

Theme: In Christ, the church inherits the land promises, which have been expanded to include the whole world.

## I. Intro – Clinton Quote

- A. Quote on Israel's land
- B. Spoken by Bill Clinton!
- C. We have seen Church is fulfillment of Israel
- D. What about land promises?
- E. Does Palestine still belong to ethnic Israel?

## II. The Land Promises in the OT

- A. God owns Israel and the whole earth
  - 1. Israel – Leviticus 25:23
  - 2. Whole earth – Exodus 9:29; 19:5; Ps 24:1
- B. God gave land promises to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob
  - 1. Abraham – Gen 12:7; 13:15; 15:18; 17:8
  - 2. Isaac – Genesis 26:3
  - 3. Jacob – Genesis 28:13
- C. God fulfilled these promises (Joshua 21:43-45)

## III. The Land Promises in the NT

- A. The promises (including land) given to the church

- 1. Promises to seed – Rom 4:13; Gen 12:7; 13:15
- 2. Church is seed – Galatians 3:16, 29
- 3. All promises to seed include land! (Gen 12:7; 13:15; 15:18; 17:8)

## B. The promises expanded to include the world

- 1. Psalm 37:11 & Matthew 5:5
- 2. Deuteronomy 5:16 & Ephesians 6:3 (Calvin)
- 3. Genesis 12:7 & Romans 4:13

## IV. Conclusion & Summary

- A. The land was merely a type and shadow
  - 1. Like all types, it never was meant to be permanent
  - 2. Messiah has come, reality – not type – is here
  - 3. Holwerda quote (page 104)
- B. The church inherits the reality
  - 1. The church is the true seed of Abraham
  - 2. The church inherits the land promises
  - 3. We inherit reality – new heaven and earth (next week)
  - 4. We inherit the reality – the whole earth!
- C. We are called to go to the whole earth

1. We inherit whole earth – in Christ
2. We fight spiritually – prayer, Gospel

## Christ and the Land of Israel

Romans 4:13

July 11, 2004

Communion

Impromptu, based on Romans 4:13

“If you abandon Israel, God will never forgive you’...it is God’s will that Israel, the biblical home of the people of Israel, continue for ever and ever.  
Bill Clinton, remembering the words of his desperately ill pastor, Robertson, 1.

<sup>23</sup> "The land must not be sold permanently, because **the land is mine** and you are but aliens and my tenants. Leviticus 25:23

<sup>29</sup> Moses replied, "When I have gone out of the city, I will spread out my hands in prayer to the LORD. The thunder will stop and there will be no more hail, so you may know **that the earth is the LORD's**. Exodus 9:29

<sup>5</sup> Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although **the whole earth is mine**,<sup>6</sup> you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites." Exodus 19:5-6

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; Psalm 24:1

<sup>7</sup> The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "**To your offspring I will give this land.**" So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him. Genesis 12:7

<sup>15</sup> All the **land** that you **see I will give to you and your offspring forever**. Genesis 13:15

<sup>18</sup> On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, "**To your descendants I give this land**, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates-- Genesis 15:18

<sup>8</sup> **The whole land of Canaan**, where you are now an alien, **I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you**; and I will be their God." Genesis 17:8

<sup>3</sup> Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you. For **to you and your descendants I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham**. Genesis 26:3

<sup>13</sup> There above it stood the LORD, and he said: "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. **I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying**. Genesis 28:13

So the LORD gave Israel **all the land he had sworn to give their forefathers, and they took possession of it** and settled there.<sup>44</sup> The LORD gave them rest on every side, **just as he had sworn to their forefathers**. Not one of their enemies withstood them; the LORD handed all their enemies over to them.<sup>45</sup> **Not one of all the LORD's good promises to the house of Israel failed; every one was fulfilled**. Josh 21:43-45

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But **the meek will inherit the land** and enjoy great peace. Psalm 37:11  
**Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth**. Matthew 5:5

**Honor your father and your mother**, as the LORD your God has commanded you, **so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land** the LORD your God is giving you. Deuteronomy 5:16  
**"Honor your father and mother"**-- which is the first commandment with a promise-- 3 **"that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."** Ephesians 6:2-3

Moses expressly mentions the land of Canaan (Exodus 20:12). For the Jews there could be no happy or desirable life outside it. **But as the same blessing of God is today shed on the whole world, Paul has properly left out the mention of a place, the particular discrimination of which lasted only till the coming of Christ**. John Calvin Commentary on Ephesians 6:2-3

It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be **heir of the world**, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. Romans 4:13  
The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "**To your offspring I will give this land.**" Genesis 12:7