

The gospel was “*promised beforehand through [the] prophets*” (Romans 1:2). Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22 speak of a suffering Savior. In fact, much of the Old Testament points to Christ. Genesis 3:15 tells of the “*seed,*” Who is “*Christ*” (Galatians 3:16), Who would usurp Satan’s authority through submitting to the unfairness of the cross. Satan bruised “*him on the heel*” (Genesis 3:15), pointing to Jesus’ crucifixion; His resurrection allowed the “*gospel*” to become a living reality—an event that transpired in space and time. These facts explain Paul’s words in Romans 1:2:

which was promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, (Romans 1:2)

Paul uses the term “*holy*” when referring to the Scriptures. Paul’s words express a complete, and unwavering belief in the reliability and validity of what God had spoken. Do you view the Scriptures from this same vantage point?

Paul realized that Jesus was required to be a descendant of David, mentioned in Romans 1:3, if He was to hold the office of Messiah. In 1Chronicles 17:11-14, God promised David an eternal “*son,*” Who would reign on an eternal “*throne,*” and rule over an eternal “*kingdom.*” This unconditional covenant is known as the Davidic Covenant, the “*son*” being the eternal Son, Jesus Christ. The genealogy of Matthew 1:1-16 reveals an amazing truth about Jesus’ earthly lineage.

Matthew, a Jew, wrote his gospel to the Jews with the goal of proving that Jesus is the Son of God, not the son of Joseph. He recorded Joseph’s lineage in Matthew 1:1-16, which includes “*Jeconiah*” found in verse 11. According to Jeremiah 22:24-30, no descendant of “*Jeconiah*” (“*Coniah*”) would be a successful King, sitting on the throne of David. Matthew recorded Joseph’s lineage to prove the impossibility of Jesus being Joseph’s offspring. Stated plainly, had Joseph been Jesus’ father, Jesus could not be Messiah. Furthermore, “*by whom*” in verse 16 is feminine, pointing to Mary rather than Joseph, confirming once again the “*virgin*” birth of Isaiah 7:14.

Luke records Jesus lineage through Mary in Luke 3:23-38. In verse 23 the definite article “*the*” (preceding “*son of Joseph*”) is in italics, meaning that it was not in the original manuscripts. Intriguingly, “*Joseph*” is the only name in this genealogy that does not have the definite article “*the*” preceding it. The reason is because Mary’s lineage is recorded here, not Joseph’s. “*Jeconiah*” of Matthew 1:11 is nowhere to be found in these verses. Mary was a descendant of David through “*Nathan*” (Luke 3:31), not Solomon; Joseph was Solomon’s descendant according to Matthew 1:6. Thus, Jesus, Who was born of a virgin, His Father being our heavenly Father, will rule successfully on the throne of David during the Millennium—His literal one thousand year reign on earth. However, these events cannot transpire without God fulfilling the three unconditional covenants (Abrahamic, Palestinian, and New) He established with physical Israel:

(1) The Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 12:1-3; 13:14-17; 15:1-21; 17:1-14; 22:15-18; 26:2-5; 28:13-15)

Abraham would become the father of a multitude of nations (be a blessing to many nations), with the physical Jewish nation (Abraham’s physical descendants through Isaac and Jacob) controlling (and inhabiting) the land from “*the river Euphrates*” to the “*river of Egypt*” (Genesis 15:18)—the holy land (something the Jews have yet to accomplish).

This covenant also promised that “*those who bless*” physical Israel will be blessed, and “*the one who curses*” physical Israel will be cursed.

Some people cite Joshua 2:24 and Joshua 21:43 in an attempt to prove that the Jews have already possessed (and inhabited) the land promised in Genesis 15:18, thus fulfilling the promise (in their minds at least):

And they said to Joshua, “Surely the LORD has given all the land into our hands, and all the inhabitants of the land, moreover, have melted away before us.” (Joshua 2:24)

So the LORD gave Israel all the land which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they possessed it and lived in it. (Joshua 21:43)

The full counsel of God’s Word verifies that these statements are general, because after Joshua’s death, and during the time of the Judges, pockets of the land remained unconquered:

Now it came about after the death of Joshua that the sons of Israel inquired of the LORD, saying, “Who shall go up first for us against the Canaanites, to fight against them?” And the LORD said, “Judah shall go up; behold, I have given the land into his hand.” (Judges 1:1-2)

Joshua 23:1-13 authenticates our findings as well.

For if you ever go back and cling to the rest of these nations, these which remain among you, and intermarry with them, so that you associate with them and they with you, know with certainty that the LORD your God will not continue to drive these nations out from before you; but they shall be a snare and a trap to you, and a whip on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from off this good land which the LORD your God has given you. (Joshua 23:12-13)

The phrase, “*continue to drive these nations out,*” validates that Israel did not inhabit all the land at this time—again confirming that Joshua 2:24 and Joshua 21:43 are general statements.

The remainder of the Old Testament proves that Israel failed to inhabit the land promised in Genesis 15:18, and the same situation continues today. Israel will control and inhabit the land in its entirety during the Millennium, the one thousand year reign of Christ on the earth.

(2) The Palestinian Covenant (Deuteronomy 30:1-10)

Since 1948, many Jews have lived in a portion of this real estate—but in a state of unbelief. The nation will eventually be driven out and return a second time (in a state of belief) shortly after Christ’s Second Coming (Isaiah 11:11-16). At this time, and for the

first time, they will control and inhabit all of the land originally promised in Genesis 15:18.

(3) The New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-33):

Every Jew on the earth at the end of the Tribulation will choose to repent and exercise faith in the Messiah, while depraved. Then, God will write the Law on their hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit and save them.

Through Jesus, the Abrahamic, Palestinian, Davidic, and New Covenants will be fulfilled. Yet, some individuals attempt to allegorize these unconditional covenants, perceiving the church as fulfilling the conditions of the four covenants instead of the physical Jewish nation. They view physical Israel's return to the land in 1948 as irrelevant and, in some cases, desire that America cease supporting the Jews. America needs to remember Genesis 12:3 when confronted with such unscriptural dogma. Our *God's Heart* series addresses this subject in much greater depth.