

The End-Times Relevance of Israel Part 2: The Land

The Land Belongs to God

- Lev 25:23, “The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine and you are but aliens and my tenants.”
 - God’s relationship to the land?
- Deut 11:12, “It is a land the Lord your God cares for; the eyes of the Lord your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end.”
 - God’s attitude toward the land?
- 2 Ki 17:22-23, “²² The Israelites persisted in all the sins of Jeroboam and did not turn away from them ²³ until the Lord removed them from his presence, as he had warned through all his servants the prophets. So the people of Israel were taken from their homeland into exile in Assyria, and they are still there.”
 - What relationship is there between these two statements?
 - So what is the significance of the land?
- Isa 14:24-25
 - ²⁴ The Lord Almighty has sworn,
“Surely, as I have planned, so it will be,
and as I have purposed, so it will stand.
 - ²⁵ I will crush the Assyrian in my land;
on my mountains I will trample him down.
His yoke will be taken from my people,
and his burden removed from their shoulders.”
 - God’s relationship to the land and mountains?
- Jer 2:5, 7
 - ⁵ “This is what the Lord says: . . .
 - ⁷ I brought you into a fertile land
to eat its fruit and rich produce.
But you came and defiled my land
and made my inheritance detestable.”
 - God’s relationship to the land?
- Jer 16:18, “I will repay them double for their wickedness and their sin, because they have defiled my land with the lifeless forms of their vile images and have filled my inheritance with their detestable idols.”
 - Do you think these are equivalent statements? Explain.
- Eze 38:16, “In days to come, O Gog, I will bring you against my land”
 - God’s relationship to the land?
 - How is this statement relevant to the end times?
- Is the Book of Joel relevant to the end times?

- Joel 1:6-7
 - ⁶ A nation has invaded my land,
powerful and without number;
it has the teeth of a lion,
the fangs of a lioness.
 - ⁷ It has laid waste my vines
and ruined my fig trees.
 - God's relationship to the land in the end times? To the vines & fig trees?
 - What new insight does this provide about God's position on the land?
- Joel 3:2
 - I will gather all nations
and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat.
There I will enter into judgment against them
concerning my inheritance, my people Israel,
for they scattered my people among the nations
and divided up my land.
 - Why will God bring judgment against all the nations?

The land is God's gift to Abraham's descendants

- Gen 13:14-15, ¹⁴ "The Lord said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, 'Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. ¹⁵ All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever.'"
 - What conditions did God place on Abram's descendants receiving the land?
 - Is this promise still relevant today? Explain.
- Gen 17:20-21, ²⁰ "And as for Ishmael, I have heard you: I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers. He will be the father of twelve rulers, and I will make him into a great nation. ²¹ But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you by this time next year."
 - Who was Ishmael?
 - Did God's covenant with Abraham include Ishmael?
 - Do the descendants of Ishmael have a legitimate claim on the land?
 - Gen 21:12, ". . . it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned."
- Gen 35:12, "The land I gave to Abraham and Isaac I also give to you, and I will give this land to your descendants after you."
 - What affect, if any, does this promise have on God's promise to Abraham?
- Did Abraham have other sons?
 - Ishmael, son of Hagar

- Gen 25:1-2, ¹ “Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah. ² She bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak and Shuah.”
- Gen 25:5-6, ⁵ “Abraham left everything he owned to Isaac. ⁶ But while he was still living, he gave gifts to the sons of his concubines and sent them away from his son Isaac to the land of the east.”
- Based on all these passages, which of Abraham’s descendants have legal claim to the land?

Inheritance, Everlasting Gift

- The land of Israel is an everlasting gift
 - Gen 13:15, “All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever.”
 - Gen 48:4 [Jacob quoting God], “I am going to make you fruitful and will increase your numbers. I will make you a community of peoples, and I will give this land as an everlasting possession to your descendants after you.”
 - Deut 4:40, “Keep his decrees and commands, which I am giving you today, so that it may go well with you and your children after you and that you may live long in the land the Lord your God gives you for all time.”
- The land is Israel’s inheritance
 - Deut 21:23, “You must not desecrate the land the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance.”
 - Deut 24:4, “Do not bring sin upon the land the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance.”
 - Deut 25:19, “. . . in the land he is giving you to possess as an inheritance”
 - Deut 26:1, “When you have entered the land the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance”
 - What is the significance of God repeating this point?
- Eze 36:22, 24, ²² “Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. . . . ²⁴ For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land.’”
 - According to this passage, why is God returning the Jews to Israel?
 - What does that mean?
- Does this mean God’s favor is on the land of Israel?
- Will the nations that impose a 2-state solution on Israel experience God’s judgment?

Boundaries of the Land

- Gen 15:18-21, ¹⁸ “On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, ‘To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates — ¹⁹ the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, ²⁰ Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, ²¹ Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites.’”
 - “river” of Egypt (Heb, *nahar*): river or stream; i.e., flowing body of water
 - Could “the river of Egypt” be the Nile River?
- Num 34:1-12
 - ¹ The Lord said to Moses, ² “Command the Israelites and say to them: ‘When you enter Canaan, the land that will be allotted to you as an inheritance will have these boundaries:
 - ³ “Your southern side will include some of the Desert of Zin along the border of Edom. On the east, your southern boundary will start from the end of the Salt Sea, ⁴ cross south of Scorpion Pass, continue on to Zin and go south of Kadesh Barnea. Then it will go to Hazar Addar and over to Azmon, ⁵ where it will turn, join the Wadi of Egypt and end at the Sea.
 - ⁶ “Your western boundary will be the coast of the Great Sea. This will be your boundary on the west.
 - ⁷ “For your northern boundary, run a line from the Great Sea to Mount Hor ⁸ and from Mount Hor to Lebo Hamath. Then the boundary will go to Zedad, ⁹ continue to Ziphron and end at Hazar Enan. This will be your boundary on the north.
 - ¹⁰ “For your eastern boundary, run a line from Hazar Enan to Shepham. ¹¹ The boundary will go down from Shepham to Riblah on the east side of Ain and continue along the slopes east of the Sea of Kinnereth. ¹² Then the boundary will go down along the Jordan and end at the Salt Sea.
 - “This will be your land, with its boundaries on every side.”
 - v 5, “wadi” (Heb, *nachal*): (1) a moving body of water of various sizes, varying greatly based on volumes of rain, that may not flow year-round; (2) valley, gorge, wadi, or ravine often with a flow of water, at least part of the year
 - “Wadi of Egypt”: a ravine south of the Gaza Strip that empties into the Mediterranean
- Eze 47:15-20
 - ¹⁵ “This is to be the boundary of the land:
 - “On the north side it will run from the Great Sea by the Hethlon road past Lebo Hamath to Zedad, ¹⁶ Berothah and Sibraim (which lies on the border between Damascus and Hamath), as far as Hazer Hatticon, which is on the border of Hauran. ¹⁷ The boundary will extend from the sea to Hazar Enan, along the northern border of Damascus, with the border of Hamath to the north. This will be the north boundary.

- ¹⁸ “On the east side the boundary will run between Hauran and Damascus, along the Jordan between Gilead and the land of Israel, to the eastern sea and as far as Tamar. This will be the east boundary.
- ¹⁹ “On the south side it will run from Tamar as far as the waters of Meribah Kadesh, then along the Wadi of Egypt to the Great Sea. This will be the south boundary.
- ²⁰ “On the west side, the Great Sea will be the boundary to a point opposite Lebo Hamath. This will be the west boundary.”

Blessing

May the Lord bless his land
with the precious dew from heaven above
and with the deep waters that lie below;
with the best the sun brings forth
and the finest the moon can yield;
with the choicest gifts of the ancient mountains
and the fruitfulness of the everlasting hills.
— Deut 33:13-15

The Promised Land

(dashed line identifies boundaries as described in Num 34 and Eze 47)

