

Comparison Between Modern and Prophetic Israel



Many Christians today think that when the political state of Israel was formed in 1948, it was a fulfilment of the huge quantity of prophecies and scripture relating to Israel's restoration. In this article, we hope to show that the political jostling and mandates made on Israel's behalf by Gentile nations in the last one hundred or so years are not the mighty restoration that will have every Gentile nation in awe of God. God does NOT need the US, Britain or the United Nations to bring about what He decreed.

In 1917, Britain pledged to support a Jewish national home in Palestine, in a document known as the Balfour Declaration. It reshaped Middle Eastern history and laid the groundwork for the modern State of Israel. It was not a treaty or law, but it became the policy foundation for the later British Mandate for Palestine (1920–1948).

At the time, Palestine was still part of the Ottoman Empire, and Britain was seeking strategic advantage in the Middle East during WWI. Zionist leaders had been lobbying Britain for support, and Britain also had overlapping and contradictory wartime promises to Arabs and to France, making the declaration part of a very complex geopolitical puzzle.

Britain controlled Palestine under that Mandate system, but by the late 1940s it was unable to maintain order.

Britain faced violent conflict between Jewish and Arab communities and also faced international pressure, and after World War II, Britain no longer had the strength, money, or stability to manage overseas conflicts, making continued rule of Palestine unsustainable.

Britain announced it would terminate the Mandate on May 14, 1948, leaving the future of Palestine to the United Nations.

After World War II and the holocaust, hundreds of thousands of Jewish survivors were displaced and became refugees.

The U.S. and Britain debated immigration policies.

President Truman pushed for allowing 100,000 Jewish refugees into Palestine.

The humanitarian crisis increased global support for a Jewish state.

The United Nations Special Commission on Palestine recommended dividing the land into Jewish and Arab states.

On 29 November 1947, the UN adopted Resolution 181, also known as the UN Partition Plan (1947), which approved the partitioning of Palestine.

Jewish leaders accepted the plan; Arab leaders rejected it.

Following the UN vote, fighting erupted between Jewish militias (Haganah, Irgun, Lehi) and Arab forces, with violence escalating around Jerusalem.

Both sides prepared for the British withdrawal.

On the day the British Mandate ended, May 14, 1948, David Ben-Gurion made the Declaration of Independence, establishing the State of Israel in Tel Aviv.

The U.S. recognised Israel within 11 minutes.

Within 24 hours, armies from Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq invaded the new state.

Israel fought the War of Independence for 15 months, securing territory beyond the UN-assigned borders.

In 1949, under UN mediation, Israel signed armistice agreements with neighbouring states. Israel held the Coastal Plain, Galilee, and Negev. Jordan held the West Bank and Egypt controlled Gaza.

Does this sound to you like the continuation of Gentile rule over Israel that goes back to when Egypt invaded Judah in Rehoboam's reign (1 Kings 14)?

Israel has lived under Gentile influence in their affairs and in conflict and war ever since, with attacks from its neighbours on an almost daily basis.

The Gentile nations have never seen Israel as a light unto them, and they certainly have never fulfilled Isaiah 2:4 and Micah 4:3, which prophesy them no longer at war and having no more need for weapons of war, as the prophecies say,

"beating their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

Despite this history, many Christians think that when the political state of Israel was formed in 1948, it was a fulfilment of the huge quantity of prophecies and scripture relating to Israel's restoration.

20–30% of the entire Bible deals directly or indirectly with Israel's restoration, which includes: Direct restoration prophecies, covenant promises, Messianic kingdom passages, New Covenant passages and many narrative sections anticipating restoration.

The New Testament also has many references to Israel's future (Romans 11, the four Gospels, Acts 1, the Jewish epistles from Hebrews to Jude and Revelation).

The confusion comes from failing to rightly divide the Word of truth, as 2 Timothy 2:15 tells us to,

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

The apostle Paul's writings, especially Romans chapters 9 to 11, show how important it is for us to understand how Israel and the Body of Christ are connected yet separate in God's plan for the ages. With this understanding, we're able to see how and why the majority of God's Word is about His chosen nation, Israel, and His plan and purpose for them. At the same time, Paul teaches how we, as Gentiles and the church today, came to have this dispensation of grace, this freely given salvation *without* Israel, slotted into this incredible plan.

The background understanding of Israel, what happened to her in her past, present and future, solidifies our knowledge of our own position today, and that's why Paul uses Hosea and the other prophets to bring us this knowledge.

Prophecy shows Israel scattered and awaiting return. The northern tribes have *never* returned in history.

The formation of the modern State of Israel restored political nationhood, but *not* the biblical promises of Hosea, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Isaiah, Daniel, and the *entire* timeline of prophecy.

Restored Israel *must* have specific features and requirements promised to them in covenant by God, which the modern state of Israel (1948–2026) does *not* have.

We just need to look at what Israel does NOT have today — but WOULD have if it were the restored nation of prophecy.

1. Israel does NOT have a king — but prophecy requires one who is:

David, ruling again through His greater son, Jesus Christ (Jer. 30:9; Ezek. 34:23–24; Ezek. 37:24–25).

That king, the Messiah (Jesus), would be reigning over all nations (Isa. 9:6–7; Luke 1:32–33)

Today, Israel has no king, no prince, no throne of David, as Hosea 3:4 says restored Israel *will* have, and Jesus obviously does NOT rule the nations.

2. Israel does NOT have a temple — but prophecy requires one in Ezekiel 40–48, *and* with the Priestly service restored and sacrifices reinstated (Isa. 56:7; Ezek. 43:18–27).

Modern Israel has *no* temple, *no* altar, *no* priesthood and *no* sacrifices. Hosea 3:4 says Israel will abide “many days” without sacrifice, but Hosea 3:5 shows restoration *afterwards*. Modern Israel is still in those “many days.”

3. Israel does NOT have the northern tribes restored, but prophecy requires Ephraim (the northern tribes) *and* Judah (the southern kingdom), *all* twelve tribes, to be reunited (Hos. 1:11; Ezek. 37:16–22). Only Judah (the Jews) returned in 1948; the northern tribes have never returned.

4. Israel does NOT have the national repentance that prophecy requires.

Israel seeks the Lord in Hosea 3:5, confesses her sin (Hos. 14:1–2), looks upon the Messiah whom she pierced (Zech. 12:10), receives the New Covenant (Jer. 31:31–34).

Today, Israel is largely secular, with no national turning to the Lord, no acceptance of the Messiah and no covenant renewal.

Prophetic Israel is *spiritually* restored while Modern Israel is *politically* restored only.

5. Israel does NOT have peace — but prophecy requires it.

Prophecy requires Israel to be dwelling safely (Ezek. 34:28), no more war (Isa. 2:4), Nations streaming to Jerusalem (Isa. 2:2–3).

Today, Israel is surrounded by conflict, and all-out war is a constant threat. It is not in 1000 year period of peace.

Prophetic Israel has peace under Messiah's rule, while Modern Israel has constant conflict.

6. Israel does NOT have the promised land in full.

Prophecy requires Israel's borders to be from Egypt → Euphrates (Gen. 15:18).

Today, Israel holds only a small fraction of that promised land.

Prophetic Israel will have their full land inheritance, while Modern Israel only has a tiny portion.

7. Israel does NOT have the outpouring of the Spirit.

Prophecy requires that the Spirit is poured out on all Israel (Joel 2:28–29; Ezek. 36:26–27).

Today in Israel, there is no national spiritual renewal and no prophetic fulfilment of Joel 2.

Prophetic Israel is a Spirit-filled nation. Modern Israel, well, not yet.

Modern Israel, formed in 1948, is not the fulfilment of Hosea 3:4–5 and the huge volume of prophecy relating to Israel's restoration.

Hosea 3:4-5 says,

For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim:[the religious symbols of Israel]

Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days.

That “afterward” has not occurred yet, but it most certainly will!