

## Promises to Abraham and David

In Genesis 17:1-8, and several other scriptures, we have the promise to Abraham that he and his seed should possess "all the land of Canaan for an everlasting possession." These texts are strongly emphasized by those who believe in the return of the Jews to Palestine. The seed of Abraham did possess Palestine; yet neither he nor his faithful children received the promise in its fullness. "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but . . . confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth," thus declaring that they sought "a better country, that is, an heavenly!" Heb. 11:13-16.

So this promise to Abraham and his seed of an everlasting possession included more than Palestine. Indeed, it included much more than "about twenty-five times the area of little Palestine," said by the author of the pamphlet to be the earthly homeland of the Jews. Paul tells us that the promise was "that he should be the heir of the world." Rom. 4:13. Doubtless Abraham understood this, "for he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Heb. 11:10. Yes, Abraham looked for a heavenly country, where there will be no curse of sin, and for that holy city, the New Jerusalem, not built by men.

Again, we have the promise of the Lord to David that his throne should be established forever. (2 Sam. 7:12,13; Ps. 89: 4, 29, 36.) But his earthly kingdom did come to an end. The Lord said, "I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him." Eze. 21:27.

And who is this one "whose right it is"? Let the angel answer who announced to Mary the birth of Jesus. "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David: and He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end." Luke 1:32, 33. Yes, Jesus is the heir to David's throne. David understood this. (Acts 2:30.) And King Jesus will rule the saved of all nations. (Matt. 25:31, 32, 46.) His kingdom shall fill "the whole earth" (Dan. 2:35), and the New Jerusalem will descend from God out of heaven to be its capital. (Rev. 21:2.)

## The Return of the Jews

The Lord promised that His people should be delivered from their captivity and return to their own land. At the end of the seventy years the way was opened for all to return, and many did return, thus fulfilling these promises. As to the promises regarding the gathering of the children of Israel, which seemingly were not fulfilled, it is evident that either the people did not fulfill the conditions or that the prophecies have a double application. It is a significant fact that there is no promise in the Bible concerning Israel's return to their own land which was written this side of the return from Babylonian captivity.

There are surely some strained interpretations of Scripture to support the theory of the return of the Jews to Palestine. In this pamphlet under review it is said that the Zionist movement is clearly a fulfillment of Ezekiel's prophecy of the valley of dry bones. (Eze. 37:1-14.) However, the Lord's explanation to Ezekiel gives no hint of a return to Palestine in this life. He said, "Thus says the Lord God: Behold, O My people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel." Verse 12.