

Does Israel Have a Divine Right to Their land?

It has become popular to media-bash Israel for being the root cause of terrorism in the world today. Many American and European Christians criticize Israel for not giving up its land to a terrorist government that they cannot trust. If only they would accept a treaty to create a Palestinian state, then the world could live in peace. This type of naive thinking is not based on knowledge of **all** the facts, but by carefully crafted biased sound bites on the news-talk shows.

Some Christian theologians have postulated that since the Jewish people as a whole are not keeping the Mosaic Law, they have no right to claim **divine right** to the land of Israel. I believe it is imperative that an opposing view be shared in support of Israel's right to its land based solely from the sacred Scriptures rather than the ebbs and flows of political correctness. To establish the truth in this matter I will endeavor to express my thoughts with a consistent interpretation of the Biblical texts relevant to this issue.

I believe that the key to this issue, is that the pre-eminent, prevailing, and unconditional promises to Abraham & his offspring that gave them **divine right** to the land of Israel, are found in G-d's covenants to Abraham, not in His covenant with Israel through Moses (Gal.3: 17-18). As I hope to demonstrate in the following verses, G-d's covenants to Abraham were eternal and unconditional [Gal. 3:17-18]. The New Covenant reveals to us that G-d intended the Mosaic covenant to lead us to Y'shua (Jesus) the Messiah [Gal. 3:24] and that Y'shua would fulfill all of G-d's covenants to His patriarchs, ultimately bringing eternal benefit to the world [Mat. 5:17 & Rom. 11:12].

G-d's Eternal Covenant with Abraham

G-d's covenants to Abraham are found in the Book of Genesis, The Book of Beginnings. Here we find G-d laying out His eternal strategy for the redemption of mankind. The essential, initial seed for the eternal purpose of G-d was planted in a middle-eastern Gentile named Abram [Deut. 7:7 & 1 Cor. 1:27-28]. G-d's covenants to Abraham are foundational to the fulfilling the New Covenant and providing it's blessings to all who would believe in the vicarious saving work of Y'shua the Messiah [Rom. 4:16-17 & Gal. 3:6-9 & 14-16].

Gen. 12:1-3 Now the L-RD had said unto Abram, Get thee out thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee. And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing. And I will bless them that bless thee, and I will curse him that curseth thee: and in thee, shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

Gen. 13:14-15 And the L-RD 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. For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed forever.

In Genesis 15 G-d speaks to Abram in a vision and instructed him to prepare a covenant initiation ceremony for Him. After Abram does, G-d puts him into a deep sleep and He alone walked between the covenant pieces, declaring the future of Abram and His descendants. In doing this, G-d Himself made the covenant with Abram, and the keeping of it was dependent upon G-d alone [Heb. 6:13-19]. Since Abram was asleep and could not participate by walking through the covenant parts, he was not a volitional partner. Therefore this was an unconditional covenant of grace, with no requirements upon Abram or his descendants to be recipients of its benefits.

Gen. 15:18 In the same day the L-RD 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.

Gen. 17:7-8 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 G-d unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. 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; & I will be their G-d.

Can An Eternal, Everlasting Covenant Be Broken?

G-d once again initiated an eternal covenant with Abraham and his offspring. The sign of this covenant was to be circumcision

of the male foreskin on the 8th day of their life. To violate this covenant meant to be cut off from the people of Israel and their covenant with G-d. An individual person could be cut off, but not the whole nation, since multitudes of Israelites continued to receive the sign of circumcision throughout their generations. Therefore this covenant was never disannulled. It is still in force today and we are blessed to be witnessing its fulfillment right before our eyes! Israel does not exist by human ingenuity, but by sovereign divine providence!

Christians are quick to remember how G-d has severely disciplined Israel for violating the Mosaic covenant and rejecting Y'shua as the Messiah. But they forget that didn't abrogate His unconditional love and covenant commitment to Israel through His promises to Abraham. G-d calls Israel to turn from her backsliding, loves her with an everlasting love, and with lovingkindness He is drawing her back unto Himself [Jer. 3:22 & 31:3].

2 Chron. 20:7 Art not thou our G-d, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham, thy friend, forever? G-d will never forget His promises to Abraham.

In Jer. 31:31-37 G-d reveals His desire to make a New Covenant with the Houses of Israel & Judah. This covenant would not be like the Mosaic one, but would provide forgiveness and forgetfulness of their sins. Verses 35-37 are of particular interest for any that would think that G-d has cast off Israel for their sins.

Jer. 31:35-37 Thus saith the L-RD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; the L-RD of Hosts is His name. If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the L-RD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me forever. Thus saith the L-RD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all they have done, saith the L-RD.

The implication from these verses is that G-d has no intention of casting off His people, to which the Apostle Paul says, G-d forbid [Rom. 11:1]. The Apostle Paul explained how G-d consigned the Jewish people to unbelief so that through their rejection of Y'shua as the Messiah, the Gentiles might accept the Gospel, provoking the Jewish people to jealously [Rom. 11:11]. By provoke, I believe it means a tangible expression of G-d's agape' love for the Jewish people along with a genuine demonstration of the Jewishness of the Gospel.

G-d Is Restoring His Covenant People To Their Covenant Land!

In Ezekiel 36:16-38, we see that even though G-d is furious with the unfaithfulness of His people, that He will still fulfill His promises to them, if only for His Holy name's sake! He foretells His returning the children of Israel to their land and then to Himself, from all the nations where they were scattered by His judgment.

Ezek. 36:24 & 28 For I will take you from among the nations and gather you out of all the countries, and I will bring you into your own land. And you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be My people, and I will be your G-d.

When Jacob fled from his brother Esau and camped at Beth-El, G-d reconfirmed to him the promise He had made with his forefathers. G-d was reiterating to Jacob, the eternal, unconditional promise He had made to Abraham and to Isaac

Gen. 28:13-14 And behold the L-RD stood above it and said, I am the L-RD G-d of Abraham, thy father, and the G-d of Isaac. the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed. And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shall 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.

We Can Testify to the Covenant Faithfulness of G-d

In all of this I am attempting to present a clear testimony of G-d's covenant faithfulness. G-d is the original Promise Keeper. When He makes a covenant, He keeps it. Though we have broken the covenant, G-d has kept His end of the promise, in spite of our sins [Rom. 11:28-29]. He brought us back to the land after almost 2000 years of dispersion. Since Israel's independence - May 1948 and Jerusalem's reunification - June 1967 He has begun to bring multitudes of Jewish people face-to-face with their Messiah [Luke 21:24 & Rom. 11:25-26]. Where would the Church be today if G-d treated New Covenant believers as some teach He has treated Israel? The New Covenant is unconditional grace, but Abraham's Covenant is not? Something is very wrong with this picture. *"The L-RD never changes, therefore the sons of Jacob are not consumed (Malachi 3:6)"*.

I humbly request that you consider the scriptures I have shared and the biblical citations I've included. I trust they will enable you to understand Israel's **divine right** to the Land. Not to negate G-d's love for the Palestinians, for He does love them equally. He has very good plans in store for all the Arab peoples of that region [Isa. 19:19-25] I believe that it is G-d's will for us to clearly and justly affirm His eternal commitment to all of His covenant people. It glorifies His Holy name, by testifying of His covenant faithfulness! May G-d grant us His shalom as we ponder His eternal promises.

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