29 Thy kingdom come - Israel and the Arabs today



The photograph shows rockets being launched into Israel from the Gaza strip in 2012. Hamas often keeps its rocket launchers in residential areas to make it harder for Israel to retaliate

You can use the internet to find out more about relationships between Jews and Arabs - just search 'Israel Arabs' and follow some of the links.

Scattered

The Bible predicted in Deuteronomy 28:64-67, and in many other places, that the Jews would be scattered all over the world, as they still are. Through the prophets God foretold that this would last for many years - in fact they were scattered for nearly over 1800 years.

See also Hosea 3:4-5 and Hosea 6:1.

A new state

Israel had not really existed as a separate nation for nearly 2,500 years, but it was finally declared a new sovereign state by an act of the United Nations on May 14, 1948. Isaiah 66:8.

Regathered and restored



Many Bible passages foretell the return of Israel to their land. See for instance Ezekiel 20:34, Isaiah 11:11-12 and Jeremiah 32:44.

Jews returned to their land from Arab countries in the east, from the European countries in the west, from Russia in the north and from Ethiopia in the south. See how God's words in Isaiah 43:5-6,21 have been fulfilled.

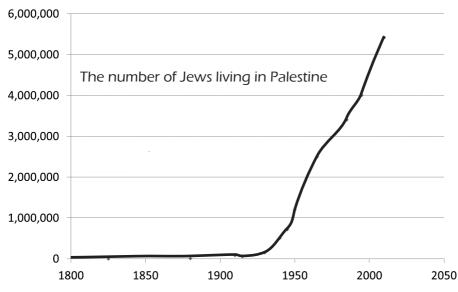
There are many cities in Israel that bear their ancient names, like Jerusalem, Cana, Nazareth, Jericho, Nain, Bethany, Bethlehem, Hebron and Gaza. But there are some that are still in ruins, like Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum. See what Jesus said in Matthew 11:21-23.

Once more the land that was desolate and barren has become productive, and Israel exports fruit to many countries. See Isaiah 27:6!

Jewish Population

	1900	1942	1970	2010
Europe	8,978,000	9,237,000	3,228,000	1,455,900
Israel	very few	not many	2,582,000	5,413,800
United States	1,500,000	4,975,000	5,400,000	5,275,000
Total world	11,273,000	15,372,000	12,633,000	13,428,300





About the Palestinians

Who are the Palestinians? Are they the same as Philistines?

In Old Testament times the land now known as the Gaza strip belonged to the Philistines – when they captured Samson (Judges 16:21) they brought him to Gaza. So are the Palestinians descended from the Philistines? – the name is similar, after all.



Amos 9:7 and Deuteronomy 2:23 tell us how the Philistines came to be in Gaza,

and Genesis 10:13-14 would suggest that they originated in Egypt.

In AD 135, the Roman Emperor Hadrian punished the Jews for their rebellion by renaming Judea as 'Syria Palaestina', so there is probably a link between the names Philistine and Palestine. Palestine became a general name for the land east of the Mediterranean.

But the Palestinians aren't descended from the Philistines, and they aren't really a nation at all. After the Six Day War in 1967, the people living in what had become the expanded territory of Israel took the name 'Palestinian' to give themselves an identity and to enable them to claim a right to the land of Israel.



Israel - Still God's people?

Will Jews be in the kingdom just because they are Jews?

Many times Israel is described as God's people (Exodus 6:7, Isaiah 41:8-10 for instance) Is that still true?

Some people say that because the Jews crucified Jesus God has rejected them. They believe that Christians are now God's people instead. Is that true?

Look at these verses to find out the answers:

 Jeremiah 46:27-28
 Romans 11:1-5

 Romans 11:25-29
 Isaiah 43:1-2, 10-12

 Romans 11:17-24
 Isaiah 43:1-2, 10-12

Join the prophecies to their fulfillment.

Already happened

Partly happened ----

Not happened yet

God

would bring

Israel back from the lands where they had been scattered. God would punish them for their iniquity but would always make sure

they would survive.

In exile their lives would be in constant danger.

> Deuteronomy 28:63-64

For many years Jerusalem would be in Gentile hands.

> Zechariah 12:2-3

Deuteronomy 28:65-67

People living in Egypt and Iraq would turn to God.

Ezekiel 36:34-35

The land of Israel would become fertile and fruit would be exported all over the world.

> When Jesus returned Israel would recognise him as their Messiah and would mourn because they had crucified him.

Isaiah 27:6 Luke 21:24

Zechariah 14:1-4

Jews would be scattered all over the earth.

Many nations would attack Jerusalem but God would intervene. Jesus would return and there would be a great earthquake that would split the mount of Olives.

> Jerusalem would be a constant source of conflict; anyone who tried to solve the problem would be hurt.

Isaiah 19:21-25

Jeremiah 30:10-11 The land of Israel would be barren and deserted but it would be restored and once again be farmed.

Zechariah 12:8-10

> When the Jews had returned to their land they would dwell in safety and would recognise that God had been with them.

> > Ezekiel 39:25-28