

Thus says the Lord: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more."

Thus says the Lord: "Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work, declares the Lord, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy. There is hope for your future, declares the Lord, and your children shall come back to their own country.

-Jeremiah 31:15-17

PARENT NOTE: Today's activity is another puzzle! You know what to do.

On this sixth day of Advent, our prophecy touches on something sad, but it also points to the ultimate gladness that is yet to come.

Have you ever lost something or someone that meant a lot to you? A favorite toy, a family pet, a loved one? When we lose something precious to us, it brings us deep sadness, and we may cry and grieve. That's what the first part of this prophecy is talking about. Around the time of Jesus' birth, we see great loss of precious life that caused weeping and deep sadness.

What's something that brought you comfort when you were sad? Did you pray and ask God for comfort? The Holy Spirit is also known as the Comforter, and He does bring us great comfort in our deepest sorrows.

The good news is that the story doesn't end in sadness! God promises that even though they will experience sorrow, they can also experience hope for the future. When God brings all His people back to Israel and Jesus returns to wipe away all tears, what an amazing comfort we can have in knowing the way the story will end in joy!

Let's take a look at the Land of Israel where God is currently bringing His people back to, a prophecy that is being fulfilled before our very eyes, little by little each day, just like the drops of water in the cup we talked about on Day 2.



Over 2,000 years ago, the Lord punished Israel for disobeying God by scattering the people among the nations and giving the land over to the Babylonians. But He promised He would leave some of them in the land and would eventually return all of them back to the land. They were ruled by other nations for many years, including the Persians, the Greeks, the Romans, and the Ottoman Turks.

By the year 1918, there were only 60,000 Jews living in their homeland - which had been renamed "Palestine" by the Romans. They tried to agree on a plan to share the land with the Arabs who also lived there, but the Arabs refused to agree to sharing the land, and they've been at war with one another ever since. Yet God has continued to bring His people back to His land and bless them! They became a nation once more on May 14, 1948 and had grown to 716,700 people. In 1967 they reclaimed their capital city Jerusalem, but continue to allow the Arabs to access their temples and worship their god. Over time, Israel's population grew again to 2.5 million people! Can you guess how many Jews live there today in 2023?

Seven million one hundred eighty one thousand!!!

God is keeping His promise to His people Israel and fulfilling prophecy TODAY!

Each person God draws back to the land is another drop in the jar of water!

Did you know Jesus also promises us that He will come back for us and take us to be with Him?

We can be encouraged by seeing God keep His promise to Israel because we KNOW that Jesus will also keep His promise to us!

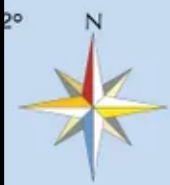


YEAR	JEWISH POPULATION
1918	60,000
1948	716,700
1970	2,582,000
2023	7,181,000

Cut out the puzzle and learn about the map of Israel on the next page!

ISRAEL • יִשְׂרָאֵל

- ★ National capital
- ⊙ District (mehoz) capital
- City, town
- ✈ Airport
- International boundary
- - - Boundary of former Palestine Mandate
- - - Armistice Demarcation Line
- - - District (mehoz) boundary
- Main road
- Secondary road
- - - Railroad
- - - Oil pipeline



- ### Districts of Israel
- 1 Northern District
 - 2 Haifa District
 - 3 Central District
 - 4 Tel Aviv District
 - 5 Jerusalem District
 - 6 Southern District

