

CANAAN, THE PROMISED LAND

[BIBLE TEXT](#) : Genesis 13:14-18; 15:18-21; Exodus 6:1-8; Leviticus 26:3-9

LESSON 160 Junior and Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God" (Genesis 17:8)..

[BIBLE TEXT in King James Version](#)

Genesis 13:14-18

¹⁴ And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:

¹⁵ For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.

¹⁶ And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, *then* shall thy seed also be numbered.

¹⁷ Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.

¹⁸ Then Abram removed *his* tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which *is* in Hebron, and built there an altar unto the LORD.

Genesis 15:18-21

¹⁸ In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:

¹⁹ The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites,

²⁰ And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the

[BIBLE REFERENCES:](#)

[NOTES:](#)

The Jewish People

The origin and history of the people who are now returning in great numbers from nearly every country in the world to their own newly created state of Israel, in the land of Palestine, dates back to the patriarch Abraham, approximately 2126 B. C. Abraham was the first Jew; and Isaac, his son, was the first-born Jew. As we read **Genesis 17:15-17** ¹⁵ And God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah *shall* her name *be*. ¹⁶ And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be *a mother* of nations; kings of people shall be of her. ¹⁷ Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall *a child* be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear? we are made to realize that the very inception of these people was a miracle, and they have continued to be a miracle people through the ages.

God's Promise to Abraham

Included in the Abrahamic Covenant are these words:

"And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:

"For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.

"And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.

"Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.

"Then Abram removed his tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which is in Hebron, and built there an altar unto the LORD" (Genesis 13:14-18).

God's great Covenant to this people was first made to Abram in **Genesis 12:1-7** ¹ Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: ² And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: ³ And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. ⁴ So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram *was* seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. ⁵ And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came. ⁶ And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite *was* then in the land. ⁷ And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him. The all-important provisions of this Covenant are: that a certain land is to be Abram's; a great nation is to come from him; the blessing of God is to rest upon him; a great name is to be conferred upon him; he is to become a blessing; God's blessing is to rest upon those who bless Abram, and God's curse to be upon those who curse Abram; and, as we have seen, that through Abram all families of the earth are to be blessed, in that Jesus the Perfect Sacrifice was to come through Abram's line.

The Everlasting Feature of the Abrahamic Covenant

Later, in confirming the Covenant with Abraham, **Genesis 17:1-8** ¹ And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I *am* the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. ² And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly. ³ And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, ⁴ As for me, behold, my covenant *is* with thee, and thou shalt be a father of

Rephaims,

²¹ And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.

Exodus 6:1-8

¹ Then the LORD said unto Moses, Now shalt thou see what I will do to Pharaoh: for with a strong hand shall he let them go, and with a strong hand shall he drive them out of his land.

² And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I *am* the LORD:

³ And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by *the name of* God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.

⁴ And I have also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, wherein they were strangers.

⁵ And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel, whom the Egyptians keep in bondage; and I have remembered my covenant.

⁶ Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I *am* the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments:

⁷ And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD

many nations. ⁵ Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. ⁶ And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. ⁷ And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. ⁸ And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God., the Lord said that it should be an everlasting Covenant between Him and Abraham and Abraham's seed. All the land of Canaan was to be given him and his seed for an everlasting possession.

The Lord, in other confirmations of His Covenant with Abraham (Genesis 15:18-20), and with Isaac (**Genesis 26:1-5** ¹ And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar. ² And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of: ³ Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swore unto Abraham thy father; ⁴ And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; ⁵ Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.), and with Jacob (**Genesis 28:10-15** ¹⁰ And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran. ¹¹ And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put *them* for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. ¹² And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. ¹³ And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I *am* the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; ¹⁴ And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. ¹⁵ And, behold, I *am* with thee, and will keep thee in all *places* whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done *that* which I have spoken to thee of. **Genesis 35:10-12** ¹⁰ And God said unto him, Thy name is Jacob: thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but Israel shall be thy name: and he called his name Israel. ¹¹ And God said unto him, I *am* God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins; ¹² And the land which I gave Abraham and Isaac, to thee I will give it, and to thy seed after thee will I give the land), heirs with Abraham of the same promise, again emphasized the everlasting feature of their landed possession and gave them an idea as to the extent of the land they would possess.

"In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:

**"The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites,
"And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims, "And the
Arnorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites,. and the Jebusites"
(Genesis 15:18-21).**

(For further information as to the original grant of land, refer to **Exodus 23:31** ³¹ And I will set thy bounds from the Red sea even unto the sea of the Philistines, and from the desert unto the river: for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand; and thou shalt drive them out before thee. **Deuteronomy 11:24** ²⁴ Every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the river Euphrates, even unto the uttermost sea shall your coast be. **Deuteronomy 34:1-4** ¹ And Moses went up from the plains of Moab unto the mountain of Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, that is over against Jericho. And the LORD shewed him all the land of Gilead, unto Dan, ² And all Naphtali, and the land of Ephraim, and Manasseh, and all the land of Judah, unto the utmost sea, ³ And the south, and the plain of the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, unto Zoar. ⁴ And the LORD said unto him, This is the land which I swore unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, saying, I will give it unto thy seed: I have caused thee to see *it* with thine eyes, but thou shalt not go over thither. **Joshua 1:2-6** ² Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, *even* to the children of Israel. ³ Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. ⁴ From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the

your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.
⁸ And I will bring you in unto the land, concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it you for an heritage: I *am* the LORD.

Leviticus 26:3-9

³ If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them;
⁴ Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.
⁵ And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely.
⁶ And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make *you* afraid: and I will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land.
⁷ And ye shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword.
⁸ And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword.
⁹ For I will have respect unto you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you, and establish my covenant

Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. ⁵ There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. ⁶ Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them.)

The Extent of their Ultimate Possession

From the verses of Scripture referred to, we are given a clear understanding as to the boundaries of Israel's landed possession. "Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates." In Exodus 23:31 we find the boundaries described thus: "I will set thy bounds from the Red sea even unto the sea of the Philistines, and from the desert unto the river: for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand; and thou shalt drive them out before thee." The Israelites were to actually drive out the inhabitants of the land and take possession. Their conquest of the land of Canaan was to be a mission of judgment as well as a fulfillment of the promises made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Israel was sent into the land to destroy nations that were ripe for judgment — nations who for centuries showed no signs of repentance and turning from their idolatrous worship and other sinful practices.

Generally speaking, the boundaries of the Promised Land were; Mount Lebanon on the north; the Euphrates on the northeast; the Arabian desert on the east; the Red Sea and the River of Egypt on the south; and the Sea of the Philistines, the Mediterranean, on the west.

At no time have the Israelites actually possessed all this land in the manner in which God intended them to (**Numbers 33:51-56** ⁵¹ Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye are passed over Jordan into the land of Canaan; ⁵² Then ye shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy all their pictures, and destroy all their molten images, and quite pluck down all their high places: ⁵³ And ye shall dispossess *the inhabitants* of the land, and dwell therein: for I have given you the land to possess it. ⁵⁴ And ye shall divide the land by lot for an inheritance among your families: *and* to the more ye shall give the more inheritance, and to the fewer ye shall give the less inheritance: every man's *inheritance* shall be in the place where his lot falleth; according to the tribes of your fathers ye shall inherit. ⁵⁵ But if ye will not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you; then it shall come to pass, that those which ye let remain of them *shall be* pricks in your eyes, and thorns in your sides, and shall vex you in the land wherein ye dwell. ⁵⁶ Moreover it shall come to pass, *that* I shall do unto you, as I thought to do unto them). They never did drive out all the inhabitants (**Joshua 23:11-13** ¹¹ Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, that ye love the LORD your God. ¹² Else if ye do in any wise go back, and cleave unto the remnant of these nations, *even* these that remain among you, and shall make marriages with them, and go in unto them, and they to you: ¹³ Know for a certainty that the LORD your God will no more drive out *any* of these nations from before you; but they shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until ye perish from off this good land which the LORD your God hath given you. **Judges 2:1-5** ¹ And an angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I sware unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you. ² And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this? ³ Wherefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be *as thorns* in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you. ⁴ And it came to pass, when the angel of the LORD spake these words unto all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voice, and wept. ⁵ And they called the name of that place Bochim: and they sacrificed there unto the LORD. **Psalms 106:34-35** ³⁴ They did not destroy the nations, concerning whom the LORD commanded them: ³⁵ But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works); and God had specifically said those idolatrous people should not dwell in the land with His people (**Exodus 23:33** ³³ They shall not dwell in thy land, lest they make thee sin against me: for if thou serve their gods, it will surely be a snare unto thee). King Solomon reigned over all this land, but we must remember that within these boundaries were many kingdoms. Solomon had, as tributaries, the kingdoms of Syria, Damascus, Moab, and Ammon, which lay between the Euphrates and the Mediterranean. In all probability these subjected kingdoms preserved their separate governmental organizations and nationality as before, but were obliged to contribute to the annual revenues of Solomon. Nevertheless, there is coming a time when the Israelites will come into their full inheritance. It will be sufficient to accommodate them, even though they be as the "dust of the earth." God's unalterable Word of Prophecy will be fulfilled.

Possession of the Land Dependent upon Obedience

We thus understand that the Original Owner of the earth has given a title deed to the Jews showing them, as the legal owners of the land of Palestine. This title deed

can be found in millions of Bibles, written in many hundreds of different languages and dialects, throughout the world today. No other nation in all history has ever received such a title deed to land. In reviewing the history of peoples, we find that in most instances the title to their land is the result of the right of conquest, but the land of Canaan belongs to the Jews because God has given it to them. This title deed has been unmistakably clear for nearly 4,000 years. "Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: for all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, **and to thy seed for ever**" (Genesis 13:14, 15).

The descendants of Abraham had to abide in their own land to inherit fully every blessing (**Deuteronomy 28:1-14** ¹ And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe *and* to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: ² And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God. ³ Blessed *shalt* thou *be* in the city, and blessed *shalt* thou *be* in the field. ⁴ Blessed *shall be* the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. ⁵ Blessed *shall be* thy basket and thy store. ⁶ Blessed *shalt* thou *be* when thou comest in, and blessed *shalt* thou *be* when thou goest out. ⁷ The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways. ⁸ The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. ⁹ The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways. ¹⁰ And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the LORD; and they shall be afraid of thee. ¹¹ And the LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers to give thee. ¹² The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow. ¹³ And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do *them*: ¹⁴ And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, *to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.*). Their permanent residence in the Promised Land was assured: "And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the **LORD** thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: and all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, **if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.**"

Punishment and Exile for Disobedience

Also in Deuteronomy 28 and Leviticus 26 we find that the Lord pronounced a curse upon the land and the inhabitants for disobedience. Deuteronomy 28:15 declares: "But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the **LORD** thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee." Briefly, the curses for disobedience were: a posterity weakened and decimated by disease and by their enemies; a land cursed by drought — no abundant crops; flocks and herds diminished and diseased. Furthermore, instead of being a holy people unto the living, loving, and gracious JEHOVAH, they would be removed from their land and become an idolatrous people bowing down in vain worship to gods of wood and stone which could neither hear nor see. These curses stand in direct contrast with the blessings enumerated in the first part of Deuteronomy 28. If the people persisted in their disobedience they would be expelled from the land.

Israel's Sojourn in a Strange Land

The Lord had told Abram, "Know, of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not their's, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; and also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance" (Genesis 15:13, 14). The sojourn of the Children of Israel in Egypt is here foretold. The duration is stated in round numbers as being 400 years. In Exodus 12:40 we read: "Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years." This 430 years dates from the call that God gave Abraham to leave Haran in Mesopotamia and go into the land of Canaan. It includes the time when the fathers of Israel, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, "sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country," as well as the time of the sojourn of their descendants in Egypt. The Apostle Paul declares that this 430-year period must be reckoned from the Covenant with Abram (**Galatians 3:17** ¹⁷ And this I say, *that the*

covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect). It is believed that from the call of Abram to the descent into Egypt was 215 years; and from the descent into Egypt until the exodus was 215 years, making a total of 430 years.

JEHOVAH'S Answer to Moses' Prayer

As the time drew near for the deliverance of the Children of Israel out of cruel Egyptian bondage, the Lord spoke to Moses, who was keeping the flock of Jethro his father-in-law in the land of Midian, and said: "Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt" (Exodus 3:10). Moses returned to Egypt; and during the first interview he and Aaron had with Pharaoh, the king, the following request was made: "Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, **Let my people go**, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness." This was the first step in the liberation of the Children of Israel as slaves in Egypt. This attempt was unsuccessful, as the Lord said it would be. Additional burdens were added to these already greatly oppressed people. Moses went to God in prayer about the matter and the Lord answered him thus:

"Now shalt thou see what I will do to Pharaoh : for with a strong hand shall he let them go, and with a strong hand shall he drive them out of his land.

"And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the LORD:

"And I appeared, unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.

"And I have also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, wherein they were strangers.

"And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel, whom the Egyptians keep in bondage; and I have remembered my covenant.

"Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments:

"And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

"And I will bring you in unto the land, concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it you for an heritage: I am the LORD" (Exodus 6:14).

Jehovah is the name by which God revealed Himself to His people when He set Himself to deliver them out of Egypt with a high and mighty hand, and again to confirm the promise of their inheritance of the land of Canaan. After many great *signs* and wonders in the land of Egypt, during which time it is brought to desolation, Pharaoh is for the moment willing to let the descendants of Israel start for their land of promise. Their great Redeemer is with them throughout their long years of wanderings in the wilderness. It was the Lord's intention to bring them immediately into this land that was a veritable Utopia, but because of the people's unbelief, rebellion, and disobedience, that generation was not permitted to complete the journey. (**Numbers 14:22-35**)²² Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice;²³ Surely they shall not see the land which I swore unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:²⁴ But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.²⁵ (Now the Amalekites and the Canaanites dwelt in the valley.) To morrow turn you, and get you into the wilderness by the way of the Red sea.²⁶ And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,²⁷ How long shall I bear with this evil congregation, which murmur against me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they murmur against me.²⁸ Say unto them, *As truly as I live*, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you:²⁹ Your carcases shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me,³⁰ Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, *concerning* which I swore to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.³¹ But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised.³² But *as for you*, your carcases, they shall fall in this wilderness.³³ And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcases be wasted in the wilderness.³⁴ After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, *even* forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, *even* forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.³⁵ I the LORD have said, I will surely do it unto all this evil congregation, that are gathered together against me: in this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die)

The Land of Promise

During the 40 years of- wandering in the wilderness, the Lord was preparing the next generation of Israel to cross over Jordan into Canaan. He was doing this by giving them laws that were to govern their worship of the true and the living God in the land. Civil and economic laws were also given them. All these laws were for their own good. Strict obedience was the price of great blessings in the land they were to possess.

"If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them;

"Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.

"And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely.

"And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid: and I will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land.

"And ye shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword.

"And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword.

"For I will have respect unto you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you, and establish my covenant with you" (Leviticus 26:3-9).

What more could the Lord have done for the well-being of this people? The necessary rains would be provided. The land would bring forth in abundance. The trees of the field would always yield their fruit. So abundant would be the crops that six months' time, from mid-Nisan (April) to mid-Tishri (October) would be required to gather the produce of the soil.

We are told that the plowing in this land of great productiveness took place in October and the sowing in November. The barley and wheat harvest extended through the months of April and May which was an unusually long time and indicated bumper crops. The vintage began in August and was not completed until sometime in October. This task also required an unusually long time and indicated the bountifulness of the yield. The threshing time came after the reaping of the grains and before the gathering of the grapes. The promise was that the crops would be so abundant that the threshing time would extend even unto the vintage — the time for the gathering of the grapes and the making of wine — commencing in August. Then the time for the ingathering and processing of the grapes would extend over into the time of plowing and sowing in the fall of the year. In fact, the vintage would be so plentiful that it would not be completed when the time for plowing and sowing would again come around.

In addition to all these blessings springing from the soil, the Lord promised them peace. No foreign peoples would make them afraid, because the Lord had said that the sword would not go through their land. They would be an aggressive and victorious people, driving their enemies from the land that was to be given them.

The Children of Israel had already been given a preview of what the Promised Land was capable of bringing forth. The twelve spies that Moses had sent out to spy out the land returned with some samples of the produce. A branch with one cluster of the grapes of Eshcol was so large that two men carried it between them on a staff. They also brought back samples of the pomegranates and, figs. Their report was that "surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it" (Numbers 13:27). This was a confirmation of what the Lord had told them in connection with the productiveness of the land. All this and more too was theirs for the price of simple obedience. The price of disobedience would be a withholding of the rains, which would make the land barren and unproductive. Furthermore, because of disobedience they would be scattered among all nations of the world.

They did disobey the Lord, and as a result they have been scattered among all nations of the world for more than 19 centuries. However, the time is near when God is going to graft the natural branches (the Jews) back into the Vine — the Lord Jesus Christ (**John 15:1-6** ¹ I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. ² Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. ³ Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. ⁶ If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned. **Romans 11:15-26** ¹⁵ For if the casting away of them *be* the reconciling of the world, what *shall* the receiving of *them be*, but life from the dead? ¹⁶ For if the firstfruit *be* holy, the lump *is also holy*: and if the root *be* holy, so *are* the branches. ¹⁷ And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; ¹⁸ Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. ¹⁹ Thou wilt say then, The branches

were broken off, that I might be grafted in. ²⁰ Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: ²¹ For if God spared not the natural branches, *take heed* lest he also spare not thee. ²² Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in *his* goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. ²³ And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again. ²⁴ For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural *branches*, be grafted into their own olive tree? ²⁵ For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. ²⁶ And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob). The rains have returned to Palestine. It is commencing again to blossom as the rose. This land that has lain idle for so many centuries is being brought into cultivation and is again producing abundant crops. The time for the complete fulfillment of prophecy regarding this land lies just ahead. "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt" (Amos 9:13).

One authority now states that "the soil is so rich, the climate so varied, that within ordinary limits it may be said that the more people it contains, the more it may accept. Its productiveness will increase in proportion to labor bestowed .on the soil until a population of 15 million may be accommodated there." This would be about three million more Jews than there are in the world today. The Israelis, in applying scientific methods to their farming, are making the land bring forth many times more than the Arabs ever did. Under the providence of the Covenant- keeping God, the land is again showing signs of "flowing with milk and honey," and the rightful owners of it are now returning in great numbers. During the Millenium "They shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it" (**Micah 4:4** ⁴ But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make *them* afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken *it*. **Zechariah 3:10** ¹⁰ In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, shall ye call every man his neighbour under the vine and under the fig tree)