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The Bible, the Land, and the Promises
Series: The Biblical Roots of the Middle East Crisis
The Village Church at Shell Point
Evening Service
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I. **The Promises**

A. **Genesis 12:1–3** (ESV) —

1. 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.
2. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.
3. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

B. Key elements of the promises

1. **Great nation**
2. **Bless Abram**
3. **Make Abram’s name great**
4. **Be a blessing**
5. **Bless those who bless Abram**
6. **Curse those who curse Abram**
7. **All the families of the earth – blessed**

C. **Genesis 13:14–17** (ESV) —

1. 14 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,
2. 15 for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever.
3. 16 I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted.
4. 17 Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you.”

D. Key elements of the promises

1. **God will give land to Abraham and descendants**
2. **Descendants innumerable**

E. **Genesis 15:1–21** (ESV) —

1. 1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”
2. 2 But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”
3. 3 And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.”

4. 4 And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.”
5. 5 And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”
6. 6 And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.
7. 7 And he said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.”
8. 8 But he said, “O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?”
9. 9 He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”
10. 10 And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half.
11. 11 And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.
12. 12 As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him.
13. 13 Then the LORD said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years.
14. 14 But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions.
15. 15 As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age.
16. 16 And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”
17. 17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.
18. 18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,
19. 19 the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites,
20. 20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim,
21. 21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites.”

F. Key elements of the promises

1. Descendants as the stars (innumerable)
2. Land to possess
3. Strangers and oppressed 400 years
4. Return from land of oppression with many possessions
5. Return to the land of promise in fourth generation
 - a. Delay – iniquity of Amorite not complete
6. Extent of land – Egypt to Euphrates
7. Those occupying land when given – Kenite, Kenizzite, Kadmonite, Hittite, Perizzite, Rephaim, Amorite, Canaanite, Girgashite, Jebusite

G. Genesis 17:7–9 (ESV) —

1. 7 And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.
 2. 8 And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.”
 3. 9 And God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations.
- H. Key elements of the promise
1. **Be God to Abraham and descendants**
 2. **Land – Canaan**
- I. **Stipulation**
1. **Keep covenant**
- J. **Genesis 26:1–5** (ESV) —
1. 1 Now there was a famine in the land, besides the former famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Gerar to Abimelech king of the Philistines.
 2. 2 And the LORD appeared to him and said, “Do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land of which I shall tell you.
 3. 3 Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father.
 4. 4 I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed,
 5. 5 because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.”
- K. Key elements of the promises
1. **God will be with Isaac**
 2. **God will bless Isaac**
 3. **Land to descendants**
 4. **Multiply descendants**
 5. **All nations of earth blessed**
- L. **Implied stipulation**
1. **Obedience** – keeping commandments, statutes, laws as Abraham
- M. **Genesis 28:13–15** (ESV) —
1. 13 And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, “I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring.
 2. 14 Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.
 3. 15 Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

- N. Key elements of the promises
1. Land to descendants
 2. Multiply descendants
 3. All families of earth will be blessed
 4. God will be with Jacob
 5. God will keep Jacob
 6. God will bring Jacob back to land

- O. Those blessed
1. Abraham
 2. Isaac
 3. Jacob
 4. Descendants
 5. All nations of earth

II. The Conditions

- A. Leviticus 18:24–30 (ESV) —
1. 24 “Do not make yourselves unclean by any of these things, for by all these the nations I am driving out before you have become unclean,
 2. 25 and the land became unclean, so that I punished its iniquity, and the land vomited out its inhabitants.
 3. 26 But you shall keep my statutes and my rules and do none of these abominations, either the native or the stranger who sojourns among you
 4. 27 (for the people of the land, who were before you, did all of these abominations, so that the land became unclean),
 5. 28 lest the land vomit you out when you make it unclean, as it vomited out the nation that was before you.
 6. 29 For everyone who does any of these abominations, the persons who do them shall be cut off from among their people.
 7. 30 So keep my charge never to practice any of these abominable customs that were practiced before you, and never to make yourselves unclean by them: I am the LORD your God.”

B. Conditions

1. Don't defile yourselves by abominations
 - a. Section on sexual immorality
 - b. Elaboration of 10 Commandments – Law of Adultery
 - (1) (Apodictic Law)
 - c. Casuistic Law (case law)
 - (1) Fornication
 - (2) Adultery
 - (3) Incest
 - (4) Homosexuality
 - (5) Bestiality
 - d. Other nations practiced these things – land rejected them
2. Keep statutes, judgments

- C. Leviticus 20:22–26 (ESV) —

1. 22 “You shall therefore keep all my statutes and all my rules and do them, that the land where I am bringing you to live may not vomit you out.
2. 23 And you shall not walk in the customs of the nation that I am driving out before you, for they did all these things, and therefore I detested them.
3. 24 But I have said to you, ‘You shall inherit their land, and I will give it to you to possess, a land flowing with milk and honey.’ I am the LORD your God, who has separated you from the peoples.
4. 25 You shall therefore separate the clean beast from the unclean, and the unclean bird from the clean. You shall not make yourselves detestable by beast or by bird or by anything with which the ground crawls, which I have set apart for you to hold unclean.
5. 26 You shall be holy to me, for I the LORD am holy and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be mine.

D. Conditions

1. **Keep statutes and ordinances**
2. **Not follow customs of nations** driven out (abominations)
3. **Make distinction between clean and unclean** animals (because God has separated them from peoples who engaged in abominations)
4. **Holy to the Lord**

E. **Deuteronomy 4:25–27** (ESV) —

1. 25 “When you father children and children’s children, and have grown old in the land, if you act corruptly by making a carved image in the form of anything, and by doing what is evil in the sight of the LORD your God, so as to provoke him to anger,
2. 26 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that you will soon utterly perish from the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess. You will not live long in it, but will be utterly destroyed.
3. 27 And the LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD will drive you.

F. Conditions

1. **Act corruptly** – perish from the land
2. **Make idols** – perish from the land
3. **Keep statutes, commandments**

G. **Consequences**

1. Sin – perish from land; utterly destroyed
2. Keeping commandments – live long on land

I. **Ownership**

A. **Leviticus 25:23** (ESV) —

1. 23 “The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine. For you are strangers and sojourners with me.”

B. **Land belongs to God**

1. Israel are but aliens and sojourners with God

II. **Prophetic Warnings**

- A. **Micah 2:1–3** (ESV) —
1. 1 Woe to those who devise wickedness and work evil on their beds! When the morning dawns, they perform it, because it is in the power of their hand.
 2. 2 They covet fields and seize them, and houses, and take them away; they oppress a man and his house, a man and his inheritance.
 3. 3 Therefore thus says the LORD: behold, against this family I am devising disaster, from which you cannot remove your necks, and you shall not walk haughtily, for it will be a time of disaster.
- B. **Sins**
1. **Covet fields, seize them**
 2. **Covet houses, take them away**
 3. **Rob man and house, inheritance**
- C. **Consequences**
1. **Calamity**
- D. **Amos 4:1–2** (ESV) —
1. 1 “Hear this word, you cows of Bashan, who are on the mountain of Samaria, who oppress the poor, who crush the needy, who say to your husbands, ‘Bring, that we may drink!’
 2. 2 The Lord GOD has sworn by his holiness that, behold, the days are coming upon you, when they shall take you away with hooks, even the last of you with fishhooks.
- E. **Sins**
1. **Oppress the poor**
 2. **Crush needy**
- F. **Consequences**
1. Taken away with hooks
- G. **Hosea 9:1–6** (ESV) —
1. 1 Rejoice not, O Israel! Exult not like the peoples; for you have played the whore, forsaking your God. You have loved a prostitute’s wages on all threshing floors.
 2. 2 Threshing floor and wine vat shall not feed them, and the new wine shall fail them.
 3. 3 They shall not remain in the land of the LORD, but Ephraim shall return to Egypt, and they shall eat unclean food in Assyria.
 4. 4 They shall not pour drink offerings of wine to the LORD, and their sacrifices shall not please him. It shall be like mourners’ bread to them; all who eat of it shall be defiled; for their bread shall be for their hunger only; it shall not come to the house of the LORD.
 5. 5 What will you do on the day of the appointed festival, and on the day of the feast of the LORD?
 6. 6 For behold, they are going away from destruction; but Egypt shall gather them; Memphis shall bury them. Nettles shall possess their precious things of silver; thorns shall be in their tents.
- H. **Sins**

1. Played harlot, forsaken God
- I. Consequences
1. Not remain in Lord's land
 2. Return to Egypt, Assyria
- J. Jeremiah 7:5–7 (ESV) —
1. 5 “For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, if you truly execute justice one with another,
 2. 6 if you do not oppress the sojourner, the fatherless, or the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own harm,
 3. 7 then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your fathers forever.
- K. Conditions
1. Practice justice
 2. Don't oppress alien, orphan, widow, shed innocent blood
 3. Don't walk after other gods
- L. Consequences
1. Dwell in the land
- M. Isaiah 5:1–7 (ESV) —
1. 1 Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.
 2. 2 He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.
 3. 3 And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard.
 4. 4 What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?
 5. 5 And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.
 6. 6 I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briars and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.
 7. 7 For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!
- N. Parable
1. Vineyard (Israel)
 2. God planted, cared for it; expected good fruit (justice, righteousness)
 3. Produced worthless fruit (sin – bloodshed, cry of distress)
- O. Consequences
1. Remove hedge of protection; consumed
 2. Break down its wall; trampled ground
 3. Laid waste

II. Property

A. Genesis 23:1–20 (ESV) —

1. 1 Sarah lived 127 years; these were the years of the life of Sarah.
2. 2 And Sarah died at Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham went in to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her.
3. 3 And Abraham rose up from before his dead and said to the Hittites,
4. 4 “I am a sojourner and foreigner among you; give me property among you for a burying place, that I may bury my dead out of my sight.”
5. 5 The Hittites answered Abraham,
6. 6 “Hear us, my lord; you are a prince of God among us. Bury your dead in the choicest of our tombs. None of us will withhold from you his tomb to hinder you from burying your dead.”
7. 7 Abraham rose and bowed to the Hittites, the people of the land.
8. 8 And he said to them, “If you are willing that I should bury my dead out of my sight, hear me and entreat for me Ephron the son of Zohar,
9. 9 that he may give me the cave of Machpelah, which he owns; it is at the end of his field. For the full price let him give it to me in your presence as property for a burying place.”
10. 10 Now Ephron was sitting among the Hittites, and Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the hearing of the Hittites, of all who went in at the gate of his city,
11. 11 “No, my lord, hear me: I give you the field, and I give you the cave that is in it. In the sight of the sons of my people I give it to you. Bury your dead.”
12. 12 Then Abraham bowed down before the people of the land.
13. 13 And he said to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land, “But if you will, hear me: I give the price of the field. Accept it from me, that I may bury my dead there.”
14. 14 Ephron answered Abraham,
15. 15 “My lord, listen to me: a piece of land worth four hundred shekels of silver, what is that between you and me? Bury your dead.”
16. 16 Abraham listened to Ephron, and Abraham weighed out for Ephron the silver that he had named in the hearing of the Hittites, four hundred shekels of silver, according to the weights current among the merchants.
17. 17 So the field of Ephron in Machpelah, which was to the east of Mamre, the field with the cave that was in it and all the trees that were in the field, throughout its whole area, was made over
18. 18 to Abraham as a possession in the presence of the Hittites, before all who went in at the gate of his city.
19. 19 After this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah east of Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan.
20. 20 The field and the cave that is in it were made over to Abraham as property for a burying place by the Hittites.

B. Acquisition

1. **Purchased from Hittite for market value**
 - a. Even after Hittite offered to give it as gift
- B. **1 Chronicles 21:18–27 (ESV) —**
 1. 18 Now the angel of the LORD had commanded Gad to say to David that David should go up and raise an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.
 2. 19 So David went up at Gad’s word, which he had spoken in the name of the LORD.
 3. 20 Now Ornan was threshing wheat. He turned and saw the angel, and his four sons who were with him hid themselves.
 4. 21 As David came to Ornan, Ornan looked and saw David and went out from the threshing floor and paid homage to David with his face to the ground.
 5. 22 And David said to Ornan, “Give me the site of the threshing floor that I may build on it an altar to the LORD—give it to me at its full price—that the plague may be averted from the people.”
 6. 23 Then Ornan said to David, “Take it, and let my lord the king do what seems good to him. See, I give the oxen for burnt offerings and the threshing sledges for the wood and the wheat for a grain offering; I give it all.”
 7. 24 But King David said to Ornan, “No, but I will buy them for the full price. I will not take for the LORD what is yours, nor offer burnt offerings that cost me nothing.”
 8. 25 So David paid Ornan 600 shekels of gold by weight for the site.
 9. 26 And David built there an altar to the LORD and presented burnt offerings and peace offerings and called on the LORD, and the LORD answered him with fire from heaven upon the altar of burnt offering. 27 Then the LORD commanded the angel, and he put his sword back into its sheath.
- C. **Acquisition**
 1. **Purchased from Jebusite for market value**
 - a. Even after Ornan offered it and sacrifice as gift