

**Israel**

**Who Owns the Land?**

# Introduction

In our last message we began a new section of Genesis (11:27-25:11) which narrowed the focus of history from the line of Shem in general down to one man in Shem's lineage: Abram.

God choose Abram to begin a new nation and through whom to send His Son the Messiah to bless the world.

# Review

God first appeared to Abram when he lived in Mesopotamia.

He came from a pagan family who served other gods (idolatry).

He, and his father Terah, moved from their home at Ur of the Chaldeans and came to Haran on their way to Canaan. It is at Haran that Terah died.

# Review

**God appeared to Abram the 2<sup>nd</sup> time at Haran after Terah died and said:**

**Genesis 12:1** Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you."

# What God Promised Abram

- Genesis 12:1-3, 6-7
- Genesis 13:14-17
- Genesis 15:1-21
- Genesis 17:1-21
- Genesis 18:17-18
- Genesis 21:12
- Genesis 22:14-18

# Genesis 12:1-3, 6-7

- **To make Abram a great nation** – “I will make of you a great nation” (Gen. 12:2a)
- **To bless Abram and make his name great** - “I will bless you and make your name great” (Gen. 12:2b)
- **Through Abram to bring blessing to all the families of the earth** - “in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Gen. 12:3)

# Genesis 12:1-3, 6-7

- **To give the land of Canaan to Abram's descendants** - “To your offspring I will give this land” (Gen. 12:7)

# Genesis 13:14-17

- **God repeats His promise to give Abram and his descendants the land of Canaan forever** – The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, <sup>15</sup> for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. (Gen. 13:14-15)



# Genesis 13:14-17

- **God repeats again His promise to give Abram the land of Canaan** – “Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you” (Gen. 13:17).

# Genesis 15:1-21

- **God tells childless Abram that he will have a son** - "your very own son shall be your heir" (Gen. 15:4).
- **God repeats His promise that Abram will have many descendants** - "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." (Gen. 15:5)

# Genesis 15:1-21

- **God repeats His promise to give Abram the land of Canaan** - "I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess." (Gen. 15:7)
- **Answers Abram's question:** "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" (Gen. 15:8) **by making a solemn promise to Abram**

# Genesis 15:1-21

- **by means of sacrificial animals and a “covenant” promise** – “On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land” (Gen. 15:18a).
- **God gives a description of the land God is giving to Abram** – “from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, <sup>19</sup> the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, <sup>20</sup> the

# Genesis 15:1-21

- Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, <sup>21</sup> the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites." (Gen. 15:18b-21).
- **Tells Abram He will not give the land to Abram's descendants until another 400 years pass.** "for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete" (Gen. 15:13-15). This is to allow the Canaanites/Amorites ample time to repent or be destroyed.

# The Boundaries of the Land







# PROMISED LAND

"from the river along the border with Egypt to the Great Euphrates River."

**12 Tribes settled here**  
...extended families descended from Abraham's grandson, Jacob

# 12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL

"I have given this land to your descendants."  
Genesis 15:18

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# Genesis 17:1-21

- **God requires Abram to faithfully obey Him and then renews His covenant promises to Abram** - “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, <sup>2</sup> that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” (Gen. 17:1-2)



# Genesis 17:1-21

- **God changes Abram's name, repeats His promise of many descendants saying Abraham will be the father of many nations and kings shall be among his descendants** - "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations.  
<sup>5</sup> No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you

# Genesis 17:1-21

- the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup> I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you (Gen. 17:4-6).
- **God promises His covenant with Abram will be an everlasting covenant - (implied, as long as you acknowledge me as your God) – “And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your**

# Genesis 17:1-21

- offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you” (Gen. 17:7).
- **God repeats His promise to give Abram and his descendants all the land of Canaan for an everlasting possession –**  
“And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan,

# Genesis 17:1-21

- for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God” (Gen. 17:8).
- **God institutes circumcision as a sign of the Abrahamic covenant promise and requires Abraham’s descendants to obey the covenant terms** – “And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of

# Genesis 17:1-21

- Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.”<sup>9</sup> And God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations.<sup>10</sup> This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. (Gen. 17:8-10).

# Genesis 17:1-21

- **God tells Abraham that his son through Sarah will be the child through whom the Abrahamic promises will be transmitted** - <sup>15</sup> And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup> I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her,

# Genesis 17:1-21

- and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her. . . . Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him. . . . <sup>21</sup> But I will establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this time next year” (Gen. 17:15-16, 19, 21)

# Genesis 18:18-19

- **God repeats His purpose to make Abraham a great and mighty nation and His purpose to bless all the nations of the earth through him** - “The LORD said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do,<sup>18</sup> seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?” (Gen. 18:17)



# Genesis 18:18-19

- **God makes clear the conditionality of who will participate in the Abrahamic covenant blessing** - "For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring to Abraham what he has promised him" (18:19)

# Genesis 21:12

- The heir who would participate as a channel through whom God would fulfill His promise to Abraham was: Isaac (not Ishmael, or Abraham's other children through Keturah, his second **wife** – “through Isaac shall your offspring be named” (Gen. 21:12))

# Genesis 22:17-18

- **God renews His promise to bless Abraham and multiplying his descendants** - “I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore (Gen. 22:17a).

# Genesis 22:17-18

- **God promises to protect Abraham and his offspring from their enemies** – “And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies,<sup>18</sup> and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice” (Gen. 22:17b-18).

# **God's Promises to Abraham**

- **To make Abram a great nation (2x)**
- **To bless Abram and make his name great (5x)**
- **Through Abram to bring blessing to all the families of the earth (3x)**
- **To give the land of Canaan to Abram's descendants (8x)**

# **God's Promises to Abraham**

- **God covenant with Abraham is an everlasting covenant (4x)**
- **The sign of the Abrahamic covenant is circumcision of males (1x)**

# Opening Question

- **Who owns the land of Israel?**
- Ultimately, God owns the land because He made and owns the world (Psa 24:1; 89:11).
- God gave the land to Israel forever as part of His everlasting covenant with Abraham.

**Israel**

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