

The Message of the Pentateuch

From Paradise to the Promised Land

Paradise...Promised Land

Unifying Theme of the Bible:

- the establishment of God's Kingdom

God is forming a people to live in His place enjoying His presence under His rule and blessing

Paradise...Promised Land

1. The Kingdom Patterned (Gen. 1-2)

- Man enjoyed God's limitless blessing and His presence in the sanctuary of Eden
- Man, as God's image bearer, was to subdue and fill the earth (*i.e. extend Eden to the whole earth*)

Man failed and rebelled against God and was banished from Eden

Paradise...Promised Land

2. Kingdom Promised (Gen. 12)

- to Abraham – God irrevocably promised kingdom restoration
 - Key elements: "Seed", "Blessing", "Land"

This is the foundational promise of the Bible!

Paradise...Promised Land

Toward Fulfillment

1. Seed (*zarah*)

- A) Physical descendants – the establishment of the nation of Israel through the Law
- B) Spiritual descendants – the true seed of Abraham formed by God's power and sovereign grace

Paradise...Promised Land

Toward Fulfillment

2. Land

- A) Geographic land of Canaan inherited by Israel – represents in part a return to Eden
- B) An everlasting possession that culminates God's final rest for His people

Paradise...Promised Land

Toward Fulfillment

3. Blessing

➤ *a relationship with God that provides peace, victory and prosperity*

- A) Nation of Israel – in the land of Canaan
- B) All the nations – in the seed of Abraham

Paradise...Promised Land

Toward Fulfillment

➤ Main Point

The formation of Israel by the Mosaic Covenant and their inheritance of Canaan is not the fulfillment of the promise to Abraham

The necessity of a new covenant to fulfill the promises

Paradise...Promised Land

Ultimate Fulfillment

Jesus is the promised seed of Abraham through whom come the blessing and inheritance to the nations

Galatians 3:14-29