

Divine Covenants...the Land...

1. Read Deut 29:1-30:10. What has happened up to this point? When was this covenant made and who was it with? Is this part of the Mosaic covenant or is it distinctly different?

Because of their unbelief and idolatry, all but three individuals (Moses, Joshua, and Caleb) from the first generation out of Egypt died during the 40-year wanderings in the desert. Free from the experience of Egyptian bondage and just before their crossing of the Jordan River entering Palestine, God reminded the second generation nation of Israel, their special covenant relationship with Him (Deut 29:2-3, 10-15).

This Covenant was known by several names: a) the **Land** Covenant for its promises regarding the inheritance of land, b) the **Palestinian** Covenant for the location of where the covenant was made (the plains of Moab), and c) the **Deuteronomy** Covenant for the location of where the covenant is found in the Bible.

The Land Covenant is distinctly different from the Mosaic Covenant for two reasons: 1) it was made 40 years after the Mosaic Covenant, and 2) it was made in Moab (instead of Horeb also known as Mt. Sinai).

2. What is promised in the Land Covenant?

Failure to uphold their commitment to the Mosaic Covenant would cause God to scatter Israel all over the world (Deut 29:2-30:1).

"...and you return to the LORD your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today, you and your sons,..." Israel will repent (Deut 30:2).

"...and will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you. If your outcasts are at the ends of the earth, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you back." Israel will be regathered (Deut 30:3-4).

"The LORD your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it;..." Israel will possess the Promised Land (Deut 30:5).

"Moreover the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live." Israel will be regenerated (Deut 30:6).

"The LORD your God will inflict all these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you." The enemies of Israel will be judged (Deut 30:7).

"Then the LORD your God will prosper you abundantly in all the work of your hand, in the offspring of your body and in the offspring of your cattle and in the produce of your ground, for the LORD will again rejoice over you for good, just as He rejoiced over your fathers; if you obey the LORD your God to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this book of the law, if you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and soul." Israel will receive many blessings (Deut 30:9-10).

Divine Covenants...the Land... (page 2)

3. Read Deut 28 through Deut 30:10. What must occur before the promises are fulfilled?

"So it shall be when all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind in all nations where the LORD your God has banished you, 2) and you return to the LORD your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today, you and your sons,.. (Deut 30:1-2)." The promises are fulfilled when a) all the blessings and curses that are mentioned in Deuteronomy 28 have occurred, and b) the nation of Israel returns to and obeys God.

4. What is the significance of the Land Covenant?

The Land Covenant focuses and expands on the Land portion of the Abrahamic Covenant! Like the Abrahamic Covenant, the Land Covenant is unconditional and eternal. Despite the disobedience of the first generation of Hebrews out of Egypt and while the Mosaic Covenant was clear about its conditions for God's blessings, God still makes the Land Covenant with the second generation. The Mosaic Covenant clearly did not supercede the Abrahamic Covenant nor did the Land Covenant supercede the Mosaic Covenant.

Also important to note, while the curses in Deuteronomy 28 are quite severe, God does not destroy the nation of Israel nor end His covenant relationship with the nation.

At this time, the nation of Israel has not returned to God nor have they obeyed Him, and they only reside in a portion of the Promised Land; hence, the promises of the Land Covenant remain to be fulfilled.

Divine Covenants...the Land...

1. Read Deut 29:1-30:10. What has happened up to this point? When was this covenant made and who was it with? Is this part of the Mosaic covenant or is it distinctly different?

2. What is promised in the Land Covenant?

3. Read Deut 28 through Deut 30:10. What must occur before the promises are fulfilled?

4. What is the significance of the Land Covenant?