

The Promised Land!

Deuteronomy 29:10--30:10; Ezekiel 37

East Berlin Community Church

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The Promised Land!

A. The Land Promise Made

1. To Abraham

- a. The initial, unconditional promised made to Abram by God.
 - Genesis 12:1-3-- *"Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*
- b. God progressively reveals the Land promise
 - Genesis 12:7-- *"Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, 'To your descendants I will give this land.'" And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him."*
 - Genesis 13:14-16-- *"And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: 'Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward; for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered."*
- c. The exact boundaries are revealed.
 - Genesis 15:12-21-- *"Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him. Then He said to Abram: 'Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.' And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces. On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: 'To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates— the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.'"*
 - 1) Northern boundary-- River Euphrates
 - 2) Southern boundary-- River of Egypt

2. To Isaac and his descendants

- Genesis 26:2-5-- *"Then the LORD appeared to him and said: 'Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you. Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.'"*

3. To Jacob or Israel, and his descendants

- Genesis 28:13-15-- *"behold, the LORD stood above it and said: 'I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep*

you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you."

4. **To the nation of Israel**

- Deuteronomy 29:10-13-- *"All of you stand today before the LORD your God: your leaders and your tribes and your elders and your officers, all the men of Israel, your little ones and your wives—also the stranger who is in your camp, from the one who cuts your wood to the one who draws your water— that you may enter into covenant with the LORD your God, and into His oath, which the LORD your God makes with you today, that He may establish you today as a people for Himself, and that He may be God to you, just as He has spoken to you, and just as He has sworn to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."*
- a. If they failed to worship the Lord, they would be removed from the land
 - Deuteronomy 29:27-28-- *"Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against this land, to bring on it every curse that is written in this book. And the LORD uprooted them from their land in anger, in wrath, and in great indignation, and cast them into another land, as it is this day."*
- b. Most severe form of discipline was dispersion among the nations
 - Deuteronomy 28:64-66-- *"Then the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known—wood and stone. And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul. Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life."*
- c. Israel failed-- Northern kingdom to Assyria; Southern kingdom to Babylon

B. The Land Promise Realized

1. **The Promise of future regathering of the Jews**

- Deuteronomy 30:2-5a-- *"return to the LORD your God and obey His voice, according to all that I command you today, you and your children, with all your heart and with all your soul, that the LORD your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the LORD your God has scattered you. If any of you are driven out to the farthest parts under heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you. Then the LORD your God will bring you to the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it."*
- a. Covenant or Replacement theology holds that the Land Promise was realized during the time of Solomon's reign.
 - 1 Kings 4:20-21-- *"Judah and Israel were as numerous as the sand by the sea in multitude, eating and drinking and rejoicing. So Solomon reigned over all kingdoms from the River to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt. They brought tribute and served Solomon all the days of his life."*
- b. Some conservative scholars believe that the promised regathering took place when the Jews returned to their homeland from Babylon

2. **The Dual-Phase Regathering**

- Ezekiel 37:1-14-- *"The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were dry. And He said to me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?' So I answered, 'O Lord God, You know.' Again He said to me, 'Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, "O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! Thus says the Lord God to these bones: 'Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the Lord.'"'" So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise and suddenly a rattling; and the*

bones came together, bone to bone. Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh come upon them, and the skin covered them over, but there was no breath in them. Also He said to me, 'Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, "Thus says the LORD God: 'Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.'"' So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. Then He said to me, 'Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, "Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!' Therefore prophesy and say to them, "Thus says the LORD God: 'Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. I will put my Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it and performed it,' says the LORD.'"

- Deuteronomy 30:4-- "If any of you are driven out to the farthest parts under heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you."
- Jeremiah 32:37-- "Behold, I will gather them out of all countries where I have driven them in My anger, in My fury, and in great wrath; I will bring them back to this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely."
- Ezekiel 20:41 -- "I will accept you as a sweet aroma when I bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you have been scattered; and I will be hallowed in you before the Gentiles"
- Ezekiel 34:13 -- "And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land."

a. **The "Body-building" Phase**

- Ezekiel 37:7-8-- "So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh come upon them, and the skin covered them over, but there was no breath in them."

- 1) Historical fulfillment
- 2) Israel today is a "body without life", secular but not spiritual
- 3) Before the next phase, God uses the suffering during the tribulation period to prepare the Jewish people to receive their Messiah, Jesus Christ when He comes again.

b. **The "Life-giving" Phase**

- Mark 13:27-- "then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven."
- Deuteronomy 30:5-6-- "Then the LORD your God will bring you to the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it. He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers. 6 And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live."
- Ezekiel 37:21-28-- "Then say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again. They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. Then they shall be My people, and I will be their God. David, My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe my statutes, and do them. Then they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob My servant, where your fathers dwelt; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children's children, forever; and My servant David shall be their prince forever. Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; I will establish them and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore. My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people. The nations also will know that I, the LORD, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore.'"

- 1) The greatest day in Israel's history replacing the exodus from Egypt
 - Jeremiah 23:7-8-- *"Therefore, behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "that they shall no longer say, 'As the LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,' but, 'As the LORD lives who brought up and led the descendants of the house of Israel from the north country and from all the countries where I had driven them.' And they shall dwell in their own land."*
- 2) Accompanied by the resurrection of the Old Testament saints who will inherit the promised land.
- 3) The Jews living in the promised land will experience the blessings of God.
 - a. Increased productivity
 - Deuteronomy 30:9-- *"The LORD your God will make you abound in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your land for good. For the LORD will again rejoice over you for good as He rejoiced over your fathers."*
 - b. Peace and prosperity
 - Ezekiel 34:25-27-- *"I will make a covenant of peace with them, and cause wild beasts to cease from the land; and they will dwell safely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods. I will make them and the places all around My hill a blessing; and I will cause showers to come down in their season; there shall be showers of blessing. Then the trees of the field shall yield their fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase. They shall be safe in their land; and they shall know that I am the LORD, when I have broken the bands of their yoke and delivered them from the hand of those who enslaved them."*
 - c. Increased growing seasons
 - Isaiah 30:23-26-- *"Then He will give the rain for your seed with which you sow the ground, and bread of the increase of the earth; It will be fat and plentiful. In that day your cattle will feed in large pastures. Likewise the oxen and the young donkeys that work the ground will eat cured fodder, which has been winnowed with the shovel and fan. There will be on every high mountain and on every high hill rivers and streams of waters, in the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall. Moreover the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the LORD binds up the bruise of His people and heals the stroke of their wound."*
 - d. Secure living
 - Ezekiel 28:25-26-- *"Thus says the Lord GOD: 'When I have gathered the house of Israel from the peoples among whom they are scattered, and am hallowed in them in the sight of the Gentiles, then they will dwell in their own land which I gave to My servant Jacob. And they will dwell safely there, build houses, and plant vineyards; yes, they will dwell securely, when I execute judgments on all those around them who despise them. Then they shall know that I am the LORD their God.' "*
- 4) Jesus Christ will usher in His kingdom here on earth

APPLICATION FOR US TODAY?

1. The fact that the first phase of the regathering is in process right now indicates how close we are to the rapture of the church.
2. God uses suffering in our lives to transform us from secular to spiritual.
 - Hebrews 12:11-- *"No chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."*