

"God's Relationship with Israel"

Romans 9-11

Part 5

Introduction: In our study of Romans we are in Romans 9 and we are currently looking at 8 privileges which God blessed the Nation of Israel with.

Notice Romans 9:4-5

To the Nation of Israel pertained:

1. Adoption
2. Glory
3. Covenants
4. Giving of the Law
5. Service to God
6. Promises
7. The fathers, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob
8. The Messiah

These are the 8 privileges given to the people of Israel. Now before we get back to where we stopped last week let me tell you what Paul is doing here. He does not go into the detail which we are with each of these because his readers would have already had the background. They would have been far more educated in the history of the Nation of Israel. For this reason, Paul can be brief as he names these privileges but for us, we need to do an in-depth study in order to understand what Paul is doing here.

Paul is going to go from here to explain that God has not cast the nation away. He has set them aside for now, but He is not finished with Israel. To make this point Paul is backing up a dump truck load of Old Testament Truth and he is dumping it at the feet of his teaching in order to make his point. This is exactly why we must take the time to understand what the Old Testament says about the people of Israel.

We are currently looking at the covenants which God made with Israel and for the last two weeks we looked at the Abrahamic Covenant.

I. The Abrahamic Covenant

The promises of the Abrahamic Covenant were to three groups: The Abrahamic Covenant contains promises to Abraham, Abraham's seed and to the Gentile Nations.

1. The Provisions

a. Promises to Abraham.

1. God promised that Abraham would be the father of a great nation.
2. God promised personal blessings upon Abraham.
3. God promised his name would be great.
4. God promised that he would be a blessing to others.

b. Promises to Abraham's Seed.

1. The nation would be great and innumerable.
2. God promised to Abraham and to his seed the possession of the land.

c. Promises to the Gentile Nations

1. Through Abraham all the families of the earth would be blessed.

We also looked at two other points:

3. The Covenant is UNCONDITIONAL

This means that Abraham had no part in bringing the covenant to fulfillment. The covenant was based upon the faithfulness of God.

4. The Covenant was ETERNAL

Genesis 17:7-8

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.

Now there are a couple of thoughts which I want us to consider here. I want to raise a few questions which come into my mind pertaining to the Abrahamic Covenant and the other Covenants which we are going to look at.

We are told here that this covenant is eternal/everlasting which means the promise of the land to Israel is everlasting, but how are we to understand this when the book of Revelation tells us that one day this earth will be destroyed and there will be a new creation?

Revelation 21:1

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

The land of Israel will be destroyed after the Kingdom Age, so how can the covenant be eternal? Because the covenant is eternal/everlasting it must be that Israel will occupy a land in the eternal state for all eternity!

The second question that comes to my mind is that how will this covenant be fulfilled when we understand that many of Israel died unsaved and so we know they will be resurrected only to be cast into the Lake of Fire?

Daniel 12:1-2

And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

² *And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

There are two resurrections mentioned here and they are 1000 years apart. The resurrection for the saved of the Old Testament will be immediately after the Great Tribulation the resurrection for all the unsaved will be 1000 years later at the Great White throne.

So, many of the Israelites died unsaved and will not receive the land in the Kingdom Age so how will the covenant ever be fulfilled?

Notice Romans 9:6-7

The promise of the land is to the seed of Abraham that comes from Isaac. The promise is not to Ishmael nor to Esau, who were both the seeds of Abraham. But the heirs must be from the line of Isaac. But there is more. Notice the words of George Zeller:

"In the days of Christ, the Jews took great pride in being children of Abraham. The Jews thought that all who came out of Abraham were blessed and recipients of the promises. They mistakenly thought that all who descended from Israel were (true) Israel. They failed to realize that a true Jew must have four FATHERS--Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and GOD! Compare the Ishmaelites (modern day Arabs) who can claim Abraham as their father. Compare the descendants of Esau (Edomites) who can claim both Abraham and Isaac. Compare the unbelieving Jews in the days of Christ who claimed Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (all three) as their fathers; but the problem was that God was not their father

(John 8:42). You need all four to qualify as a true Jew: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and GOD. A person becomes properly related to God only by personal faith!"

Because the true Jew must have God as his Father then he or she will be resurrected and will receive the land and so the covenant will then be fulfilled. This then raises another question: What about the Jew who gets saved today or anytime in the church age?

The Jews who get saved in the Church Age give up their identity IN CHRIST.

Galatians 3:28

²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

In Christ they inherit ALL the spiritual blessings and IN CHRIST they inherit everything [just as we do] in the eternal state because Jesus is the Heir of all things.

This now brings us to the next covenant.

II. The Land Covenant

This Land Covenant is a confirmation of the Abrahamic Covenant in that it reinforces the promise of the land to Israel. The Land Covenant is found in Deuteronomy 30:1-10 and we shall look at it in a moment but before we do there are some things which we need to understand.

The Reason for the Land Covenant

God had promised the land to Abraham and his seed in the Abrahamic Covenant so why does God reaffirm the promise in the Land Covenant? There are several reasons why God reaffirmed the promise of the land.

1. In Deuteronomy Israel has come to the end of the wilderness wanderings. Moses will die and Joshua will take over and lead them into the land. But the land is occupied by their enemies and the enemy is determined to hold to their land. So, the question is, "Is the promise God gave to Abraham still in effect?" The Land Covenant will confirm the covenant is still effective.
2. Another reason for the confirmation is because here in Deuteronomy Israel is now under the Mosaic Covenant and the Mosaic Covenant was conditional. Israel had failed to walk in obedience to the Mosaic Covenant and so the question would then be, "Did Israel's disobedience disqualify them from receiving the land?" The confirmation of the Land Covenant made it clear that Israel would still inherit the land even though they were disobedient. Paul stated this in Galatians.

Galatians 3:17-18

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.

¹⁸ For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise.

As we look at the Land Covenant, we shall see seven main features as pointed out by Dwight Pentecost:

1. Israel would be plucked out of the land for disobedience.

Deuteronomy 28:15, 63-67

¹⁵ 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:

⁶³ And it shall come to pass, that as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you; so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nought; and ye shall be plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it.

⁶⁴ And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone.

⁶⁵ And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind:

⁶⁶ And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life:

⁶⁷ In the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning! for the fear of thine heart wherewith thou shalt fear, and for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see.

2. There will be a future repentance of Israel.

Deuteronomy 30:1-3

And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath driven thee,

² And shalt return unto the LORD thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul;

³ That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee.

3. Their Messiah will return.

Deuteronomy 30:3-4

³ That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee.

⁴ If any of thine be driven out unto the outmost parts of heaven, from thence will the LORD thy God gather thee, and from thence will he fetch thee:

4. Israel will be restored to her land.

Deuteronomy 30:5

⁵ And the LORD thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it; and he will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers.

5. Israel will be converted as a nation.

Deuteronomy 30:6-8

⁶ And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.

⁷ And the LORD thy God will put all these curses upon thine enemies, and on them that hate thee, which persecuted thee.

⁸ And thou shalt return and obey the voice of the LORD, and do all his commandments which I command thee this day.

6. Israel's enemies will be judged.

Deuteronomy 30:7

7 And the LORD thy God will put all these curses upon thine enemies, and on them that hate thee, which persecuted thee.

7. Israel will receive her full blessing.

Deuteronomy 30:9

9 And the LORD thy God will make thee plenteous in every work of thine hand, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy land, for good: for the LORD will again rejoice over thee for good, as he rejoiced over thy fathers:

Conclusion:

Let me point out two points that will help us in our understanding.

1. Israel's occupation of the land is conditional. They must be obedient.
2. Israel's possession of the land is unconditional.

Notice the words of Pentecost.

"Israel must be converted as a nation, she must be regathered from a worldwide dispersion, must be installed in her land, must witness the judgement of her enemies, and must receive the material blessings promised to her. These things have never been fulfilled and God's covenant demands fulfillment."

Israel's possession of the land is very important to God and we know that by how many times it is spoke of in His Word.

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