

As the war in Israel continues, more people are questioning if the State of Israel is really a fulfilment of biblical prophecy. But the Bible is very clear on the matter!

In the Law of Moses, God told Israel that if they kept His Commandments then He would bless them, defeat their enemies, give them abundant harvests, and cause them to be a witness to the pagan nations. But if they were unfaithful, a series of disasters would befall them, with the final punishment being removed from the Land.

Yet even if this judgement took place, they would not be exiled permanently, but would return after being severely disciplined. God promised that He would bring them back again on the basis of the promises that He made with their ancestors Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Much of the Old Testament can be seen as a working out of these principles. Take for instance the deportation to Babylon. Jeremiah was the Prophet God raised up to speak to the people of that generation.

But instead of repenting, they rejected Jeremiah and listened to the false prophets, who told them they were going to have peace and safety. However, in the midst of this message of punishment, there was also a promise of restoration:

This is what the Lord says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfil my gracious promise to bring you back to this place.”

(Jeremiah 29:10-11)

This prophecy was fulfilled when the Persian Emperor Cyrus issued a decree that the Jewish exiles could return to their land and rebuild the Temple.

Jeremiah looked even further ahead than the return from Babylon to a time when God would make a New Covenant with the House of Israel, through which their sins could be forgiven and through which they could approach God. All of these promises were provided for by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Again, if we look carefully at Jesus' prophecy, it is clear He functioned in the same prophetic way all the Old Testament Prophets did; He warned of a coming disaster upon the unbelieving Jews and then gave a promise of restoration:

There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people. They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the time of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

(Luke 23b-25)

Some commentators have argued this did not happen in 1948, but refers to some event long before that time, or still in the future. But whatever evidence such a view may have to support it, it is a clear contradiction to the words of the Apostle Paul, where he says, *"There is no authority except from God."*