

Covenant, Land

The Land Covenant (Deut 30:1-10)

The Land Covenant provides an expansion upon the land promise found in the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen 12:1-3). This is an unconditional covenant and was made between the Lord and the nation of Israel. Although the Land Covenant is outlined in Deuteronomy, Deut 29:1 clearly shows a distinction between the Land Covenant and the Mosaic Covenant.

In Deuteronomy, after two chapters predicting disobedience and judgment, and deportation from the Land, the Lord foretells of ultimate repentance and blessing upon national Israel. The Lord binds Himself to this ultimate destiny for Israel by establishing a covenant that promises the Land to Israel forever.

Deut 30:1-10 describes 8 provisions of the Land Covenant:

1. Moses spoke prophetically of Israel's coming dispersion for disobedience (Deut 30:1; see also Deut 28:63-68; 29:22-28). Remaining provisions speak of various facets of Israel's final restoration.
2. The future repentance of Israel while in dispersion (Deut 30:2; see also Deut 28:63-68).
3. The Messiah will return (Deut 30:3)
4. The Messiah will gather the remaining exiles and transport them to the Land (Deut 30:3-6; see also Dan 12:1; Zech 2:6; Amos 9:14; Matt 24:31).
5. The land will be permanently restored to Israel (Deut 30:5; see also Is 11:11-12; Jer 23:3-8; Ezek 37:21-25).
6. The whole nation of Israel will be converted to their Messiah (Deut 30:6; see also Hosea 2:14-16; Zech 12:10-14; Rom 11:26-27).
7. Judgment of those that oppose Israel (Deut 30:7; see also Is 14:1-2; Joel 3:1-8; Matt 25:31-46).
8. Israel will experience national blessing and prosperity (Deut 30:9; see also Amos 9:11-15; Zech 14:9-21).

The Land Covenant reaffirms the title deed to the Land as belonging to Israel. Although Israel would prove to be unfaithful and disobedient, the right to the Land would never be taken away. In addition, ***it shows that the conditional Mosaic Covenant did not lay aside the unconditional Abrahamic Covenant.*** It might be taken by some that the Mosaic Covenant displaced the Abrahamic Covenant, but the Land Covenant shows that this is not true. The Land Covenant is an enlargement of the original Abrahamic Covenant. It amplifies

the Land aspect and emphasizes the promise of the Land to God's earthly Jewish people in spite of their unbelief. ***The Abrahamic Covenant teaches that ownership for the Land is unconditional while the Land Covenant teaches that the enjoyment of the Land is conditioned on obedience.***

The Land Covenant is confirmed centuries later in Ezek 16:1-63 (esp. v60). In this key passage...

- God recounts His love of Israel in her infancy (v1-7)
- Later, Israel was chosen by God and became related to Jehovah by marriage (Wife of Jehovah) (v8-14)
- Israel played the harlot and was guilty of spiritual adultery by means of idolatry (v15-34)
- Therefore, it was necessary to punish her by means of dispersion (v35-52)
- However, this dispersion is not final, for there would be a future restoration on the basis of the Land Covenant (v53-63)
- They were guilty of violating the Mosaic Covenant (v53-59), but God will remember the covenant made with Israel in her youth (v60a) and will establish an everlasting covenant, the New Covenant (v60b) and this will result in Israel's salvation (v61-63).

The Lord binds Himself to this ultimate destiny for Israel by establishing a covenant that promises the Land to Israel forever. Even though it is still in force for Israel it will not be fulfilled during our current church age. This covenant will be fulfilled for national Israel during the tribulation when the whole nation of Israel will be converted to their Messiah (Deut 30:6; see also Hosea 2:14-16; Zech 12:10-14; Rom 11:26-27) and will experience national blessing and prosperity (Deut 30:9; see also Amos 9:11-15; Zech 14:9-21) during the millennium.

The Land Covenant, being an unconditional and eternal covenant, is still in effect today. It will be fulfilled after the Second Coming, when Jesus sets up His Messianic Kingdom in Jerusalem and returns His Chosen People to their Land.

The Land Covenant is one of the most politically significant covenants, establishing Israel's right to the Land (Gen 12:7; 13:14-17; 15:9-19).

Below are just some of the Promises God gives to Israel concerning the Land...

- Gen 12:1-7: To the land which I will show you...To your descendants I will give this land.
- Gen 13:14-15: for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and your descendants FOREVER
- Gen 13:17: to give you this land to possess it
- Gen 15:17-21: To your descendants I have given this land
- Gen 25:5-6: Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac

- Gen 26:1-6: Sojourn in this land and I will be with you and bless you, for to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath which I swore to your father Abraham; will give your descendants all these lands
- Gen 28:10-13: And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants.
- Exodus 3:8,37; 6:2-4,6-8; 12:3,5; 13:11; 20:12; 23:23,30-31,33; 32:11,13; 33:1
- Leviticus 14:34; 20:24; 25:2,23; 25:38; 26:42,44-45
- Numbers 13:2; 14:23-24,30-31; 15:2; 26:53,55; 27:12; 32:11; 33:53-54; 34:2,12-13,17,29; 35:51
- Deuteronomy 1:8,21,35-36; 3:18,20,28; 4:1,5,14,21,38,40; 6:10,18,23; 7:1,13; 8:1,10; 9:5,23,28; 10:11; 11:8-9,21,31; 12:1,10; 16:20; 17:14; 18:9; 19:1-3,14; 21:1,23; 24:4; 25:15,19; 26:1-3,9-10,15; 27:2-3; 28:11,52; 30:3-9,20; 31:21,23; 32:43,49,52; 34:1-2,4
- Joshua 1:2-4,6,11,15; 2:9,14,24; 13:1; 14:9; 18:1-3,10; 19:51; 21:43; 23:5; 24:3,8,13
- Judges 2:1
- 1 Kings 8:22; 8:33-34; 8:36,40
- 2 Kings 21:8
- 1 Chronicles 16:13-18
- 2 Chronicles 6:25,27,38; 7:20; 33:8
- Nehemiah 9:5,7-8,15,36
- Psalm 44:1-3; 105:8-11; 135:10,12; 136:21-22
- Isaiah 14:1-2; 49:8,12; 60:18,21; 61:4,7
- Jeremiah 3:16-19; 11:5; 12:14; 16:14-15; 23:7-8; 24:6; 25:5; 30:3; 32:22,41,44; 33:11
- Ezekiel 20:39-42; 28:25; 34:13; 36:6-12,24,28; 37:3-4,10-14,21-22,25; 39:26,28; 45:1; 47:13-14,21; 48:29
- Hosea: 2:15,20,23
- Joel: 3:2
- Amos: 9:14-15