

## ***ISRAEL - Land of Destiny***

People tend to LIE! But Numbers 23:19 says, “God is not a man, that He should lie”. When God makes a promise/oath/covenant you can be certain that He will carry through on it. God has bound Himself in covenantal promise to give the land of Israel to the Jews FOREVER.

It all began with God’s promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:1.

### **Genesis 12:1 (NKJV)**

**1** Now the Lord had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, **To a land that I will show you.**

We read in Genesis that Abraham came to live in the Promised Land with his family, but never really possessed it. The only thing that Abraham ever owned was a burial plot (cf. Gen. 23:1-20). In that context, God told Abraham that the family would depart from the land and be in a foreign land for 400 years, as predicted in Gen. 15:13.

### **Genesis 15:13 (NKJV)**

**13** Then He said to Abram: “Know certainly that your descendants will be **strangers in a land that is not theirs**, and will serve them, and they will afflict them **four hundred years**.

This was fulfilled as Joseph was sold into slavery and ended up in Egypt. The family followed him there, where they remained for 400 years and ended up in slavery – exactly as God prophesied to Abraham hundreds of years in advance. At the end of the 400 years, it is estimated that the family of Jacob had grown to be about 2-3 million people. They were then birthed as a NATION in the Exodus. Not only was it God’s intention to bring them out of Egypt as a NATION, but also to then give them the Land of Promise. They were being delivered to inherit a LAND in keeping with what God had pre-ordained.

### **Exodus 3:8 (NKJV)**

**8** So I have come down **to deliver** them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land **to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of**

**the Canaanites** and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.

God's "nation-building" included both a people and a land. It would be this combination of people and land that God would use as a special witness to the world. Through Israel, the One True God would reveal Himself.

However, on the way to the Promised Land, the people rebelled; and because of their rebel unbelief, God caused them to wander in the wilderness for 40 years (cf. Num. 13, 14:11).

God's blessing on Israel is consistently seen in relation to the land, and God's discipline of Israel is consistently seen in relation to the land. And in both cases, whether in blessing or in discipline, Israel is a testimony to the truth of God. Whether in blessing or in discipline, God is ever shown to be a God of loyal, covenant-keeping love Who always keeps His Word.

A special word in the OT that defines God's "***covenant loyalty***" is the Hebrew word "***hesed***". This word is used 248 times in the OT. It has been called an "undefinable word", being translated at least 14 different ways. Commonly, it is translated as "steadfast love", "loyal love", or "loving-kindness". It underscores God's FAITHFULNESS.

***Hesed*** is the kind of love expressed in God's COVENANT relationship with Israel. ***Hesed*** goes right along with the Name ***YHWH***, as both stress His covenant faithfulness.

**Jeremiah 9:24 (NKJV)**

**24** But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the Lord, exercising ***lovingkindness***, [***hesed***] judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the Lord.

**Lamentations 3:22–23 (NKJV)**

**22** Through the Lord's ***mercies*** [***hesed***] we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not.

**23** They are new every morning; Great is Your ***faithfulness***.

God ever shows Himself to be FAITHFUL whether in blessing or in discipline. This means that all the covenant promises to Israel will literally be fulfilled. It's just a matter of time.

Discipline may interrupt Israel experiencing the blessing, but it does not cancel out God's covenant promises to national Israel.

God's LAND promises to Israel MUST be and WILL be fulfilled. God's very NAME and COVENANT LOYALTY are at stake!

As sure as God is God all His covenant promises will ultimately be fulfilled. When God completes the Church (at the Rapture) then He will proceed to complete His program with Israel.

Israel's future is spelled out. The worst of times (The 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel/7-year Tribulation Period) is yet to be, followed by deliverance and the best of times in the kingdom.

**Jeremiah 30:7 (NKJV)**

**7** Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble, But he shall be saved out of it.

**Joel 3:16 (NKJV)**

**16** The Lord also will roar from Zion, And utter His voice from Jerusalem; The heavens and earth will shake; But the Lord will be a shelter for His people, And the strength of the children of Israel.

Israel is a land of destiny according to the PROMISE of God! And God cannot lie!!

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