

The most certain proof that we are living the final chapter of human history can be found in a small country in the Middle East. The entire nation is about the size of Connecticut. The people have been victims of hatred everywhere. They have fled for nearly 2000 years. They have been subject to pogroms and genocide campaigns. That the Jews have continued to exist as a distinct race, in view of what they have been exposed, is a miracle. Yet against all odds they have become a distinct nation and have returned from exile to the very same homeland they had to flee. This miracle nation continues to prosper and has been victorious five times against Muslim attack.

The first dispersion of Israel occurred when they were conquered and destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar in about 605 BC. In 536 BC the Jews were allowed to return. But many remained a province in a succession of empires: Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece and finally Rome. During this time they dwelt in the land but did not possess it. They lived as a people under occupation until AD 70, when Rome destroyed Israel as a nation and people. More than a million Jews were slaughtered and the Temple was utterly destroyed and the surviving Jews were scattered as slaves. Jews were forbidden to assemble into groups of more than 3 under threat of death. Most of them ended up settling outside of Israel in ghettos in Europe or Asia.

Throughout the centuries they have endured one pogrom and persecution after another. They suffered homelessness and humiliation, but still the wandering Jews kept themselves separated and hoped in the promises of their prophets.

This second dispersion was prophesied by Moses in ***Deuteronomy 28:64-68*** <sup>64</sup> ***“For the LORD will scatter you among all the nations from one end of the earth to the other. There you will worship foreign gods that neither you nor your ancestors have known, gods made of wood and stone!***

**<sup>65</sup> There among those nations you will find no place of security and rest. And the LORD will cause your heart to tremble, your eyesight to fail, and your soul to despair. <sup>66</sup> Your lives will hang in doubt. You will live night and day in fear, with no reason to believe that you will see the morning light. <sup>67</sup> In the morning you will say, 'If only it were night!' And in the evening you will say, 'If only it were morning!' You will say this because of your terror at the awesome horrors you see around you. <sup>68</sup> Then the LORD will send you back to Egypt in ships, a journey I promised you would never again make. There you will offer to sell yourselves to your enemies as slaves, but no one will want to buy you."**

Jesus mentioned it in *John 5:45-47*, ***"Yet it is not I who will accuse you of this before the Father. Moses will accuse you! Yes, Moses, on whom you set your hopes. <sup>46</sup> But if you had believed Moses, you would have believed me because he wrote about me. <sup>47</sup> And since you don't believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?"*** This is clearly different from the first dispersion as predicted by Jeremiah. Moses spoke of Jews being dispersed from one end of the earth to the other and Christ spoke of Moses prediction after the first dispersion. Just as Jeremiah spoke of restoring Israel, Ezekiel spoke of the restoration of Israel after the second dispersion. In *Ezekiel 37:1-14* ***"The LORD took hold of me, and I was carried away by the Spirit of the LORD to a valley filled with bones. <sup>2</sup> He led me around among the old, dry bones that covered the valley floor. They were scattered everywhere across the ground. <sup>3</sup> Then he asked me, "Son of man, can these bones become living people again?" "O Sovereign LORD," I replied, "you alone know the answer to that." <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Speak to these bones and say, 'Dry bones, listen to the word of the LORD! <sup>5</sup> This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Look! I am going to breathe into you and make you live again! <sup>6</sup> I will put flesh and muscles on you and cover you***

***with skin. I will put breath into you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD. <sup>7</sup> So I spoke these words, just as he told me. Suddenly as I spoke, there was a rattling noise all across the valley. The bones of each body came together and attached themselves as they had been before. <sup>8</sup> Then as I watched, muscles and flesh formed over the bones. Then skin formed to cover their bodies, but they still had no breath in them. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "Speak to the winds and say: "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, O breath, from the four winds! Breathe into these dead bodies so that they may live again. <sup>10</sup> So I spoke as he commanded me, and the wind entered the bodies, and they began to breathe. They all came to life and stood up on their feet—a great army of them. <sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones represent the people of Israel. They are saying, 'We have become old, dry bones—all hope is gone.' <sup>12</sup> Now give them this message from the Sovereign LORD: O my people, I will open your graves of exile and cause you to rise again. Then I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> When this happens, O my people, you will know that I am the LORD. <sup>14</sup> I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live and return home to your own land. Then you will know that I am the LORD. You will see that I have done everything just as I promised. I, the LORD, have spoken!"***

This graphic, prophetic allegory accurately describes the history of the Jews becoming a sovereign nation after almost 2500 years. It is important to note that 250 years before the time of Ezekiel's vision, Israel had been divided into kingdoms. The Ten Tribes of the north were the Northern Kingdom, called Israel and two tribes in the south called Judah. By the time of Ezekiel, the Northern Kingdom had been hopelessly dispersed among the nations, only Judah remained. When Judah was conquered by King Nebuchadnezzar, Ezekiel was among the captives carted off to Babylon. He wrote the book in captivity. Ezekiel recorded the

restoration of an already long-dead northern nation together with Judah. The Jews got their name from this last kingdom, Judah. They were not called Israelites until after they became a nation again in 1948. But this also was miracle, as they could not agree on what to call themselves until one day before becoming a recognized state. They argued over the name Zion, or Judea and finally settled on Israel, but Ezekiel predicted this in his vision.

### **The Dreyfus Affair**

December 1894, in France, a military court found Captain Alfred Dreyfus, a Jew, guilty of espionage on behalf of Germany. He was imprisoned on Devil's Island, although he was innocent. In 1896 evidence came to light that a Major Esterazy was guilty and that Dreyfus was wrongly accused. But this evidence was covered up by military intelligence. Evidence began to emerge of the cover up and the country was divided. This strongly showed anti-Semitic overtones and set off a series of events that showed European Jews that even though they lived in relative comfort, they still were not welcomed. In 1906 Dreyfus was fully exonerated and promoted to the rank of major.

In 1897 the idea of Jews returning to their homeland was born. Theodore Hertzl, a reporter who had covered the Dreyfus trail, organized European Jews to a meeting in Basel, Switzerland. The bones were beginning to rattle. They called themselves Zionists named for Mount Zion in Jerusalem. At this time, they would have been willing to accept a homeland anywhere and even asked England to establish a Jewish homeland in the British colony of Uganda. England denied the request and suggested that they look toward Palestine instead. Palestine was a neglected part of the Turkish Ottoman Empire and had very few inhabitants. Encouraged by England, Jews began to immigrate to Palestine. The Jews that supported this immigration were called "religious zealots" or Zionists. Many Jews were very comfortable in Europe, as long they kept to the ghettos, they lived very

securely. But as more Jews left for the homeland, Palestine began to respond to the returning exiles and began to prosper.

About mid 1800's Theologians began look at the last chapter of the Bible as a key to Bible prophecy. Men like John Nelson Darby believed and taught that the literal interruption of prophecy was the only correct one. He began to preach that before Christ could return, Israel had to be literally reborn in its ancient homeland. In New York in 1878 and Chicago in 1886, Richard Graves held important prophecy conferences. Graves was a professor and Darby was one of his students. He was a Bible literalist who wrote several articles stating that despite the Jews rejection of Christ, God was not done with them and that God's promises still held. He argued that even though the current spotlight was on the Gentiles, this by no means annulled God's unconditional promises to Israel. The doctrine of premillennialism was born which stated Jesus must return at a time of global holocaust to rescue his people and then establish an earthly kingdom for 1000 years. Dispensationalism is simply God's outline of history that divides it into several stages. His prophets predicted all these stages. We are currently in the Age of Grace, headed for the Tribulation Period or Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> Week.

So as Jews were beginning to think about going home and starting to immigrate to Palestine, Christians were changing their way of thinking about the Bible prophecy. Many Christians believe God was done with the Jews and that his focus was now on the Christians and that all of God's promises for the Jews were transferred to the Christians. It was people like Graves and Darby that started to change Christianity.

In the late 1800's and early 1900's, things began to heat up for the European Jews. It did not start with the Holocaust. There were several pogroms against the Jews. These were violent attacks leveled against the Jews which took away their property,

money, jobs and rights. Some estimates say between 1880 and 1914 over 60,000 Jews arrived in Palestine bringing the population to about 100,000.

It is important to note what Palestine was like before the Jews arrived. "Palestine" was the southern Kingdom of Judea until 135 A.D., when it was renamed by the Romans, Philistina, or land of the Philistines. They did this to aggravate the Jews. The Arabic pronunciation is "Palestine," since they could not pronounce the "phi." The Ottoman Empire ruled Palestine from 1517 to 1917. The Muslims in the area held no particular interest in the desolate land until the Jews started to return. To this day most Muslims know Jerusalem as Al Quds, which means "the farthest Mosque." The elevation of Jerusalem to the "3<sup>rd</sup> Holiest Muslim site" happened during WWI.

On November 5, 1914, Britain declared war on Turkey, the home of the Ottoman Empire. The Turks were allies with Germany. Britain had control of the Suez Canal and they wanted to maintain control of the trade route to India. But British control of Egypt would not be enough for them to maintain control of the region and Britain knew it would have to cultivate new allies in the region. So an agreement was signed between Britain and Hussein ibn Ali, the first leader of an independent Arab state. Britain promised away Turkish lands in exchange for Arab aid in defeating Turkey. The areas promised are today, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt. But the promised also covered most of Palestine.

During WWI, a British scientist by the name of Dr. Chaim Weizmann developed a synthetic acetone that helped Britain develop smokeless gunpowder. Britain was fighting WW1 with old equipment some of which had come from the US Civil War. The problem was the smoke from their guns gave their position away and made it easier for the enemy to locate and destroy

them. With the invention of Dr. Weizmann and the development of smokeless gunpowder, Britain was able to win the war. In gratitude, the British government offered to grant Weizmann a request. Dr. Weizmann was a Zionist leader and asked for a homeland for his people. Lord Balfour was a member of the British Parliament and also an avid believer in the literal interpretation of Bible prophecy, mostly through the influence of John Darby. Lord Balfour along with Lord Lindsay argued this request for Weizmann and in December 1917 Britain implemented the Balfour Declaration and Weizmann got his wish, Britain promised Palestine to the Jews. This is the second of three different agreements to three different groups of people Britain has made for the same land. Shortly after this second agreement, Britain captured Palestine and ended 400 years of Ottoman rule.

Just prior to the end of the war, Britain and France began negotiating what they would do with the Ottoman Empire. The third agreement was born, called the Sykes-Picot Agreement. This divided the Ottoman Arab lands into five categories. Some under French rule and some under British rule. Palestine was to be under joint control of the two nations. There was no mention of a separate homeland for the Jews. Neither was there any attempt to honor the agreement with Hussein.

By the end of WWI, Great Britain found itself in a position of having promised all things to all people. The Hussein Agreement gave the land east of Damascus to Hussein of Mecca, the Sykes-Picot Agreement divided the land between Britain and France and the Balfour Declaration gave Palestine to the Jews. They solved their problem by simply dividing up the territory by drawing borders, freehand over a map of the Middle East. Britain, France and the Arabs together decided. But most of the control was in British hands. The French created Syria and Lebanon. The British carved out Iraq and Transjordan. Arabs now claimed they

wanted control over all of the Middle East and used the Hussein Agreement as their charge. There was no mention of a Jewish homeland. Due to the lack of understanding on the part of the French and British diplomats, they drew boundary lines that artificially divided ancient tribes and divided tribes into nation-states. This set the Middle East into the perpetual state of war we still witness today. The Balfour Declaration was still alive and gaining public support back in Britain, but due to Britain's need for Arab oil, they proposed a plan to divide Palestine into two states, one Jewish and one Arab. Britain stated they had not intended to give all of Palestine to either Jews or Arabs. And so began the partition plans that still go on today.

The Jews received the plan to divide into two states well, but the Arabs did not. The Arabs and Jews continued to co-habitat together. During this time, the British immigration policy began to change. The Arabs objected to the large numbers of Jews coming to the area. Britain's need for Arab oil became more important than keeping the promise to the Jews. In March 1939, the British government actually wrote a letter to the German government asking them to also discourage immigration.

The land of Israel continued to call the Jews home. All agreements to divide the land were rejected by the Arabs and accepted by the Jews. So nothing was done and they continued to co-habitat. But back in Europe things were starting to heat up for the Jews. They were becoming comfortable in Europe and fewer and fewer Jews wanted to leave to go to the harsh wilderness of Palestine.

Adolph Hitler's Nazi party started slowly blaming the Jews for everything, from the loss of WWI to the economy. Instead of just rounding them up and stealing their property and placing them in ghettos, the Nazi's decided to eliminate them all. They started in Germany and rounded up all Jews they could find, men, women

and children and sent them to their death. Then they started in the countries they began to occupy. Six million Jews marched like gentle sheep to their slaughter. But something else began to emerge at this time, a “never again complex.” The Jews that emerged for the Holocaust were more determined to get a Jewish homeland. As terrible as it was, the Holocaust was a catalyst for the rebirth of the State of Israel. In order for the infant nation to have a chance to survive, it would need strong support from nations of the world. History shows that support would never have happened without the Holocaust. It also shows that the world stood by even though they had knowledge of what was taking place. France even sent French Jewish citizens to Germany knowing what they would face. In May of 1939 a ship called the St. Louis was carrying 930 Jewish refugees set sail for America. The US refused to accept a single one. Cuba took 22 and the rest were sent back to their death. The Nazis used this fact in their defense at the war trials years later.

In Feb. 1945 the leaders of the soon-to-be victorious Allied powers meet in Yalta. Their purpose was to destroy Nazism and insure that another “Germany” would never happen again. What it did was to divide the world in two. On one side was the Communist East and on the other was the Capitalist West. The Allied leaders re-drew the map of Europe. These leaders were Franklin D. Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and Josef Stalin. It was at Yalta that the United Nations was born. A new world order had been formed. Western leaders signed away half of Europe to Stalin. Roosevelt was seriously ill during this conference and seemed to give in to all of Stalin’s demands. Churchill apparently saved the western nations from giving more of Europe to Stalin. Thus began the Cold War and the boom of technology, as man had never seen before. Today the computer and technology advances we have seen are greater and faster than any other time in history. With these advances, it makes global rule and

monetary control possible. This is setting the stage for the Antichrist to come into power.

After Yalta, the West recognized the danger presented by Stalin and Communism. And the new democracy in the Middle East was struggling for recognition. The East and the West wanted control of the oil in the region.

It was against this backdrop that David Ben Gurion asked the UN to recognize the new state of Israel. Russia hoped Israel would become an ally in the Middle East and the US was determined that would not happen. In a very real sense, the Cold War was an essential element in the realization of Ezekiel's vision. The Cold War also enabled USSR to build the most formidable arsenal of weapons for mass destruction ever known to man. That arsenal is now equipping Muslims for the predicted war with Israel. Also, in response to the threat of Soviet power, Europe began formulating agreements like the Treaty of Rome, The Benelux Treaty, and so on. These are the foundation of a modern European state, which I believe will be the precursor of the predicted Revived Roman Empire. This is becoming more and more evident as we have seen with the advent of the Euro Dollar.

Ben Grein was born in Czarist Poland in 1886 and went to Palestine in 1906. Like most Jews upon arriving at Palestine, he gave himself a Jewish name and became David Ben-Gurion.

On May 14, 1948, 2500 years after Babylon captured and the destruction of the first temple, 1878 years after the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the second temple, Ben Gurion declared the new state. Due largely to the guilt of the Holocaust, the Cold War and the struggle for oil in the region, the UN accepted Israel's declaration of Independence in accord with the 1947 UN Partition plan. That plan gave a tiny sliver of land along the coast to Israel, the Gaza Strip. And the West Bank to the

Arabs. And Jerusalem was declared an open city under independent control.

The Arabs rejected every previous plan for dividing the land and now they would be forced to accept what had been given to them by the UN. The very next day on May 15, 1948, five well-equipped Muslim armies attacked the new tiny State of Israel from all sides. They were determined to completely annihilate them. According to the Arabs the only good Jew was a dead one.

The settlements of Israel were poorly equipped and had no training. Arab radios announced that the “War of Annihilation” had begun. The Arab nations sent 650,000 trained men against only 45,000 Israeli “troops.” Under a British mandate, it was illegal for a Jew to carry a gun, although the Arabs could carry them openly. So the Jews had only a handful of weapons. Two out of three fighters had no weapons at all. Against the modern Arabs jet power; Israel had 20 unarmed Piper Cubs. And the Arabs controlled the only airstrip in Palestine. Outnumbered by more than 100 to one, the Israeli army went into battle. If they did not have a weapon, they took one off of a dead Arab. They went into battle with a promise from God in the Torah, in ***Leviticus 26:8, “Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand, and your enemies will fall before you by the sword.”*** As we know, Israel miraculously defeated this Muslim attack.

Where did the present day Palestinians come from?

Weeks before the war, Arab families within Palestine, were encouraged to abandon their homes and flee to Arab countries. They were promised that within a matter of weeks, they would be allowed to return and reclaim their homes as well as the homes of the dead Jews. The new Israeli government pleaded with them to stay and fight for a common homeland, all but a few left to wait for the annihilation of the Jews. They expected to return after the

hated Jews were killed. Instead, after the war, they found themselves miserable refugees in Arab states that did not want them. Unable to return to their homes after the war, they now became the Palestinian refugees without a home. This is why they fight so hard against the Jews today. Many still hold deeds to land and homes that are no longer there after 50 years. Fathers have passed this hatred onto their sons and it is now an honor for them to die in the “holy war.”

By their very survival, the Jews prove God is exactly who He says He is, and, His council shall indeed stand, and He will do all His pleasure. The birth of Israel sets a pattern that is drawing us toward the end of days and the Day of the Lord. Israel fought five wars in its short 50 years; The War of Independence, the Sinai Wars, the 1956 Suez Crisis, the Six-Day War and the Yom Kippur War. In each war, Israel ended up with just a little bit more of the territory God promised to the “seed of Abraham.”