



Unwilling witnesses

You can see from the Middle East Tensions, Four Superpowers and Egypt sections that the God of the Bible made many accurate predictions. In each case we saw the Bible prophets making the correct prediction for each situation. One or two correct predictions could be lucky guesses! But the Bible appears to be getting it right every single time. This would strongly suggest that there is more than chance involved!

We will now look at even more amazing things!

The same God also chose to predict that a particular people would have a very unusual history and got that right as well.

Furthermore, it was predicted that nations, small and great, would try to destroy this rather insignificant people. The God of the Bible, however, has told us that we will know He exists when we see His chosen people survive against all the odds.

God's witnesses

You may have realised by now that we are, indeed, talking about the Jews. These predictions that the Jews would have a history unlike that of any other nation and would survive against all the odds are powerful evidence that the Bible comes from a power much higher than us. We hope you will see that this is yet more evidence that we can rely on what the God of the Bible has told us.



God makes it clear that He has chosen the Jews as His witnesses. Speaking of the Jews, God told the prophet Isaiah, *“You are my witnesses, declares the Lord ... that you may know and believe me”*

Isaiah 43 v 10

He's made them His witnesses to show us that He is capable of keeping to His word no matter how improbable it may seem. We can then believe other things He says that we can't necessarily substantiate.



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.

So, to start, let's think about what is commonly known about the Jews:

Firstly, most people realise that Jews are to be found in almost all countries, often in positions of influence.



Second, most of us are aware that over the centuries Jews have often experienced periods when they have suffered resentment, discrimination and even persecution. Now this is possibly because they seem to be very different from other people.

Next, it is well known that they were persecuted in the Holocaust during the Second World War.

And finally, no one who follows world news' happenings can fail to notice that the Jews are at the centre of Middle East tensions.



What you might not know, is that Jews are found in most countries of the world because they were driven from, and remained out of their homeland for 1800 years. During this time, their homeland became desolate. This national homelessness for the Jews came to an end in 1948 when the modern nation of Israel was founded.



We will put the relevant aspects of Jewish history in a logical order. We can then look at predictions about them in a way we can understand.

Firstly, we will look at the scattering of the Jews and the desolation of their homeland.

Second, we will look at the way they were persecuted and hated by other nations. .

Third, we will consider the survival of the Jews as an identifiable people without a homeland.

Next we will look at their rebirth as a nation in 1948 and the way in which their land again became fruitful.

Finally we will look at the way Israel has become a big problem to modern politicians.

Scattering predicted



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:

“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.” *Matthew 24 v 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.



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



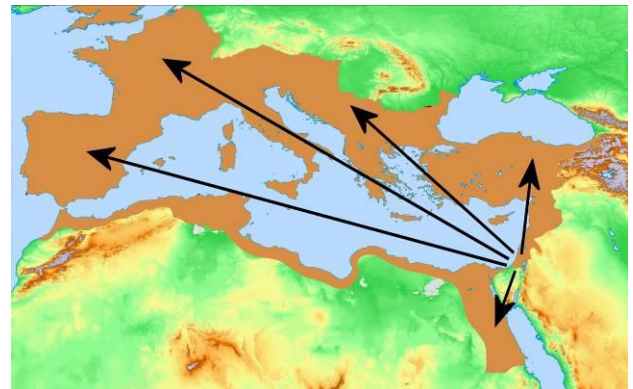
With typical Roman thoroughness, they completely destroyed the temple. Jesus' prediction that not one stone would be left on another was fulfilled. These stones from the temple were probably thrown down by the Roman armies in AD 70. They're a reminder of the literal fulfilment of Jesus' words



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 AD135, 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 among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other..."

Deuteronomy 28 v 64

The prophet Jeremiah predicted that God:

"... will scatter them also among the Gentiles [non-Jews], whom neither they nor their fathers have known..."

Jeremiah 9 v 16

The prophet Ezekiel has a similar prediction:

"I [God] will scatter you among the nations, disperse you throughout the countries..."

Ezekiel 22 v 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 all round the world.

Estimated Jewish population in 2014

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

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





The Bible correctly predicted that the Jews would be scattered all round the world

The land to 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 among the nations and ... your land shall be desolate and your cities waste”.
Leviticus 26 v 33

The Jewish prophet Ezekiel talks about:

“the desolate wastes, and the cities that have been forsaken, which became plunder and mockery to the rest of the nations all around”
Ezekiel 36 v 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.



Here we see a typical example of this effort - desolate land being prepared for agricultural use at Kibbutz Golan, close to the Syrian border.



In southern Israel, members of Kibbutz Beerli had to remove rocks as part of the reclamation process.



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



- The Bible correctly predicted that the Jewish homeland would become desolate during their scattering all round the world

Persecution predicted

The second aspect that we thought about was that 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:

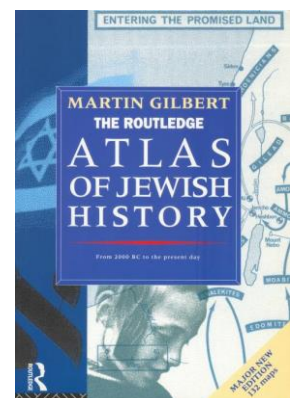
“And I will bring a sword against you ... I will send pestilence among you; and you shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy”.

Leviticus 26 v 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.”





Bundesarchiv Bild 101i-850-2285A-26
Foto: Feingold | Oktober 1944

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

“The Lord will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul. Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life. 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.”

Deuteronomy 28 v 65

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:

“And you shall become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword among all nations where the Lord will drive you.”
Deuteronomy 28 v 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!



- The Bible correctly foretold the terrible persecution the Jews would suffer



Survival of the Jews



The prophet Jeremiah compares the certainty of day following night with the certainty of the Jewish race continuing.

“Thus says the LORD: ‘If My covenant is not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth, then I will cast away the descendants of Jacob .’”

Jeremiah 33 v 25 and 26

The God of the Bible makes the bold statement that the continuation of the Jews is evidence that He is unchanging.

“For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.”

Malachi 3 v 6



Despite the efforts of many powerful nations to destroy them, the continuing existence of the Jewish people indicates that they have a God who does not change! Whenever we hear the Jews mentioned in the news, it should remind us of the God who has promised that they will survive against all the odds.



- The Bible prophets correctly said that the Jews will outlive their persecutors

Rebirth of the Nation

We'll now look at predictions fulfilled in more recent times,

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 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.



It's been estimated that between 1882 and 1948, over 500,000 Jews went back to their original homeland.



In 1917 the British army under General Allenby conquered Palestine. He entered Jerusalem on foot out of respect for the city on December 11 1917. The desire for a national homeland for the Jews was greatly encouraged by the British Government who in the same year issued the Balfour Declaration which said that:

“His Majesty's government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object.”

During the period of the British rule of Palestine, the Jews flocked back to their homeland by every means of transport available. In the 1930s Jews were arriving at Port Haifa from Germany. They were fleeing Nazi persecution.



In 1943, some arrived from the Yemen by train.



Later they were arriving at Lod airport by plane.



There was a regular stream of arrivals at the reception camps that were set up.

The prophet Ezekiel predicted this when he said:

“For thus says the Lord God. ... I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land”;
Ezekiel 34 v 13

As if for emphasis, he repeats the prediction:

“Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land’

Ezekiel 37 v 21

We can see that God is making it clear the Jews will not be re-gathered just anywhere, but it will be to their ancient homeland.

Martin Gilbert's *Atlas of Jewish History* shows that between 1652 and 1946 at least twenty places other than Israel round the world were considered as possible Jewish homelands.

For instance, in 1905, the British Government offered 5,000 square miles of the Mau Plateau in what is today Kenya as a homeland for the Jews. But the Jews wanted Palestine.



The Second World War left the surviving remnant of Jews in central Europe as displaced persons, most of whom wanted to go to their old homeland. But increasing Arab opposition to this immigration caused many problems.



On 29 November 1947 the United Nations agreed to the formation of Jewish and Arab states in Palestine.

There was much opposition to this plan and tension in the region increased even further.



Eventually on May 14 1948, David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, signed the scroll of the declaration of the State of Israel watched by Rabbi Hachoen.

The Palestine Post for the same day said the "State of Israel is born". The Jews now had a homeland again after over 1800 years without one.



The citizens of Tel Aviv cheered outside the building where the Declaration of the State of Israel was made.



As we have seen, the Bible is insistent that they would go back to their own land.

The Bible's prediction was correct despite politicians having other ideas!



- The Bible correctly predicted that the Jews would return to their old homeland

Israel to be fruitful land again

As we saw earlier, the land of Palestine was desolate before the Jews started to return. Agricultural communities known as Kibbutzim were established when the Jews began to settle in the land to reclaim the barren land and make it fertile again.



Because of Arab opposition, armoured tractors were used to plough the land.

Soon the land became fertile again and crops such as the world famous Jaffa Orange were produced.





Since the nation was reborn in 1948, Israel has become a world leader in agricultural research and development.

This has led to dramatic increases in the quantity and quality of the country's crops.



This is exactly what the prophet Ezekiel said would happen:

“But you, O mountains of Israel, you shall shoot forth your branches and yield your fruit to my people Israel, ... and you shall be tilled and sown”.

Ezekiel 36 v 8 and 9

He then repeats the prediction later:

“The desolate land shall be tilled instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass by. So they will say, “This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden””;

Ezekiel 36 v 34 and 35



- The Jews land became fruitful again when the Jews returned just as the Bible predicted

Cities to be rebuilt

The returning Jews had to make homes for themselves in this desolate land. In 1909 the founders of Tel Aviv met in these desolate sand dunes to parcel out land that had been purchased.





Today, Tel Aviv is a thriving modern city. Many other modern cities have been built on barren land since the Nation of Israel was established in 1948.

This is yet another fulfillment of Bible prophecy. *“I will multiply men upon you ... and the cities shall be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt.”* *Ezekiel 36 v 8 to 10*

The ancient city of Jerusalem has also become a thriving modern city since the establishment of the state of Israel. God told the Jewish prophet Ezekiel: *“And Jerusalem shall be trampled by the gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.”* *Luke 21 v 24*



Jesus said that Jerusalem would be overrun by non-Jewish nations for a limited period. Jerusalem was under Roman rule in the time of Jesus. The city was then in the hands of various non-Jewish powers until 1967, when the Jews again regained control. Here we have another example of a precise accurate prediction.



- The Bible correctly predicted that Jewish cities will be rebuilt and that Jerusalem would again come under Jewish control



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