

The Promised Land - Who Gets It and Where Is It?

Many songs have been written and sung about going to the Promised Land.

In this study, we will see **whose inheritance** it is and **where** it is.

God's first promise of land

was given to **Abram** (afterward called **Abraham** from Gen 17:5)
and **his seed**.

It was **the land of Canaan**.

So, sometimes the Promised Land is called Canaan Land.

Gen 12:1-7 Now the LORD had said unto **Abram**,

Get thee out of thy country,
and from thy kindred,
and from thy father's house,

unto a land that I will shew thee:

2 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:

3 And I will bless them that bless thee,
and curse him that curseth thee:
and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

4 So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him;
and Lot went with him:

and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

5 And Abram took Sarai his wife,
and Lot his brother's son,
and all their substance that they had gathered,
and the souls that they had gotten in Haran;
and they went forth **to go into the land of Canaan;**
and into the land of Canaan they came.

6 And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem,
unto the plain of Moreh.

And **the Canaanite was then in the land.**

7 And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said,

Unto thy seed will I give this land:

and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.

After Lot went his own way Abram heard God promise him again.

As far as his eyes could see was the land God promised to him and his seed which would be too many to count. God also told Abram to walk over the property to see how 'deep and wide' it was:

Gen 13:14-17 And **the LORD 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:**
 15 **For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.**

16 And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.

17 Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; **for I will give it unto thee.**

God actually made a **covenant** with Abram that his seed would inherit the land. So we could call it the Covenant Land:

Gen 15:18-21 In the same day **the LORD 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:

19 The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites,

20 And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims,

21 And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.

We read in Gen 12:4, Abram was 75 years old when he left for the Promised Land. 24 years later, when Abraham was 99, God expanded His promise that he would be a father of MANY nations not just ONE nation:

Gen 17:1-8 And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

2 And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.

.... to Israel. The name Jacob means 'to take hold of the heel, which he did when his twin brother Esau was first-born (Gen 25:25-26) to take the place of; to supersede, especially through force or plotting'. God gave the name of Israel to Jacob after the struggle when Jacob wrestled with the angel Who made the hollow of his thigh out of joint and then blessed him (Gen 32:24-30). As a **prince** he had power with God and men, and he prevailed. Jacob's **seed** his 12 sons are known as the children of Israel:

Gen 35:10 And God said unto him, Thy name is Jacob:
thy name shall not be called any more Jacob,
but **Israel shall be thy name:** and he called his name Israel.
11 And God said unto him, I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply;
a nation and a company (multitude) of nations shall be of thee,
and kings shall come out of thy loins;
12 And **the land which I gave Abraham and Isaac, to thee I will give it, and to thy seed after thee will I give the land.**

The channel of blessing was to **Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and Israel:**

Psa 105:8-11 He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations.
9 Which covenant he made with **Abraham,**
and his oath unto **Isaac;**
10 And confirmed the same unto **Jacob** for a law,
and to **Israel** for an everlasting covenant:
11 Saying, **Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan, the lot of your inheritance:**

The contrast is made between the Lord's righteous saints and the wicked:

Psa 37:28-29 For the LORD loveth judgment,
and forsaketh not **his saints; they are preserved for ever:**
but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off. (also see Psa 37:34)
29 **The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever.**

God made the OLD covenant with the fathers (meaning Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the children of Israel, and their seed that came out of Egypt), but **they broke it** through disobedience. So God promised to replace the OLD covenant with a NEW covenant in which HE would ENABLE them to obey. The NEW covenant would be an **UNBREAKABLE** covenant written on their hearts not on tables of stone, as the FIRST one had been:

Jer 31:31-33 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD,
 that **I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel,**
and with the house of Judah:
 32 Not according to **the covenant that I made with their fathers** in the
 day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt;
which my covenant they brake,
 although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:
 33 But **this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of**
Israel; After those days, saith the LORD,
I will put my law in their inward parts,
and write it in their hearts;
and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Among other blessings, the NEW covenant also promised the land
 one heart the indwelling Spirit empowerment to obey God's laws
 and that they would be God's people and He would be their God:

Ezek 11:17-20 Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even
 gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where
 ye have been scattered, and **I will give you the land of Israel.**
 18 And they shall come thither, and they shall take away all the detestable
 things thereof and all the abominations thereof from thence.
 19 And **I will give them one heart,**
 and **I will put a new spirit within you;**
 and I will **take the stony heart out of their flesh,**
 and will **give them an heart of flesh:**
 20 That they may **walk in my statutes,** and keep mine ordinances, and
 do them: and **they shall be my people, and I will be their God.**

According to the prophecy in the OLD covenant

about the inheritance and blessings of the NEW covenant these same promises of God yea, 'all the promises of God in Christ' (2 Cor 1:20, Gal 3:16) are now given to US also.

WE Gentiles are to come OUT from among UNBELIEVERS

and be incorporated IN among BELIEVING Israel (also Acts 20:32, 26:18):

2 Cor 6:16-18 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?
for **ye are the temple of the living God;**

as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them;

and **I will be their God, and they shall be my people.**

17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and **I will receive you,**

18 And **will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.**

WE Gentiles have now obtained mercy through Israel's unbelief (Rom 11:30). WE Gentiles are now included in Israel's NEW covenant:

2 Cor 3:5-6 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of **God;**

6 **Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament;** not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

It is very important to SEE the scriptures that show that God **already fulfilled** the promise He made to Abraham concerning the physical land:

Neh 9:7-8 Thou art the LORD the God, who didst choose Abram, and broughtest him forth out of Ur of the Chaldees, and gavest him the name of Abraham;

8 And foundest his heart faithful before thee, and madest a **covenant** with him **to give the land** of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Jebusites, and the Girgashites, to give it, I say, to his seed, and **hast performed thy words;** for thou art righteous:

'Mid-Acts' dispensationalists think that God did NOT perform His words to Israel yet but GOD says that He DID. EVERYTHING came to pass:

Josh 21:43-45 And **the LORD gave unto Israel all the land which he sware to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein.**

44 And **the LORD gave them rest round about, according to all that he sware unto their fathers: and there stood not a man of all their enemies before them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand.**

45 **There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass.**

Abraham realized even though he was in the Promised Land on earth that GOD had made a heavenly city in the ETERNAL Promised Land:

Heb 11:8-10 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.

9 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:**

10 For **he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.**

The faithful ones of whom the world was not worthy (Heb 11:38), confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth (Heb 11:13):

Heb 11:14-16 For they that say such things **declare plainly that they seek a country.**

15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.

16 But now **they desire a better country,** **that is, an heavenly:**

wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

Where is that city whose builder and maker is GOD?

It is NOT the one over in the middle east; MAN built that Jerusalem.

The city for which they looked was in an HEAVENLY country.

It is the NEW Jerusalem

the one which God promised to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Israel.

It is the NEW Jerusalem

the one ABOVE of which PAUL wrote that is OUR MOTHER, TOO:

Gal 4:26-28 But **Jerusalem which is above is free,**
which is the mother of us all.

27 For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; (Sarai, Gen 16:1)
break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: (Psa 113:9)

for **the desolate hath many more children** (Isa 54:1)
than she which hath an husband. (Hagar, Gen 16:3)

28 Now **we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.**

Earthly Jerusalem will never have peace nor rest nor righteous-
ness nor salvation. Those comforts will be in the Heavenly Jerusalem:

Isa 62:1-4 For **Zion's** sake will I not hold my **peace,**
and for **Jerusalem's** sake I will not **rest,**
until the **righteousness** thereof go forth as brightness, (Isa 1:26-28, Dan
9:24) and the **salvation** thereof as a lamp that burneth. (Acts 13:47)

2 And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory:
and **thou shalt be called by a new name,**

which the mouth of the LORD shall name. (Rev 3:12)

3 Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the LORD, (1 Pet 5:4)
and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God.

4 Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken;

neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: (Isa 13:9)
but thou shalt be called Hephzibah, (another name for Jerusalem)
and thy land Beulah:

for the LORD delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married.

Just as Jesus taught His disciples then so it still is even now.

The only place a believer has peace is in CHRIST not in the world:

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you,
that **in me ye might have peace.**
In the world ye shall have tribulation:
but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Jesus was clear that His peace was not like the world's peace:

John 14:27 **Peace I leave with you,**
my peace I give unto you:
not as the world giveth, give I unto you.
Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

'Mid-Acts-ers' make the same mistake the Jews made. They are still looking for Jesus to set up an earthly kingdom; but it is NOT going to happen. Just like the Jews, they fail to believe **Jesus' very specific words:**

John 18:36 Jesus answered, **My kingdom is not of this world:** if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

(Mark 1:15/Matt 4:17)

Jesus' kingdom (the kingdom of God/heaven) is not of this world

everlasting **peace** is not of this world

eternal **rest** is not of this world

everlasting **righteousness** is not of this world

salvation is not of this world

eternal life is not of this world

so how do people stay in confusion, thinking these things will be earthly?

Isa 66:22 For as **the new heavens and the new earth,**
which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD,
so shall your seed and your name remain. (1 John 3:9)

Earthly Jerusalem will be consumed when the earth burns. We won't even think of it again, or ever miss it! We will be in the NEW Jerusalem:

Isa 65:17-19 For, behold, **I create new heavens and a new earth:** and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.
 18 But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create:
 for, behold, **I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.**
 19 And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.

The Greek word <ge> that is translated 'earth' in Rev 21:1 is also translated 'land' in other verses of the New Testament. Therefore we can understand that the **'new earth' is 'new land'.**

The heavenly Jerusalem (Heb 12:22),
 which is above and free and the mother of us all (Gal 4:26),
 is the city that God prepared (Heb 11:10),
 that will come from an heavenly country (Heb 11:16)
 down to a new earth yea, a new land.

THIS is the Promised Land of Eternal Life for the People of God;

the land of the Jerusalem, in which there is no crying, death, pain, nor sin:

Rev 21:1-4 And **I saw a new heaven**
and a new earth: (Greek <ge>
for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away;

and there was no more sea.

2 And I John saw **the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven,** prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and **they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.** (as the prophets wrote Ezek 37:21-28, Zech 8:7-8 and PAUL wrote 2 Cor 6:16)

(Rev 21:) 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for **the former things are passed away.**

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but Jesus' words will not pass away (Matt 24:35, Mark 13:31, Luke 21:33). We better take heed to His word:

1 John 2:17 And **the world passeth away,** and the lust thereof (1 Cor 7:31): but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. (Heb 13:20-21, 1 John 3:7, Matt 7:21, Rom 12:2, Eph 6:6, Col 4:12, Heb 10:36-39, 1 Pet 4:1-2)

Instead of looking for a visible, literal, earthly kingdom where national Israel reigns (which 'mid-Acts-ers' say Jesus will yet establish in the future), we ought to look for the NEW 'promised' land, where righteousness dwells:

2 Peter 3:9-14 **The Lord is not slack concerning his promise,** as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which **the heavens shall pass away** with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat,

the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

11 Seeing then that **all these things shall be dissolved,** what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

13 Nevertheless **we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.**

14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that **ye look for such things,** be diligent that ye may be **found of him in peace,** (Rom 2:10, 5:1, 14:17; 2 Cor 13:11; Phil 4:7; Col 3:15; 2 Thess 3:16)

without spot, (Eph 5:27, 1 Tim 6:13-16) **and blameless.** (1 Cor 1:8; Phil 2:15; 1 Thess 5:23, 3:13; Col 1:22)

15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; **even as our beloved brother Paul also** according to the wisdom given unto him **hath written unto you;** (Paul wrote to the same people Peter wrote to)

(2 Pet 3:) 16 **As also in all his epistles,** (Paul wrote about these things in ALL his epistles) **speaking in them of these things;** (Paul wrote in all his epistles about these same things that Peter wrote about) in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

The testament by which we are saved is the NEW testament in Jesus' blood

.... not the OLD testament:

Heb 12:22-24 But **ye are come unto mount Sion, (Zion)**
and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,

and to an innumerable company of angels,

23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

24 And **to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant,** and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

The city of God is the NEW Jerusalem not the OLD Jerusalem:

Rev 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and **the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem,** which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

The Lord promised to give the crown of life to those that love Him

(James 1:12). **They are the heirs of the kingdom, the promised land:**

James 2:5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and **heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?**

The mystery of Christ (Eph 3:4-6), is that WE Gentiles are FELLOW-HEIRS, and of the SAME body, and PARTAKERS of God's promise in Christ by the gospel. WE Gentiles have inheritance AMONG ALL them which are sanctified by faith in Christ (Acts 20:32, 26:18).

The promises of God were given to Israel in time past. WE Gentiles were strangers from the covenants of promise (Eph 2:11-12) then:

Rom 9:3-8 For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to **the flesh:**

4 **Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises;**

5 **Whose are the fathers,** and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

But 'national' Israel is not the 'Israel of God' (Gal 6:16). Although the 'physical' nation represented the 'corporate congregation' or the 'people of God' GOD does not recognize them as Abraham's 'spiritual' seed, nor as Abraham's children (John 8:37-39). They are not the true Israel:

6 Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect.

For **they are not all Israel, which are of Israel:**

7 **Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.**

8 **That is, They which are the children of the flesh,**

these are not the children of God:

but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.

GOD does not base Abraham's seed on nationality or physical descent. All those who are in Christ, Abraham's One Seed (Gal 3:16), are Abraham's seed that will inherit the blessings, because they are 'of faith' (Gal 3:7-9):

Gal 3:28-29 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.

29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

WE believers, WE saints of every race (Acts 10:35, Rev 14:6) will inherit the Promised Land new Jerusalem in the new land on the new earth.

This is David Dowell saying, "Think about it!"