



Introduction

Moses gives the blessings and curses which the Israelites would have depending whether they were obedient to God or not.



Questions

1. What did the Israelites need to do to obtain blessings rather than curses?
2. If the Israelites did not obey God, what would they get instead of rain?
3. Which verse in the blessings is the opposite to the curse in verse 44?



Summary Points

- **v 1 to 14** Moses spells out ways the Israelites would be blessed if they obeyed God
- **v 15 to 68** The Israelites would suffer a long list of curses if they disobeyed. The curses include removal from their land and dreadful persecution (see information)

Timeline 1500 BC (see below)



Information

Jewish scattering and persecution foretold in advance

Before we look at these remarkable predictions, we must emphasise that we are in no way supporting the politics of the nation of Israel. The Bible makes it very clear that the Jews often did not behave in the best of ways. We're not looking at the rights and wrongs of what the Jews have done or are doing. We're looking at fulfilments of predictions and not the politics of situations.

The Jews would be scattered



It was the Romans in the first century who were responsible for scattering the Jews. This was not long after the time that Jesus lived in the land of Israel. Jesus spent some time in the magnificent temple in Jerusalem - a model of which we see here.

On one occasion when his followers pointed out how grand the temple was, Jesus made this sombre prediction:

Matthew 24 verse 2

This prediction was fulfilled to the letter when the Romans razed the temple to the ground in the first Jewish–Roman war between AD 66 and 70. The Roman emperor Vespasian sent his Roman army, led by the future Emperor Titus, to end a Jewish revolt. In the process Jerusalem was besieged and the temple was destroyed.



Part of the Arch of Titus shows the seven branched lampstand and the firepans from the Temple in Jerusalem being taken by the Romans. The Arch of Titus in Rome was built by the Romans to commemorate the overthrow of Jerusalem in AD 70.



With typical Roman thoroughness, they completely destroyed the temple. Jesus' prediction that no stone would be left on another was fulfilled.

These stones from the temple were probably thrown down by the Roman armies in AD 70. They're a reminder of the literal fulfillment of Jesus' words.

All that now remains of the Second Temple complex is a portion of the wall which supports the platform on which the temple once stood. This wall is the well-known Western or Wailing Wall which continues to be the focus of Jewish aspirations and pilgrimage today.

After the third Jewish revolt in AD 135, the Jews were dispersed throughout the vast Roman Empire. The *Atlas of Jewish History* produced by leading Jewish historian Martin Gilbert, says:

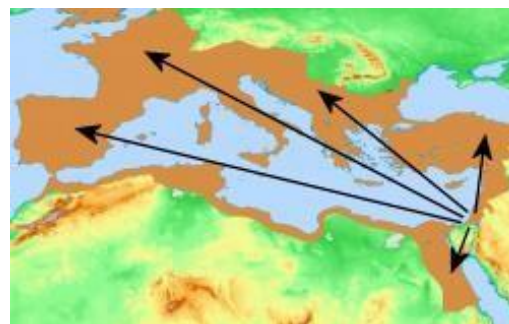
By 300 AD, the Jews had settled in every part of the Roman Empire except Britain.

There are many Bible predictions of this scattering. Here are a few examples:

Deuteronomy 28 verse 64

The prophet Jeremiah tells us that God predicted:

Jeremiah 9 verse 16





The prophet Ezekiel has a similar prediction:

Ezekiel 22 verse 15

The fact that Jews worship in synagogues that are found all round the world show how accurate these predictions have been.

We can go and see synagogues in countries round the world.

If we look at the estimated population of Jews in countries around the world, we can see that there are Jews in most countries.



all

Israel	6,103,000	Latvia	5,600
USA	5,700,000	India	5,000
France	475,000	Greece	4,500
Canada	385,300	Czech Republic	3,900
United Kingdom	290,000	Uzbekistan	3,800
Russia	186,000	Moldova	3,700
Argentina	181,300	Poland	3,200
Germany	118,000	Kazakhstan	3,100
Australia	112,500	Lithuania	2,900
Brazil	95,000	Georgia	2,800
Ukraine	63,000	Slovakia	2,600
South Africa	70,000	Columbia	2,500
Hungary	47,900	Costa Rica	2,500
Mexico	40,000	Morocco	2,400
Belgium	30,000	Bulgaria	2,000
Netherlands	29,900	Peru	1,900
Italy	28,000	Estonia	1,900
Switzerland	19,000	Croatia	1,700
Chile	18,500	Puerto Rico	1,500
Turkey	17,400	Finland	1,300
Uruguay	17,200	Norway	1,300
Sweden	15,000	Japan	1,000
Spain	12,000	Guatemala	900
Belarus	11,000	Paraguay	900
Iran	10,000	Tunisia	900
Panama	10,000	Luxembourg	600
Romania	9,400	Portugal	600
Austria	9,000	Gibraltar	600
Azerbaijan	8,700	Kyrgyzstan	500
Venezuela	8,000	Zimbabwe	400
New Zealand	7,500	Bahamas	300
Denmark	6,400	Jamaica	200

Source: www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org



In 2010, almost 60% of Jews were living outside Israel. Despite being only 1% of the world's population, there are significant numbers in many countries.

There's little doubt about the accuracy of the predictions that the Jews would be scattered all round the world!

Their land would become desolate

Next, we want to look at what the Bible predicted about the condition of the Jewish homeland during this time of scattering.

God says to the Jewish nation:

Leviticus 26 verse 33

The Jewish prophet Ezekiel talks about the land:

Ezekiel 36 verse 4

We can see how desolate the land eventually became from pictures of Palestine taken in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.



The pictures confirm the accuracy of Bible predictions that the Jewish homeland would become desolate during the time the Jews were not living there.



This desolation continued until the Jews began to cultivate the land again.

The picture shows a typical example of this effort - desolate land being prepared for agricultural use at Kibbutz Gonan, close to the Syrian border.

Jews would be persecuted

The Jews have frequently been persecuted, possibly because they seem to be different from other people.

There are many clear predictions that the Jews would suffer terrible persecution. Here is one example:*Leviticus 26 verse 5*

The persecution of the Jews by Adolf Hitler in the Second World War was one of the worst periods of persecution that the Jews have endured down the ages.

Martin Gilbert says in the preface to his *Atlas of Jewish History*.





“... I was surprised, depressed, and to some extent overwhelmed by the perpetual and irrational violence which pursued the Jews in every century and to almost every corner of the globe. If therefore, persecution, expulsion, torture, humiliation and mass murder haunt these pages, it is because they also haunt the Jewish story.”

Terrible suffering like this was predicted thousands of years earlier in the book of Deuteronomy:

Deuteronomy 28 verses 65 to 67

The terrible accuracy of these words is illustrated by the corpses discovered on the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps.



But Jewish persecution, sometimes called anti-Semitism still continues today.

In March 2008 a report “Contemporary global anti-Semitism” was presented to the United States Congress. The “Overview” on page 3 has the following comments:

“Over the last decade, U.S. embassies and consulates have reported an upsurge in anti- Semitism.”

In June 2012, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights issued a Working paper on anti-Semitism which notes ... *“that anti-semitism remains a problem for Jewish populations in particular and for civil society as a whole across the EU”*.

In the United Kingdom, an All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into anti-Semitism launched an investigation into anti-Semitism.

The Inquiry produced a September 2006 report, which states, *‘It is clear that violence, desecration of property, and intimidation directed towards Jews is on the rise.’*

We can see that although persecution on the scale of the Holocaust no longer happens, some persecution still takes place just as the Bible predicted.

The Bible predicts another aspect of this animosity:

Deuteronomy 28 verse 37

The Cassell’s English Dictionary tells us that colloquially, a “Jew” is “an extortionate tradesman” and “to Jew” means “to get the better of in a bargain”. Yet another interesting fulfillment of a Bible prediction!

This information is reproduced from the Evidence - You decide website
www.theevidence.org.uk



? Answers to questions

Verses which answer the questions:

Q 1: v 1, Q 2: v 24, Q 3: v 12

Bible timeline

