

ISRAEL

and

PALESTINE

A Christian Response

The Bible and Modern Israel

- Whose Scriptures (if anyone's) are going to be accepted as authoritative in a democratic nation?
 - Jewish? Christian? Muslim?
- And whose interpretation of those Scriptures?
 - Reformed, Conservative, Orthodox, Hasidic, Zionist or non-Zionist?
 - Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Protestant, Evangelical, Christian Zionist, Messianic Jewish?
 - Sunni, Shiite, Salafist, Wahhabi, radical Islamist?
- Should ancient religious texts be used to give preferential status to one ethnic group?



Christian Views of God's Covenant with Israel

➤ The Church Replaced Israel

Israel was rejected by God for rejecting Jesus. The Church is the new Israel and God no longer has a purpose for the Jewish people.

➤ The Church Fulfills and Universalizes Israel

The promises and purpose of Israel are fulfilled in Christ and the Church for all nations, the Gentiles are grafted into the Jewish tree, and the Jewish people are accepted as are all others through Christ.

➤ The Church Is an Intermediate Dispensation until Israel Is Restored

When Israel failed to accept Christ, God created the Church to reach the Gentiles, until Israel is saved and the promises and prophecies to Israel are fulfilled and all nations come to Zion.



Christian Zionism

- A form of Dispensational Theology which argues that the people of Israel and the church have independent purposes in God's plan which have not yet been fulfilled
- Old Testament prophecies concerning Israel must be literally fulfilled at some time
- The modern nation of Israel is the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies concerning Israel
- We must not oppose the nation of Israel

Do Biblical Promises & Prophecies Say the Land Belongs to Israel Forever?

The Promise to Abraham

Genesis 12:1-3

“Go...to the land that I will show you. 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. 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.

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The Promise of the Land

Genesis 13:14-15

“Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever.”

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The Promise of the Land

Genesis 15:16-21

“And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete...”

“To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates...”

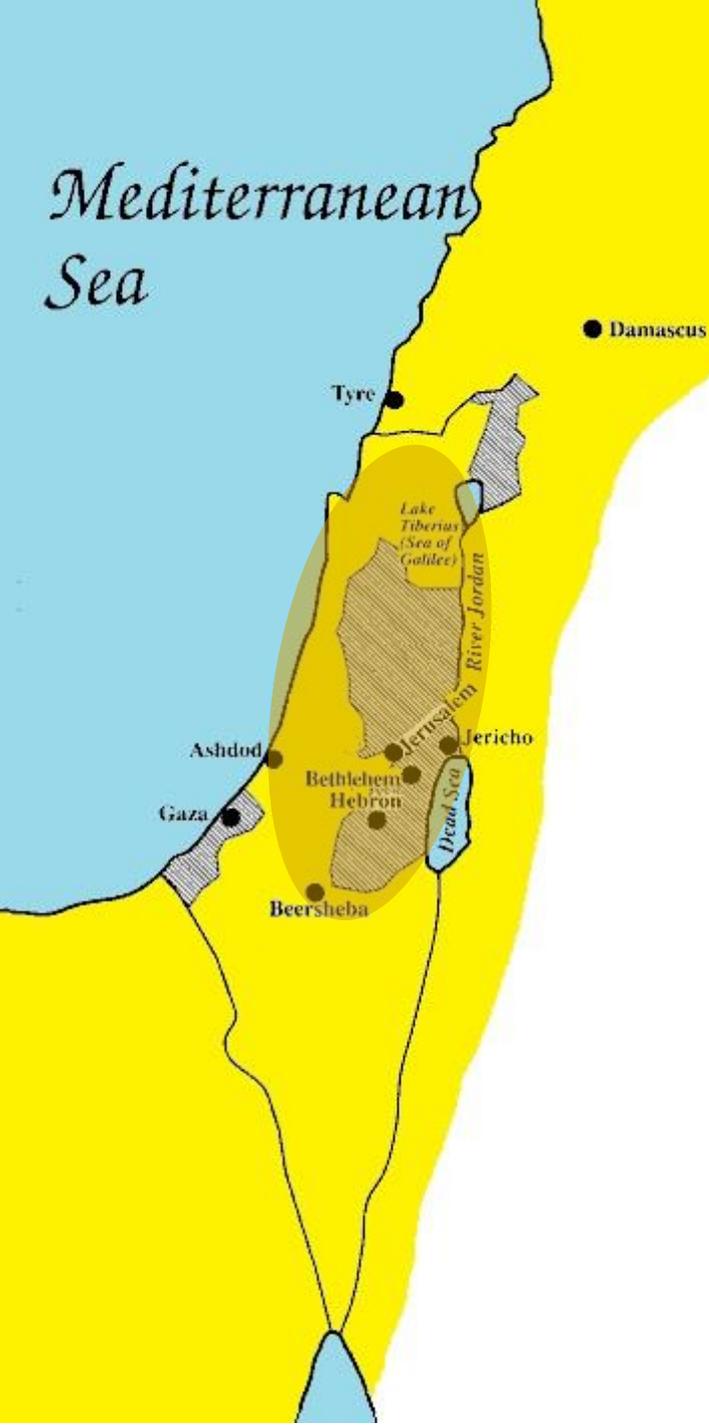
Do Biblical Promises & Prophecies Say the Land Belongs to Israel Forever?

- ❖ **The promises & prophecies were never completely fulfilled under either the old or new covenants.**



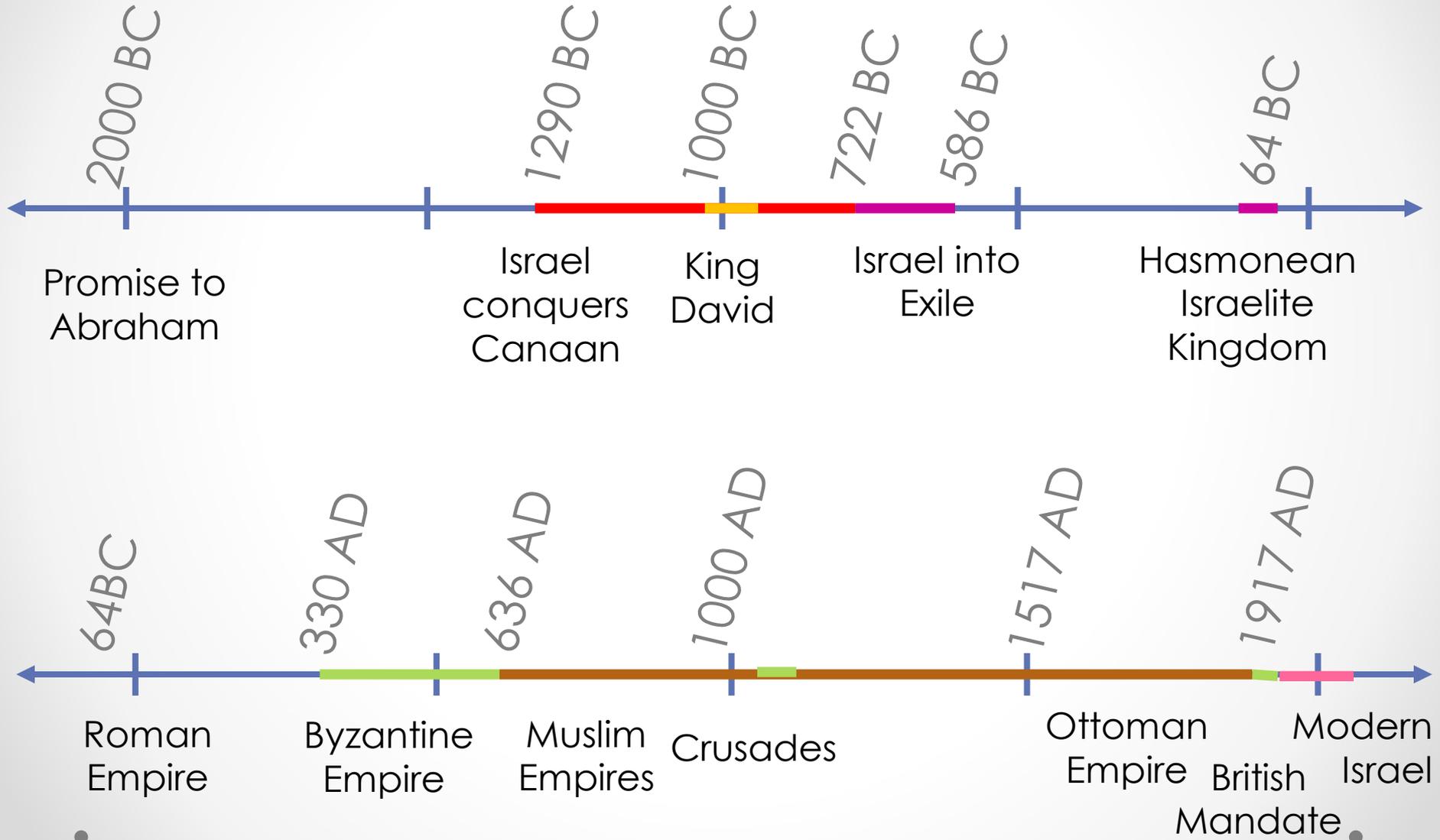
This larger territory was controlled by:

- Pagans 1,600 years
- Christians 300 years
- Muslims 1,300 years
- Israelites never



- From 1300 BC to the present (3,300 years), Israel controlled most of “the promised land” for less than 100 years around 1000 BC.
- From 1300 BC to the present (3,300 years), Israel controlled the heart of “the promised land” for about 600 years (until the Assyrian exile in 722 BC).
- From 586 BC to the present (2,600 years), Israel only had an independent kingdom for about 50 years around 100 BC.

Timeline of Canaan/Israel/Palestine



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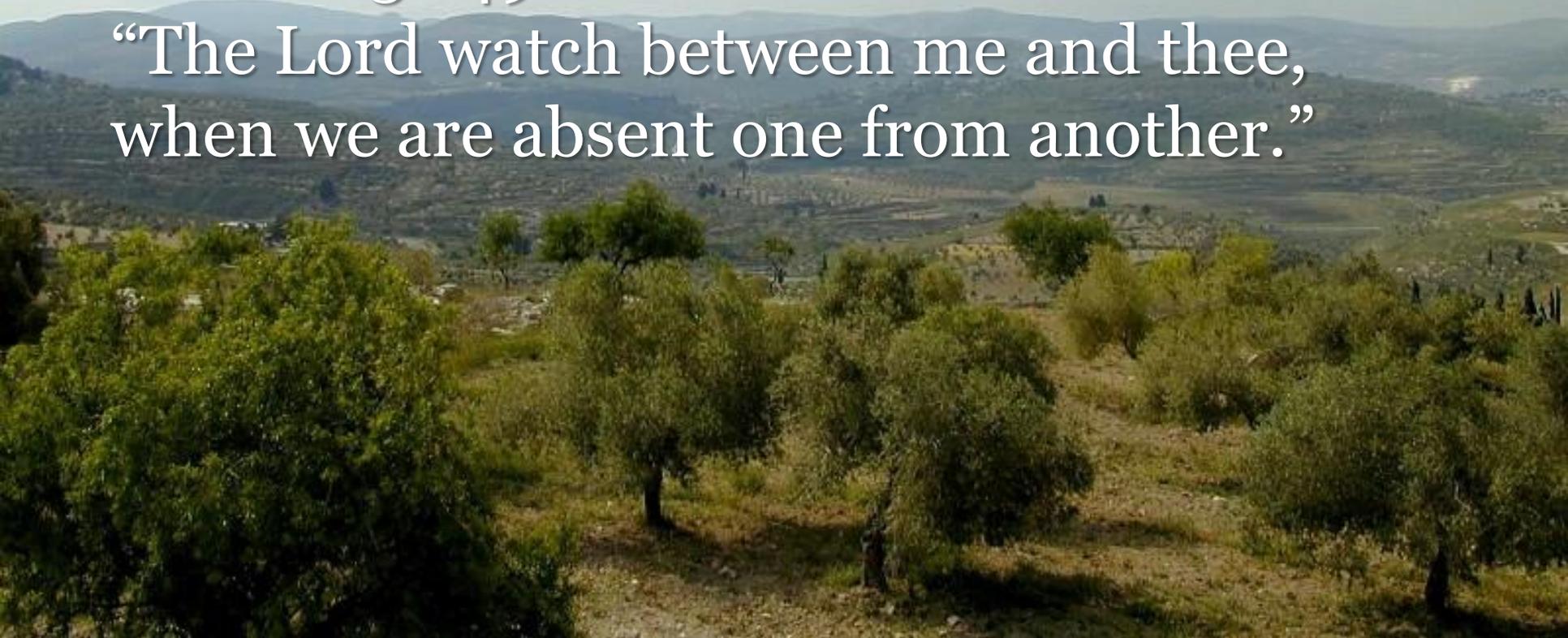
- ❖ **The promises & prophecies were never completely fulfilled under either the old or new covenants.**
- ❖ **Promises must be understood in their context.**

Do Biblical Promises & Prophecies Say the Land Belongs to Israel Forever?

Reading in Context

Genesis 31:49 KJV

“The Lord watch between me and thee,
when we are absent one from another.”



Do Biblical Promises & Prophecies Say the Land Belongs to Israel Forever?

Reading in Context

Genesis 31:48-50 ESV

Laban said, “This heap is a witness between you and me today...The Lord watch between you and me, when we are out of one another's sight. If you oppress my daughters, or if you take wives besides my daughters, although no one is with us, see, God is witness between you and me.”

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The Promise to Abraham

- ❖ **to make Abraham's descendants
a great nation**
- ❖ **to give them the land of Canaan**
- ❖ **to bless all people through them**

THE GOD OF THE MIGHTY ACTS



KINGDOM



EXILE



CHRISTMAS



MIRACLES



EXODUS



EASTER



PROMISE



CREATION



COMING



PENTECOST

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The Promise to Aaron

Exodus 29:1,9

“Now this is what you shall do to them to consecrate them, that they may serve me as priests...and you shall gird Aaron and his sons with sashes and bind caps on them.

And the priesthood shall be theirs by a statute forever. Thus you shall ordain Aaron and his sons.”

Do Biblical Promises & Prophecies Say the Land Belongs to Israel Forever?

- ❖ **The promises & prophecies were never completely fulfilled under either the old or new covenants.**
- ❖ **Promises must be understood in their context.**
- ❖ **Prophecies always had conditions.**

Do Biblical Promises & Prophecies Say the Land Belongs to Israel Forever?

The Conditions in Prophecy

Jeremiah 18:7-8

If at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, and if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I intended to do to it.

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The Conditions in Prophecy

Jeremiah 18:9-10

And if at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, and if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will relent of the good that I had intended to do to it.

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Concerning David's Offspring

2 Samuel 7:12-16 (God to David)

“I will raise up your offspring after you...
and I will establish the throne of his
kingdom **forever**...my steadfast love will
not depart from him, as I took it from
Saul...And your house and your kingdom
shall be made sure **forever** before me.
Your throne shall be established **forever**.”

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Concerning David's Offspring

1 Chronicles 28:6-7 (God to David)

‘It is Solomon your son who shall build my house and my courts... I will establish his kingdom **forever** *if* he continues strong in keeping my commandments and my rules, as he is today.’

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Concerning David's Offspring

1 Chronicles 28:9 (David to Solomon)

“And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him...If you seek him, he will be found by you, but *if* you forsake him, he will cast you off **forever.**”

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Concerning David's Offspring

1 Kings 9:4-5 (God to Solomon)

And as for you, *if* you will walk before me, as David your father walked...doing according to all that I have commanded you...then I will establish your royal throne over Israel **forever**, as I promised David your father, saying, 'You shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'

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Concerning David's Offspring

1 Kings 9:6-8

But *if* you turn aside from following me, you or your children, and do not keep my commandments...but go and serve other gods and worship them, then I will cut off Israel from the land that I have given them... And this house will become a heap of ruins.

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