

Biblical Prophecy Concerning Israel

Definitions

AD – anno Domini (in the year of our Lord). Dating system referring to the number of years after Jesus' birth.

Asherah pole – Symbol of Asherah, the pagan goddess of fertility.

Baal – pagan god of life and fertility and associated with agriculture.

BC – Before Christ. Dating system referring to the number of years before Jesus' birth.

Bethel – The area known today as Jerusalem.

High places – Elevated altars for worshiping false gods such as Asherah and Baal. Sexual immorality and other vices were practiced in honor of these gods. Human sacrifices were sometimes offered.

Judah – Southern Israel.

Jerusalem – Capital of Southern Israel.

Repent – A complete change in heart and action, involving a conscious decision, away from sin and toward God.

Samaria – Northern Israel.

Zion – Israel.

Important Dates

Amos prophesied during 760-750 BC

Isaiah prophesied during 745-695 BC

Jeremiah prophesied during 626-586 BC

Northern Israel was taken captive by Assyria in 721 BC

Southern Israel was taken captive by Babylon in 606 BC

Israel's return from captivity was permitted by Persia in 538 BC

Second destruction, exile, and captivity of Israel began in AD 70

Israel became a nation again in 1948.

Prophecy Concerning the Formation of Israel, and of non-Jewish Nations fathered by Ishmael and Esau

High level summary

Genesis 12:1-3 Covenant with Abraham

Genesis 35:9-12 Jacob, the son of Isaac and grandson of Abraham, to father the nation of Israel.

Genesis 17:20-21; 36 Ishmael and Esau to father non-Jewish nations.

Abraham's sons, Isaac and Ishmael

Genesis 16:1-16; 17:18-26; 21:1-21

Abraham and Hagar (Sarah's maidservant) begot Ishmael.

Abraham and his wife Sarah later begot Isaac.

Genesis 17:20 Ishmael to father 12 rulers and a great, non-Jewish nation. (Ishmael is generally recognized by Muslims to be the father of several prominent Arab tribes, and the ancestor of Muhammad, the prophet of the Quran.)

Genesis 16:12; 25:17-18 Ishmael to be a wild man. His hand will be against everyone and everyone against him. His descendants settled in the area from Havilah to Shur, near the eastern border of Egypt.

Isaac's Sons Jacob's and Esau

Genesis 25:21–28 Isaac and Rebekah begot twins, Jacob and Esau.

Genesis 25:22,23 The babies jostled each other in Rebekah's womb. The Lord said that two nations were in her womb and that the older child would serve the younger.

Genesis 25:25-26. Esau came out first. Jacob come out grasping Esau's heel.

Genesis 25:29-35 Jacob coerces Esau to trade his birthright for food.

Genesis 26:34-35 Esau marries outside of the Jewish ancestry. (Nations speculated to have descended from Esau include the Edomites, Kenizzites, Amalekites, and Pagan Rome.)

Genesis 27:1-29 Jacob and Rebekah trick Isaac into giving Jacob his blessing. (Bible scholarship indicates that this teaches that God's will will always be done, sometimes through, or in spite of, people's sinfulness.)

Genesis 27:41-44 Esau holds a grudge against Jacob.

Genesis 33:1-16 Jacob and Esau reunite.

Genesis 35:9-12 Jacob to father the nation of Israel.

General Prophecy Concerning Captivity and Restoration of Israel

Leviticus 26:1-13, promise of prosperity if Israel obeys God's commands.

Leviticus 26: 14-39, warning of destruction if Israel does not listen to God.

Leviticus 26:40-46, promise of restoration if Israel repents.

First Captivity of Israel Foretold

Amos 3:11

Amos 3:12; Isaiah 6:13, a few will be spared.

Amos 4:2, dragged away with hooks.

Amos 4:3, go out through breaks in the wall.

Isaiah 6:11-12

Jeremiah 25:8-14, King Nebuchadnezzar to conquer Judah.

Jeremiah 25:11; 29:10-11, Israel restored after 70 years.

Daniel 9:2, recognized Jeremiah's prophecy of 70-year captivity.

Isaiah 44:28; 45:1-6; 45:13, Cyrus named to conquer nations, free Israel, and allow Israel to rebuild the temple.

Reasons for God's Judgement of Captivity for Israel

Norther Israel (Samaria)

Amos 3:10

Amos 4:1; 8:4-6, No concern for the needy.

2 Kings 15:8-28; 17:1-2, many kings did evil.

2 Kings 17:7-23, worshiped false gods, sacrificed children in fire.

Southern Israel (Judah)

2 Chronicles 28:1-4; 33:1-7,21-23, Kings Ahaz, Manasseh and Amon worshiped false gods, placed idols in God's temple and throughout the land, and sacrificed their children in fire.

Jeremiah 25:1-7, people did not listen to God's word through the prophets, did not turn from their evil ways.

Daniel 9:3-19 Daniel's prayer of confession of his and Israel's sins.

Fulfillment of Captivity of Northern Israel by Assyria

2 Kings 15:29-30; 17:3-6,24

Fulfillment of Captivity of Southern Israel (Judah) by Babylon

2 KINGS 24; 25:1-25

2 Kings 25:4, fulfillment of Amos 4:3 (above.)

2 Kings 25:8-9, temple destroyed in 19th year of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon.

2 Kings 25:12, fulfillment of Amos 3:12 and Isaiah 6:13 (above.)

2 Chronicles 33:10-11, fulfillment of Amos 4:2 (above.)

God's Forgiveness and Restoration

2 Chronicles 33:12-17, forgiveness of King Manasseh after he repented.

Ezra 1,2, Cyrus releases the exiles and allows them to rebuild the temple. Fulfillment of Isaiah 45:1-6; 25:11; 29:10-11 (above.)

Ezra 3; 6:13-22, Israel was obedient in offering sacrifices, rebuilding the temple, and celebrating feasts. They gave thanks and praise to God with great emotion (Ezra 3:10-13.) They repented in heart and action.

Notes

1. From Jeremiah 25:1 and 2 Kings 25:8 Jeremiah prophesied the first captivity of Judah 18 years before it happened.
2. Prophecy of Cyrus to rebuild the temple (Isaiah 44:28-45:6) took place before Cyrus was born. In Isaiah's day Judah had not yet even been taken captive, and the temple had not yet been destroyed. More than 150 years later Cyrus, king of Persia, conquered Babylon and permitted the Jews to return to Israel to rebuild the temple.

Biblical Prophecy Concerning the Second Captivity of Israel

Second Captivity Foretold

Leviticus 26:27-39, Warning of destruction and exile if Israel does not listen to God and continues to be hostile toward Him.

Luke 19:41-44, Jesus' prophecy of destruction.

Amos 9:14-15, Israel restored permanently.

Reason for God's Judgement of Second Captivity of Israel

Matthew 26:3-4,47-68; 27:20-23,39-44, Many Jews were hostile toward Jesus, the Son of God.

Luke 19:42,44, Many Jews did not recognize Jesus as God.

Second Captivity Fulfilled

In AD 70 the Roman legions invaded Israel and destroyed everything that stood for Judaism. They smashed and burned the temple. In AD 135 the land was confiscated and sold to Gentiles by Hadrian. Since then the Jews have dispersed throughout the world. They certainly have been persecuted in the lands of their enemies. A well-known example is the Jewish holocaust by Nazi Germany during World War II.

Permanent Restoration of Israel Fulfilled

This appears to be happening today. Israel became a nation again in 1948. Many Jewish exiles have returned to their homeland from Europe and Ethiopia. Overall, more than one million Jews have returned.