

All covenants with Israel are connected to the covenant made with Abraham; they just each emphasize something a little different. The Palestinian covenant primarily emphasizes the land promises made to Israel. The Davidic covenant primarily emphasizes the seed promises made to Israel.

There are many passages that indicate the Davidic covenant made with Israel places a major emphasis on the seed or genealogical promises (II Sam. 7:12; Psalm 89:3-4; Jer. 33:22, 25-26). What the Davidic covenant does is to narrow the seed promise made to Abraham (Genesis 22:17-18).

- 1) David would produce a seed, which would succeed him and establish his kingdom.
II Sam. 7:12
- 2) David's seed (Solomon) would be the one who would build the first Temple and a descendant of David would be connected to the Temple. II Sam. 7:13a; I Chronicles 17:1-15
- 3) David's Throne and Kingdom will be established forever by one of his descendants.
II Sam. 7:13b
- 4) David's Throne would never be taken from his lineage even if his seed sins. II Sam. 7:14-15
- 5) David's house, throne and kingdom will be established forever. II Sam. 7:16

Dr. John Walvoord said this covenant means that David's line will never be "displaced by another family ...and will always be the royal line." In fact, David was overwhelmed by what God told him and it is very clear he took the promises to him and national Israel literally (I Chronicles 17:16-27).

God specifically predicts that He will raise up David to reign in Israel when she is back in her land—Jer. 30:9; Ez. 37:24-25; Zechariah 12:10-13:1. This event occurs when the nation looks specifically at Jesus Christ and mourns over what happened to Him (Zech. 12:10). We conclude this has not happened yet and these covenants lead us to other conclusions:

(Conclusion #1) - Israel as a nation must be preserved.

If Israel is to receive these things (Land, King, Kingdom), God must preserve her as a nation. George Peters stated: "This (preservation) has been done; and today we see that nation wonderfully continued down to the present, although enemies, including the strongest nations and most powerful empires, have perished. This is not chance work, for if our position is correct, this is demanded, seeing that without restoration (*and preservation*) of the nation it is impossible to restore the Davidic Kingdom. Every Jew, if we will but ponder the matter, that we meet on our streets is a living evidence that the Messiah will yet someday reign gloriously on David's throne and over His Kingdom, from which to extend worldwide dominion" (J. Dwight Pentecost, *Things to Come*, p. 114).

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(Conclusion #2) - Israel as a nation must have a national, not just individual, existence and be brought back to her land boundaries.

As we have already pointed out in this study, in 1948 Israel was given a portion of her land and was declared to be a legitimate nation, thus establishing her national existence once again. Ever since then, Jews have been flocking back to this land.

According to Milton Linberg, there were 25,000 Jews in the land in 1880. That jumped to 713,000 in 1948 when Israel was declared to be a nation. That jumped to 3 million people by 1973 (*The Jew and Modern Israel*, p. 25). That number today is nearly 7 million Jews who live in Israel. Clearly, Israel has a national existence today in her land greater than any other time in history.

(Conclusion #3) - Jesus Christ, the One born in David's lineage, must literally return in order to fulfill the promises of these covenants.

Since He proved that He was the King of the Jews, He must return in order to fulfill all of the promises that these covenants have established for Israel. He must literally return and literally make these things happen. If the nation Israel is to look on Him and mourn, He must come back in Person in order for them to do it.

Covenant #4 - The New Covenant. **Jeremiah 31:31-34; Isaiah 61:8-9; Ezekiel 37:21-28**

The New Covenant is the last of the four prophetic covenants that God has entered into with Israel. **The significance of this covenant is that this is the covenant that guarantees that the nation Israel will one day have a converted national and individual heart that will be forever right with God.**

This is a critical covenant because this is the event that leads to the entire land and lineage fulfillment of all the other covenants. **As the Palestinian covenant emphasizes the land promises to Israel and the Davidic covenant emphasizes the seed promises to Israel, the New Covenant emphasizes the spirituality of Israel.**

Since this will be the culmination of the covenants, it is important that we understand this very carefully.

There are thirteen observations we want to make concerning this New Covenant:

(Observation #1) - The New Covenant is an unconditional covenant for Israel. Jer. 31:31-34

Notice the "I will" statements of God. This is what He will do - 31:31, 33 (twice), 34 (twice). Since this covenant includes a new heart for Israel, it is not contingent upon the faithfulness of Israel, but the unconditional promises of God.

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(Observation #2) - The nation with whom this New Covenant is made is Israel. Heb. 8:8; Jer. 31:31; Is. 59:20-21; 61:3, 8-9; Jer. 32:36-40; 50:4-5; Ez. 16:1-2, 60-63; 34:1-2, 25-26; 37:21-28

The proper noun Israel is never used for the Church and, as Dr. Pentecost observed, it is always used to describe the physical descendants of Abraham (*Things To Come*, p. 127).

(Observation #3) - The time of the fulfillment of the New Covenant for Israel is specifically stated to be in the future.

Both O.T. and N.T. passages specifically write with a future fulfillment in view - Is. 55:3; Ez. 16:60, 62; 20:37; 34:25-26; Hos. 2:18-20; Acts 15:16; Rom. 11:26. Now we learn some specific futuristic facts about the timing of this:

- 1) It will be fulfilled after Israel has been completely restored to her land. Jer. 32:37, 40-41.
- 2) It will be fulfilled after Jesus Christ has physically returned to Israel. Rom. 11:26-27; Zech. 12:10.

(Observation #4) - The New Covenant is eternal for Israel. Jer. 31:35-37

It will be fulfilled forever and will not cease to be in place.

(Observation #5) - The New Covenant is inwardly purifying for Israel. Jer.31:33.

There will be a national cleansing for Israel and a national salvation for Israel. The Apostle Paul even wrote about this in the church age book that reveals the Grace Gospel of God, Romans (Rom. 11:25-26).

(Observation #6) - The New Covenant is a national recognition covenant made with Israel. Isaiah 61:9

When this New Covenant is operative, ALL nations of the world will recognize that Israel is the nation blessed by God.

(Observation #7) - The New Covenant is a complete forgiveness covenant for national Israel.

Jeremiah 31:34b is very clear that God will forgive Israel. He will forgive her as a nation for every sin she has ever committed and will choose not to remember her sin. The Apostle Paul stressed this fact as well - Romans 11:27. This demands that this be an unconditional covenant.

(Observation #8) - The New Covenant will feature God's Spirit at work in Israel. Ez. 36:26-28

When the New Covenant is operative for Israel, God's Spirit will nationally dominate the nation and individually indwell every Jew. As a nation, Israel has never experienced this.