

ISRAEL IN BIBLICAL PROPHECY

As we began this study, we observed that no other nation on this earth is as important to God as Israel. We may recall that we pointed out on the first page of this study that Israel, the physical nation Israel, is the only nation in the world that has come into existence because of a “covenant of God” (Gen. 15:18).

Now a covenant of God is a legal, sovereign determination of God in which He obligates Himself to bring to pass that which He promises. A covenant of God is a legal contract that God makes with Himself, which demands that He legally fulfill what He promises to fulfill.

When we say that Israel is a covenant nation of God, what we mean in part is God has entered into a legal relationship with Israel in which He obligates Himself to fulfill for her what He promised to her.

God has specifically stressed His special covenant relationship with Israel at least four times in four different covenants, which all guarantee Israel a remarkable future.

Covenant #1 - The Abrahamic Covenant. Genesis 12:1-3; 13:14-17; 15:4-21; 17:1-8; 22:15-19

The Abrahamic Covenant that God makes with Israel promises at least eleven things:

- 1) God promises to lead Abraham and his family to a specific land that He will give them. Genesis 12:1b, 7. The Specific boundary limits are stated in Genesis 15:18-19.
- 2) God promises to make Abraham and his family a great nation. Gen. 12:2a
- 3) God promises to give Abraham and his family His blessing. Gen. 12:2b
- 4) God promises to make Abraham and his family a great name. Gen. 12:2c
- 5) God promises to make Abraham and his family a blessing. Gen. 12:2d
- 6) God promises to honor Abraham and his family by blessing those who bless them. Gen. 12:3a
- 7) God promises to honor Abraham and his family by cursing those who curse them. Gen. 12:3b
- 8) God promises to honor Abraham and his family internationally and universally. Gen. 12:3c
- 9) God promises again that He will give Abraham and his family a specific land. Gen. 12:7
- 10) God promises that He will give Abraham and his family the land forever. Gen. 13:15; 17:8
- 11) God promises to physically and spiritually multiply the Abrahamic family. Gen. 13:16

(27)

Covenant #2 - The Palestinian Covenant. Deuteronomy 30:1-10

The Palestinian reaffirms and amplifies the covenant God made with Abraham nearly 700 years after the first covenant. It reinforces the fact that even though it had been a few hundred years since the covenant with Abraham, it was still going to be fulfilled. There are seven expansion points this covenant makes:

(Expansion #1) - Israel will be removed from the land for her unfaithfulness. **Deut. 28:63-68; 30:1-3**

(Expansion #2) - Israel will be a repentant nation at some point in the future. **Deut. 28:63-68; 30:1-3**

(Expansion #3) - Israel will be returned to the land by the returning Messiah. **Deut. 30:3-6**

(Expansion #4) - Israel will be restored to her Promised Land with the full blessings of God. **Deut. 30:5**

(Expansion #5) - Israel will be completely and nationally converted. **Deut. 30:4-8; Romans 11:26-27**

(Expansion #6) - Israel's enemies who hated her and demeaned her will be judged. **Deut. 30:7**

(Expansion #7) - Israel will receive all of the blessings of God. **Deut. 30:9**

This Palestinian covenant is important and gives us prophetic information about the future:

- 1) This covenant clearly establishes that Israel as a nation will be converted.
- 2) This covenant clearly establishes that Israel will be regathered from various places in the world.
- 3) This covenant clearly establishes that Israel will eventually receive her land.
- 4) This covenant clearly establishes that Israel will see God destroy all her enemies.
- 5) This covenant clearly establishes that Israel will have great prosperity in her land.

What is very evident from this covenant is that all of the covenants promised are still in place even though it had been several hundred years since those promises were initially made to Abraham. What is also clear is that to this date, those promises have not yet been fulfilled.

Covenant #3 - The Davidic Covenant. **II Samuel 7:12-16; I Chronicles 17:1-15**

Now the Davidic Covenant comes approximately 400 years after the Palestinian Covenant and about 1100 years after the Abrahamic covenant. One reason why God keeps giving us this data is to confirm the fact that all prophetic promises to the covenant nation Israel are still intact.