

The Promised Land

'The land of promise' is a literal part of the earth. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob actually walked through it, but never possessed it. God promised to give them and their seed this land for an eternal inheritance. They died without possessing it; consequently the fulfilment of these promises necessitates the resurrection from the dead of those who are to inherit it. The whole earth is to be blessed in the establishment of a new era in which peace, prosperity and plenty will abound.

1. The land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob for an everlasting possession is the land of Israel and adjoining territories:

'And the Lord said unto Abram ... 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'.¹

'I will give unto thee (Abraham), and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou are a stranger, *all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession*'.²

'Unto thee (Isaac), and unto thy seed, I will give *all these countries*'.³

'The land whereon thou (Jacob) liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed'.⁴

'By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

By faith he sojourned in *the land of promise*, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise'.⁵

2. The seed associated with Abraham in the promise of the land was Jesus Christ and all who believe Christ's teaching and are baptized into His name:

'He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, WHICH IS CHRIST For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise'.⁶

3. The promise that they should inherit the land was not fulfilled in the lifetime of Abraham, Isaac or Jacob:

'These all died in faith, *not having received the promises*, but having SEEN THEM AFAR OFF'.⁷

'God gave Abraham none inheritance in it (the land), no, not so much as to set his foot on'.⁸

'I (Abraham) am a stranger and a sojourner with you: give me a possession of a burying place'.⁹

4. The fulfilment of the promises made to the fathers is spoken of in the Scriptures as future.

'Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, and the mercy to Abraham, which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old'.¹⁰

'To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, The oath which he sware to our father Abraham'.¹¹

'My covenant with Abraham will I remember; and I WILL REMEMBER THE LAND'.¹²

'Jesus Christ was a minister ... to confirm the promises made unto the fathers'.¹³

5. The fathers to whom the promises were made have a prominent place in the pictures which the Bible gives of the Kingdom of God, and the Holy Land is shown to be the centre of that kingdom:

'Ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets in the kingdom of God'.¹⁴

'The Lord shall reign over them in *mount Zion* The kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem'.¹⁵

(1) Gen. 13.14,15 (2) Gen. 17.8 (3) Gen. 26.3 (4) Gen. 28.13

(5) Heb. 11.8,9 (6) Gal. 3.16,27,28,29 (7) Heb. 11.13

(8) Acts 7.5 (9) Gen. 23.4 (10) Micah 7.20 (11) Luke 1.72,73

(12) Lev. 26.42 (13) Rom. 15.8 (14) Luke 13.28 (15) Micah 4.7,8

perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted'.²⁴

But those who turn to Christ and become the loyal subjects of His kingdom will be blessed by God. The rulers will be immortal and these now-enlightened and obedient subjects will experience the blessings foretold in the writings of the Bible. Evil will be restrained, the span of life among the mortal subjects will be greatly extended — 'as the days of a tree'.

'Wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times'.²⁵

'He shall speak peace unto the nations'.²⁶

'The Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies'.²⁷

'Many nations shall be joined to the Lord in that day, and shall be my people'.²⁸

'Men shall be blessed in him: all nations shall call him blessed'.²⁹

'In thee (Abraham) shall all families of the earth be blessed'.³⁰

Jesus taught his disciples to pray: 'Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.' This prayer will be answered when the children of promise inherit the land covenanted to the fathers of old. Then 'THE EARTH SHALL BE FULL OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD, AS THE WATERS COVER THE SEA'.³¹

'The Lord of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously'.¹⁶

'At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the Lord; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the Lord, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart'.¹⁷

'They shall build the old wastes and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations'.¹⁸

6. When Christ, 'the seed of Abraham', reigns on the throne in Jerusalem in the promised land, those who have been accounted worthy at the judgment seat after resurrection from the dead will reign with him over the earth:

Of the 12 apostles it is recorded: 'When the Son of man shall sit in the throne of His glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel'.¹⁹

The redeemed in that day will sing 'a new song': 'Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people and nation; and hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth'.²⁰

7. Jerusalem will not only be the capital city of the Promised Land, but of the whole world. God's temple will be there and the Holy City will become the world centre for law and worship:

'The law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem'.²¹

'Many people and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the Lord'.²²

'Every one shall even go up from year to year to worship'.²³

8. It will be an age of light, peace and love; under the authority of Christ the immortal rulers will have completed the great preparatory work of bringing all nations into subjection to him. All those who resisted Christ's call to repentance and submission to his rule will have perished, 'For the nation and Kingdom that will not serve thee shall

(24) Isa. 60.12 (25) Isa. 33.6 (26) Zech. 9.10 (R.V.)

(27) Jer. 16.19 (28) Zech. 2.11 (29) Psa. 72.17 (30) Gen. 12.3

(also Gen. 22.18) (31) Isa. 11.9

(16) Isa. 24.23 (17) Jer. 3.17 (18) Isa. 61.4 (19) Matt. 19.28

(20) Rev. 5.9,10 (21) Micah 4.2 (22) Zech. 8.22 (23) Zech. 14.16