

***Israel – Great Nation, Land, and Promise to the Seed***

I. Covenant of Grace initiated.

A. Genesis 3:15: “<sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.”

1. Note in most cases the terms descendent and seed are interchangeable.

II. The major Bible texts of the three promises

	#1 Great Nation	#2 Land	#3 Seed
Gen 12:1-7	I will make you a great nation	To your descendants I will give this land	in you all families of the earth shall be blessed
Gen 13:14-17	V16 I will make your descendants as dust of earth	V15 all the land you see, I will give it to you and your descendants forever V17 I will give it to you	-
Gen 15:5-21	V5 descendants like stars	V7 To give you this land V21 to descendants I have given land	-
Gen 17:2-8	V2 I will multiply you exceedingly V7 exceedingly fruitful, make nations and kings from you	V8 I will give to you ad your descendants after you all the land of Cannon as an everlasting possession	-
Gen 18:18	surely become a great and mighty nation	-	in him all nations of earth will be blessed
Gen 22:17-18	Greatly multiply your seed as the stars and sand	your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies	in your seed all nations will be blessed
Gen 24:7	-	to your descendants I will give land	

Gen 26:3-4	V4 I will multiply Isaac's descendants as stars	V3 to you and your descendants I will give all these lands, V4 give your descendants land	v4 by your descendants all nations of earth will be blessed
Gen 28:4	-	give to Isaac's and your descendants to possess the land which God Gave Abraham	-
Gen 28:13-14	v14 Isaac's descendants like dust	v13 I will give it to you and descendants	v14 in you and descendants shall all families of earth be blessed
Gen 35:12		the land which I gave to Abraham and Isaac, I will give it to Jacob, and I will give the land to your descendants after you	
Gen 46:3	In Egypt, I will make Jacob a great nation there		
Gen 48:4	I will make Jacob fruitful and numerous	give this land to your descendants after you for an everlasting possession	
Ex 6:2-8	-	v4 I also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they sojourned v8 I will bring you to the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you for a possession	-
Exod 12:25		when you enter the land which the LORD will give you, as He has promised, that you shall observe this rite	
Exod 13:5		when the LORD brings you to the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Hivite and the Jebusite, which He swore to your fathers to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, that you shall observe this rite in this month	

Ex 23:31		And I will fix your boundary from the Red Sea to the sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the River Euphrates	
Exod 32:13	Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, to whom Thou didst swear by Thyself, and didst say to them, `I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heavens,	and all this land of which I have spoken I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever	
Exod 33:1		Depart, go up from here, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, `To your descendants I will give it	
Fulfilled	<p>Gen 46:3 do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you a great nation there.</p> <p>Deut 10:22 "Your fathers went down to Egypt seventy persons in all, and now the Lord has made you as numerous as the stars of heaven.</p>	<p>Josh 21:43 So the LORD gave Israel all the land which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they possessed it and lived in it.</p> <p>Deut 30:5 God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers.</p>	<p>Gal 3:29 if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.</p> <p>Heb 6:11-13;19-20 full assurance of hope...inherit the promises...God made the promise to Abraham...this hope we have as ...one which enters within the veil (heaven), where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us</p> <p>Acts 13:32-33,38 we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers, that God has fulfilled this promise to us their children in that He raised up Jesus...that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you</p>

### III. Great Nation promise fulfilled

#### A. Great Nation promise physically fulfilled

1. **Genesis 46:3:** “And He said, ‘I am God, the God of your father; do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you a great nation there.’”
2. **Deuteronomy 1:10:** “The LORD your God has multiplied you, and behold, *you are this day as the stars of heaven for multitude.*”
3. **Deuteronomy 10:22:** “Your fathers went *down to Egypt* seventy persons in all, and now the Lord has made you as *numerous as the stars of heaven.*”
4. **Hebrews 11:11-12:** “Even Sarah received ability to conceive...since she considered Him faithful who had *promised*; therefore, also, there was born of one man, and him as good as dead at that, *as many descendants as the stars of heaven in number*, and innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.”

#### B. Great Nation promise Spiritually fulfilled

1. **Romans 4:16-17:** “For this reason it is by faith, that it might be in accordance with grace, in order that the promise may be certain to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, as it is written, ‘A father of many nations have I made you’”
2. **Galatians 3:29:** “If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.”
3. **Galatians 4:28:** “And you brethren, like Isaac, are children of promise.”

### IV. Land promise fulfilled

#### A. Land promise physically fulfilled: Israel possessed all land God swore to give Abraham

1. **Exodus 6:8:** “And I will *bring you to the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob*, and I will give it to you for a possession; I am the LORD.”
2. Cities of refuge argument (if God gives all the land promised, then there will be 6 cities):
  - a. Cities of refuge promised: Numbers 35:9-15

- b. **Deuteronomy 19:7-9:** “Set aside three cities for yourself. And if God *enlarges your territory, just as He has sworn to your fathers, and gives you all the land which He promised to give your fathers*, if you carefully observe all this commandment, which I command you today, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in His ways always-- *then you shall add three more cities for yourself*, besides these three.”
- c. **Joshua 20:7-9:** “So they set apart Kedesh...Shechem...Kiriath-arba...And beyond the Jordan east of Jericho, they designated Bezer... Ramoth... Golan.”
- d. Israel got all the land promised to Abraham at the time of Joshua.
3. **Deuteronomy 1:7-8:** “Go to the hill country of the Amorites...as far as the great river, the river Euphrates. See, I have placed the land before you; go in and possess the land which the LORD *swore to give to your fathers*, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to them and their descendants after them.”
4. **Deuteronomy 6:18:** “You shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, that it may be well with you and that you may go in and *possess the good land which the LORD swore to give your fathers.*”
5. **Deuteronomy 9:5:** “It is not for your righteousness or for the uprightness of your heart that you are going to possess their land, but it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD your God is driving them out before you, *in order to confirm the oath* which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.”
6. **Deuteronomy 30:5:** “And the LORD will bring you into *the land which your fathers possessed*, and you shall possess it; and He will prosper you and multiply you *more than your fathers.*”
7. **Joshua 21:43-45:** “So the LORD gave Israel all the land which He had sworn to *give to their fathers*, and they possessed it and lived in it. And the LORD gave them rest on every side, *according to all that He had sworn to their fathers*, and no one of all their enemies stood before them; the LORD gave all their enemies into their hand. *Not one of the good promises which the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed; all came to pass.*”

8. **Joshua 24:28**: “Then Joshua dismissed the people, each to his inheritance.”
9. **2 Samuel 8:3**: “David defeated Hadadezer...as he went to restore his rule at the River.”
10. **1 Kings 4:21**: “Now Solomon ruled over all the kingdoms *from the River to the land of the Philistines and to the border of Egypt*; they brought tribute and served Solomon.”
11. **2 King 14:25**: “Jeroboam restored the border of Israel from the entrance of Hamath as far as the Sea of the Arabah.”
12. **2 Chronicles 9:26**: “And he was the ruler over all the kings *from the Euphrates River even to the land of the Philistines, and as far as the border of Egypt.*”
13. **Nehemiah 9:8**: “And Thou didst find Abraham's heart faithful before Thee, and didst *make a covenant with him to give him the land of the Canaanite, of the Hittite and the Amorite, of the Perizzite, the Jebusite, and the Girgashite-- to give it to his descendants. And Thou hast fulfilled Thy promise, for Thou art righteous.*”
14. **Psalm 105:42-44**: “For *He remembered His holy word with Abraham* His servant; And He brought forth His people with joy, His chosen ones with a joyful shout. *He gave them also the lands of the nations, that they might take possession* of the fruit of the peoples’ labor.”
15. **Jeremiah 11:5**: “ ‘In order to confirm the oath which I swore to your forefathers, *to give them a land* flowing with milk and honey, *as it is this day.*’ Then I answered and said, ‘Amen, O LORD.’”
16. **Ezekiel 20:42**: “And you will know that I am the LORD, when I bring you into the land of Israel, into the land which *I swore to give to your forefathers.*”
17. **Acts 7:17**: “But as the *time of the promise was approaching which God had assured to Abraham*, the people increased and multiplied in Egypt.”
18. **Acts 13:19**: “And when He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, *He distributed their land as an inheritance--* all of which took about four hundred and fifty years.”
19. **Romans 4:13**: “The promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be *heir of the world...*”

- B. Forever? Continued inheritance of physical land by Israel always conditional!
1. **Deuteronomy 6:10,15,18-19:** “Then it shall come about when the LORD your God brings you into the land which *He swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you*, great and splendid cities which you did not build... You shall not follow other gods, He will wipe you off the face of the earth... do what is right that you may go in and *possess the good land which the LORD swore to {give} your fathers*...by driving out all your enemies from before you, as the LORD has spoken.”
  2. **Deuteronomy 8:19-20:** “And it shall come about if you ever forget the LORD your God, and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I testify against you today that you shall surely perish. *Like the nations that the LORD makes to perish before you, so you shall perish*; because you would not listen to the voice of the LORD your God.”
  3. **Deuteronomy 9:5:** “It is not for your righteousness or for the uprightness of your heart that you are going to possess their land, but it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD your God is driving them out before you, *in order to confirm the oath* which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.”
  4. **Deuteronomy 30:17-18:** “But if your heart turns away and you will not obey, but are drawn away and worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall surely perish. *You shall not prolong your days in the land where you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess it.*”
  5. **Joshua 23:15:** “And it shall come about that just as all the good words which the LORD your God spoke to you have come upon you, so the LORD will bring upon you all the threats, *until He has destroyed you from off this good land* which the LORD your God has given you.”
  6. **Joshua 23:12-16:** “For if you ever go back and cling to the rest of these nations, these which remain among you, and intermarry with them, so that you associate with them and they with you, know with certainty that the LORD your God will not continue to drive these nations out from before you; but they shall be a snare and a trap to you, and a whip on your sides and thorns in your eyes, *until you*

*perish from off this good land which the LORD your God has given you.* Now behold, today I am going the way of all the earth, and you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that *not one word of all the good words which the LORD your God spoke concerning you has failed; all have been fulfilled for you, not one of them has failed.* And it shall come about that just as all the good words which the LORD your God spoke to you have come upon you, so the LORD will bring upon you all the threats, until He has *destroyed you from off this good land which the LORD your God has given you.* When you transgress the covenant of the LORD your God, which He commanded you, and go and serve other gods, and bow down to them, then the anger of the LORD will burn against you, and *you shall perish quickly from off the good land which He has given you.*”

7. **Jeremiah 18:1-10:** “...the vessel that he was making of clay was spoiled in the hand of the potter; so he remade it into another vessel, as it pleased the potter to make... *Can I not, O house of Israel, deal with you as this potter* does? declares the LORD. Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel...Or at another moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to build up or to plant it; *if it does evil in My sight by not obeying My voice, then I will think better of the good with which I had promised to bless it.*”

8. **Jeremiah 19:10-11:** “Then you are to break the jar in the sight of the men who accompany you and say to them, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, Just so shall *I break this people and this city, even as one breaks a potter's vessel, which cannot again be repaired...*’”

## V. Land promise Spiritually fulfilled

### A. Texts

1. **Romans 4:13-14:** “For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if those who are of the Law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise is nullified.”



2. **Galatians 3:18:** “For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise.”
3. **Galatians 4:23-28:** “The son by the free woman through the promise. This is allegorically speaking: for these women are two covenants, one proceeding from Mount Sinai bearing children who are to be slaves; she is Hagar. Now this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the *Jerusalem above is free*; she is our mother.
4. **Ephesians 1:10-14:** “In Him also we have obtained an inheritance... the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession
5. **Hebrews 4:3:** “For we who have believed enter that rest, just as He has said, ‘as I swore in my wrath, they shall not enter my rest,’ although His works were finished from the foundation of the world.”

Parallel verses for Hebrews 4:3		
<b>Deuteronomy 1:34-35</b>	<b>Psalms 95:11</b>	<b>Hebrews 4:3</b>
the LORD was angry and took an oath, saying,	Therefore I swore in My anger	As I swore in My wrath
Not one of these men, this evil generation	truly they	they
shall <b>see</b> the	shall not <b>enter</b> into	shall not <b>enter</b>
<b>good land</b> which I swore to give your fathers	My <b>rest</b>	My <b>rest</b>
It is clear that the land was a type of the rest of heaven that David spoke of which is the spiritual antitype of the promise made to the fathers		

- a) God spoke of another rest after Joshua, through David in Ps 95
- b) Joshua & Jesus were forerunners into the promised lands; Joshua of Palestine; Jesus of Heaven: Heb 6:11-13;19-20 full assurance of hope...inherit the promises...God made the promise to Abraham...this hope we have as ...one which enters within the veil, where Jesus has entered as a *forerunner* for us

- c) Joshua was forerunner into physical promised land, Jesus into spiritual promise land.

B. Consider:

1. Abraham looked neither at the Ur or the promised land, but to heaven itself: Heb 6:19; 9:11,24

a) **Hebrews 11:8-19**: “By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was *to receive for an inheritance*... he lived as an alien in the land of promise... 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 having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.*”

2. Heaven is in the actual, spiritual presence of God, all physical things will be ‘uncreated’.

a. **Hebrews 11:1**: “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

b. **2 Corinthians 4:18**: “The things seen are temporary; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

c. **Colossians 1:16**: “For by him were all things created, in heaven, and in earth, visible and invisible.”

d. **Hebrews 9:11,24**: Jesus entered into heaven itself.

e. **Revelation 20:11**: Heaven and earth fled from his presence.

f. **Revelation 21:4**: The first things have passed away.

g. **Revelation 21:1,23; 22:5**: “No longer any sea, night, sun or moon.”

h. **John 13:36-14:6**: Heaven is in the very presence of the Father.

i. **Hebrews 6:19-20; 10:19-20**: We hope to ‘enter within the veil’.

- j. **2 Peter 3:10**: Earth and works will be burned up.
  - k. **Hebrews 11:3**: What was made was made out of that which was invisible.
  - l. **Hebrews 12:25-29**: Created things to be removed.
  - m. **John 18:36**: My kingdom is not of this world/ realm.
  - n. **1 Peter 1:17; Hebrews 13:14**: We are earthbound guests with a heavenly destination.”
3. Our resurrected body will not be physical, but of the same nature as God’s.
- a. **1 Corinthians 15:35-54**: Dead raised imperishable, living changed to imperishable.
  - b. **1 John 3:2**: We don’t know what we will be like except look like Jesus.”
  - c. **Philippians 3:20-21**: We will be transformed with great power to be like Jesus.”
  - d. **Matthew 13:44**: hidden treasure + **Colossians 3:1-4**: your life is hidden in Christ.
  - e. **1 Corinthians 15:50-51**: Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God.
  - f. **1 Corinthians 6:13**: Stomach and food done away with.
4. Inheritance in the New Testament not land but all spiritual blessings: Eph. 1:3
- a. Eternal life: Matthew 19:29; Luke 10:25; 18:18 shall inherit eternal life.
  - b. Kingdom of God & Christ: Matthew 25:34; Ephesians 5:5 inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 1 Corinthians 15:50: flesh and blood, perishable cannot inherit.
  - c. Salvation: Hebrews 1:14
  - d. The promises Hebrews 6:12
  - e. A blessing: 1 Peter 3:9
  - f. Imperishable and undefiled reserved in heaven: 1 Peter 1:4
  - g. The spring of the water of life: Revelation 21:6-7
  - h. We have received the inheritance: Ephesians 1:11;14 we have obtained an inheritance; pledge of our inheritance; Colossians 1:12-14 qualified us to share in the inheritance... having transferred us into the kingdom.
  - i. Hebrews 9:15 receive the promise of the eternal inheritance

5. Where does the New Testament state:
  - a. Abraham is to be raised in bodily human form?
  - b. Abraham is coming back again to possess Canaan?
  - c. Our hope is to live forever on planet earth?
- C. Seed promise fulfilled spiritually (no physical fulfillment)
  1. **Acts 3:25-26**: “It is you who are the sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’ For you first, God raised up His Servant, and sent Him to bless you by turning every one {of you} from your wicked ways.”
  2. **Acts 13:32-33,38**: “We preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers, that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus...that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you.”
  3. **Galatians 3:8-9**: “And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, ‘All the nations shall be blessed in you.’ So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.”
  4. **Galatians 3:18**: “For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise.”
  5. **Galatians 3:29**: “If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.”