

Promised Land, Promised Rest

Regeneration, Faith, Law

Israel delivered from slavery in Egypt

Delivered from death at the Red Sea

Regeneration, Baptized Into Moses

Gave us life as His people: baptism

Then gave us the law

Baptism: baptized in Moses: cloud and sea

God saves His people from death and destruction

Symbol: blood on the doorpost, saving from death

New life, then law and faithfulness to the law

Regeneration prior to Law / Faith

Exodus 20: precondition to the law

Who is God: I AM the Lord your God

God's relation to us: salvation, "who brought you up out of the land of Egypt"

Now give the law

Deuteronomy

The Covenant Treaty between God and Israel.

Preamble

Historical introduction

Provisions (Obligations)

Blessings

Curses

Public Proclamation

Deposition

Witnesses

Family History: Reviewed and Foretold

Covenant Broken (Old Covenant = Old Testament Era)

Covenant Redeemed (New Covenant = New Testament Era)

Broken Covenant Foretold

Deut. 29:25-29

“They abandoned the covenant of the Lord, the God of their fathers... and the Lord uprooted them from their land in anger and fury and great wrath, and cast them into another land, as they are this day.”

Deut. 4:27-28

27 And the Lord will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the Lord will drive you. 28 And there you will serve gods of wood and stone, the work of human hands, that neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell.

Deut. 28:64

64 “And the Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known.

New Covenant Foretold

Deuteronomy 4:29-31

29 But from there you will seek the Lord your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul. 30 When you are in tribulation, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, you will return to the Lord your God and obey his voice. 31 For the Lord your God is a merciful God. **He will not leave you or destroy you or forget the covenant with your fathers that he swore to them.**

New Covenant Foretold

Deut. 30:1-6

30 “And **when** all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the Lord your God has driven you, 2 and return to the Lord your God, you and your children, and obey his voice in all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your soul, 3 then the Lord your God will restore your fortunes and have mercy on you, and he will **gather you again** from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you. 4 If your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there the Lord your **God will gather you**, and from there he will take you. 5 And the Lord your God will bring you into the land that your fathers possessed, that you may possess it. And he will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers. 6 **And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring**, so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

Land = Rest

Deut. 1:35 Not one of these men of this evil generation shall see the good land that I swore to give to your fathers,

Numbers 14:22-23

None of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice, 23 shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers. And none of those who despised me shall see it.

Not one shall come into the land where I swore that I would make you dwell. Numbers 14:30

Psalms 95:10-11

For forty years I loathed that generation and said, "They are a people who go astray in their heart, and they have not known my ways." 11 Therefore I swore in my wrath, "They shall not enter my rest."

Promised Land / Rest

Hebrews 4:8-9

8 For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. 9 So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God

Hebrews 11:13-16

13 These all [Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob] died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. 14 For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15 If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Heb. 13:14 For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.

Future Promised Rest

I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more.

-I Chron. 17:9 and II Sam. 7:10

Promise given to David

Noah on Canaan

Canaan in Noah's Prophecy

Blessings and curses of Noah:

Genesis 9:25 "Cursed be Canaan;
a servant of servants he shall be to his brethren."

Genesis 9:26 "Blessed by the Lord, the God of Shem, and
may Canaan be his servant. May God enlarge Japheth, and
may he dwell in the tents of Shem; and may Canaan be his
servant."

The word Canaan may come from a Semitic root, 'k-n-',
meaning 'subdued', or 'to be subdued'.

Geography of Canaan

Mediterranean coastline

Phoenician & Northern Israelite coastal plain: excellent sea access

Southern Israelite coastal plain: not the best sea access

Coastal Plain: Areas suitable for open mobile warfare, chariotry,
Megiddo: plain before low hills separating north from south
famous battleground (Syrians, Egyptians: Tutmoses III)

Desert: southern Negev desert in Judah

Hill Country: Northern hills, southern hills around Jerusalem, hill warfare

Jordan River Valley:

No riverine access to sea

Narrow river basin (canals don't work)

Heavy floods (not easily navigable)

Relative short river between Sea of Galilee and Dead Sea

Does not connect major regional markets: desert downstream

Canaan



Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image Landsat

Google Earth

Immediate Neighbors

Egypt: Sinai as buffer territory

Egypt hasn't tried to cross the Sinai since the 19th Dynasty

Trans-Jordan

Syria is nearest competitor

Israel must compete militarily with Syria

Phoenicia

Totally westward / seaward oriented, thus not a threat

Had minimal land to hold, fully supplied by sea

This is not true of Israel

Tyre is practically an island

Other Phoenician cities had some inland holdings

Geopolitics of Canaan

Canaan is the nexus of continents and crossroads of empires

Major land route between Egypt, Asia, and Europe

Meeting of land trade routes

Meeting of Mediterranean and Middle East

Provides land powers with sea access and Mediterranean powers with access to Middle East

Both access to Egypt and its food sources

Canaan is geopolitically a tributary region

Always dominated by distant great powers: ruled or contested

Except under David and Solomon

The Davidic kingdom was the only empire in Canaan

Influenced or ruled by by great empires:

Egypt, Hatti, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Macedonia, Rome, Arab Sultinate, Turkey, Britain, US – USSR Cold War



John D. Currid and David P. Barrett, *ESV Bible Atlas* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway 2010)

Invasion Axes

South and east secured by harsh desert

North is vulnerable axis at all times

No natural barriers or buffers

Thus, the prophets speak of destruction always coming from the north

Israel can secure itself against immediate neighbors, but not against empires

Mesopotamian powers must secure the Levant against

Mediterranean powers such as Greece and Rome

Mediterranean powers must secure the Levant to deny sea access to Mesopotamian / continental powers

Both require the Levant for access to Egyptian wealth / food

Geopolitics of Canaan

Five kings in Abraham's time

Hegemonic powers: river / continental / maritime powers

Nearby powers: Egypt, Hatti (Hittites)

Mesopotamian powers: Elam, Babylon, Assyria, Persia

Mediterranean powers: Macedonia, Rome

Distant powers: France, Britain, U.S., Soviet Union

Tributary powers:

Sodom, Gomorrah, Phoenicia, Syria, Israel, Philistines

Why does God call Abraham and Sarah to Canaan?

From an earthly viewpoint, Canaan is not a good location for a kingdom striving to be a world power

Canaanite Worldview

Canaanite geography was the opposite of Egypt's
Egypt's geographic context promoted isolation,
xenophobia, exclusivism, separation, distinctiveness

Canaan's geography promoted cosmopolitan attitudes,
syncretism, blending, a melting pot of religions and beliefs

Canaanites had no trouble believing in anyone's gods
Canaanites had El in their pantheon, Baal's father-in-law
Balaam was a pagan prophet but seemed to have no surprise
that El spoke to him.

There's always room for another god in their beliefs

The offense of Yahweh to Canaanite belief was not His
existence, but His exclusivity

Syncretism

Israel participated in Canaan's syncretism

Child Sacrifice

II Kings: Ahaz (16), Manasseh (21), Meshah of Moab (3)

Ezek. 20:26

Child sacrifice in Canaan / Phoenicia / Carthage

(book on Phoenicia: Carthaginians sacrificed 500 children to save city, end of history chapter)

Canaan and You

What aspects of today's culture reflect Canaanite worldview?

Do Americans always have room for another god?

How does our culture accept religion in general?

How does our culture accept the exclusive claims of God?

It is often said that the only sin in our culture is intolerance;
How does this reflect a Canaanite worldview?

Kingdoms to Empires

Multi-polar 2nd millennium BC: Age of Kingdoms and Diplomacy

Mono-polar 1st millennium BC: Rise of Empires

Why Canaan?

Conquered by Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Macedonia, Rome

Crossways of the world

Persia: transportation / roads

Hellenistic kings: common language

Rome: transportation / roads, law, trade

Common system of communication / publication, trade, finance, economy within the Mediterranean world and western Europe.

Persecution:

God's people suffered persecution under Assyria, Babylon, Macedonian kings, and Rome

Growth of the kingdom

These factors facilitated the spread of the gospel in the empire and beyond.



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