

MESSIAH IN THE OT

Abrahamic Covenant/Land, Seed, Blessing
Promise of the Land
JROC – 1/19/20

Regarding God promising Israel the land, the following is a view voiced by some within the Evangelical church:

Rom. 11:28 – (translation - ??) – *As regards the gospel, they [Israel] are enemies of God for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers.*

Israel has broken covenant with her God and is living today in disobedience and unbelief in His Son and her Messiah. That is why Paul says in Rom. 11:28, “As regards the gospel [the good news of the Messiah] they are enemies of God.”

We should seek a peaceful settlement not based on present divine rights but on international principles of justice, mercy, and practical feasibility!!??!!

NOTE:

Rom. 11:28 – NASB - *From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of God's choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers;*

Concerning the Gospel – (“they are” is in italics) how is Israel an enemy for our sake? Who is the “our”? Saved Gentiles (Rom. 11:11-12). While Gentiles were saved before Jesus’ first coming, we see in Scripture that from Pentecost on more Gentiles are coming to faith in Jesus. At Pentecost primarily Jewish people were saved. BUT prior to His ascension into heaven, Jesus told the disciples...

Acts 1:8 - *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

Jesus was commanding the disciples to preach to all people...the majority - Gentiles. Isa. 43:10 – that’s what God had chosen Israel as a nation to do!!! What happened?

The character of God must be the focus in this discussion!

Because we are studying Joshua within the “Messiah in the OT” series, let’s look at Josh. 2:9-13 – Scripture records Rahab’s genuine (see Heb. 11:31) testimony, confession - *I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you.* ¹⁰ *For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed.* ¹¹ *And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.* ¹² *Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the LORD, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father’s house, and give me a true token,* ¹³ *and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death.*

Heb. 11:31 - *By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.* Rahab believed!
Rahab's testimony...her confession was focused on God

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The Abrahamic Covenant

Why did God make a covenant/agreement with Abram?

Israel was a created nation – Isa. 43:1 - *thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel:* ‘*Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are Mine.*

Gen. 12:1-3 – through you and your descendants, Abram, all the families of the earth will be blessed.

The blessing aspect of the Abrahamic Covenant is SALVATION - Gen. 3:13-14 - *Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, ... 14 that the blessing of Abraham (the blessing aspect of the Abrahamic Covenant) might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.* The blessing aspect of the Ab. Cov. is salvation!

Gen. 15:1-20

Gen. 17:7-8

Gen. 18:18 – God promised to make Israel an instrument of blessing for the world.

The Abrahamic Covenant is an unconditional covenant.

The actual covenant is found in Genesis 12:1-3.

The ceremony recorded in Genesis 15 indicates the unconditional nature of the covenant. When a covenant was dependent upon both parties keeping commitments, then both parties would pass between the pieces of animals.

In Genesis 15, God alone moves between the halves of the animals. Abraham was in a deep sleep. God's solitary action indicates that the covenant is principally His promise. He binds Himself to the covenant.

Heb. 6:13-16 - *...when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, 14 saying, ‘Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.’ 15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. 16 For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute.*

Understanding the “unconditional” aspect of the covenant: God guarantees the fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant. God obligates Himself to fulfill the promises. As such, every promise of the covenant must be fulfilled. If every promise of the covenant is not fulfilled, God is unfaithful – a liar!

Through the Abrahamic Covenant, God made promises to Abraham and to his physical descendants through Isaac and Jacob. Israel is a specific people group.

God told Abraham that He would make of him a great nation (Gen. 12:2; Gen. 18:18). The promises to this nation:

- Land – boundaries given in Genesis 15 and Joshua 1:4 .
- Seed – multiple physical descendants and “the” Seed – the Messiah – Gen. 15: 5 - Then He brought him outside and said, ‘Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.’ And He said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ Gal. 3:16 – the covenant is confirmed in Christ, “the” Seed.
- Blessing – salvation.

The Abrahamic Covenant is expanded in three other unconditional covenants:

- The Land Covenant
 - The land which God swore to the fathers – Deut. 6:1-3, 10, 20-23.
 - The promise of the land is highlighted in Deut. 30:1-6. This will be fulfilled in the Millennial Kingdom.
 - Everlasting gift of the land: Jer. 7:7; Jer. 25:5.*
- The Davidic Covenant
 - The Messiah would come through the line of David.
 - The promise of the Messiah reigning on David’s throne is highlighted in II Samuel 7:16 which will be fulfilled in Millennial Kingdom.
- The New Covenant
 - Blessing – salvation to all the families of the earth through the Jewish Messiah.
 - This will be fulfilled in the New Covenant (see Jer. 31:31-34). Jesus death on the cross is the basis of the New Covenant (Matt. 26:28 - ...this is My blood of the anew covenant, which is shed for many for the forgiveness of sins.)

Re: God giving Israel the land as an everlasting possession speaks to the ownership of the land.

Exile from the land is noted in Deut. 28:64 due to disobedience under the Mosaic Covenant/the Law – a conditional covenant. While Israel was guaranteed everlasting possession of the land/ownership, under the Mosaic Covenant the enjoyment of the land was dependent upon their obedience!

What is at stake in this “debate” about the land? God’s faithfulness!

How God is seen in the eyes of the nations:

Ex. 32 (golden calf) vv. 11-13

Ex. 33:14-16

Israel not restored in the OT and will not be restored until the end of the Tribulation:

Deut. 5:27-29

Deut. 12:1

Num. 24:1; Num. 25:1ff

Deut. 30:1-5

Zech. 12:10

Cross reference as there are many other verses, passages, chapters concerning Israel's restoration!

There are those who state that Israel doesn't have a right to the land and that we cannot support Israel as they are in the land in unbelief. Scripture teaches that Israel will be in the land in unbelief until they are restored:

Deut. 30:1-6 – observe the progression

Eze. 20:33-34

Eze. 22:17-22

Eze. 36:16-27

Eze. 37:11-

Zech. 12:10

Joel 3:1-2

Read Romans 9, 10, 11!!

Rom. 11:29 – *The gifts and calling of God are irrevocable*