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Understanding the Hope of Israel

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Chapter 22

Understanding the Hope of Israel

The illuminating ministry of the Holy Spirit helps our understanding of the prophetic word (John 16:13-15). Bible prophecy begins with Abram and the Abrahamic Covenant in Genesis 12:1-3. God promised Abraham personal and national blessings. It would be through Abraham that the families of the earth would be blessed. God would bless those who blessed Israel and curse those who cursed Israel. Abrahamic covenant promises the Middle East to Israel. It promises that Israel will continue as a nation and a people forever. These truths are based on a study of Genesis 12, 15, and 17. The Palestinian covenant promises Israel repossession of her land. The truth is found in Deuteronomy 30. The Davidic covenant of 2 Samuel chapter 7 promises that Jesus will rule on David's throne forever. Israel will have a king and a kingdom. The New covenant of Jeremiah 31:31-37 guarantees that Israel will repent and trust Jesus Christ as their personal Messiah and Savior at his Second Coming. The New Testament truth concerning this is found in Romans 11:26-27.^[1]

The premillennial interpretation of the Abrahamic covenant distinguishes the promises to Abraham, Abraham's physical seed, and all the families of the earth. The amillennialist who does not believe that there will be a millennium the 1000 year rule of Christ following the seven year tribulation period. He blurs all distinctions in the covenant to be the seed of Abraham. The promises given to Abraham and his physical seed will be fulfilled by those Jews living at the Second Coming of Christ at the end of the tribulation period. They are the physical seed of Abraham. They are born physically a Jew and they have the faith of Abraham. This is true of all Jews from the time of Abraham. The promise to the families of the earth applies to Gentiles. They are not Jews but have the faith of Abraham. They are saved by faith in the shed blood of Christ on the cross. These truths are based on Genesis 12:1-3 and Romans 9:6. The fulfillment of the promises to Israel the physical seed of Abraham guarantees the national preservation and future of Israel and their hope to keep their land.

The spiritual seed of Abraham are not Jewish but they have the saving faith of Abraham. The physical seed of Abraham are born a Jew. Peter was the apostle to the circumcision (Gal. 2:7). The spiritual seed of Abraham are Gentiles who have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles (Gal. 2:7). The physical seed of Abraham as well as being born a Jew have repented and put faith in their Messiah the Lord Jesus Christ. The early church expounded the

difference between the Jew and the Gentiles who were turning to God (Acts 15:7,12,14,17). The spiritual seed of Abraham excludes everyone except saved Gentiles (Rom. 4:1, Gal. 3:7-8, 3:29). “Now to Abraham have been spoken the promises and to his seed. He says not and to seeds as many but as for one and your seed who is Christ” [author’s translation].^[2] The fulfillment of the promises spoken to Abraham for his physical seed will be fulfilled by Christ himself. Seed is singular form of the word. It is not seeds which is the plural form of the noun. Paul the apostle explains that the scripture does not use the word seeds because God spoke not to the many but Abraham and his seed. This means that Abraham and his seed are not everyone as the amillennialist claims. He spoke to Abraham and his physical seed. The near fulfillment would be in Isaac. The far fulfillment of this promise will have its ultimate fulfillment in Christ.

Who are Abraham’s seed? Physical seed of Abraham are those born a Jew and they must also be saved having the faith of Abraham (Rom. 9:6-8). They have the faith of Abraham in Jesus Christ. The spiritual seed of Abraham are those born Gentiles and have the saving faith of Abraham in Jesus Christ. The national promise to Abraham that God would make him into a great nation means a distinction must be made in our interpretation between Israel and the church. Israel has a future and continues both as a people who will be saved at the Second Coming of Christ. Israel will possess the Middle East (Rom. 11:26-27). A blindness has fallen over Israel until the day of opportunity for salvation to the Gentiles is completed (Rom. 11:25). Israel continues as a people. The Bible testifies to the hope of Israel.

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[1] Mathers, Beyond Desert Storm, 1992.

[2] Aland & Black (eds.), *Greek New Testament*, 2004:644.

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