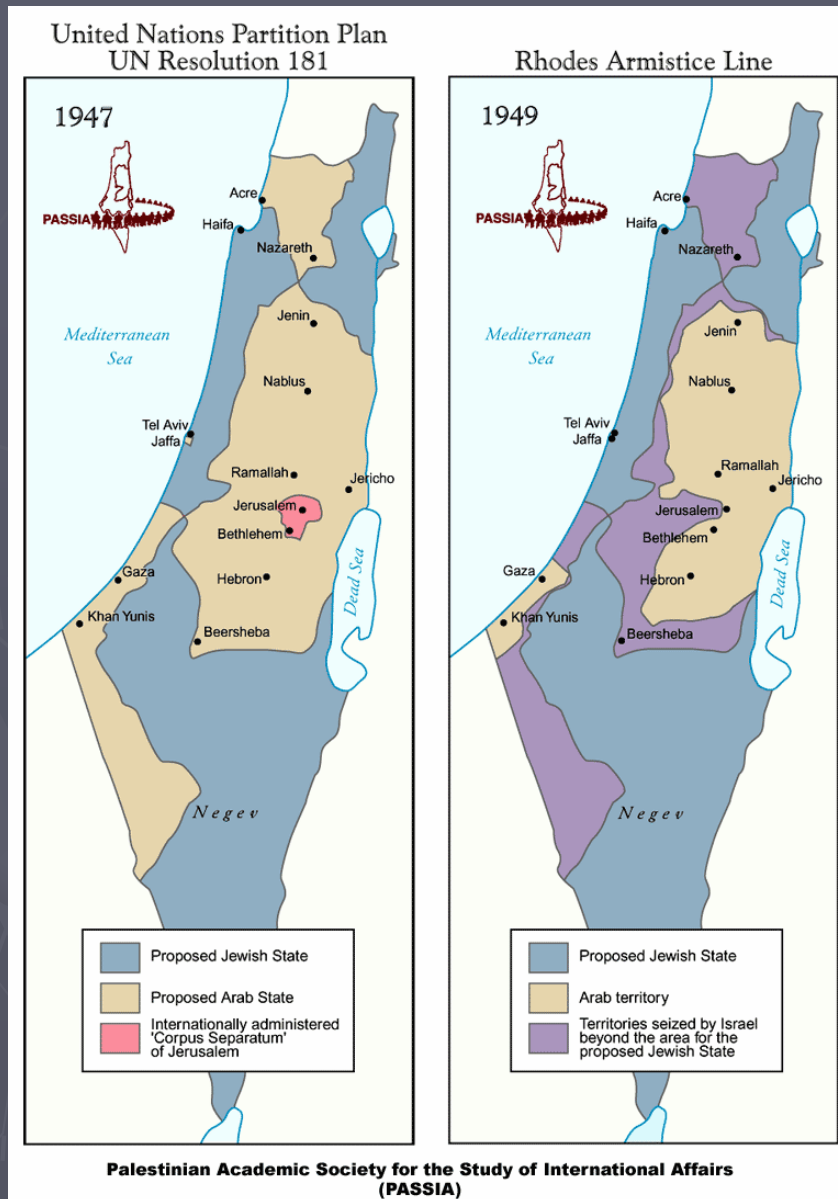
As soon as Zion travailed, she also brought forth her sons.

“Shall I bring to the point of birth and not give delivery?” says the Lord.

“Or shall I who gives delivery shut the womb?” says your God. (Isaiah 66:7-9)

On May 15, 1948, Israel became a sovereign nation again. The last time Israel had national sovereign control of this area was before 586 B.C. -- 2591 years ago.

The Palestinian State



- ▶ In 1947, the United Nations partitioned Palestine.
 - A Jewish State named Israel
 - An Arab state named Palestine
- ▶ May 16th, 1948, the day after this went into effect, the Arabs attacked Israel.

The Six Day War and its Implications

- ▶ **1967** Israel launches a preemptive strike against Egypt, Syria, and Jordan as they are preparing for war against the Jewish state. The Six-Day War ends with Israel occupying the Sinai Peninsula, the Golan Heights, the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank...
- ▶ ...and parts of Jerusalem

The Prophetic Connection to the Six Day War: The Times of the Gentiles

But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near. Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those who are in the midst of the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city; because these are days of vengeance, so that all things which are written will be fulfilled. Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days; for there will be great distress upon the land and wrath to this people; and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. (Luke 21:20-24)

70 A.D. – 1967 A.D.

The Prophetic Connection to the Six Day War: The Fulness of the Gentiles

For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these who are the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree? For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; (Romans 11:24-25)

Of Times and Fulness

- ▶ In 1967, a few Jews converted to Christianity and became Hebrew Christians.
- ▶ Soon after 1967, as part of the Jesus Movement, young Jews became believers and kept their Jewish identity.
- ▶ Messianic Judaism was born.
- ▶ It has been spreading ever since.

Of Times and Fulness

- ▶ Ezekiel promised a time when the Lord would restore the Jews in order to sprinkle them clean.
 - Zionism has brought a wave of Jewish emigration to Israel
 - A comparison of Jesus' and Paul's words seems to link that time to Gentiles and Jerusalem
 - A revival of Messianic Judaism has coincidentally begun since the Six Day War.
- ▶ There is an emerging alliance forming between Jews and Evangelical Christians. (More on this later)

Jihad: The Reeling of Those Around Jerusalem

- ▶ **1969** Yasir Arafat, leader of the al-Fatah guerrilla organization, is elected chairman of the executive committee of the PLO.
- ▶ In the late **1960s** and early **1970s**, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the second-largest PLO faction after al-Fatah, carried out a number of attacks and plane hijackings mostly directed at Israel, most infamously the Dawson's Field hijackings.

Jihad: The Reeling of Those Around Jerusalem

- ▶ **1973** Egypt and Syria launch a surprise attack against Israeli forces occupying the Sinai Peninsula and the Golan Heights.
- ▶ **1987—December** The Palestinian uprising, or intifada, begins in the West Bank and Gaza strip.
- ▶ **1994—October** Hamas blows up an Israeli city bus in the heart of Tel Aviv, killing twenty-two Israelis.

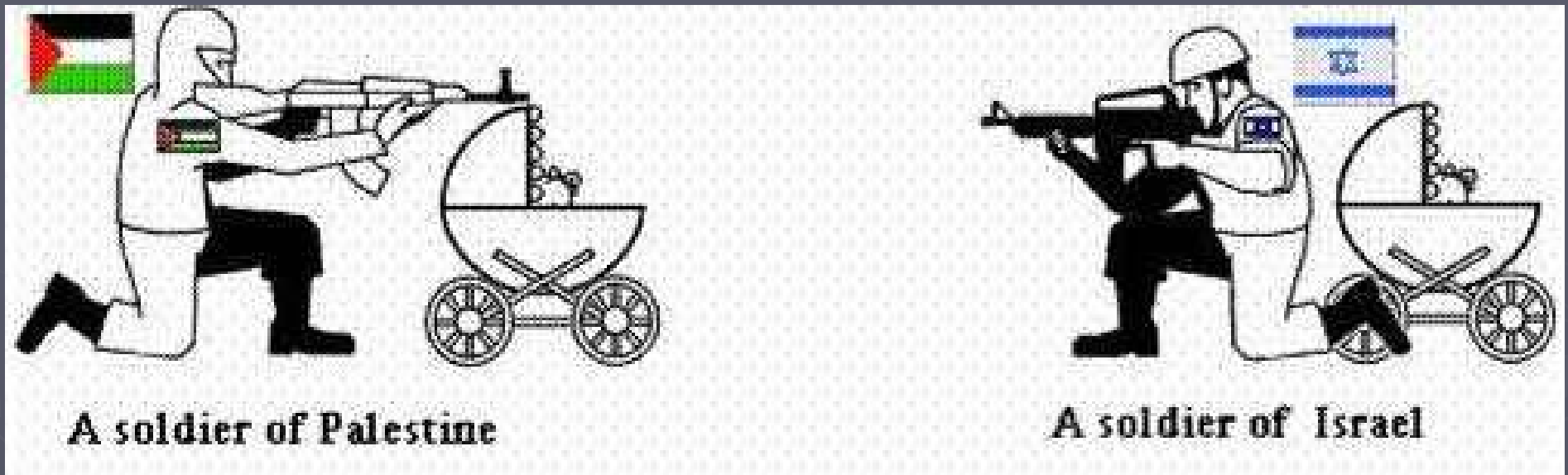
A Good Faith Gesture and Its Implications

- ▶ **2000--July** Camp David 2000 Summit. Barak offered to form a Palestinian State initially on 73% of the West Bank and 100% of the Gaza Strip. In 10 to 25 years the West Bank area would expand to 90% (94% excluding greater Jerusalem). In addition, the Israelis would cede 1-3 % of their territory in the Negev Desert to Palestine.
 - Arafat rejected this proposal and did not make a counter offer.
- ▶ **2000** Israel withdraws from Lebanon.

Another Good Faith Gesture

- ▶ **2005--August** Israel's unilateral disengagement plan, also known as the "disengagement plan," "Gaza Pull-Out plan," and "Hitnatkut") was a proposal by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, adopted by the government and enacted in August 2005, to remove all permanent Israeli presence in the Gaza Strip and from four settlements in the northern West Bank. The civilians were evacuated (a minority forcibly) and the residential buildings demolished after August 15, and the disengagement from the Gaza Strip was completed on September 12, 2005, when the last Israeli soldier left the Gaza strip. The military disengagement from the northern West Bank was completed ten days later.

All the nations will be gathered
against it.



But who do the nations disparage for
civilian deaths?

Things to Come

Behold, a day is coming for the Lord when the spoil taken from you will be divided among you.

For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city.

Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle.
(Zechariah 14:1-3)

Things to Come

In that day the Lord will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the one who is feeble among them in that day will be like David, and the house of David will be like God, like the angel of the Lord before them.

And in that day I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn. (Zechariah 12:8-10)

This is the sprinkling promised through Ezekiel

BARUCH HABAH BASHEM ADONAI

"For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' "
(Matthew 23:39)

Our Place in This: Three Deliverers in Isaiah

Isaiah 40 – 48	Isaiah 49 - 58	Isaiah 59-66
Return	Redemption	Restoration
Isaiah 44: Cyrus	Isaiah 53: Jesus	Isaiah 62: ?
No peace for the wicked	No peace for the wicked	The eternal worm feasts on the wicked

Our Place in This

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, And for Jerusalem's sake I will not keep quiet, Until her righteousness goes forth like brightness, And her salvation like a torch that is burning. (Isaiah 62:1)

On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen; All day and all night they will never keep silent.

You who remind the Lord, take no rest for yourselves; And give Him no rest until He establishes And makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth. (Isaiah 62:6-7)

Preparing for the Times Ahead

And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven. It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him. (Revelation 13:6-7)

And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death. (Revelation 12:11)

For Zion's sake, I will
not keep silent!

