

Kingdom Report

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Gaza-Israel: God's Division of the Promised Land

Evangelical support for Israel has much to do with God's land promise to Israel. But what about God's division of land to the other nations in the conflict? There is more here at stake than meets the eye or meets current prophetic expectations.

I am deeply concerned about a deepening and threatening world crisis now drawing in many nations into the Middle East crisis. Not the least is my concern that our evangelical community is not factoring in all the prophetic realities of this conflict. In fact as I monitor the many ministries on various media outlets there are dangerous signs that Christians are not being prepared for a potentially disastrous outcome to this conflict with respect to the deeply held views on "end time" prophecies.

To this end I want to make you aware of other scriptures that I believe have great bearing to the conflict. And then there are also some very real dangers to a whole world geo-political shaking that will re-align world power structures.

The Israel Prophetic Promised Land

The current evangelical church support for Israel and its land claim to all of the "Promised Land" is a major factor in the support for Israel in the church. Plainly put, God gave the land to Israel. The question I pose to that is "What about all the land that God did not give to Israel but expressly gave to other occupants of land in Canaan?"

Recently Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu addressed the United Nations to put his case forward for the coming war against Hamas and Gaza invasion. He held up very publicly a map of Israel that has no signs of either the Palestinian West Bank or the Gaza strip. He was laying claim to the entire land mass of a unitary state of Israel, his "one state solution" as the future of Israel which excludes Palestinians.

Which raises the question never addressed by the prophetic community: Does the unitary state geography as promoted by Netanyahu and evangelicals match the land allocation that God outlined to Moses before they went to take the Promised Land?

I mention this because there were very large portions of this Palestine/land of Canaan real estate that God expressly forbade Moses and the armies of Israel to touch. They were off limits because God had given those portions of land to others.

When Israel had finally left the desert wanderings they approached the land of Canaan from the south and wanted to enter from the south to start their invasion and land seizure. However before they could do this there was a problem. All across the southern and south eastern portion of Canaan were three nations and their territory that stood in their way: Edom, Moab and Ammon....which by the way would today include much of what we would today call "Palestinian occupied territory". Here is what the Lord told Moses:

Regarding Edom (Esau's territory)....

Deu 2:3 Ye have compassed this mountain long enough: turn you northward.

Deu 2:4 And command thou the people, saying, Ye are to pass through the coast of your brethren the children of Esau, which dwell in Seir; and they shall be afraid of you: take ye good heed unto yourselves therefore:

Deu 2:5 Meddle not with them; for I will not give you of their land, no, not so much as a foot breadth; because I have given mount Seir unto Esau for a possession.

Deu 2:6 Ye shall buy meat of them for money, that ye may eat; and ye shall also buy water of them for money, that ye may drink.

And then there was Moab and their territory....

Deu 2:9 And the LORD said unto me, Distress not the Moabites, neither contend with them in battle: for I will not give thee of their land for a possession; because I have given Ar unto the children of Lot for a possession.

And then there was the territory of the Ammonites....

Deu 2:19 And when thou comest nigh over against the children of Ammon, distress them not, nor meddle with them: for I will not give thee of the land of the children of Ammon any possession; because I have given it unto the children of Lot for a possession.

And then of course there is the matter of the other sons of Abraham like Ishmael who were also promised lands and nations....

Gen 17:20 And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation.

12 princes out of Ishmael means 12 nations. If I had to guess and look at the nations of the Middle east and ask where could the descendants of Ishmael be with 12 royal princes at their head I would guess the following: Well the United Arab Emirates consist of 7 royal emirates each with ruling dynasty over their own territory (the more famous of these would be Dubai and Abu Dhabi) and then there are the royal emirates of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and then of course Iraq which used to have a royal house.

So yes when the Lord promised Abraham that his descendants would rule from the great river Nile to the Euphrates it looks like most of that prophecy is true. Except when you try to do as evangelical prophetic writers and require that it must all belong to Israel then you are denying plain scripture...and the land rights of people whom the Lord gave the land to.

Now let me complicate matters even further with regard to prophetic land and who is supposed to get what.

Who were the Jews?

When you read the gospels you have obviously many references to “the Jews”. It is easy to get confused here because you immediately think of “Israel” and Israeli’s. But that is also not entirely correct. There were whole population groups living there in Jesus day who were called “the Jews” but had no descent from Jacob/Israel but because they lived in “Judea” they were called “Jews”.

I need to give you some history of Israel to clarify bit first a strange scripture of a conversation between Jesus and the Jews who rejected Him. Here some verses from John 8:32-41.....

Joh 8:32-33 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. They answered unto him, We are Abraham's seed, and have never yet been in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

Joh 8:37 I know that ye are Abraham's seed: yet ye seek to kill me, because my word hath not free course in you.

Joh 8:39 They answered and said unto him, Our father is Abraham. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.

Joh 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father it is your will to do. He was a murderer from the beginning,

The Jews that were arguing with Jesus and seeking to kill Him were indeed the seed of Abraham but they were never in Egypt in bondage. That is because they were the seed of Esau, they were from Edom. But there was a historical reason why they were now living in Jerusalem and Judea and therefore were called “Jews”.

As mentioned in my other writings the nation of Israel became a new re-constituted independent nation in 143 BC at the end of the War of the Maccabees when Israel regained its independence. In 126 BC the new kingdom of Israel invaded Edom and annexed that land and its Edomites into Judea....in defiance of God’s commandment...leave Edom alone I gave them that land. Here is what Josephus the historian of the 1st century had to say and what the Jewish Encyclopedia has to say....

The Edomites converted to Judaism and, as Josephus puts it, “they were hereafter no other than Jews” (*Antiquities of the Jews*, XIII, ix, 1). The New Standard Jewish Encyclopedia (1970 edition) tells us, “The Edomites were conquered by John Hyrcanus who forcibly converted them to Judaism, and from then on they constituted a part of the Jewish people” (p. 587). The Jewish Encyclopedia (1903 edition) tells us, “From this time the Idumeans ceased to be a separate people, though the name ‘Idumea’ still existed (in) the time of Jerome” (5th century).

So in the days of Jesus there was a whole large part of the Jewish nation who were called “Jews” but were in fact descendents of Edom/Esau. Their father was Abraham but they were never in bondage. They also wanted nothing to do with a Messiah a king of Israel who came from their hated brother Jacob who stole their inheritance from their father Esau. Which is why scripture tells us “the Jews sought to kill Jesus”.

Which brings up the point made by Jesus....it does not matter if you say we are the fig tree. It does not matter if the fig tree is sprouting leaves. The problem comes when the owner comes to inspect if the tree is bearing fruit. When Jesus saw the fig tree had no fruit he cursed it and it died. Jesus warned Jerusalem and the Jews, repent, I will return for fruit inspection.

So now I ask the questions that need to be asked.

First if we are going to claim that the Jews have a scriptural right to all the land of Palestine because God gave them the land as their rightful eternal inheritance then we must also ask, do the same land right promises made by God to Moses concerning Moab, Edom and Ammon also apply today? And are the Palestinians who have been living there for centuries not perhaps the legal heirs to those promises?

Secondly how many of the people who claim to be “Jews” today are descendants of the Jews of Jesus day? And yes they also today claim “We are descendants of Abraham” but what did Jesus think of that claim? Did it save them of the judgment that came? Did they bear the fruit of Abraham? If Jesus warned Jerusalem “I don’t care that you claim to be Abraham’s seed...I care about the fruit of Abraham”. What would Jesus say about today’s Jews, do they still reject Him as their forefathers did?

Everywhere I see rejoicing among evangelicals “It is end times signs, Jesus is coming, just look at Israel”! Ok look at Israel. What if you are right, Jesus is about to come. But what if His coming is “fruit inspection time”? Can the current occupants who claim to be Abraham’s seed stand up to fruit inspection?

We should be afraid, very afraid of what might now be emerging. Twice in history God destroyed Jerusalem and Israel because they did not pass fruit inspection. That was 587 BC when Babylon destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple and 70 AD when Rome destroyed Jerusalem and the temple. Each time Jews said “it will never happen, God will defend Israel we are the apple of God’s eye”. But it is a terrible thing to claim to the world “we are God’s people” but do not display the righteousness of God to the world.

With regard to the rights of the people of Edom, Ammon and Moab and the greater Israel the law of Moses was clear about that....it is called a “one state solution”.

Numbers 15:15, 16,

¹⁵ As for the assembly, there shall be one statute for you and for the alien who sojourns with you, a perpetual statute throughout your generations; as you are, so shall the alien be before the Lord. ¹⁶ There is to be one law and one ordinance for you and for the alien who sojourns with you.

We here in South Africa have sad history with the idea of a “two state solution” to our race and land problems. Actually we had a 12 state solution, one state for whites and 11 other states for other races. It never worked. We know what an “apartheid” state looks like.

God requires from His Word, the law given to Moses, a one state solution for Israeli’s and Palestinians. One rule of law applicable to all.

We God’s people do have a solution to the Palestinian – Israeli question. Reconciliation through the cross of Christ and one rule of law for all inhabitants of the land. That should be our prayers.

But if it does not happen....then start getting ready for a terrible outcome that nothing in current interpretations of Bible prophecy have contemplated. And it will test the faith of many Bible believing Christians to the utmost.