

Gleanings from the Pentateuch

The Land of Promise (Part Three)

Land of Promise

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

In Christ, we are the seed of Abraham, heirs of the land of promise!

Land of Promise

Review

1. The promise of the land represents a return to "Eden"
2. Fulfillment of the promise by Israel was a preliminary stage and symbolic of the climactic fulfillment
3. Jesus came to bring the final fulfillment of this promise
 - "already" – we possess what the land symbolized
 - "not yet" – we await the consummation of the promise

Land of Promise

The promise of the land has its climactic fulfillment in the saints inheritance of the New Earth

Land of Promise

Fulfillment in the New Earth

A. Evidence

1. The Nature of the Promise
 - the actual geographic boundaries were never clearly fixed and were able to expand
 - the land was to be an "everlasting possession" yet geographic Canaan would not exist forever
 - the promise of the land inheritance was given to Abraham who never received it

Land of Promise

Hebrews 11:8-10, 13-16

"By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance... By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land...for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God."

"All these died in faith, without receiving the promises... but as it is they desire a better country, that is a heavenly one... for He has prepared a city for them."

Land of Promise

Fulfillment in the New Earth

A. Evidence

1. The Nature of the Promise
2. Jesus & the NT writers
 - Matthew 5:5; 8:10-12
 - Romans 4:13; 8:18-25
 - Ephesians 6:1-3
 - 2 Peter 3:13

Land of Promise

Fulfillment in the New Earth

B. Description (Revelation 21-22)

1. Renewed Creation
 - a physical, material earth (includes land)
 - renewed – no more curse, no chaos, no evil, no death (“no sea”)

Land of Promise

Fulfillment in the New Earth

B. Description (Revelation 21-22)

2. New Jerusalem
 - the ultimate fulfillment of the promise of the restored, eternal Jerusalem (land)
 - the city is the eternal kingdom not part of it
 - not a literal city but a metaphor for the redeemed community in the eternal state

Land of Promise

Fulfillment in the New Earth

B. Description (Revelation 21-22)

3. Garden-Temple
 - the eternal kingdom (New Jerusalem) is the final, world-encompassing temple (dwelling of God)
 - the eternal kingdom is the restoration and universal expansion of “Eden”

Land of Promise

Revelation 21:3-4

“...He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them, and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying or pain...”