

## TIMELINE: Origins in America

**1620** Plymouth Colony is founded. The Pilgrims identify strongly with the ancient Israelites.

**1669** Increase Mather's book *The Mystery of Israel's Salvation* argues that the Jews will return to their land and convert to Christianity in a miraculous event.

**1844** New York University professor of Hebrew, George Bush, ancestor of the Presidents Bush, writes *Valley of Vision or the Dry Bones of Israel Revived*, arguing for a pragmatic program for encouraging Jews to return to Palestine.

**1862** Starting in 1862, Theologian John Nelson Darby makes a series of tours to America giving lectures across the country. He says that God will keep the promises he made to the Jews.

**1878** William E. Blackstone publishes *Jesus is Coming* in which he makes the case for the Messiah's imminent return and the pivotal role the restoration of the Jews will play.

**1886** Dwight L. Moody founds the Moody Bible Institute. At the time he is considered "the most influential 'clergyman' in America." He helps spread Darby's message.

**1891** Blackstone presents a petition to President Benjamin Harrison signed by prominent Americans. The petition asks: "What shall be done for Russia's Jews? ... Why not give Palestine back to them again?" It's called the Blackstone Memorial.

**1909** Cyrus Scofield first publishes the *Scofield Reference Bible*. This becomes an important vehicle for conveying Darby's theology.

**1917** Chief Justice Louis Brandeis asks William Blackstone to resubmit his Blackstone Memorial, this time to President Woodrow Wilson. The hope is that the Memorial will appeal to Wilson's Christian faith and gain his support for the Balfour Declaration.

**1917** On Oct. 13, Wilson assures the British of his support for a British statement in favor of a Jewish national home.