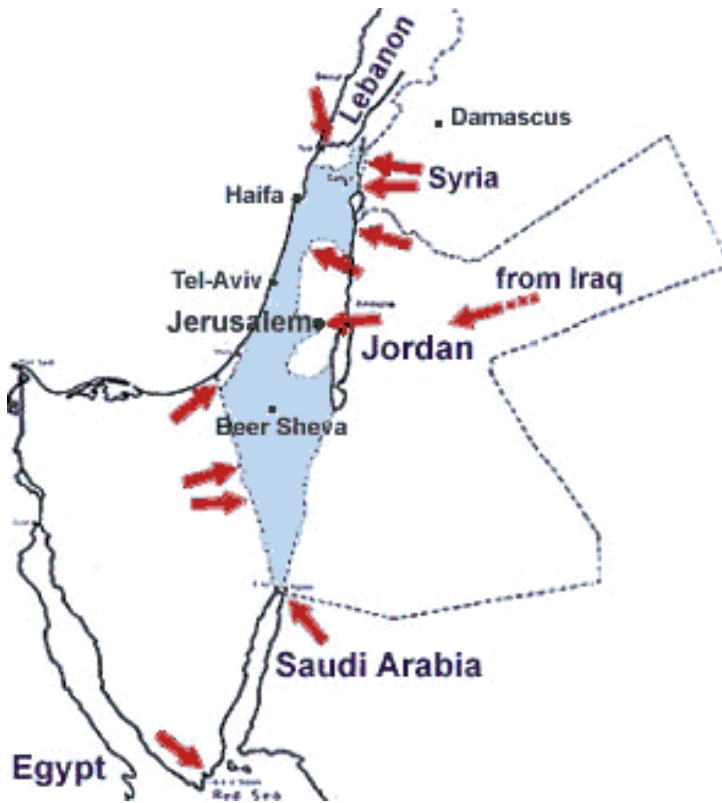
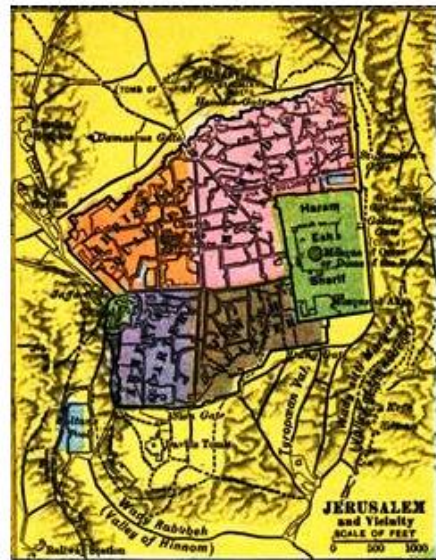


Joel 3: Prophecy or History Fulfilled?



3 Frogs, 3 Part Jerusalem (Armenian is Christian)



Joel 3 - NIV84 {The Nations Judged}

1. `In those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, 2. I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will < enter into judgment against them > concerning my inheritance, my people Israel, for they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land.

Joel 3 - KJV 1611 {Let My People Go, Home}

1. For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, 2. I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and < will plead with them there for my people > and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.

In 1611 it was prophecy; in 1948 it become history; in 1984 it became prophecy?

Much like Jewish history, Church history seems to be full of painful exiles and painful returns to prominence. Early 20th century Russia and the Jewish plight, pre-holocaust (until 1948):

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=gRdfX7ut8gw>

The Jews return to Israel in 1948: An event in world history that reminded the multitudes of God's intervention for His people, and the valley of decision we must all experience - God's ultimate intervention, in the place where Jesus, God's Son, was prophesied for four thousand years, born, lived and died for the sins of His people.

70 AD, World War 1 (Ottoman Empire loses Palestine), World War 2 (sympathy for Jews), 1948: Israel returns > 1967: 6 Day War. Excerpts from Wikipedia:

Along with these aerial attacks Jordanian troops also crossed the armistice lines and took (1948 – Valley of Jehoshaphat) Government House, the UN headquarters on the Biblical “Hill of Evil Counsel” in the no-man’s land between the two countries, directly threatening Israeli positions in southern Jerusalem, and finally provoking a counterattack.

Again, quoting King Hussein: At 12:30 on that 5th of June came the first Israeli response to the combined bombing by the Jordanians, Iraqis and Syrians. (Hussein, p 68) : By 8 PM on June 7 both sides had accepted a UN cease fire ending the fighting on the West Bank, leaving Israel in complete control of the territory.

David Rubinger's famed photograph of IDF paratroopers at Jerusalem's Western Wall shortly after its capture.

From left to right: Zion Karasenti, Yitzhak Yifat, and Haim Oshri - David's mighty men.



A few years back a WW II Vet was telling me of his experience of going to Israel after the 6 Day War as an advisor. He was driven literally from 'Dan to Beersheba'. During the trip they went through a large valley containing all the captured Egyptian war materials, including 'a lot of tanks' (Russian I believe).

And back in the 80's (last century) I was waiting my turn in a barber shop in New Jersey. A newsman was telling us all about his witness to the 6 Day War, and being an observer of the famous tank battle between Israel and Egypt. Seems like he could see both sides coming at each other in this large valley, when suddenly he heard this 'loud roar' that still puzzles him. Shortly thereafter the Egyptians abandoned their tanks and started a run back to Egypt. Wow.

Joel 3:14. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. 15. The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. 16. The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel. 17. So shall ye know that I am the Lord your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more.

My early memories of the Church were about teaching 'the issues' and history from the Scriptures, training men and women to be a good influence where ever they went. The Apostle Paul and even Calvin spoke to this.

And I guess that engagement is what Joel 3 (KJV) is all about: Israel's return to the world stage, and old issues.

Christendom has been historically about engaging the problems of the Middle East and Israel.

If our governments are favorable to Israel and Christianity, something positive happens. Not only there but here, even if it takes a war. 'Pray for the peace of Jerusalem'.

Right now, our governments and judiciaries seem to be more interested in eliminating God, Jesus, and the Big 10 or Law and Order.

Anyway: After WW II, Christian and Jewish influence, especially here and England, wanted to get Israel back to its homeland.

The United Nations, or 'all the nations', setup Govt. House in the Valley of Jehoshaphat to keep peace. 1948. God was 'pleading a case for Israel'.

Defense attorney, not a prosecutor. Watch Perry Mason?

(Wow, does God impose His desires and commands, or plead with us to submit, or else?)

Peace between Israel and say those around Israel or 'the heathen' around Israel (Iraq, Syria, Egypt, etc.).

In 1967 all hell broke loose, Israel was attacked from all sides. Plowshares into spears, etc.

Of course, with UN help, Israel was successful, and they secured their borders. And Israel has flourished (new wine, etc.).

But it has been an ongoing struggle ever since, including and especially today's diplomatic fiasco from Washington. A man and administration of lawlessness.

Sorry I could not do a verse by verse. But I have a theory that if we look for history first (and apply it correctly), then prophecy, fulfilled or not, is easier to define. Does that make sense?