

***“The Day of the Lord -- The Lord Jesus,
Israel’s Long-Awaited Prophet — He Shall Come”***

Review: The Promises of God to Abraham Require Both The Land and the 1000-Year Millennial Kingdom

- ***The Land Promises Concerning the Seed of Abraham***
- ***The Land Promises Concerning the Twelve Tribes in the Land of Promise***
- ***The Land Promises Concerning the Davidic Kingdom***

- ***The Land Promises Concerning the Seed of Abraham***
 - The Day of the Lord, the coming Kingdom, perhaps streets paved with gold, buildings made of precious stones, etc.: Is this our topic for today? Well, not really. For the promises to Abraham and to his descendants require both the land and the establishing of the Millennial Kingdom in that land, both of which place the Jews and an elect nation in the last days as dominant over the entire world.
 - The Land Promises that provide the background of a great many of the promises God made to his people through Abraham are revealed in scripture beginning in Genesis 12 and culminating in chapter 28 with expansive amplifications in land area along the way, with decreased limits to first Isaac and then Jacob:

Genesis 28:10-15 *[The further limiting to Jacob AND to his descendants.]*

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.

- Here we see the basic promises embodied in the Abrahamic covenant, which are magnificent indeed. Others include Genesis 12:7, 13:14-17, 15:18-21, 17:1-8, 22:15-18.

- Genesis 12: This promise is truly foundational, for it is the first revealed promise of God to Abraham.

[READ] Genesis 12:7-8

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.

8 And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD.

- These verses are foundational regarding the land promises, "this land" that you see, even though it "belonged" always to other dwellers, among whom these newest dwellers lived as aliens and strangers. But now it was promised by God Himself to Abraham and his offspring.
- Genesis 13 - *Here, the magnitude of the family promise is defined:*

Genesis 13:14-17

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.

- Genesis 15 - *Now the vast extent of the land grant is defined:*

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 Rephaims,

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

- Genesis 17 - The promise is expanded regarding nations and kings:

Genesis 17:4-8

4 As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of 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.

- Have the land promises been fulfilled historically or in our current time? The answer is clearly “NO”! Not ever have these detailed promises been fulfilled. But isn’t it so clear that the fulfillment of these land promises is required to be fulfilled in the Lord’s good timing?

- ***The Land Promises Concerning the Twelve Tribes in Palestine Through Moses***

- As we have seen, the Lord God granted the land as a possession forever to Abraham and his seed, both expanding and narrowing that land promise in the Genesis account. Then, about 5 centuries after the initial promise to Abraham as recorded in Genesis 12, the Lord through Moses promised in detail the extent of the blessings of the coming promise in the land, specifically for the Twelve Tribes. This promise is called the “Palestinian Covenant,” and it is conditional, not like the others:

Deuteronomy 28:1-4

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.

- This covenant and these promises are about the promised land and the blessings that would come to the Jews in Palestine IF they would be obedient to the terms of the Mosaic Law. As Paul teaches in Galatians, this was like the Mosaic Law added to the unconditional promises given earlier and could not replace them, for they were unconditional. The terms of this covenant were regarding blessing in the Promised Land. They will be fulfilled when the Kingdom is established at the Second Coming, and not until then, since the elect nation is a requirement first.
- Have the land promises been fulfilled historically or in our current time? The answer is clearly “NO”! For the elect nation must be created by Almighty God, first.

- ***The Land Promises Concerning the Coming Kingdom Through David***

- Now, hundreds of years after the promise through Moses we just examined in Deuteronomy 28, we have this amplification in 2 Samuel 7, with what has been called the “Davidic” covenant:

2 Samuel 7:12-16

12 And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom.

13 He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.

14 I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:

15 But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took [it] from Saul, whom I put away before thee.

16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.

- The focus here is on an earthly kingdom with an earthly throne. And an earthly house will be built. It is pointing to Christ himself, as many other scriptures also teach. This covenant will result in David, after resurrection, being established as co-regent with our Lord Jesus. That rule will be “forever”. Take note that this is an unconditional promise, not a conditional one as was the previous one to David.
- One point here needs to be made, and it is very important: As we have seen from the different promises God made to Abraham, and how these promises were expanded and remade to his generations, the sheer magnitude and glory of them is far beyond what our imagination is able to grasp. The size of the land grant, the blessings to be poured out in that land upon the Jews, the way those blessings would be shared with the

world, the way these nations of this world would return the blessings to Israel, the way the world-wide Kingdom would be managed by Israel's King, our resurrected Lord, from Jerusalem, and that with absolute justice, all are beyond our ability to comprehend.

We must therefore stand in awe of what will come as this Kingdom is established and develops. What will God be doing in those years and centuries is so distinctive and so very different from what God is doing today. And yet, since so few fail to Rightly Divide they do not know this truth. That steals the glory of God away from him in such a pernicious way.

- Praise the Lord for the word of the living God, that we might understand the plan of God and know his will and purpose for his people Israel -- and for us saints as well, living in the realm of his abundant grace. Their way of life will be so different from ours, for we have no earthly promises and certainly none regarding land as they so clearly did. But praise be to God for his sovereign work on our behalf now and forever!
- Streets paved with gold, etc., are not therefore to be our focus today and they are not the focus in Paul's revelation to us Gentiles concerning our eternal inheritance, under grace. No. Instead, the abundance of life by grace through faith in our risen savior. We shall reign in life by our precious Lord Jesus. Our upward calling is our next appointment. Amen.

Introduction:

God has promised Israel many things, but the pinnacle of his high mountain of promise is for a Prophet / Priest / King, all in one person. The Bible reveals that person to be Jesus Christ. Today we will examine the "context" of the Kingdom with our Lord Jesus as the promised and long-awaited Prophet, Priest, and King. In the following lessons, we will look into the details of the coming Kingdom. But today we will limit ourselves to the highest-level view, the view from the top as it were, that of Christ at his second coming taking on his new roles as their expected and hoped-for Prophet, Priest, and King. For us he has been our savior and Lord. But for Israel and the nations, he shall be their Prophet, Priest, and King!

For us today, living under grace, the return of the Lord Jesus will bring out eternal and heavenly blessings to realization. But for those believers living at the end of the Tribulation, the return of the Lord will bring to fulfillment nearly all of the then unfulfilled prophecies regarding his chosen people, Israel, and also, even more importantly, at the foundation of it all, regarding his son and, as we know today, our savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The key question is always "what is God doing?" So when we are studying the Millennial Kingdom, it is that question which is foremost in our minds must be the same:

“what is God doing?”, only now it will be, “what is God doing during the Kingdom Dispensation?” As we shall see today and in our following fellowships in God’s Word, there are some very special things that God will be doing in the Kingdom, including our focus today on Israel’s coming Messiah / Prophet.

Our Outline Today: The Lord Jesus, Israel’s Long-Awaited Prophet — He Shall Come

- ***The Lord Jesus, Israel’s Long-Awaited Prophet — His Reality Revealed***
- ***The Lord Jesus, Israel’s Long-Awaited Prophet — His Reality Rejected***
- ***The Lord Jesus, Israel’s Long-Awaited Prophet — His Reality Manifested***

Next Time: The Lord Jesus, Israel’s Long-Awaited Prophet — He Has Come

- ***The Lord Jesus, Israel’s Long-Awaited Prophet — His Presence in Shadow***
- ***The Lord Jesus, Israel’s Long-Awaited Prophet — His Presence in Finality***

I. The Lord Jesus, Israel’s Long-Awaited Prophet — His Reality Revealed:

- First references are always important in God’s book, the Bible. Though the word “prophet” is used in earlier books than Deuteronomy, never before chapter 18 is it used in such a detailed way. Therefore, it is to this chapter we will go to understand the place in biblical prophecy that the prophet had for the hope of the Lord’s chosen people, the nation of Israel.

[READ] Deuteronomy 18:15-22

15 The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

16 According to all that thou desiredst of the LORD thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not.

17 And the LORD said unto me, They have well [spoken that] which they have spoken.

18 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

19 And it shall come to pass, [that] whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require [it] of him.

20 But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.

21 And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken?

22 When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that [is] the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, [but] the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.

- What is a prophet, biblically speaking? That is the question we should be able to answer as we begin our study on Christ as Prophet. And the text here gives us a pretty detailed answer to that question, doesn't it?
 - God sovereignly calls them from among common humanity.
 - They are given authority, and the word of the prophet must be heard. The consequences of refusing the Word of the Prophet is severe.
 - God compels his prophets to speak all the words he provides.
 - There is a death penalty for those speaking falsely as if they were prophets but are not.
 - Prophets often speak of future events "in the name of the Lord". The "litmus" test for false prophets is whether all their prophecies come to pass.
- There were in Israel's history many false prophets (and as was foretold through Moses when the Law was given). Since through the prophets God gave his instructions to his people, and since those instructions were for Israel's obedience, the people needed to know which prophets were sent by God and which ones were instruments of evil. Therefore, the teaching here is very important. And the issue was always whether the word of the true prophet would be heard and obeyed.
- For your study, you should also look at other references to "false" prophets in the final book of the Bible, especially in Rev. 16:13, 19:20, and 20:10. In seeking to prevent the revelation of God's final "Prophet", satan works miracles to certify his prophets. But they are false indeed.

This evil already exists in our day, as Paul wrote in 2 Thessalonians 2. These signs and miracles do not confirm the work of God Almighty today as many may think, but rather the work of satan.

II. The Lord Jesus, Israel's Long-Awaited Prophet — His Reality Rejected:

- The Lord Jesus was the fulfillment of prophecy as Israel's prophet above all prophets. And. Yet their long history revealed perhaps what their response would be. The Lord revealed it himself in these words:

Luke 13:31-35

31 The same day [*In his middle ministry*] there came certain of the Pharisees, saying unto him, Get thee out, and depart hence: for Herod will kill thee.

32 And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third [day] I shall be perfected.

33 Nevertheless I must walk to day, and to morrow, and the [day] following: for it cannot be that a prophet perish out of Jerusalem.

34 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen [doth gather] her brood under [her] wings, and ye would not!

35 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, Ye shall not see me, until [the time] come when ye shall say, Blessed [is] he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

- Next time we shall see how this would go, from the Day of Pentecost onwards. But it will not go well. Verses 31-35 here hints strongly at that.

III. The Lord Jesus, Israel's Long-Awaited Prophet — His Reality Manifested

- But his glory was manifest, in signs and wonders: Would it be enough? Let's see. How about John the baptizer?:

Matthew 11:2-9

2 Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples,

3 And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?

4 Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see:

5 The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

6 And blessed is [he], whosoever shall not be offended in me.

7 And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind?

8 But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft [clothing] are in kings' houses.

9 But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. *[In other words, he was more than "a" prophet for he was the long-awaited prophet promised to Israel in the Pentateuch.]*

- Even John was confused because they had not expected their Messiah to come in weakness but only in power. For they had not known that in his first coming he would necessarily, through his weakness, redeem them, submitting to their sin and sins and even bearing them in his own body with all of their shame. They did not know that the prophecies regarding his glorious power were reserved for his second coming (apart from the miracles, of course, authenticating him as Israel's Messiah — and long-awaited prophet!). The prophet Isaiah had revealed that so clearly:

[READ] Isaiah 35:4-6

4 Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you.

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

6 Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

- But so many were in unbelief and rebellion, even his own family!

[READ] Matthew 13:54-58

54 And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this [man] this wisdom, and [these] mighty works?

55 Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?

56 And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this [man] all these things?

57 And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.

58 And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

- The Jews expected their Messiah to come in power and not in weakness, and even, they thought, initially in anonymity. For otherwise, how could he deliver them from the heavy yoke of Roman bondage by which they had been oppressed for so long? For this reason, as well as others far more personal and spiritual, except for a small minority, the Jews failed to recognize their own Messiah

Conclusions / Application:

- These teachings of sacred scripture should give us much hope. The Kingdom shall be established in due time. Israel (as an elect remnant) shall be redeemed. Israel's Messiah shall rule and reign and bring great blessing to his nation and people. They will finally have their promised and long-awaited Prophet, and to him will their hearts be conformed by his spirit, never to go astray again, as a nation.

If it were not so, we could never be sure regarding our promises under grace. But it shall be.

Praise his name.