

Gleanings from the Pentateuch

The Land of Promise (Part Two)

Land of Promise

What is the significance for us of God's promise of the land of Canaan to Abraham and his seed?

Land of Promise

Foundations (Review)

1. Land/earth is of central importance in God's kingdom purposes
2. God's promise to Abraham was essentially a promise of restoration

Inheriting the land of Canaan represents in part a return to Eden

Land of Promise

Fulfillment: Old Covenant

Q: *Was this promised fulfilled by Israel?*

- YES – in terms of possessing the territory and enjoying "rest" (Josh. 21:43-45; 1 Kings 4:20-21)
- NO – not in terms of the ideology of the promised land (ongoing "rest" and prosperity)

Fulfillment in Israel was a preliminary stage and symbol of the climatic fulfillment

Land of Promise

Fulfillment: Prophetic Picture

➤ *The prediction of a glorious restoration*

- A renewed land (like Eden) with a restored Jerusalem/temple at the center
- A restored (renewed) people living in peace and prosperity in the land
- Nations who know and worship the Yahweh
- A great Davidic-king who reigns from Zion

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Fulfillment: New Covenant

Q: How does the coming of Jesus "fulfill" the promise of the land?

Q: How did Jesus and the NT writers view the promise of the land?

Jesus fulfills the promise in two inseparable phases:

- (1) Inauguration ("already")
- (2) Consummation ("not yet")

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Fulfillment: New Covenant

➤ *Inauguration*

1. NT References:

- Hebrews 3:7-4:11 – Canaan was a type of the final, salvation-rest we possess in Christ
- Hebrews 12:22-24 – Canaan (Jerusalem) was a type of God's ultimate (heavenly) kingdom

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Fulfillment: New Covenant

➤ *Inauguration*

2. Summary

- Christ has come in fulfillment of the promise – we are in the “last days” in which He is restoring the seed of Abraham to the renewed “land”
- Inheriting the land of Canaan by Israel was a metaphor of ultimate, final salvation brought by Christ

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Implication:

- In Christ we possess all that Canaan represented – peace, satisfaction and the presence of God