

# THE RADICAL GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

*A Vision of Victory for the Church of the 21<sup>st</sup>  
Century*

*Orlando Mostert*

*Chapter 6 : The Return of Israel: 141 BC not 1948 AD.*

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# KINGDOM VISION

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## KINGDOM VISION

I present to you a whole new vision of the times in which we live. All your prophecy books and televangelists tell you that the rapture is any moment, the Antichrist will take over the world, the Kingdom of God will only come one day in the future.

Here is the alternative Kingdom Vision:

- Jesus is now Lord; He is now ruling in the heavenlies.
- We are in the Kingdom Age which means we have all power now over the power of Satan and our job now is to disciple the nations.
- The world system is now under judgment and will collapse; “Babylon” is falling.
- The Kingdom of God is spreading in power and glory until it will fill the earth.

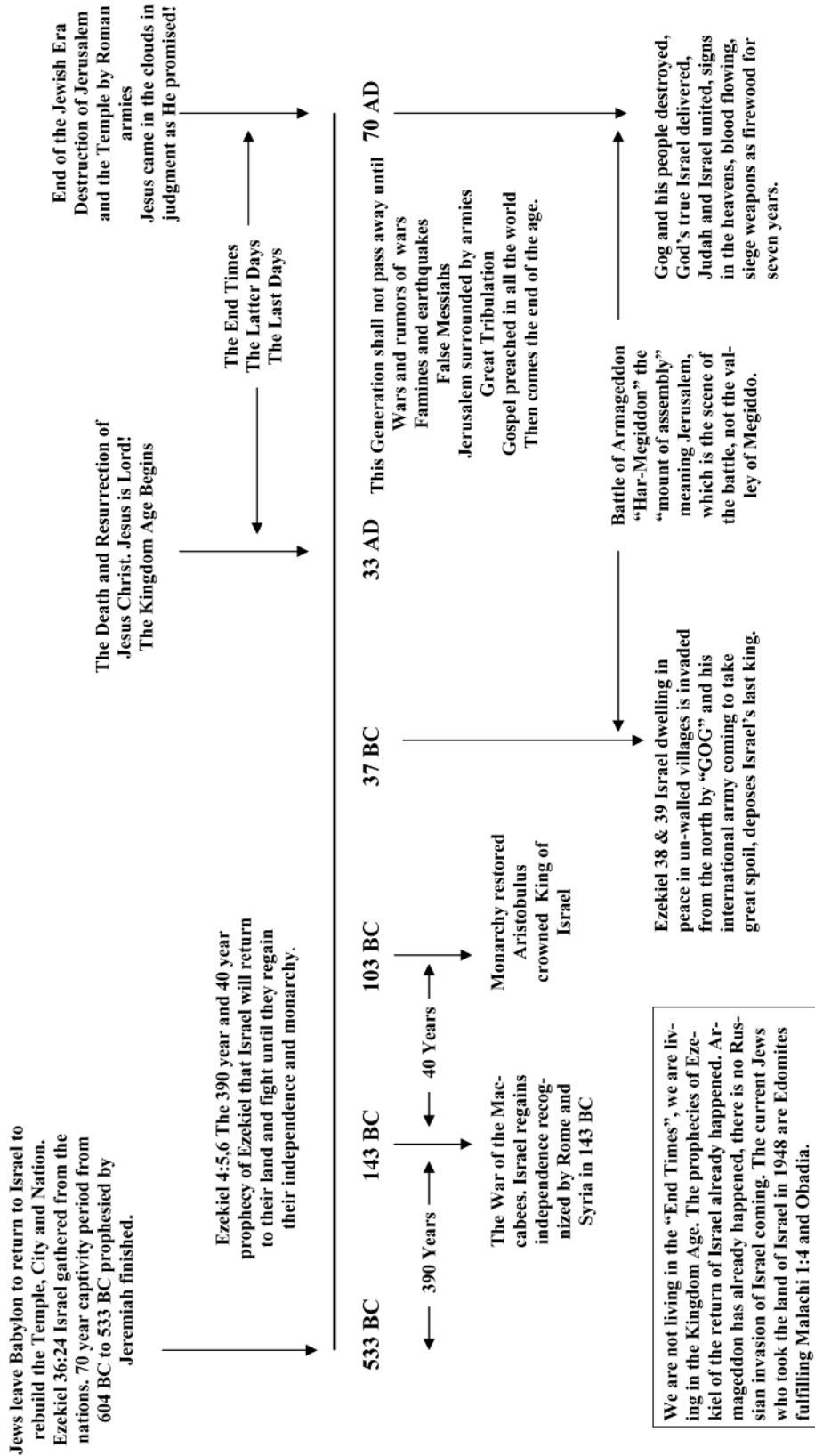
World systems are collapsing ... but the Kingdom of God is rising. Nations will be disciplined into the Kingdom of God, there are already more than 700 million charismatic evangelicals worldwide. Soon the glory of the Lord will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. Get ready for a greater outpouring of God's presence and power in his church:

The Kingdom Vision ... a vision of victory for the church of the 21 Century.

Orlando Mostert

June 2012

## END TIMES CHART



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### INTRODUCTION

The establishment of the State of Israel in 1948 is hailed by all prophecy writers and preachers as the dramatic fulfillment of Ezekiel's prophecy (36:24) that the Lord will gather Israel from the nations and restore them to their land. This historic happening is for most evangelicals the primary sign that we are now living in the end times and that the battle of Armageddon described a few chapters later by Ezekiel (Chapters 38&39) is soon to take place but will be preceded by the Rapture of the saints in the Second Coming of Christ. Truly exciting times to be alive! But is this so? Here is the alternate historically and prophetically accurate interpretation: Israel indeed returned to the land and became a nation again but it was fulfilled in 143 BC and 103 BC just as Ezekiel 4:1-6 predicted after a period of 390 and 40 years. We are now already in the Kingdom Age, Jesus is now Lord and His Kingdom is spreading rapidly throughout the world. The evangelical church has lost its Kingdom vision and centered it instead on a Jewish state that is headed for collapse!

Ezekiel was one of the captured Jews, along with Daniel, taken by King Nebuchadnezzar in 604 BC when he attacked the Kingdom of Judah. Previously in 721 BC the Assyrians had taken the northern kingdom of Israel into captivity. This was truly a time of desolation for the Jews. In 586 BC the remnants of the Jews revolted against Babylon hoping that the Lord would save the remnant of Israel but the armies of Babylon destroyed what remained of Jerusalem, the Temple and the walls of the city.

In the midst of this national catastrophe the two prophets of the Babylonian exile, Ezekiel and Daniel turned in prayer and supplication to the Lord to try to get some word from God as to why this great tragedy upon their people and what lies ahead for them as a people. Both of them received incredible prophecies regarding the restoration Israel to their land and the coming of the Messiah that would bring about a universal Kingdom of righteousness fulfilling the prophecies of the Lord for His people. All was not lost!

Critical to both their prophetic writings were clear signs the Lord gave them to watch out for and even more crucially clear dates when these things would take place. Daniel already knew from the writings of Jeremiah that their captivity in Babylon would be 70 years long (Dan.9:2) But then the Lord told him that it would take 70 weeks or 490 years (Dan. 9:24-27) before the coming of the Messiah and His kingdom and that during this period Jerusalem would be rebuilt as well as the temple and that there would be a series of 4 intervening kingdoms starting with Babylon until the coming of the Kingdom of the Messiah. This Messianic kingdom he saw as a rock carved out of a mountain and striking the 4th world empire (Rome) and then growing and growing until it filled the earth.

Ezekiel also had a dramatic word from the Lord with regard to the return of Israel back to their land. In Chapter 36:18-19 the Lord says:

*"Wherefore I poured out my fury upon them for the blood that they had shed on the land and for their idols wherewith they had polluted it; and I scattered them among the heathen and they were dispersed through the countries..."*

But then a few verses later in 36:24 the Lord makes the wonderful promise;

*"For I will take you from among the heathen and gather you out of all the countries and bring you into your own land"*

But not only will they go back to the land it will once again be **their land**. In addition He also promised to: *"...sprinkle clean water upon you and ...from all your idols I will cleanse you...and a new heart will I put in you and a new spirit will put in you..."*

The critical question is: **When was this to happen?**

Modern day prophecy writers say it was only to happen 2500 years later starting in 1948 with the establishment of the modern state of Israel. In contradiction to thousands of prophecy books and thousands of prophetic sermons I am telling you that interpretation is wrong! I am going to show you that Ezekiel was prophesying the same 500 year historical period that Daniel was.

The key to understanding the date for the restoration of Israel is Ezekiel 4:1-8. The prophecy of 390 years and 40 years. Not one prophecy book you have read will touch this explicit date prophecy because if they do it will show that Israel became a nation again in 143 BC and the monarchy restored 40 years later in 103 BC! Not 1948!

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### The History of the Return

In order to understand the historical fulfillment of Ezekiel's prophecy we need to go back into history to see how wonderfully our Lord is in control of all history. He rules over all and appoints rulers to do His bidding. This is dramatically shown by Isaiah's prophecy of Israel's future captivity and return to the land (Isaiah 11:11) and the name of the King who the Lord would raise up to do this deed of release: Cyrus the Great (Isaiah 45). This prophetic fulfillment is important to the point that I am making.

Isaiah 11:11-12 says: *"and it shall come to pass in that day that the Lord shall set his hand again **the second time** to recover the remnant of his people which shall be left...and he shall set up an ensign for the nations and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel and shall gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth."*

In verse 16 he says, *"and there shall be a highway for the remnant of his people...like it was in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt."*

In Isaiah 45:1,4,13 we read: *"Thus saith the Lord to his anointed to Cyrus...for Jacob my servant's sake and Israel my elect I have called thee by thy name, I have surnamed thee though thou hast not known me...he shall let go my captives."*

So Isaiah says that there will be a second gathering and return to the land. The first was when the Lord delivered them out of bondage in Egypt to return them to the promised land (Joseph made his children promise that they would take his embalmed corpse back to the land, when they return, for burial!). The second return would be some time in the future still to come when once again they would be in bondage to a great power.. Remember that Isaiah was prophesying sometime between 740 BC and 701 BC. The Assyrians had already taken Northern Israel into captivity in 721 BC. Isaiah had seen this happen in his time. But the southern Kingdom of Judah was also to go into captivity which happened in 604 BC when Babylon captured Jerusalem. Now comes the amazing part: In Isaiah 45 the Lord named a pagan king by name, Cyrus, and said that this Cyrus would be His instrument to release Israel so that they could return the second time to the land of Israel. This prophecy regarding Cyrus was 200 years before he was born! Cyrus became ruler of Babylon in 536 BC and after

seeing the prophecies of Isaiah regarding himself, he released the Jews from their captivity in 533 BC.

Here is the important point: There are only two returns to the land prophesied in scripture. There is no third return in 1948! The first return was after Jacob and his clan moved from the promised land to Egypt and were delivered from Egypt with great miracles to go back to the promised land. The second return prophesied by Isaiah was to be facilitated by a king Cyrus whose name he prophesied 200 years before he was born!

### The Prophecy of Jeremiah

To accurately predict the 390 year prophecy of Ezekiel 4:1-6 regarding the return and re-establishment of the kingdom of Israel we need to have a starting date. The starting date is found in the prophecy of Jeremiah 29:10:

*"For thus saith the Lord, that after seventy years be accomplished in Babylon I will visit you and perform my good word to you in causing you to return to this place."*

Daniel who with Ezekiel was captured in the battle of 604 BC by the Babylonians knew of Jeremiah's prophecy (Dan.9:2) and as the 70 years captivity drew to a close he started in earnest prayer for the deliverance of Israel from captivity. Ezekiel also knew of this Jeremiah prophecy. He and Daniel knew that 533 BC would be the year that the Jews would leave Babylon and return to the promised land to rebuild the temple and the city of Jerusalem. But returning to the land is one thing, rebuilding the nation and achieving independence as a nation again would be a very difficult task as the Lord told Ezekiel in 4:1-8.

### Ezekiel's 390 and 40 year timeline to Israel's Independence

I mentioned earlier the fascinating word of the Lord to Ezekiel in Chapter 4:1-8. In verses 4-6 the Lord tells Ezekiel:

*"Moreover lie thou upon thy left side and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it; according to the number of days that thou shalt lie upon it, thou shalt bear their iniquity. For I have appointed the years of their iniquity to be unto thee a number of days, even three hundred and ninety days; so shalt thou bear the iniquity of the house of Israel. And*

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*again when thou hast accomplished these, thou shalt lie on thy right side and shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah, forty days; each day for a year, have I appointed it unto you."*

In verses 1-3 the Lord tells Ezekiel to lay siege to Jerusalem and in fact the whole chapter gives us the idea that this has to do with the struggles of Jerusalem and its wars. He was to lay siege to it to signify its coming struggles. He was to eat food cooked with dung to signify the troubled times to come. Not one Bible commentary that I have read knows what to do with these verses. God is clearly talking about a period of 390 years associated with Israel and 40 years associated with Judah. Commentators look to the past history of Judah and Northern Israel to find periods of iniquity but Northern Israel only lasted about 210 years from Jeroboam to the Assyrian captivity and certainly the iniquities of the Kingdom of Judah were a lot longer than 40 years. But the mistake they make is to look to the past of Israel instead of to its future. Ezekiel was the prophet of the return of Israel to its land. He was giving God's prophetic time line for the retaking of the land in troublesome times! So I searched the future...

Here is what I did: I added 390 years to 533 BC and came to 143 BC and then added another 40 years to 143 BC and came to 103 BC, and then asked myself; Did anything important happen to the Jews in 143 BC and 103 BC.? The answer to that I knew from history would have to be found during the wars of the Maccabees as these dates fall in those times. To get the answer I looked up the Maccabees in my "New Unger's Bible Dictionary". The answer was astounding, something I had never seen in any prophetic books on the subject of Israel's return!

On page 795 of Unger's Bible Dictionary in the article on the Maccabees under "Simon" (Maccabee) it states..."Simon made overtures to Demetrius 11, in 143 BC and the independence of the Jews was at length formally recognized. The long struggle was now triumphantly ended and it remained only to reap the fruits of victory."

The war for independence fought by the Jews against Syria which started in 167 BC with the "Abomination of Desolation" prophesied by Daniel and fulfilled by Antiochus Epiphanes on 25 December 167 BC had finally won them their independence as a nation. A

map on page 794 is titled "Kingdom of the Maccabees at its greatest extent" (100 BC.) The map shows an Israeli state larger in extent than what David ruled! But what happened in 103 BC.?

Under the heading "Aristobulus" on page 795 it states; "Aristobulus succeeded his father John Hyrcanus as high priest and governor (his father reigned from 135 BC to 104 BC). He was the first since the captivity to assume the title of king."

I had speculated that the 390 year and 40 year prophecy of Ezekiel 4:1-6 had something to do with the return of Israel to the land. Using the Bible's own chronology of a 70 year captivity in Babylon, then I assumed something important prophetically had happened in 143 BC and 103 BC. Imagine my delight when I discovered that those were the dates when Israel achieved its independence and when it had its first crowned king since 604 BC. A 500 year struggle to regain an independent kingdom. And just as the Lord had predicted, He would cure them of idolatry forever...the zealous Maccabees destroyed all idols in Israel, re-consecrated the temple and the priesthood and taught the law to all the nation. The nation, Jerusalem, the people and the Temple were being prepared for the coming of the Messiah!

### **The Abomination of Desolation**

Let me just digress here a moment for those of you who do not know the history of this period to also see how the remarkable prophecy of Daniel 12 regarding the "abomination of desolation" was fulfilled during this time and how it led to the Jewish independence of 143 BC.

After the Chaldean empire was overtaken by the Persians the Israelites were allowed to return to Palestine to rebuild Jerusalem and their Temple. After 200 years the Persians in turn were conquered by Alexander the Great. Upon his death his vast empire was divided into four separate kingdoms by his four principal generals (as prophesied by Daniel). Ptolemy ruled Egypt and Seleucus ruled Syria. At first Palestine fell under the Ptolemy Pharaohs but eventually Syria invaded Egypt under Antiochus Epiphanies' father and he annexed Palestine into the Seleucid empire of Syria. Antiochus hated the Jewish religion and was a mad despot. Antiochus called himself "Epiphanies" meaning "the god who appears or

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reveals himself". This gives you an idea of what a madman this was. He decided he needed to Hellenize all of Palestine to integrate it fully into his empire and so forbade the worship of Yahweh in Jerusalem and built temples to Zeus forcing the people to sacrifice to the gods of Greece. Up to this time the reforms that Ezra the scribe had introduced to the people who emigrated out of Babylon had started to take hold among the Israelites. The temple had been rebuilt, the priesthood restored, the law was taught by the scribes and a strong movement calling itself the Chasidim or the Pious had been formed to see that the Law was being observed. As the Lord had promised to Ezekiel the time had come that He would rid Israel of their love of idols.

But Antiochus would have none of this and was determined to make good Greeks out of this lot and so introduced laws that forbade circumcision, Sabbath keeping, the reading of the Torah or sacrifices to Yahweh. Then the ultimate sacrilege was committed. On 15<sup>th</sup> December 167 BC a pagan altar was built on the great altar of the Jerusalem temple and on the 25<sup>th</sup> December the first sacrifice was made to Zeus; a pig! This was the "abomination that causes desolation" prophesied by Daniel. This stupid sacrilegious act by Antiochus was to cause an uprising among the Jews that was to eventually lead to their own independent state and their first king as prophesied by Ezekiel 4:1-8.

### The Maccabean Revolt

Mattathias a priest and his five sons, disgusted at the sacrilege of the Temple started a revolt against the Syrian overlords ruling Palestine. Mattathias was called "maccabee" the hammer! He handed control of the revolt to his five sons; Simon, John, Judas, Eleazar, and Jonathan. Simon was the war counsellor and Judas the first general. Many pious Jews joined the revolt with the Maccabee sons and it took 1229 days until 164 BC to recapture the Temple Mount and cleanse the Temple. It then took another 1335 days of fighting until 160 BC to take full control of Jerusalem.

The prophecy of Daniel 12:11-12 had been fulfilled: *"And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away and the abomination that maketh desolate shall be set up, shall be a thousand, two hundred and ninety days. Blessed is he that waiteth and cometh to the thousand, three hundred, five and thirty days."*

But this was not the end of the wars. They were to continue for more than 20 years under the different brothers until finally in 143 BC under the leadership of the last surviving brother, Simon, victory was secured that forced the Syrians to finally grant independence to Israel. This great year of victory was recorded in 1 Maccabees 13:41-42:

*"Thus the yoke of the heathen was taken away from Israel in the hundred and seventieth year. Then the people of Israel began to write in their instruments and their contracts, In the first year of Simon the High Priest, the governor and leader of the Jews".*

History tells us that the year celebrated here was 143 BC but their coins and written on their contracts and documents at the time listed it as year 1 of Israel's independence.! 390 years after the exodus from Babylon!

### Valley of Dry Bones

Ezekiel sees his vision of the valley of dry bones (Ezekiel 37), a vision of the death of Israel, and God asks him, "Can these bones live?" Is it possible to restore the nation, the vision and the promises? Ezekiel does not think so. But the Lord breathes on the bones and then puts on flesh and the Lord tells Ezekiel this amazing prophecy (Ezekiel 37:11- )

*"Then he said unto me, Son of man these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold they say our bones are dried up and our hope is lost and we are clean cut off. Therefore prophecy and say unto them; Thus says the Lord Jehovah, Behold I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, oh my people and I will cause you to come into the land of Israel."*

Almost 500 years after the Lord asked Ezekiel; "Can these bones live?" The answer of history was an emphatic yes! By 100 BC the people had been restored to the land, the extent of the kingdom was larger than in David's times, the temple and priesthood and monarchy had been restored. From national death to national renewed life, the word of the Lord had been true. What lay ahead though was the prophecy of Ezekiel 38 and 39, the invasion of the land by Gog and his armies while they dwelt in peace in un-walled villages. I will not handle that issue here as I have a separate article on the topic of Gog and Armageddon. Let me say however for those that have not read the article, that in keeping with my interpretation of the fulfilment of Ezekiel 36 by 103 BC, the invasion of Israel by Gog was also historically



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fulfilled by the invasion of 37 BC and the final destruction of true Israel's enemies in 70 AD with the destruction of Jerusalem, fulfilled all the historical prophecies of Ezekiel 38 and 39. There is therefore no Russian invasion of Israel coming because the Israeli state founded in 1948 was not a fulfilment of the prophecy of Ezekiel 36:24 and Isaiah 11:11!

### Objection!

Popular prophecy writers like Hal Lindsay are aware of the return of Israel to their land after the Babylonian captivity (but they totally ignore the time prophecy of Ezekiel 4:1-6 of 390 years and 40 years). But Hal Lindsey insists that 1948 is the true date for the gathering of Israel to the land for two reasons: it had to take place "in the latter days" (Ez.38:16) and Israel was to be gathered "out of all nations" and that could not apply to the return from the Babylonian captivity. (Ch. 4 of Late Great Planet Earth)

### Answer

The answer as always is to be found in scripture. Always let scripture interpret scripture! Jeremiah 30:24 describes the period after the Babylonian captivity as "the latter days". In addition the entire idea of "the last days" or the end times" as understood by all the New Testament writers was the time period of "this generation" which was their generation which was to see the fulfillment of the prophecies of the destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem. Thus the period from 33 AD to 70 AD (the destruction of Jerusalem) was "the end times" (see my article "Matthew 24 and the End Times"). Not 1948!

As for Israel to come out of all nations and to be gathered into their land, this is true! But right after Jeremiah says in verse 29:10 that the captivity would last 70 years then several verses later in verse 14 he says that "...I will turn your captivity and gather you from all the nations whither I have driven you..." Historically this actually happened. After the Maccabees reestablished the Kingdom of Judea, Jews who had strong communities all over the Mediterranean world went back to Israel. Objections answered!

### Scriptural Objection to 1948

Those of you with spiritual perception understand the difference between works of the flesh and the works

of the Spirit. They can often time look the same, but we know that unless the Lord builds the house and that house is built on the rock of His Word it will not stand. On the basis of Deuteronomy 30:1-3 (and other scriptures like Neh.1:8-9) I can safely declare that the 1948 establishment of the nation of Israel was not the doing of the Lord!

*"It shall come to pass, when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse...and you shall call them to mind among all the nations where the Lord your God drives you, **and you shall return to the Lord your God and obey His voice...** **then** the Lord your God will bring you back from captivity...and gather you again from all the nations." (Deut. 30:1-3)*

The Jews who came out of captivity and reestablished the independent nation of Israel in 143 BC were zealous for the Lord and His Word. They reestablished the Temple worship and sacrifices, established again the priesthood, destroyed idols in the land and kept the law of the Lord. That is why they qualify as the gathering of the people by the Lord from the nations according to Deuteronomy 30!

The current nation of Israel was not established in righteousness or as a result of national repentance or turning to the Lord. They are in fact in constant rebellion against the Word of the Lord. They do not practice the Law of Moses and they persecute those who preach the Word and they are one of the few countries in the world where you can be imprisoned for preaching the Gospel. There is no Godly blessing on that nation as its existence is maintained by force and generous billions in subsidies from American and German taxpayers. God is no respecter of persons! Unless they repent and turn to Jesus as Lord they will be counted among the goat nations. I praise the Lord for any Jew who comes to repentance and I encourage anyone praying for Israel as we must preach the Gospel to all nations including those who reject the Gospel like Israel. But evangelicals must get back to the Word! There is no favoritism with the Lord on the basis of race or DNA!

Below was the restored land of Israel that Ezekiel prophesied in 587 BC. The remnant of Israel returned to the land, took possession of the land, rebuilt Jerusalem and rebuilt the Temple. By 140 BC they had their own king once again, the priesthood and the

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sacrifices had been restored and they had an independent nation larger in extent than what David ruled over!

Then came the invasion of Gog in 37 BC when they were living peacefully in “un-walled” villages just as Ezekiel prophesied would happen....

### **Hasmonean Kingdom 140 BC – 37 BC**

(From Wikipedia)

