

The Rebirth of the State of Israel

One of the most fascinating happenings in our generation is the fulfillment of the prophecies of the Prophet Isaiah as recorded in Isaiah 11:10-16 **Isaiah 11:10,"On that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious."**

The State of Israel was re-established on May 15th, 1948. The Jews had been scattered for 60 generations. They had been second class citizens in most countries, despised, rejected, persecuted and hunted down. Yet miraculously they survived, they had preserved their national identity and their language and won back their ancestral land, promised by God to Abraham. Today Israel is indeed a place of glorious rest.

The land is beautiful. There are snow capped mountains, fertile vallies, sparkling lakes, wonderful seaside resorts and spacious deserts. The Sea of Galilee in the north lies 212 meters below sea and the Dead Sea in the south lies 396 meters below sea level and is the world's lowest land elevation. The most important river is the Jordan, 200 km long. The waters of the Sea of Galilee are fresh and the Dead Sea is saltier than the ocean and rich in minerals.

11-12 In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the remnant that is left of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia, from Hamath and from the islands of the sea. He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth.

After becoming an independent State the population quickly swelled by the arrival of Jewish immigrants from surrounding Arab countries anxious to return to the homeland. The arrival of Jewish people is continuing until today. They come from Europe, North America, South America, North Africa, Asia, the Pacific nations and since 1989 a massive influx from Russia and the former member countries of the Soviet Union.

In 1948 the population of Israel numbered 806,000. Today after 58 years of independence the State of Israel numbers over 7 million residents. This past

year 138,000 babies were born, and 31,000 new immigrants arrived, 9,300 came from the former Soviet Union, 3,700 from Ethiopia, 2,500 from France 2,000 from the United States, some from Argentina and the rest from other countries. The Jews in Israel constitute 38% of the world's total Jewish population of 13.3 million.

The Jews make up 88% of the people living in Israel or over 5.5 million. The non-Jewish population consists mainly of Arabs who make up 13 % of the total population. These Arabs are 77% Muslim and 13% Christian.

The city of Jerusalem has a population of 718.900.

For over 3,300 years, Jerusalem has been the Jewish capital. Jerusalem has never been the capital of any Arab or Muslim entity. Even when the Jordanians occupied Jerusalem (1948-1967), they never sought to make it their capital, and Arab leaders did not come to visit.

King David established the city of Jerusalem as the capital of the whole land of Israel.

In the Jewish Bible, Jerusalem is mentioned over 669 **times** and Zion (which usually means Jerusalem, sometimes the Land of Israel) 154 times, or 823 times. The Christian Bible mentions Jerusalem 154 times and Zion 7 times.

Jerusalem is not mentioned once in the Koran. Mohammed never came to Jerusalem.

¹³ Ephraim's jealousy will vanish, and Judah's enemies will be cut off; Ephraim will not be jealous of Judah, nor Judah hostile toward Ephraim.

¹⁴⁻¹⁵ They will swoop down on the slopes of Philistia to the west; together they will plunder the people to the east. They will lay hands on Edom and Moab, and the Ammonites will be subject to them. The LORD will dry up the gulf of the Egyptian sea; with a scorching wind he will sweep his hand over the Euphrates River.

He will break it up into seven streams so that men can cross over in sandals.

¹⁶ There will be a highway for the remnant of his people that is left from Assyria, as there was for Israel when they came up from Egypt.

Arab–Israeli Wars

Series of wars and territorial conflicts between Israel and various Arab states in the Middle East since the founding of the state of Israel in May 1948. These include the war of 1948–49; the 1956 Suez War between Israel and Egypt; the Six-Day War of 1967, in which Israel captured territory from Syria and Jordan; the October War of 1973; and the 1982–85 war between Israel and Lebanon. In the times between the wars tension has remained high in the area, and has resulted in skirmishes and terrorist activity taking place on both sides. As the prophecy states “**“Judah enemies will be cut off”** **Israel has not lost a war even though the odds were 40 to 1 during the first war.**

First Arab–Israeli War

(1948–1949) As soon as the independent state of Israel was proclaimed on 14 May 1948, it was invaded by combined Arab forces and full-scale war broke out, which ended finally with Israeli victory and a series of armistices. Israel retained the western part of Jerusalem, Galilee, and the Negev, and went on to annex territory until it controlled 75% of what had been Palestine under British mandate. The Arab states subsequently imposed an economic boycott on Israel and continued to make raids across the border, which eventually prompted an Israeli attack on the Egyptian garrison in the Gaza Strip in February 1955. The war also produced a flood of Arab refugees from Israel and the war areas.

Second Arab Israeli War

(29 October–5 November 1956) After Egypt had taken control of the Suez Canal and blockaded the Straits of Tiran, causing the [Suez Crisis](#), Israel, with British and French support, invaded and captured Sinai and the Gaza Strip. Under heavy US pressure, and after the entry of a United Nations (UN) force in 1957, Israel finally withdrew its forces.

Third Arab–Israeli War, the Six-Day War

(5–10 June 1967) In the events leading up to the war of 1967, Egypt (then the United Arab Republic) blockaded the Straits of Tiran, and introduced troops into Sinai. Israel launched a pre-emptive attack on three fronts (against Egypt, Jordan, and Syria) on 5 June 1967 and within six days its armed forces achieved a victory that resulted in the

capture of the Golan Heights from Syria; the eastern half of Jerusalem and the West Bank from Jordan; and, in the south, the Gaza Strip and Sinai peninsula as far as the Suez Canal from Egypt. This victory earned only a limited degree of peace, although the occupied territories – which doubled the area under Israel's control – greatly enhanced the Israelis' feelings of security.

Fourth Arab–Israeli War, the October War or Yom Kippur War

(6–24 October 1973) This war was so called because the Israeli forces were taken by surprise on Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement), a Jewish holy day. In recognition of their failures since 1948 Egypt and Syria chose to start the war on the day when the Israelis would be at their most vulnerable, as the whole country effectively shuts down for the 24 hours of Yom Kippur. It started with the crossing of the Suez Canal by Egyptian forces, which made initial gains, though, in the face of Israeli counter-attacks, there was some later loss of ground by the Syrians in the north. The war had 19,000 casualties, and also led to a shift of certain sectors of international opinion against Israel.

Fifth Arab–Israeli War

(6 June 1982–1984) From 1978 the presence of Palestinian guerrillas in Lebanon led to Arab raids on Israel and Israeli retaliation, and on 6 June 1982 Israel launched a full-scale invasion of Lebanon. By 14 June Beirut was encircled, and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Syrian forces were evacuated (mainly to Syria) 21–31 August. In December 1982 multinational peace-keeping forces were sent in to keep the warring factions in Beirut apart. In February 1984 there was a unilateral withdrawal of the multinational forces. However, Israel maintained a 'security zone' in southern Lebanon, and supported the South Lebanese Army militia as a buffer against Palestinian and Hezbollah guerrilla incursions.

Events in the 1990s

In July 1993, following the killing of seven Israeli soldiers in south Lebanon, Israel launched a week-long attack on the area. In July 1994, Israel and Jordan sign a declaration ending the 46-year-old 'state of war' between them. In April 1996, after Hezbollah guerrillas fired rockets into northern Israel from south Lebanon, Israel launched a seventeen-day attack on the country, known as the 'Grapes of Wrath'. In May 2000, Israeli troops were

withdrawn from south Lebanon, and were replaced by Lebanese and UN forces. However, negotiations with Syria regarding the Golan Heights failed to reach agreement.

Lessons we can learn from the fulfillment of this prophecy

God does what He promises

God can be completely trusted

God's Word is totally trustworthy

God takes care of His people

God takes His own time in answering prayers

With God nothing is impossible

When God is on your side you never lose

His Promise to return to earth is also a sure promise

When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound and time shall be no more

And the morning breaks, eternal bright and fair;

When the saved of earth shall gather over on the other shore,

And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there

When the roll is called up yonder, 3 X

When the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there

Oh that bright and cloudless morning when the dead in Christ shall rise,

And the glory of His resurrection share,

When the chosen ones shall gather to their home beyond the skies

And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there

Let us labor for the Master from the dawn to setting sun,

Let us talk of all His wondrous love and care.

Then when all of life is over and our work on earth is done.

And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.