



Introduction

God promises that Israel will return to their own land.



Questions

1. What does the Lord God say he will do because Israel has borne the shame of the nations?
2. What did the Lord GOD do when he judged Israel according to their deeds?
3. How will the Lord GOD sanctify his great name which has been profaned among the nations?



Summary Points

- **v 1 to 7** God responds to the boast of the Edomites (see map) and other nations who have made the land desolate
- **v 8 to 15** The Lord GOD tells Ezekiel to prophesy that the land will be fruitful again. The Israelites will return to their land, and it will be inhabited and rebuilt
- **v 16 to 23** Because the people of Israel practised Idolatry the LORD punished them by scattering them from their land (see information)
- **v 24 to 32** GOD will cause the people to return to their land from the countries where they have been scattered. He will cleanse them from all their idolatry
- **v 33 to 38** When the Lord GOD cleanses the people the land will be fruitful and the cities will be rebuilt. Then the nations will know that the LORD has spoken about this and has done it. They will know that he is the LORD

Timeline 570 BC (see below)



Information

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 have not behaved 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.

Jewish scattering and persecution foretold in advance

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:

... “You see all of these things, don’t you? Most certainly I tell you, there will not be left here one stone on another, that will not be thrown down.”

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 not one stone would be left on another was fulfilled.

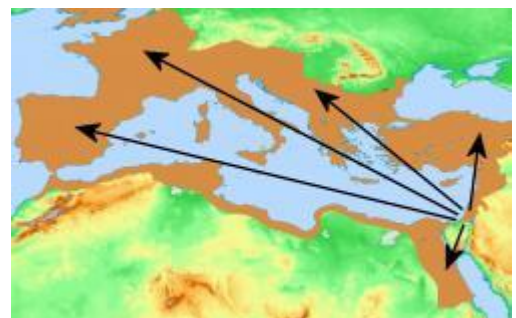


These stones from the temple were probably thrown down by the Roman armies in AD 70. They’re a reminder of the literal fulfilment of Jesus’ words.

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:

The LORD will scatter you amongst all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other end of the earth. There you will serve other gods which you have not known, you nor your fathers, even wood and stone. Deuteronomy 28 verse 64



The prophet Jeremiah tells us that God predicted:

I will scatter them also amongst the nations, whom neither they nor their fathers have known. I will send the sword after them, until I have consumed them.”
Jeremiah 9 verse 16

The prophet Ezekiel has a similar prediction:

I will scatter you amongst the nations, and disperse you through the countries. I will consume your filthiness out of you. Ezekiel 22 verse 15

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



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 all 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.

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!

Source: www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org

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:

I will scatter you amongst the nations, and I will draw out the sword after you. Your land will be a desolation, and your cities shall be a waste.
Leviticus 26 verse 33



The Jewish prophet Ezekiel talks about the land:

therefore, you mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD: The Lord GOD says to the mountains and to the hills, to the watercourses and to the valleys, to the desolate wastes and to the cities that are forsaken, which have become a prey and derision to the residue of the nations that are all around; 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.

This desolation continued until the Jews began to cultivate the land again. A typical example of this effort - desolate land being prepared for agricultural use at Kibbutz Gonan, close to the Syrian border.



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

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:

I will bring a sword upon you that will execute the vengeance of the covenant. You will be gathered together within your cities, and I will send the pestilence amongst you. You will be delivered into the hand of the enemy. Leviticus 26 verse 25

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:

65 Amongst these nations you will find no ease, and there will be no rest for the sole of your foot; but the LORD will give you there a trembling heart, failing of eyes, and pining of soul. 66 Your life will hang in doubt before you. You will be afraid night and day, and will have no assurance of your life. 67 In the morning you will say, “I wish it were evening!” and at evening you will say, “I wish it were morning!” for the fear of your heart which you will fear, and for the sights which your eyes will see.

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 comment:

“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:

You will become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword amongst all the peoples where the LORD will lead you away. 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 6 and 7, Q 2: v 19, Q 3: v 23 and 24



Bible timeline

