

GOD'S PROMISES TO ISRAEL

Text: Romans 9:3-4

INTRO: Tho we are Gentiles, it is to our advantage to be aware of the promises God made to Israel in order that we might be assured of His ability & willingness to keep His promises. In this lesson, we will show that God has kept all the promises He made to Israel.

I. GOD'S ORIGINAL COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM WAS TO MAKE OF HIS DESCENDANTS A GREAT NATION, TO GIVE THEM THE LAND THEN KNOWN AS THE LAND OF CANAAN, & THRU HIS SEED TO BLESS ALL NATIONS.

A. These promises were first made to Abraham, Gen 12, then to Abraham's son Isaac, Gen 26, then to Isaac's son, Jacob, Gen 28. Later they were restated to Moses as they were in the process of being fulfilled.

Then the Lord said to [Moses], "This is the land of which I swore to give Abraham, Isaac & Jacob, saying 'I will give it to your descendants...' (Deut 34:4).

NOTE: By this time God had already made a nation from Abraham's descendants. He was about to give them the land of Canaan. Later thru Abraham's Seed, Jesus Christ, God began to bless people of all nations.

B. In our day, most of those with whom we will come into contact are well aware of God's fulfillment of the portions of the promise dealing with making Abraham's descendants into a nation, and with that of blessing all nations thru Christ. Thus, we will center our attention to the part of the promise that had to do with the land of Canaan. Many sincere Bible students suppose that somehow God's promise to Israel regarding the land of Canaan has not yet been completely fulfilled. Those who think so may be sincere, but they are seriously mistaken. READ JOSHUA 21:43-45.

II. WHAT MANY BIBLE STUDENTS FORGET--OR NEVER

KNEW, IS THAT GOD MADE ANOTHER PROMISE TO ISRAEL ABOUT THE LAND.

READ DEUT. 28:15-18, 21, 25, 32-33, 36, 49-52, 63-65

A. After a brief period of national glory under kings Saul, David & Solomon, Israel was divided into 2 nations or "houses"--the house of Judah & the house of Israel. Both of these nations continued in violation of God's covenant till He brot them into captivity. The land of promise was given to other nations as God promised.

B. The house of Israel fell to Assyria in 721 B.C.; the house of Judah fell to Babylon in 586 B.C.

III. THO GOD HAD OVERTHROWN THE DESCENDANTS OF ABRAHAM IN KEEPING WITH HIS PROMISES, HE CONTINUED TO LOVE THEM, & PROMISED TO SPARE A RIGHTEOUS REMNANT & BRING THEM BACK TO THE LAND OF PROMISE SO THAT THRU THEM HE MIGHT CONTINUE HIS ETERNAL PURPOSE OF BLESSING ALL NATIONS THRU JESUS CHRIST.

But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, & bring them back to their folds; & they shall be fruitful & increase. (Jer 23:3)

For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, & bring you into your own land. (Ezek 36:24).

A. We need to be aware that ALL these restoration promises made to Israel's righteous remnant have also been fulfilled.

B. It is a common misconception that only the house of Judah was restored to the promised land in the days of Ezra & Nehemiah. Even Hurlbut's Story of the Bible lends encouragement to that mistaken idea.

1. The Bible shows that all the tribes were invited to return to the land. Keep in mind that the area ruled by Assyria in 721 B.C. was being

ruled by Babylon in 586 B.C. By the time of Ezra, all this territory had come into possession of Cyrus, king of Persia. READ EZRA 1:1-3.

2. Indeed a remnant from both houses of Israel did return, Ezra 6:17; 8:35

READ I CHRON. 9:1-3 (NOTE: parallel with Neh. 11).

Luke 2:36; Matt. 10:6

To this promise our 12 tribes, earnestly serving God nite & day, hope to attain (Acts 26:7).

C. The only portions of God's promises to Israel as a nation that remained unfulfilled at the close of the O.T. were those that were spiritual in nature & were to be fulfilled in the life & accomplishments of Jesus Christ.

IV. JESUS, THE SEED OF ABRAHAM, CAME TO BLESS ALL NATIONS, Ga. 3:16.

A. God's Israel today--His chosen nation, is a spiritual nation, made up of those who come into Christ & partake of His chosenness & thus become spiritual descendants of Abraham.

READ GAL. 3:26-29

READ EPH 2:11-19

B. The house of Israel today is NOT the middle east nation founded in 1948 by unbelieving Jews, but the spiritual house or nation built by Jesus in 30 A.D. Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it... (Psalm 127:1).

CONCLUSION: You can come into God's house of Israel today & enjoy all the blessings God has for His people in time & eternity. The time is right. Jesus calls you to Him. Won't you come...

La Porte, TX, July 26, 1981

Exton, PA, October 7, 1984

Exton, PA, November 4, 1990

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, August 18, 1996

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, February 21, 1999

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, April 4, 1999