

ISRAEL'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE PROMISED LAND

A. Background

The PEOPLE of Israel and the LAND of Israel are destined for each other. Genesis presents the development of a chosen FAMILY (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob), while Exodus presents the birth of the NATION of Israel.

B. A Land of Promise

- a. Promised to Abraham (cf. Gen. 12:1)
 - b. Promised in the Exodus (cf. Ex. 3:8)
- **“Hesed”** – God’s Loyal Covenant Love. God will faithfully fulfill His covenant land promises to Israel (cf. Deut. 30:1-10, Ezek. 39:27-29).
 - Jewish OWNERSHIP of the Land is permanent. OCCUPATION of the Land is conditional, depending on covenant faithfulness on Israel’s part.
- c. **The EXTENT of the Promised Land Boundaries** (cf. Gen. 15:18-21).

Under Solomon, Israel possessed much, but not all of the Promised Land. The complete fulfillment of Israel possessing the land remains future.

D. Two Departures – Two Returns

1. The first departure from the land (the Assyrian/Babylonian Captivity – 722 & 586 BC).
 2. The first return (from the Babylonian Captivity) happened in 3 phases.
 - a. 536 BC – 50,000 returned under Zerubbabel (cf. Ezra 1-2).
 - b. 458 BC – 5,000 returned under Ezra (cf. Ezra 7-8).
 - c. 445 BC – More returned under Nehemiah (cf. Neh. 2).
- The first return to the land of Israel took place in 3 phases over a period of 92 years.
 1. The second departure from the land (the diaspora under Rome – 70 AD).
 2. The second return happens in 2 phases.
 - a. Return to the land in UNBELIEF, prior to the Tribulation Period (cf. Ezek. 37).

- b. Return to the land in BELIEF, in conjunction with the Second Coming (cf. Isa. 11:1-2).
- God's purpose in regathering Israel to the land in UNBELIEF is so that He might refine and purge them (cf. Zeph. 2:1-2; Zech. 13:8-9). Since 1948, we have been witnessing the first phase of the second return, which is necessary for Last Days' events to transpire. It is for this reason that Israel's return to the land in UNBELIEF is called "***The Last Days' Super Sign***".

E. OWNERSHIP of the Land and ACCOUNTABILITY

- Jer. 7:7 – "***the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever.***" God gave the land to Israel forever and will judge the world for abusing both His land and His people (cf. Joel 3:2). This is a LARGE part of the reason for last-days judgment on the world!

Joel 3:1–2 (NKJV)

1 "For behold, in those days and at that time, When I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem,

2 I will also gather all nations, And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there On account of My people, My heritage Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; They have also divided up My land.