

THE LAND PROMISE

One of the pillars on which every variety of premillennialism rests involves the “land promise.” God first promised the land of Canaan to Abram and his descendants and then repeated it to Isaac and Jacob (Gen. 13:14–15; 15:18; 26:3; 28:4, 13–14; et al.). The Jewish people are the descendants of Abraham through Jacob (Israel). Premillennial adherents allege that God has not fulfilled this promise. They argue that, when Christ comes to establish His alleged 1,000-year (millennial) earthly kingdom, all of the Jews will migrate to the old land of Canaan, and God will at that time fulfill His land promise to Abraham and his descendants.

Has God not fulfilled His promise? Does He “owe” the Jews some land? What does the Bible say?

God defined the boundaries of the land as “from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates” (Gen. 15:18). (The “river of Egypt” is not a reference to the Nile, but to a smaller stream that flows westward from the desert south of the modern “Gaza Strip” into the Mediterranean Sea.)

The Bible unmistakably states that God fulfilled His promise to give the Israelites this land **many centuries before Jesus Christ was born**.

- Joshua, God’s chosen leader of Israel to succeed Moses, led Israel in the conquest of Canaan. Shortly before his death (cir. 1400 B.C.), Joshua wrote: “So Jehovah **gave unto Israel all the land** which he sware to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein.... There **failed not aught** of any good thing which Jehovah had spoken unto the house of Israel; **all came to pass**” (Jos. 21:43, 45; cf. 23:14; emph. DM).
- Solomon declared (cir. 1000 B.C.): “Blessed be Jehovah, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: **there hath not failed one word of all his good promise**, which he promised by Moses his servant” (1 Kin. 8:56; emph. DM).
- Nehemiah prayed upon his return from captivity (cir. 450 B.C.): “Thou art Jehovah...who didst choose...Abraham...and madest a covenant with him to give the land of the Canaanite...unto his seed, and **has performed thy words**; for thou art righteous” (Neh. 9:7–8; emph. DM).

Those who insist that God has not given the Jews the land He promised to their fathers are either ignorant of these statements or they have chosen to ignore and/or deny them. The future “land promise” claim is one of the great myths of pre-millennial theology.

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Note: This article was written for and published in the *Denton Record-Chronicle*, February 9, 2007.