

Theme: In Christ, the church inherits the land promises, which really pointed to heaven, of which the land of Israel was only a type and shadow.

I. Intro – Christian Zionists?

- A. Christian Zionists from Washington Times (last)
- B. We saw last week this is incorrect
- C. How can this be? Why not to Israel?
- D. Review of last weeks points
 - 1. The land was a type & shadow – not reality
 - 2. The promises inherited by the church
 - 3. Land to be won in this life – missions

II. Why Land Promises Do Not Apply To Israel Today

- A. The land promises given only to believers
 - 1. Given by faith – not law (Romans 4:13)
 - 2. Given to seed of faith (Galatians 3:16,26-29)
 - 3. Believing seed receives all promises; others none
- B. Wicked unbelievers lose the promised land
 - 1. Leviticus 18:24-29 – vomited out; cut off
 - 2. Ps 37:5,9,10-11,22,27 – righteous inherit, wicked cut off
 - 3. Romans 10:1-4 - Righteousness comes from faith

C. God expanded promise to Messiah to whole earth

- 1. Psalm 2:8 – Nations, end of earth
- 2. Psalm 72:8 – Rule to ends of earth
- 3. Matt 28:18-20 – All authority; go to all earth
- 4. Joshua 1:5 – Promised Presence

III. The True Promised Land: Heaven

- A. The patriarchs wanted heaven – not Canaan
 - 1. Heb 11:9-10 – stranger in foreign land; city of God
 - 2. Heb 11:13-16 – exegete; Gen 23:4; 24:6
 - a. Did not receive things promised
 - b. Aliens and strangers (Gen 23:4)
 - c. Looking for country, but not Ur (Gen 24:6)
 - d. Better country – heavenly (v 10)
 - 3. Heb 11:39-40 – No OT people received promises (v13)
 - 4. Conclusion: Canaan not true promised land (Bruce)
- B. Our true promised land is heaven
 - 1. No longer aliens – Eph 2:11-13, 19
 - 2. Now God's people; aliens in world – 1 Pet 2:9-11

3. Citizenship in heaven – Philippians 3:19-21
4. Quote from *Epistle to Diognetus*

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

B. Going back to type has had tragic consequences

1. Mistreatment of Palestinians rather than justice
2. False assurance to Jews rather than Gospel
3. Missing the true focus: heaven

C. We must long for our promised land: heaven

1. Are we too comfortable here?
2. Do we think of this life as promised land?
3. Do we long for our eternal home?

Christ and the Land of Israel (Part 2)

Galatians 3:16,29; Romans 4:13
July 18, 2004
On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand
I Thessalonians 5:23-24

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 promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but "and to your seed," meaning one person, who is Christ.... 26 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Galatians 3:16, 26-29

"Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, because this is how the nations that I am going to drive out before you became defiled. 25 Even the land was defiled; so I punished it for its sin, and the land vomited out its inhabitants. 26 But you must keep my decrees and my laws. The native-born and the aliens living among you must not do any of these detestable things, 27 for all these things were done by the people who lived in the land before you, and the land became defiled. 28 And if you defile the land, it will vomit you out as it vomited out the nations that were before you. 29 "Everyone who does any of these detestable things-- such persons must be cut off from their people. Leviticus 18:24-29

Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this... 9 For evil men will be cut off, but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land 10 A little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look for them, they will not be found. 11 But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy great peace.... 22 those the LORD blesses will inherit the land, but those he curses will be cut off.... 27 Turn from evil and do good; then you will dwell in the land forever. Psalm 37:5, 9, 10-11, 22, 27

Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. 2 For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. 3 Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. 4 Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes. Romans 10:1-4

Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. Psalm 2:8

He will rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. Psalm 72:8

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Mt 28:18-20

⁵ No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Joshua 1:5

"I am an alien and a stranger among you. Sell me some property for a burial site here so I can bury my dead." Genesis 23:4

"Make sure that you do not take my son back there [to Ur of the Chaldees, his former homeland]" Abraham said. Genesis 24:6

"Canaan was no more their home as they sought the country of their hearts' desire than the wilderness was the home of their descendants in Moses' day... The truth is, their true homeland was not on earth at all. The better country on which they had set their hearts was the heavenly country. The earthly Canaan and the earthly Jerusalem were but temporary object lessons pointing to the saints everlasting rest, the well-founded city of God." Bruce, Hebrews, 299.

Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (that done in the body by the hands of men)-- 12 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.... 19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household... Ephesians 2:11-13, 19

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 11 Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. 1 Peter 2:9-11

Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. Philippians 3:19-21

"[For Christians are not distinguished from the rest of humanity by country, language, or custom. For nowhere do they live in cities of their own, nor do they speak some unusual dialect, nor do they practice an eccentric lifestyle.... They live in their own countries, but only as aliens; they participate in everything as citizens, and endure everything as foreigners. Every foreign country is their fatherland, and every fatherland is foreign... They live on earth, but their citizenship is in heaven." Diognetus, 5:1-9

For Christian Zionists, the modern state of Israel is the fulfillment of God's covenant with Abraham and the center of His action from now to the Second Coming of Christ and final battle of Armageddon, when the Antichrist will be defeated. But before this can occur, they say, biblical prophecy foretells the return of Jews from other countries, Israel's possession of all the land between the Euphrates and Nile rivers, and the rebuilding of the Jewish temple where a Muslim site, the Dome of the Rock, now stands.... Christian Zionists argue that Christians' role is to back Israel wholeheartedly and conform to God's message in Genesis: "I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curses thee" (Genesis 12:3).... "We stand for the right that all the land that God gave under the Abrahamic covenant 4,000 years ago is Israel's ... and He will regulate the affairs of how Israel comes into the allotment which is hers forever," said the Rev. Malcolm Hedding, director of International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ), the largest of the Zionist groups with branches in 55 countries. Biblical Zionism rejects any effort to read the Scriptures spiritually or allegorically, Mr. Hedding said. "There is no such thing as a Palestinian," he adds. *The Washington Times* Wednesday, June 14, 2004 "Christian Zionists Soldier to Prophecy"