

History of Israel and the Dragon (Satan)

(appropriate for High-schoolers and older)

Michael R. Daily, 10/15/06

Other youth bible studies by Michael Daily available at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

(can be taught in either one or two sessions depending on how many of the verses are read in class)

The Bible records the history of Israel from its beginnings up to the time of Christ. Knowing that the Messiah would come from Israel, Satan has attempted many times to destroy Israel but failed. Of course God has always been in control. He has allowed Satan to attack Israel for purposes of disciplining them for their disobedience but He has not allowed Israel to be destroyed. Tonight we are going to review the history of Israel and Satan's attempts to destroy Israel. But we are not going to stop at the time of Christ. We are going to review the history of Israel from its beginnings up to today.

For some reason we think of the Israel of today as different from the nation the Bible talks about. We call them Israelites in the Bible and Israelis today. The truth is it is the same nation that God is still watching over and protecting miraculously, and Satan is still trying to destroy.

This does not mean that everything that Israel does is right. In fact, as a people they don't follow Christ.

Romans 11:25-29

For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery--so that you will not be wise in your own estimation--that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; 26and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, "THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB." 27"THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS." 28From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of God's choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers; 29for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

So, why does God protect them? Because of the promises he made to His friend, Abraham, and for the sake of His name. Its kind of like promising your close friend that after he died you would take care of his kids. Even though his kids may be obnoxious and unlovable you take care of them - not because they deserve it, not because you like them, not because there is anything special about them – you do it because of the promise you made to your friend.

Genesis 15:7-18

And He said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess it." 8He said, "O Lord GOD, how may I know that I will possess it?" 9So He said to him, "Bring Me a three year old heifer, and a three year old female goat, and a three year old ram, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon." 10Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, and laid each half opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds. 11The birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, and Abram drove them away. 12Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, terror and great darkness fell upon him. 13God said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. 14"But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions. 15"As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you will be buried at a good old age. 16"Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete." 17It came about when the sun had set, that it was very dark, and behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a flaming torch which passed between these pieces. 18On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I have given this land, From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates

Satan has persecuted Israel throughout history and it continues to this day. Even as a boy 40 years ago I thought it was odd that such a small country seemed to be in the news almost every week.

Revelation 12:1-13

A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; 2and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth. 3Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems. 4And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child. 5And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne. 6Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days. 7And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon The dragon and his angels waged war, 8and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. 9And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. 10Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. 11" And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death. 12" For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time." 13And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child.

Who is the woman? Israel.

Because the messiah is to come from Israel Satan has always attacked Israel. Let's look at the attacks of Satan against Israel throughout history. (draw a timeline on the board from 1800 BC to today, about the length of 3 white boards – see appendix).

Abraham moved from Ur (Iraq) to Canaan (Israel). 1800 BC

Genesis 12:1-5

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; 2And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; 3And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed." 4So Abram went forth as the LORD had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. 5Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his nephew, and all their possessions which they had accumulated, and the persons which they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan; thus they came to the land of Canaan.

Abraham had two sons Isaac and Ishmael. Isaac became the father of Jacob or Israel. Ishmael became the father of the Arab nations.

Genesis 17:18-21

And Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before You!" 19But God said, "No, but Sarah your wife will bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him. 20" As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I will bless him, and will make him fruitful and will multiply him exceedingly He shall become the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. 21" But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this season next year."

Isaac had two sons, Jacob (Israel) and Esau. Esau sold his birthright for a bowl of soup.

Genesis 35:10-12

God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; You shall no longer be called Jacob, But Israel shall be your name. Thus He called him Israel. 11God also said to him, "I am God Almighty; Be fruitful and multiply; A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, And kings shall come forth from you. 12"The land which I gave to Abraham and Isaac, I will give it to you, And I will give the land to your descendants after you."

Jacob had 12 sons who became the 12 tribes of Israel. At this time the nation of Israel was just a large family. This is when Joseph was sold into slavery in Egypt. Over time he rose to second in command of the Egyptian empire second only to Pharaoh.

The first threat of extermination of Israel was by famine. God used Joseph to save both Egypt and Israel from famine. The promise of Genesis 12 that God would "bless those who bless you" was experienced by Egypt during this time.

Genesis 45:4-8

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come closer to me." And they came closer. And he said, "I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. 5"Now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6"For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. 7"God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by a great deliverance. 8"Now, therefore, it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his household and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

Then there came a Pharaoh who knew not Joseph. Satan entered his heart to make him fearful of Israel because of their numbers so he enslaved them. Israel was in slavery to Egypt for about 400 years.

Exodus 1:8-20

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. 9He said to his people, "Behold, the people of the sons of Israel are more and mightier than we. 10"Come, let us deal wisely with them, or else they will multiply and in the event of war, they will also join themselves to those who hate us, and fight against us and depart from the land." 11So they appointed taskmasters over them to afflict them with hard labor And they built for Pharaoh storage cities, Pithom and Raamses. 12But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and the more they spread out, so that they were in dread of the sons of Israel. 13The Egyptians compelled the sons of Israel to labor rigorously; 14and they made their lives bitter with hard labor in mortar and bricks and at all kinds of labor in the field, all their labors which they rigorously imposed on them. 15Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other was named Puah; 16and he said, "When you are helping the Hebrew women to give birth and see them upon the birthstool, if it is a son, then you shall put him to death; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live." 17But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt had commanded them, but let the boys live. 18So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this thing, and let the boys live?" 19The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife can get to them." 20So God was good to the midwives, and the people multiplied, and became very mighty.

Moses was born around 1300 BC during the 19th dynasty of ancient Egypt. God used Moses to lead the people out of Egypt back over to Canaan which took about 2 years (Deuteronomy 2:14-15). Because of Israel's lack of faith at Kadesh-Barnea God had them walk around in circles in the Sinai Peninsula for 38 years until the generation of adults had died off. Then they took over the land God promised to them, under Joshua's leadership. 1200 BC.

From 1200 BC to 1050 BC (150 years) was the time of the Judges. (Judges 2:6-19)
Saul was made king in 1050 BC and Israel was a unified nation until 920 BC.

In 920 BC Jeroboam led the revolt of the northern tribes and the nation was divided into the Kingdom of Israel (capital was Samaria) in the north and the Kingdom of Judah in the south. (I Kings 12:17-20)

The kingdom of Israel was taken captive by Assyria in 721 BC and was dispersed & lost.

II Kings 17:5-18

Then the king of Assyria invaded the whole land and went up to Samaria and besieged it three years. 6In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and carried Israel away into exile to Assyria, and settled them in Halah and Habor, on the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. 7Now this came about because the sons of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up from the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and they had feared other gods 8and walked in the customs of the nations whom the LORD had driven out before the sons of Israel, and in the customs of the kings of Israel which they had introduced. 9The sons of Israel did things secretly which were not right against the LORD their God. Moreover, they built for themselves high places in all their towns, from watchtower to fortified city. 10They set for themselves sacred pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every green tree, 11and there they burned incense on all the high places as the nations did which the LORD had carried away to exile before them; and they did evil things provoking the LORD. 12They served idols, concerning which the LORD had said to them, "You shall not do this thing." 13Yet the LORD warned Israel and Judah through all His prophets and every seer, saying, "Turn from your evil ways and keep My commandments, My statutes according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you through My servants the prophets." 14However, they did not listen, but stiffened their neck like their fathers, who did not believe in the LORD their God. 15They rejected His statutes and His covenant which He made with their fathers and His warnings with which He warned them And they followed vanity and became vain, and went after the nations which surrounded them, concerning which the LORD had commanded them not to do like them. 16They forsook all the commandments of the LORD their God and made for themselves molten images, even two calves, and made an Asherah and worshiped all the host of heaven and served Baal. 17Then they made their sons and their daughters pass through the fire, and practiced divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking Him. 18So the LORD was very angry with Israel and removed them from His sight; none was left except the tribe of Judah.

The kingdom of Judah (Jerusalem was the capital), led by Rehoboam, fell to the Babylonians in 587 BC and was taken into captivity. (II Kings 24)

During this time Daniel rose to second in command of the Babylonian empire and wrote his prophecies concerning the end times. Daniel appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego over the administration of the province of Babylon.

Daniel 2:46-49

Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face and did homage to Daniel, and gave orders to present to him an offering and fragrant incense. 47The king answered Daniel and said, "Surely your God is a God of gods and a Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, since you have been able to reveal this mystery." 48Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts, and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. 49And Daniel made request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego over the administration of the province of Babylon, while Daniel was at the king's court.

Satan led the Babylonian king to construct a gold statue and force everyone to worship it under penalty of death, starting with the government administrators. If not stopped this edict would have destroyed the Jewish people since they could not bow down and worship the statue. The end result is that almost all of the Jews in captivity would have been killed by Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel 3:1-6

Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, the height of which was sixty cubits and its width six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. 2Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent word to assemble the satraps, the prefects and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates and all the rulers of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up. 3Then the satraps, the prefects and the governors, the

counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates and all the rulers of the provinces were assembled for the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. 4Then the herald loudly proclaimed: "To you the command is given, O peoples, nations and men of every language, 5that at the moment you hear the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, bagpipe and all kinds of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king has set up. 6"But whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire."

God saved Israel by saving Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego in the furnace. By doing this the threat was neutralized before the rest of the Jews had to face it.

Daniel 3:26-29

Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the furnace of blazing fire; he responded and said, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, come out, you servants of the Most High God, and come here!" Then Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego came out of the midst of the fire. 27The satraps, the prefects, the governors and the king's high officials gathered around and saw in regard to these men that the fire had no effect on the bodies of these men nor was the hair of their head singed, nor were their trousers damaged, nor had the smell of fire even come upon them. 28Nebuchadnezzar responded and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, who has sent His angel and delivered His servants who put their trust in Him, violating the king's command, and yielded up their bodies so as not to serve or worship any god except their own God. 29"Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation or tongue that speaks anything offensive against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego shall be torn limb from limb and their houses reduced to a rubbish heap, inasmuch as there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way."

Daniel prophesied of the coming world empires:

Babylonians, Medo-Persians, Alexander the Great (Greeks), Romans, and a reconstituted Roman empire. So far all except the last one have come to pass.

The modern name of Babylon is Iraq. The modern name of Persia is Iran.

Daniel also wrote of the 70 weeks. The Messiah would be cut off (killed) after the 69th week after the issuance of a decree to rebuild the temple. $69 \times 7 = 483$ years. Christ fulfilled this prophecy.

539 BC: After the Babylonian empire came the Medo-Persian empire. The modern name of Persia is Iran. During this time the king of Persia (Iran) issued a decree to exterminate Israel.

Esther 3:8-14

Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws are different from those of all other people and they do not observe the king's laws, so it is not in the king's interest to let them remain. 9"If it is pleasing to the king, let it be decreed that they be destroyed, and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who carry on the king's business, to put into the king's treasuries." 10Then the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews. 11The king said to Haman, "The silver is yours, and the people also, to do with them as you please." 12Then the king's scribes were summoned on the thirteenth day of the first month, and it was written just as Haman commanded to the king's satraps, to the governors who were over each province and to the princes of each people, each province according to its script, each people according to its language, being written in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed with the king's signet ring. 13Letters were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces to destroy, to kill and to annihilate all the Jews, both young and old, women and children, in one day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to seize their possessions as plunder. 14A copy of the edict to be issued as law in every province was published to all the peoples so that they should be ready for this day.

God placed Esther as Queen of Iran and gave her favor with the king of the empire so that she could intervene for her people, Israel. She had to risk her life to do it.

Esther 4:10-16

Then Esther spoke to Hathach and ordered him to reply to Mordecai: 11 "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that for any man or woman who comes to the king to the inner court who is not summoned, he has but one law, that he be put to death, unless the king holds out to him the golden scepter so that he may live. And I have not been summoned to come to the king for these thirty days." 12 They related Esther's words to Mordecai. 13 Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not imagine that you in the king's palace can escape any more than all the Jews. 14 "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?" 15 Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, 16 "Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast for me; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maidens also will fast in the same way. And thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish."

Esther 7:1-6

Now the king and Haman came to drink wine with Esther the queen. 2 And the king said to Esther on the second day also as they drank their wine at the banquet, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you And what is your request? Even to half of the kingdom it shall be done." 3 Then Queen Esther replied, "If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me as my petition, and my people as my request; 4 for we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed and to be annihilated. Now if we had only been sold as slaves, men and women, I would have remained silent, for the trouble would not be commensurate with the annoyance to the king." 5 Then King Ahasuerus asked Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who would presume to do thus?" 6 Esther said, "A foe and an enemy is this wicked Haman!" Then Haman became terrified before the king and queen.

God used Esther to intervene and nullify this decree.

Later Cyrus released Israel from slavery and granted them permission to return to their land. Construction of the second temple begins and is completed under the direction of Haggai and Zechariah.

444 BC: The time of Nehemiah and Ezra. Building the walls of Jerusalem. Also the time of the classical period of ancient Greece.

331 BC: Persian empire (Iran) defeated by Alexander the Great. Alexander's kingdom included Israel but he did not attack. Israel convinced him they would be loyal. Jewish leaders rode out to meet Alexander to show him the prophecies of Daniel and that God had decreed Alexander would rule the world and so Israel would not resist.

160 BC: community at Qumran began from whom the Dead Sea Scrolls came.

63 BC: Rome conquers Jerusalem.

66 AD to 73 AD: Jewish-Roman wars. By 70 AD Romans destroy Jerusalem and the second temple (100,000 Jews die, 100,000 taken as slaves). Last battle of the wars was Masada in 73 AD. Romans changed the name of the land to Palestine to humiliate Israel in reference to the Philistines, their worst historical enemy. Jews dispersed out of the land. The nation of Israel comes to an end (so it seems).

Deuteronomy 28:49-53

"The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as the eagle swoops down, a nation whose language you shall not understand, 50a nation of fierce countenance who will have no respect for the old, nor show favor to the young. 51"Moreover, it shall eat the offspring of your herd and the produce of your ground until you are destroyed, who also leaves you no grain, new wine, or oil, nor the increase of your herd or the young of your flock until they have caused you to perish. 52"It shall besiege you in all your towns until your high and fortified walls in which you trusted come down throughout your land, and it shall besiege you in all your towns throughout your land which the LORD your God has given you. 53"Then you shall eat the offspring of your own body, the flesh of your sons and of your daughters whom the LORD your God has given you, during the siege and the distress by which your enemy will oppress you.

Luke 21:20-24

"But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near. 21"Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those who are in the midst of the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city; 22because these are days of vengeance, so that all things which are written will be fulfilled. 23"Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days; for there will be great distress upon the land and wrath to this people; 24and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

284 AD: Roman Empire becomes Christian (Roman Catholic Church).

400 AD: Rome sacked by barbarians.

Fast forward 800 years

Jewish immigration to "Palestine" occurs due to persecution around the world. The following nations passed laws in the years shown making it illegal for Jews to live in these countries: England (1290), France (1391), Austria (1421) and Spain (1492).

Deuteronomy 28:63-67

"It shall come about that as the LORD delighted over you to prosper you, and multiply you, so the LORD will delight over you to make you perish and destroy you; and you will be torn from the land where you are entering to possess it. 64"Moreover, the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other end of the earth; and there you shall serve other gods, wood and stone, which you or your fathers have not known. 65"Among those nations you shall find no rest, and there will be no resting place for the sole of your foot; but there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing of eyes, and despair of soul. 66"So your life shall hang in doubt before you; and you will be in dread night and day, and shall have no assurance of your life. 67"In the morning you shall say, 'Would that it were evening!' And at evening you shall say, 'Would that it were morning!' because of the dread of your heart which you dread, and for the sight of your eyes which you will see.

Leviticus 26:44-45

'Yet in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject them, nor will I so abhor them as to destroy them, breaking My covenant with them; for I am the LORD their God. 45'But I will remember for them the covenant with their ancestors, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God. I am the LORD.'"

By 1890 Jews constituted a majority in most of the cities of the land of Canaan or Palestine. In 1897 the First Zionist Congress proclaimed a decision to establish a home for the Jewish people in the land.

The Balfour Declaration of 1917 asserted that the British Government viewed with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people. This was supported by a number of other countries including the United States.

During the early 1940's Adolf Hitler successfully convinced the German people that the Jews were the cause of all their problems and his "Final Solution" to exterminate Israel systematically killed over 6 million men, women, and children.

World sympathy from the holocaust provided enough support to create the modern nation of Israel along with a Palestinian nation. Most Jews agreed but most Arabs didn't.

On May 14, 1948 the last British forces withdrew from Israel and Israel became a nation. This is the only time in history a nation has been dispersed for over 1500 years and has been reconstituted back into its original land. It is a historical miracle and a fulfillment of Biblical prophecy. The United Nations recognized the state of Israel on May 15, 1948.

Deuteronomy 7:6-8

"For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. 7" The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, 8 but because the LORD loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the LORD brought you out by a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Ezekiel 20:42-44

"And you will know that I am the LORD, when I bring you into the land of Israel, into the land which I swore to give to your forefathers. 43" There you will remember your ways and all your deeds with which you have defiled yourselves; and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight for all the evil things that you have done. 44" Then you will know that I am the LORD when I have dealt with you for My name's sake, not according to your evil ways or according to your corrupt deeds, O house of Israel," declares the Lord GOD."

Jeremiah 16:14-16

"Therefore behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when it will no longer be said, 'As the LORD lives, who brought up the sons of Israel out of the land of Egypt,' 15 but, 'As the LORD lives, who brought up the sons of Israel from the land of the north and from all the countries where He had banished them.' For I will restore them to their own land which I gave to their fathers. 16" Behold, I am going to send for many fishermen," declares the LORD, "and they will fish for them; and afterwards I will send for many hunters, and they will hunt them from every mountain and every hill and from the clefts of the rocks.

Isaiah 43:5-7

"Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, And gather you from the west. 6" I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' And to the south, 'Do not hold them back ' Bring My sons from afar And My daughters from the ends of the earth, 7 Everyone who is called by My name, And whom I have created for My glory, Whom I have formed, even whom I have made."

Ezekiel 36:22-28

"Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went. 23" I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst Then the nations will know that I am the LORD," declares the Lord GOD, "when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight. 24" For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land. 25" Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. 26" Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27" I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. 28" You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God.

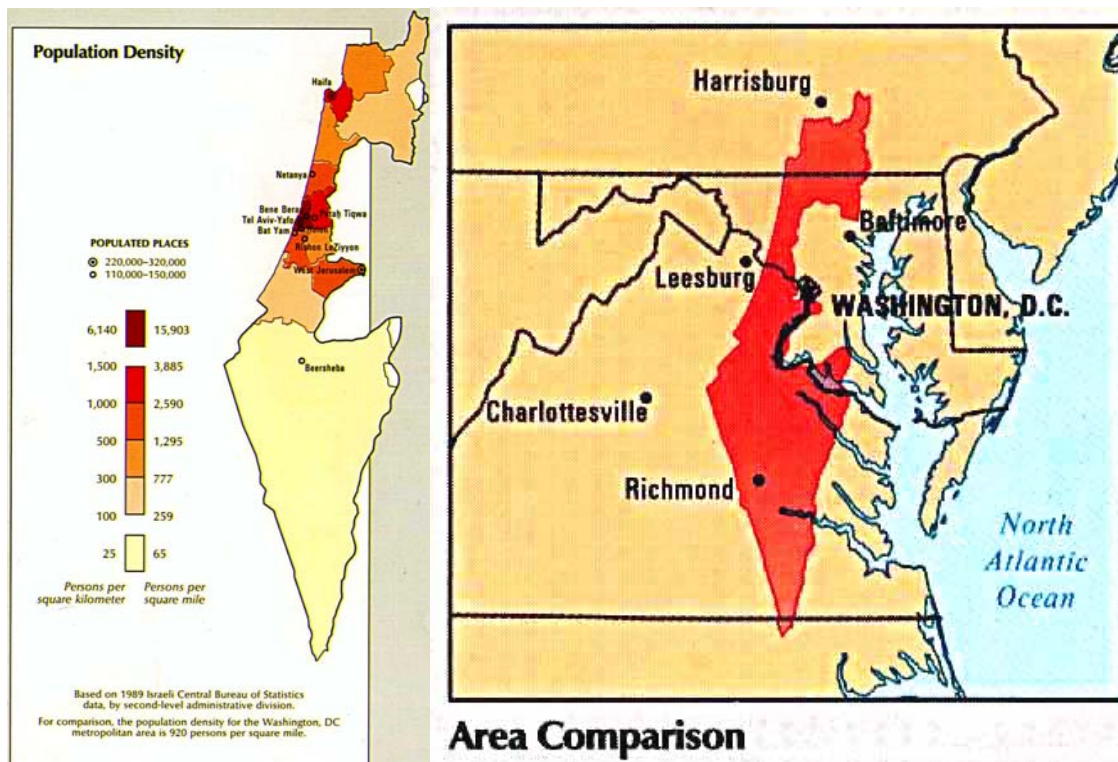
The map below shows that Israel is a very small country. The southern part of the nation is mostly uninhabited. Most people live in the thinnest part of the nation where the width of Israel from the West Bank to the Mediterranean is about 15 miles – not much wider than the city of Albuquerque! Even if the West Bank is included, the width of Israel is still less than 50 miles!



<http://ehistory.osu.edu/middleeast/CountryView.cfm?ID=105>

Source: eHistory @ The Ohio State University

As you can see below almost all the people live in the 15 mile wide section.



http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/atlas_middle_east/israel_pop.jpg

http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/atlas_middle_east/israel_area.jpg

More miracles

1948-49 War of Independence: On May 15, 1948 (the day after declaring independence) Israel (in yellow below) was invaded by Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon. Think about that for a moment. You just created a nation. You are probably going to want to sleep in the next day. Instead you are invaded by 5 other nations simultaneously!

Result: Israel miraculously repelled the invaders and increased their territory by 50%!



http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/middle_east_and_asia/israel_nbr90.jpg

On July 5, 1950 Israel passed the **Law of Return** granting all Jews the right to emigrate to Israel. Since then large numbers of Jews have emigrated from Yemen, Ethiopia, and Russia.

The Jews Will Return Home: Jeremiah 23:7-8 declares that the Jews will return to Israel from all the places they have been driven before He comes. After Israel's rebirth as a nation, millions of Jews have returned to their homeland to fulfill the prophecy.

Jeremiah 23:7,8

7"Therefore behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "when they will no longer say, 'As the LORD lives, who brought up the sons of Israel from the land of Egypt,' 8but, 'As the LORD lives, who brought up and led back the descendants of the household of Israel from the north land and from all the countries where I had driven them.' Then they will live on their own soil."

1956 Suez War: Egypt blockades the Gulf of Aquaba and Suez Canal. Israel wins the war and gains the Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula. Gives Sinai back a year later under pressure from the US.

The miracles below have occurred during my lifetime (I was born in 1959).

Six Day War: June 5 1967. Arab military command masses troops on Israel's borders, less than 10 miles from Israel's major cities. Israel destroys the air forces of Egypt, Jordan, and Syria in a single day. In less than a week Israel defeats all three nations and forces them to accept a UN cease fire. Israel gains control of the Sinai Peninsula, Gaza Strip, Golan Heights, and West Bank.

Jesus prophesied that Jerusalem would be controlled by Gentiles until the Gentiles' times are fulfilled (Luke 21:24). The Six Day War of 1967 marked the last time that Gentiles were in control of Jerusalem.

Luke 21:24

and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Yom Kipper War: Oct. 6, 1973: Syria & Egypt attack Israel on Jewish Day of Atonement (a major holiday) catching Israel off-guard. Within 3 weeks Israel wins the war, recapturing all lands lost in the initial invasions.

March 26, 1979: Egypt and Israel sign a peace treaty. Israel returns the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt. Egypt suspended from the Arab League. Anwar Sadat, president of Egypt, is rewarded for signing the peace treaty by being assassinated by his own generals.

1978: Palestinian guerrillas (PLO) use Lebanon to stage attacks into Israel.

1982: Lebanon War: Israel invades Lebanon to drive out PLO.

1985: Israel withdraws troops from Lebanon except for a security zone buffer.

1990: First Gulf war. Israel hit with Scud missiles from Iraq. US assists with Patriots.
Soviet Union permits Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel.

1994: Jordan signs peace treaty with Israel.

1996: Hamas begins suicide bombings. Iraq provides funds to families of suicide bombers.

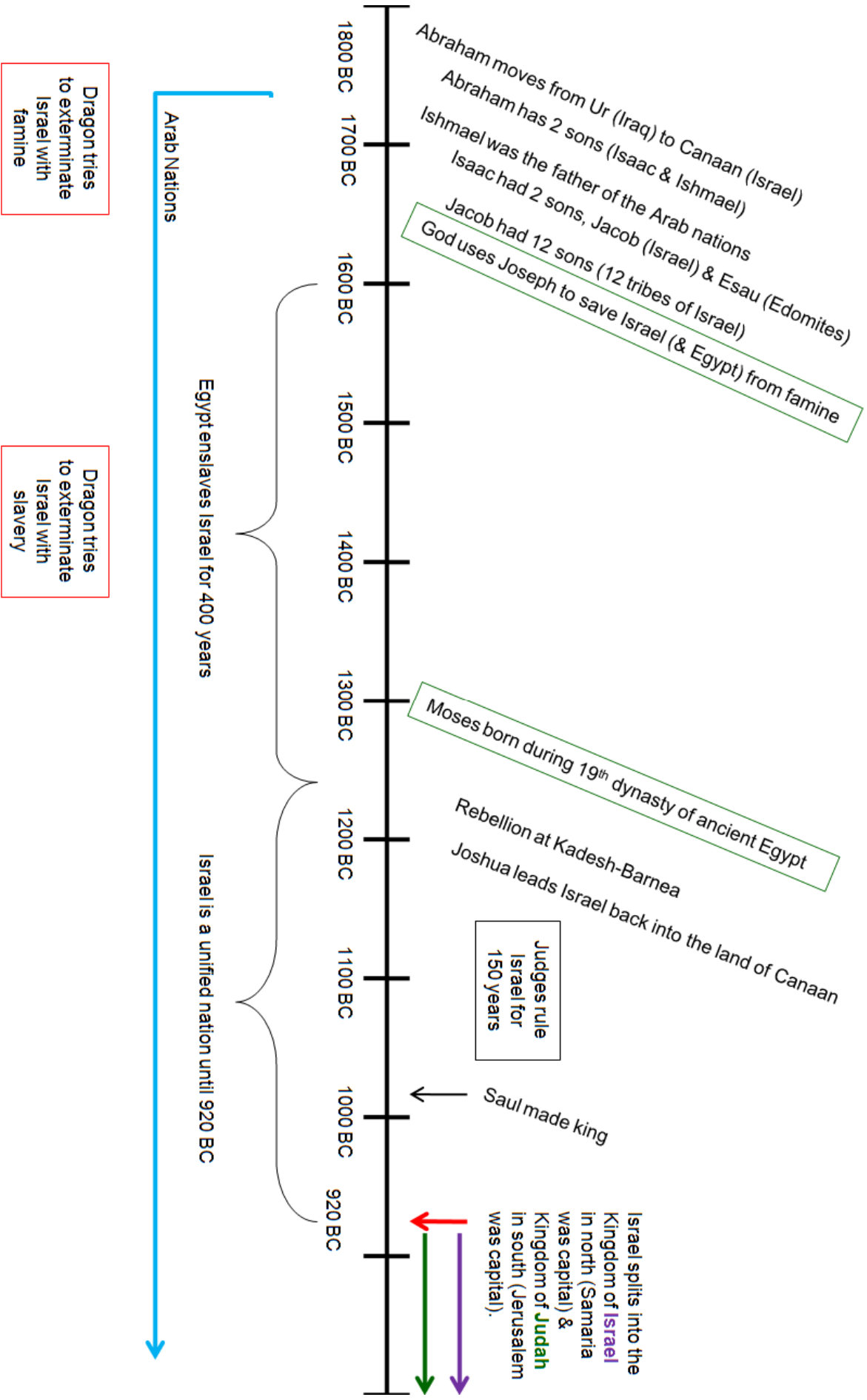
2000: Israel withdraws from security zone in Lebanon.

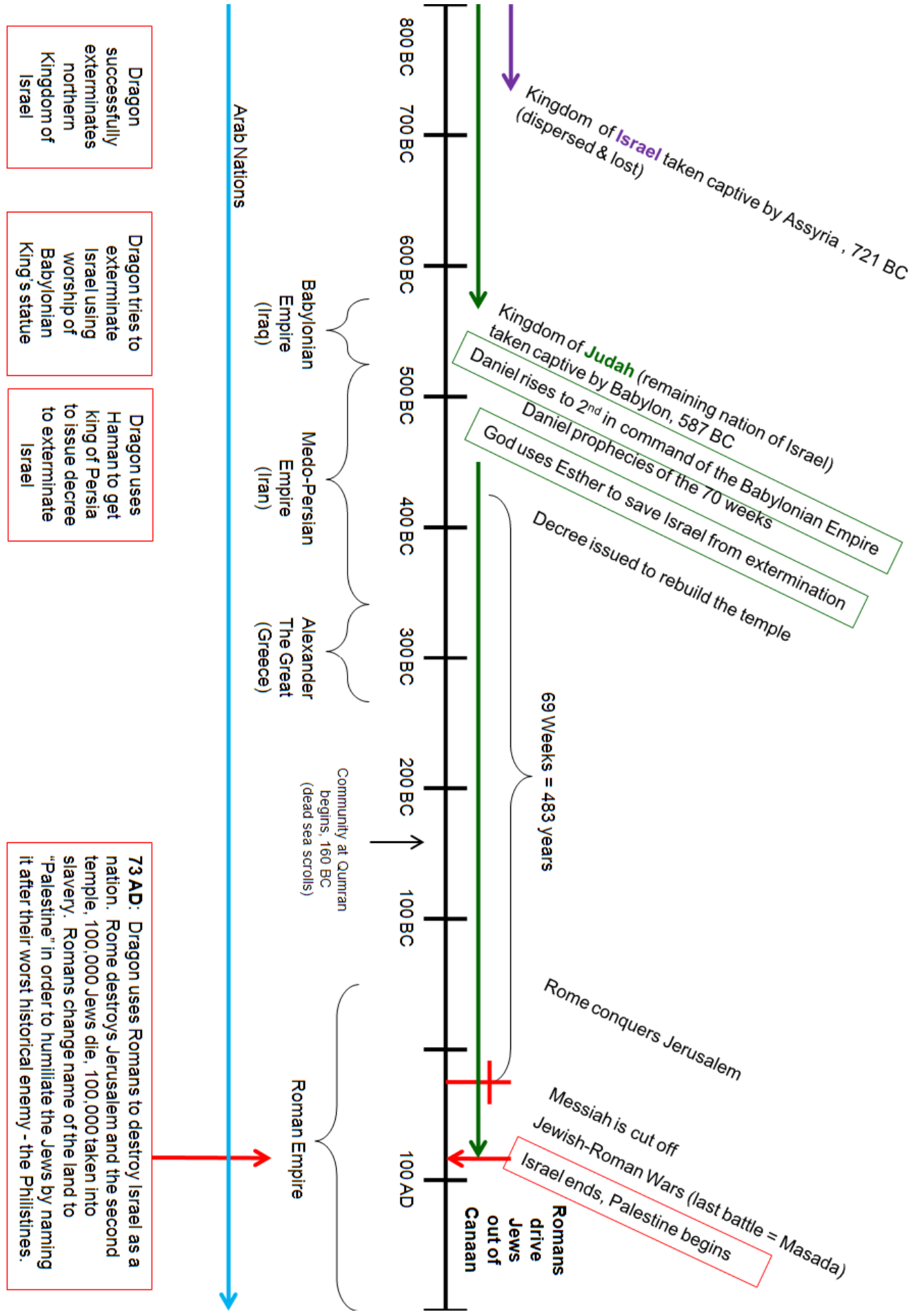
2005: Israel withdraws from the Gaza Strip.

2006: President of Iran (Persia) denies that the Holocaust happened. Vows to exterminate Israel and commits to the development of nuclear weapons. Believes the creation of world chaos is necessary for the Mahdi to come. Iran funds Hesbollah to fire missiles into Israel.

Conclusion

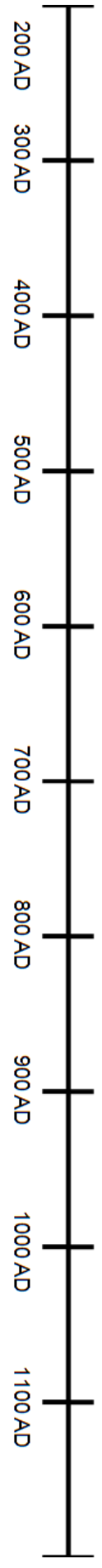
Satan has tried throughout history to destroy Israel through persecution and attempted extermination. His efforts continue to this day. But God is in control and has miraculously protected Israel for His purposes and glory as He said He would. Israel's re-establishment as a nation after 1500 years is unprecedented in the history of the world and a fulfillment of biblical prophecy. It is strong evidence that the God of the Bible is the true God.





Roman Empire becomes "Christian"
(Roman Catholic Church), 284 AD

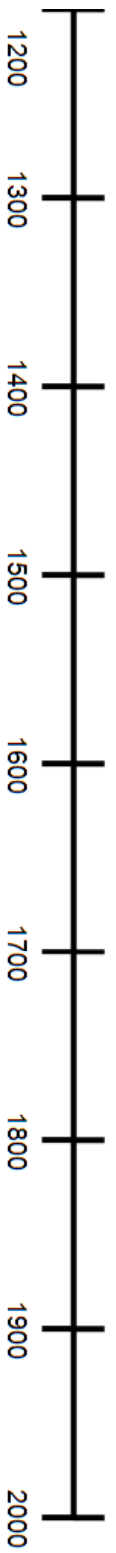
Rome sacked by barbarians, 400 AD



Roman Empire

Arab Nations





England expels Jews, 1290

France expels Jews, 1391

Austria expels Jews, 1421

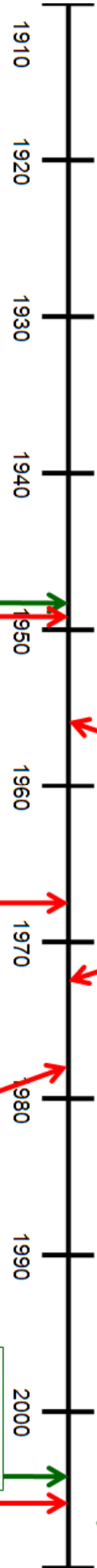
Spain expels Jews, 1492

Jewish emigration to Palestine occurs due to laws legalizing Jewish persecution

Jews make up majority in most Palestinian cities by 1890
First Zionist Congress proclaims desire to re-establish a home for the Jewish people in Palestine, 1897

Expanded on Next Page

Arab Nations



British government issues Balfour Declaration supporting establishment of a Jewish homeland, 1917

Adolf Hitler convinces German people Jews are cause of their problems
Kills over 6 million Jews.

World sympathy from Holocaust generates enough support to create the modern nation of Israel along with a Palestinian nation.

Israel passes Law of Return giving all Jews the right to emigrate to Israel, 1950

1956 Suez War – Egypt blockades Gulf of Aquaba and Suez canal. Israel gains Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula. Gives it back a year later

1973 Yom Kippur War – Syria & Egypt attack on Day of Atonement (major holiday). In 3 weeks Israel recaptures all lands lost in initial invasion.

1979: Egypt & Israel sign peace treaty. Israel returns Sinai. Egypt suspended from Arab League. President of Egypt (A. Sadat) assassinated by his own generals.

1982 Lebanon War: Israel drives PLO out of Lebanon

1985: Israel withdraws except for security zone

1990 Gulf War – Israel hit with Iraqi Scud missiles

1994: Jordan signs peace treaty with Israel

1996: Hamas begins suicide bombings

2000: Israel withdraws from security zone

World War I

World War II

May 14, 1948
Israel reconstituted as a nation

May 15, 1948
Israel invaded by Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, & Lebanon. Israel repels invasion and increases territory by 50%

Dragon tries to exterminate Israel using Adolf Hitler's "Final Solution"

1967 Six Day War
Arab military command masses troops on Israel's border, less than 10 miles from its cities. Israel destroys air forces of Egypt, Jordan, & Syria in a single day. In less than a week Israel has defeated all 3 nations. Israel gains control of Sinai Peninsula, Gaza Strip, Golan Heights, & West Bank.

1978 PLO
Palestinian guerrillas use Lebanon to stage attacks into Israel

2005
Israel withdraws from Gaza Strip

2006
President of Iran (Persia) denies holocaust happened. Vows to exterminate Israel. Commits to developing nuclear weapons. Funds Hezbollah to fire missiles into Israel.



QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *History of Israel and the Dragon (Satan)*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 11:25-29*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Genesis 15:7-18*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Revelation 12:1-13*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *History of Israel and the Dragon (Satan)*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Genesis 12:1-5, Genesis 17:18-21, Genesis 35:10-12*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Genesis 45:4-8*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Exodus 1:8-20*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *History of Israel and the Dragon (Satan)*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Kings 17:5-18*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Daniel 2:46-49, Daniel 3:1-6, Daniel 3:26-29*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Esther 3:8-14, Esther 4:10-16, Esther 7:1-6*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *History of Israel and the Dragon (Satan)*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Deuteronomy 28:49-53, Luke 21:20-24*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Deuteronomy 28:63-67, Leviticus 26:44-45*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Deuteronomy 7:6-8, Jeremiah 16:14-16, Isaiah 43:5-7*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *History of Israel and the Dragon (Satan)*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Ezekiel 20:42-44*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Ezekiel 36:22-28*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Jeremiah 23:7-8*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?