



MAY HIS RULE EXTEND ... TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

A Biblical Theology of the Promised Land

The Promised Land is a major topic in the Bible.

The Promised Land is a major topic in our world today.

Why does it matter?

The Big Story

- Creation
- Fall
- Redemption
- New Creation



Genesis 1–3 and the Land

Land language is everywhere



Adam gets life from the land (Eden)



Adam rules the land as a royal priest (Eden)



God dwells in the land (Eden)

Revelation 20–22 and the Land

The language of Rev 20–22 constantly looks back to Gen 1–3



The new creation provides life and blessing to humans



The new creation provides a place for God to dwell with humans



The new creation includes the entire world



God's people serve him as royal priests in the new creation

Whose Land is It?

- **Leviticus 25:23** "The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine and you reside in my land as foreigners and strangers."
- The Lord will always be faithful to his promises, but the land is also always the Lord's land to do with it as he pleases.

Where does Canaan fit?

- **The promises to Abraham**
 - Gen 12/15 promise physical descendants
 - Gen 17 promises kings and spiritual descendants
- **Canaan provides a place:**
 - Where God can dwell with his people.
 - Where God's people can live under God's rule.
 - Where God's people can live in God's blessing and extend God's blessing to all nations.
- **Canaan is a microcosm of Eden and points to the new creation**

Israel fails

- **Israel's Failures:**
 - They fail to keep God's law
 - The priests fail to uphold God's holiness
 - The kings fail to administer God's justice
 - The nation fails to bless all nations
 - God's presence leaves the temple
 - Israel fails to live as God's royal priests
- **These failures point history toward the need for a New Covenant**

The New Covenant

- God will circumcise people's hearts, so that they can live as his representatives.
- God will write his law on people's hearts.
- God will send his Holy Spirit to enable people to live for him.
- God will raise up a new Davidic king who will rule over all nations and over all places.
- God **will dwell with his people** once again, but God's people now includes believing Gentiles from all nations.

The New Testament and the Land

- Jesus brings the New Covenant and its promises.
- The specific land of Canaan is rarely mentioned.
- Some passages seem to expand the scope of the Abrahamic promises, a la the New Covenant.
 - Matthew 5:5
 - Romans 4:13
 - Ephesians 6:1-3

Paul and Abraham's Promises

- Who inherits the promises of Abraham?
 - Gal 3:26-28
 - Ephesians 2:11-20; 3:6

Putting it all together ...

- The story moves from Eden to a new Eden ... and the Promised Land is a microcosm of Eden.
 - Adam failed his role and was exiled from Eden.
 - Israel failed her role and was exiled from Canaan.
 - Jesus was a second Adam, a perfect Israelite, who fulfilled the promises.
- **Jesus's kingdom extends from sea to sea and to the ends of the earth.**
 - Jesus's kingdom includes both believing Israelites and believers from all nations.