

ISRAEL: Yesterday, Today, and Forever (An Everlasting Covenant)

Genesis 17:7-8 (NKJV)

7 “And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an **everlasting covenant**, to be God to you and your descendants after you.

8 “Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an **everlasting possession**; and I will be their God.”

God here in Genesis 17 affirms that His covenant with Abraham and his descendants is an EVERLASTING covenant involving an EVERLASTING relationship with them as their God. The land of Canaan is specifically given to them as an EVERLASTING possession.

In God affirming His covenant commitment to Abraham, the word “covenant” is found 13 times in Genesis 17. The word “everlasting” is used 4 times in Genesis 17 to describe the nature of God’s covenant promise (cf. 7, 8, 13, 19). It will not be set aside or revoked. The very same adjective (everlasting) is used of God Himself in Gen. 21:33.

Just as sure as God Himself is ETERNAL, so is His COVENANT commitment to Abraham. It cannot be nullified or go out of existence. It is not subject to amendment or annulment! It is an EVERLASTING covenant!

Distinctive from the Mosaic Covenant

The Abrahamic Covenant, unlike the MOSAIC LAW covenant, is an UNCONDITIONAL covenant. The Law was a CONDITIONAL covenant and could be annulled and superseded by THE NEW COVENANT (cf. Gal. 3:17, Heb. 8:13).

After God gave the Abrahamic Covenant, the Law was later added as a “RULE OF LIFE” to live by. **OCCUPATION** of the land was conditioned upon obedience to the Law of Moses, but **OWNERSHIP** of it was guaranteed on the basis of God’s UNILATERAL OATH.

When the Jews were exiled out of the land, their relationship with the LAND was only interrupted, not severed. Throughout history there have been “squatters” who wrongfully sought to possess the land, but the LAND of Israel rightfully belongs to Israel forever. God promised it to them in an everlasting covenant.

Genesis 48:3-4 (NKJV) [Covenant Reiterated to Jacob]

3 Then Jacob said to Joseph: “God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me,

4 and said to me, ‘Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a multitude of **people**, and give **this land** to **your descendants** after you as an **everlasting possession**.’

The Nature of the Abrahamic Covenant

Gen. 12:1-3: The Abrahamic Covenant is STATED.

Gen. 15: The covenant is formally RATIFIED and shown to be

UNILATERAL and UNCONDITIONAL.

Gen. 17: The covenant is shown to be EVERLASTING.