

# PROPHECY 102

WHOSE LAND IS IT ANYWAY?

***THE PURPOSE OF THIS SEMINAR:***

- 1. WHY IS THIS ISSUE IMPORTANT?**
- 2. A BIBLICAL VIEW OF ISRAEL AND THE LAND**
- 3. THE HISTORY OF THE CONFLICT**
- 4. THE RISE OF THE PALESTINIANS**
- 5. THE SPIRITUAL FORCES BEHIND THE CONFLICT**
- 6. HOW WE ARE TO RESPOND**



# INTRODUCTION

*Why is this issue important?*

## 1. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE SAKE OF THE TRUTH



# INTRODUCTION

*Why is this issue important?*

**1. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE SAKE OF THE TRUTH**

**2. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE SAKE OF GOD**

➤ **II Kings 21: 7b** – “In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen from all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever.”



# INTRODUCTION

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**1. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE SAKE OF THE TRUTH**

**2. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE SAKE OF GOD**

➤ **Deut 30: 4-6** – “If your outcasts are at the ends of the earth, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you back. <sup>5</sup> “The LORD your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers. <sup>6</sup> “Moreover the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live.”

# INTRODUCTION

*Why is this issue important?*

**1. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE SAKE OF THE TRUTH**

**2. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE SAKE OF GOD**

➤ **I Sam 15: 29** – “Also the Glory of Israel will not lie or change His mind; for He is not a man that He should change His mind.”

# INTRODUCTION

*Why is this issue important?*

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- 2. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE SAKE OF GOD**
- 3. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE SAKE OF ISRAEL**



# INTRODUCTION

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- 1. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE SAKE OF THE TRUTH**
- 2. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE SAKE OF GOD**
- 3. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE SAKE OF ISRAEL**
- 4. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE SAKE OF OUR FAITH and  
CONVICTIONS**







*Israel's Right to the Land*

## ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO THE LAND

### ***THE LAND IS AT THE CENTER OF EVERYTHING IN THE MIDDLE EAST OF TODAY AND IN THE PLANS OF GOD FOR ISRAEL AND THE WORLD TOMORROW***

- **Rom 11: 29** – “for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.”
  - **gifts** – *charisma* – a favour given without any merit in the one receiving it
  - **calling** – *klesis* – to be called or invited to a banquet –a metaphor for salvation
  - **irrevocable** – *ametameletos* – never to be withdrawn or changed because there is no element of regret

## I. THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

- **Gen 12: 1-3** – “Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father’s house, To the land which I will show you; <sup>2</sup> And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; <sup>3</sup> And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.””
- **Gen 12: 7** – “The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To you descendants I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him.”

# ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO THE LAND

## II. THE PROVISIONS OF THE COVENANT

- *THE PROMISE OF A GREAT NATION*
- *THE PROMISE OF A BLESSING FOR ALL NATIONS*
- *THE PROMISE OF A HOMELAND*



# ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO THE LAND

## **II. THE PROVISIONS OF THE COVENANT**

- ***THE PROMISE OF A GREAT NATION***
- ***THE PROMISE OF A BLESSING FOR ALL NATIONS***
- ***THE PROMISE OF A HOMELAND***

### **A. THE LAND OF ISRAEL ALWAYS BELONGS TO GOD**

- **Psalm 24: 1 – “The earth is the LORD’s, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.”**



## **II. THE PROVISIONS OF THE COVENANT**

- ***THE PROMISE OF A GREAT NATION***
- ***THE PROMISE OF A BLESSING FOR ALL NATIONS***
- ***THE PROMISE OF A HOMELAND***

### **A. THE LAND OF ISRAEL ALWAYS BELONGS TO GOD**

- **Psalm 24: 1** – “The earth is the LORD’s, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.”
- **Lev 25: 23** – “The land, moreover, shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are *but* aliens and sojourners with Me.”
- **Joel 3: 2** – “I will gather all the nations And bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat. Then I will enter into judgment with them there On behalf of My people and My inheritance, Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; And they have divided up My land.”

## ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO THE LAND

### B. GOD GAVE THE LAND TO ISRAEL FOREVER

- **Gen 12: 7** – “The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To you descendants I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him.”
- **Gen 13: 14-17** – “ The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward; <sup>15</sup> for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever. <sup>16</sup> “I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth, so that if anyone can number the dust of the earth, then your descendants can also be numbered. <sup>17</sup> “Arise, walk about the land through its length and breadth; for I will give it to you.””

# ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO THE LAND

## B. GOD GAVE THE LAND TO ISRAEL FOREVER

### *THE TERRITORY IS HUGE*

*Israel today occupies on a small portion of it!*

- **Gen 15: 18** – “On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I have given this land, From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates:””
- **Joshua 1: 3, 4** – “Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses. <sup>4</sup> “From the wilderness and this Lebanon, even as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and as far as the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun will be your territory.”



# ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO THE LAND

## B. GOD GAVE THE LAND TO ISRAEL FOREVER

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# ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO THE LAND

## B. GOD GAVE THE LAND TO ISRAEL FOREVER

### 1. THE PROMISE OF THE LAND WAS CONFIRMED TO THE PATRIARCHS!

➤ **Gen 26: 3, 4** – “Sojourn in this land and I will be with you and bless you, for to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath which I swore to your father Abraham. <sup>4</sup> I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, and will give your descendants all these lands; and by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed”

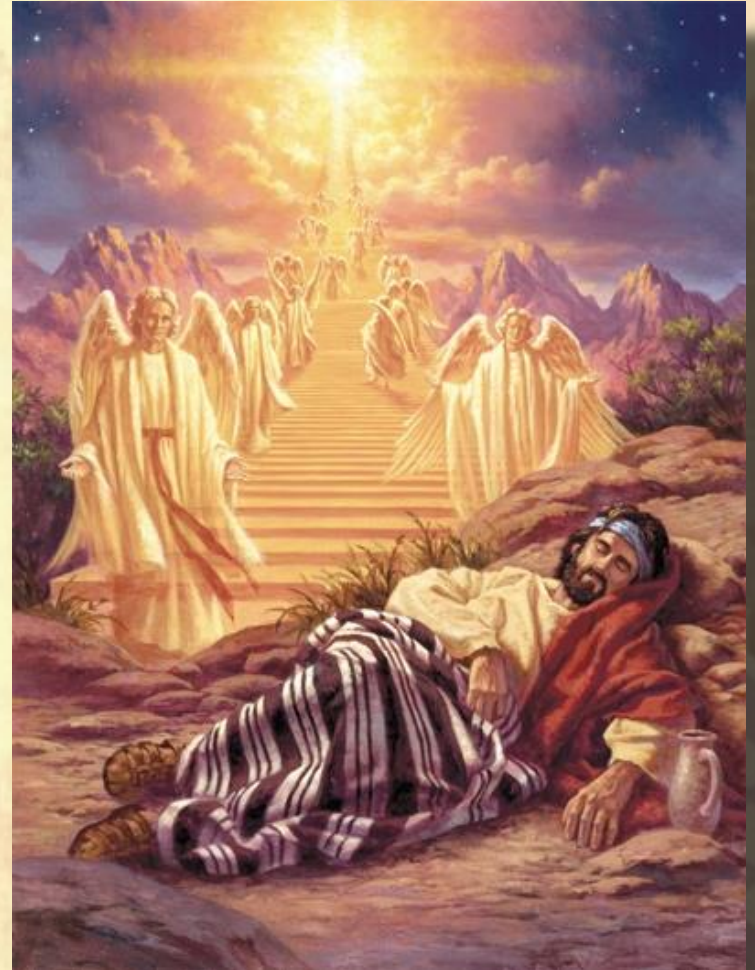


# ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO THE LAND

## B. GOD GAVE THE LAND TO ISRAEL FOREVER

### 1. THE PROMISE OF THE LAND WAS CONFIRMED TO THE PATRIARCHS!

➤ **Gen 28: 13, 14** – “And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, “I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants. <sup>14</sup> Your descendants will also be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed.”



# ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO THE LAND

## B. GOD GAVE THE LAND TO ISRAEL FOREVER

1. THE PROMISE OF THE LAND WAS CONFIRMED TO THE PATRIARCHS!

2. THE PROMISE OF THE LAND WAS CONFIRMED BY DAVID AND THE PROPHETS

➤ **II Chron 20: 7** – “Did You not, O our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel and give it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?”



# ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO THE LAND

## B. GOD GAVE THE LAND TO ISRAEL FOREVER

1. THE PROMISE OF THE LAND WAS CONFIRMED TO THE PATRIARCHS!

2. THE PROMISE OF THE LAND WAS CONFIRMED BY DAVID AND THE PROPHETS

➤ **Psalm 105: 5-11** – “Remember His wonders which He has done, His marvels and the judgments uttered by His mouth,<sup>6</sup> O seed of Abraham, His servant, O sons of Jacob, His chosen ones!<sup>7</sup> He is the LORD our God; His judgments are in all the earth.<sup>8</sup> He has remembered His covenant forever, The word which He commanded to a thousand generations<sup>9</sup> *The covenant* which He made with Abraham, And His oath to Isaac.<sup>10</sup> Then He confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, To Israel as an everlasting covenant,<sup>11</sup> Saying, “To you I will give the land of Canaan As the portion of your inheritance,””

### C. ISRAEL'S OWNERSHIP OF THE LAND IS UNCONDITIONAL

#### 1. GOD PROMISED THE LAND IN A UNILATERAL COVENANT

➤ **Genesis 15: 1-6** – “After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great.”<sup>2</sup> Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will You give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”<sup>3</sup> And Abram said, “Since You have given no offspring to me, one born in my house is my heir.”<sup>4</sup> Then behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “This man will not be your heir; but one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir.”<sup>5</sup> And He took him outside and said, “Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”<sup>6</sup> Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

## ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO THE LAND

### C. ISRAEL'S OWNERSHIP OF THE LAND IS UNCONDITIONAL

#### 1. GOD PROMISED THE LAND IN A UNILATERAL COVENANT

- **Genesis 15: 7, 8** – “And He said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess it.”<sup>8</sup> He said, “O Lord GOD, how may I know that I will possess it?”



## ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO THE LAND

### C. ISRAEL'S OWNERSHIP OF THE LAND IS UNCONDITIONAL

#### 1. GOD PROMISED THE LAND IN A UNILATERAL COVENANT

➤ **Genesis 15: 9-12** – “So He said to him, “Bring Me a three year old heifer, and a three year old female goat, and a three year old ram, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”<sup>10</sup> Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, and laid each half opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds.<sup>11</sup> The birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, and Abram drove them away.<sup>12</sup> Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, terror *and* great darkness fell upon him.”



### C. ISRAEL'S OWNERSHIP OF THE LAND IS UNCONDITIONAL

#### 1. GOD PROMISED THE LAND IN A UNILATERAL COVENANT

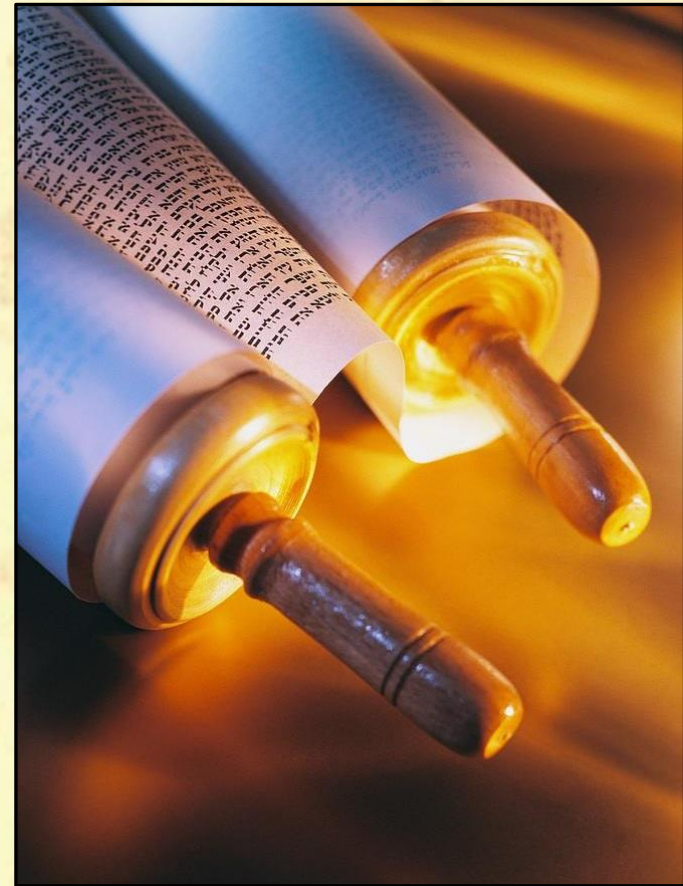
➤ **Genesis 15: 13-18** – “*God* said to Abram, “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years.<sup>14</sup> “But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions.<sup>15</sup> “As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you will be buried at a good old age.<sup>16</sup> “Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete.”<sup>17</sup> It came about when the sun had set, that it was very dark, and behold, *there appeared* a smoking oven and a flaming torch which passed between these pieces.<sup>18</sup> On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I have given this land, From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates:”

# ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO THE LAND

## C. ISRAEL'S OWNERSHIP OF THE LAND IS UNCONDITIONAL

### 1. GOD PROMISED THE LAND IN A UNILATERAL COVENANT

- **Heb 6: 13, 14** – “For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, <sup>14</sup> saying, “I will surely bless you and I will surely multiply you.”



## ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO THE LAND

### C. ISRAEL'S OWNERSHIP OF THE LAND IS UNCONDITIONAL

#### 1. GOD PROMISED THE LAND IN A UNILATERAL COVENANT

#### 2. GOD NEVER PLACED ANY CONDITIONS ON ABRAHAM

➤ **Gen 17: 1, 2** – “Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup> “I will establish My covenant between Me and you, And I will multiply you exceedingly.””

➤ **Gen 17: 8** – “I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.””

## ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO THE LAND

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1. GOD PROMISED THE LAND IN A UNILATERAL COVENANT

2. GOD NEVER PLACED ANY CONDITIONS ON ABRAHAM

*Some try to make the giving of circumcision as the requirement Abraham had to meet for the covenant to be honoured*

➤ **Gen 17: 10, 11** – “This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: every male among you shall be circumcised. <sup>11</sup> And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you.”

*Circumcision was given as a sign of the covenant's existence, not a condition to be met for the covenant to be fulfilled!*

# ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO THE LAND

## **C. ISRAEL'S OWNERSHIP OF THE LAND IS UNCONDITIONAL**

- 1. GOD PROMISED THE LAND IN A UNILATERAL COVENANT**
- 2. GOD NEVER PLACED ANY CONDITIONS ON ABRAHAM**
- 3. THE COVENANT IS PERMANENT AND UNCHANGEABLE**



## ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO THE LAND

### **C. ISRAEL'S OWNERSHIP OF THE LAND IS UNCONDITIONAL**

**1. GOD PROMISED THE LAND IN A UNILATERAL COVENANT**

**2. GOD NEVER PLACED ANY CONDITIONS ON ABRAHAM**

**3. THE COVENANT IS PERMANENT AND UNCHANGEABLE**

*a) ONCE A COVENANT IS ESTABLISHED IT CANNOT BE REPLACED OR ALTERED*

➤ **Gal 3: 15** – “Brethren, I speak in terms of human relations: even though it is only a man’s covenant, yet when it has been ratified, no one sets it aside or adds conditions to it.”

*b) THE COVENANT WAS RECONFIRMED IN SPITE OF SIN*

## ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO THE LAND

➤ **Lev 26: 42-45** – “then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and I will remember also My covenant with Isaac, and My covenant with Abraham as well, and I will remember the land. <sup>43</sup> For the land will be abandoned by them, and will make up for its sabbaths while it is made desolate without them. They, meanwhile, will be making amends for their iniquity, because they rejected My ordinances and their soul abhorred My statutes. <sup>44</sup> Yet in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject them, nor will I so abhor them as to destroy them, breaking My covenant with them; for I am the LORD their God. <sup>45</sup> But I will remember for them the covenant with their ancestors, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God. I am the LORD.”

**CONCLUSION – ISRAEL CANNOT AND NEVER WILL LOSE CLAIM TO THE LAND**

## ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO THE LAND

### D. ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO LIVE IN THE LAND IS CONDITIONAL

***“Throughout the history of Israel, covenant breaking and disobedience and idolatry disqualified Israel from the present divine right to the Land. Be careful not to infer from this that Gentile nations (like Arabs) have the right to molest Israel. God's judgments on Israel do not sanction human sin against Israel. Israel still has human rights among nations even when she forfeits her present divine right to the Land.”***

(John Piper)

***“Therefore, the secular state of Israel today may not claim a present divine right to the Land, but they and we should seek a peaceful settlement not based on present divine rights, but on international principles of justice, mercy, and practical feasibility.”***

(John Piper)



## ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO THE LAND

### **D. ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO LIVE IN THE LAND IS CONDITIONAL**

***"ISRAEL HAS NOT EVER FORFEITED HER DIVINE RIGHT TO THE LAND – WHAT SHE FORFEITED WAS THE RIGHT TO REMAIN LIVING IN THE LAND SHE OWNS!"***



## ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO THE LAND

### D. ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO LIVE IN THE LAND IS CONDITIONAL

#### 1. ISRAEL WOULD ONLY REMAIN IN THE LAND IF RIGHTEOUS

➤ **Deut 4: 25-27** – “When you become the father of children and children’s children and have remained long in the land, and act corruptly, and make an idol in the form of anything, and do that which is evil in the sight of the LORD your God *so as* to provoke Him to anger, <sup>26</sup> I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that you will surely perish quickly from the land where you are going over the Jordan to possess it. You shall not live long on it, but will be utterly destroyed. <sup>27</sup> ”The LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD drives you.”

## ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO THE LAND

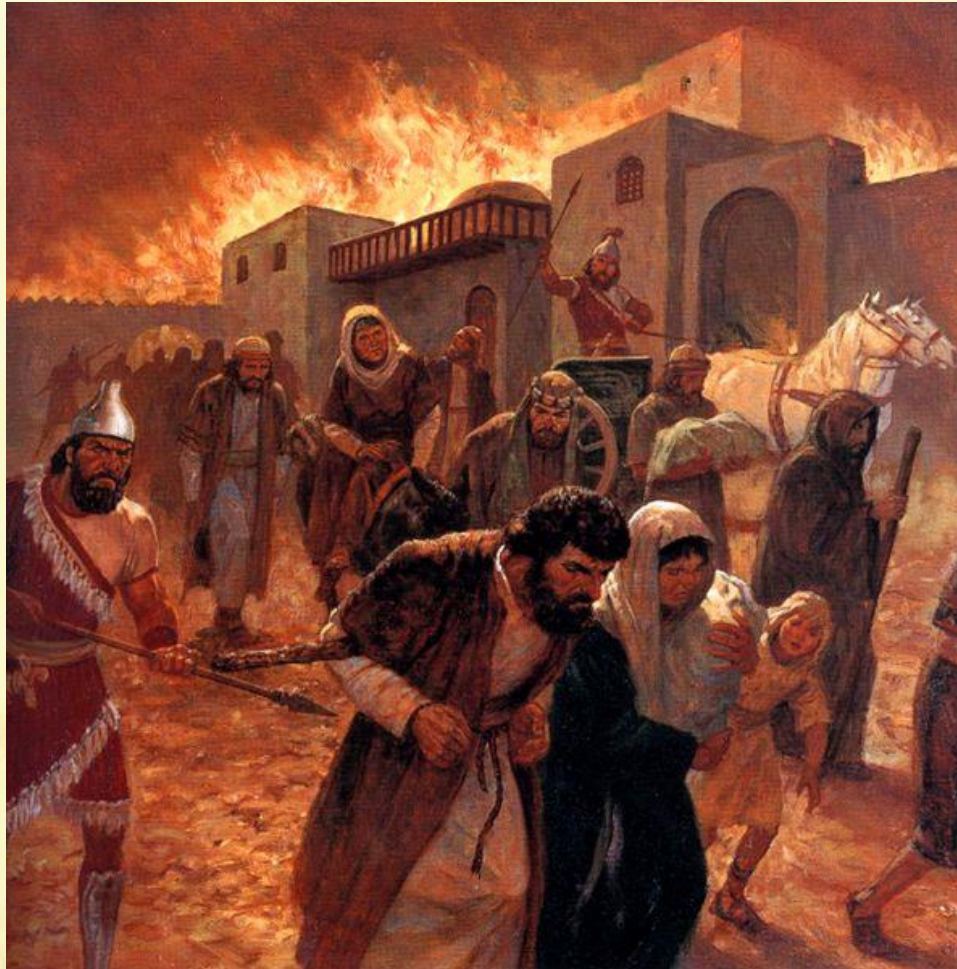
### D. ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO LIVE IN THE LAND IS CONDITIONAL

#### 1. ISRAEL WOULD ONLY REMAIN IN THE LAND IF RIGHTEOUS

➤ **Deut 29: 25-28** – “Then *men* will say, ‘Because they forsook the covenant of the LORD, the God of their fathers, which He made with them when He brought them out of the land of Egypt. <sup>26</sup>’ They went and served other gods and worshiped them, gods whom they have not known and whom He had not allotted to them. <sup>27</sup>’ Therefore, the anger of the LORD burned against that land, to bring upon it every curse which is written in this book; <sup>28</sup> and the LORD uprooted them from their land in anger and in fury and in great wrath, and cast them into another land, as *it is* this day.’”

## ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO THE LAND

***CONCLUSION – Israel may remain in the land ONLY if she remains obedient and righteous!***



## ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO THE LAND

### **D. ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO LIVE IN THE LAND IS CONDITIONAL**

**1. ISRAEL WOULD ONLY REMAIN IN THE LAND IF RIGHTEOUS**

**2. AND YET ISRAEL IS BACK IN THEIR LAND TODAY – *WITHOUT FAITH!***

*So why does Israel have the right to live in the land today?*



# ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO THE LAND

## E. GOD HAS GRACIOUSLY BROUGHT THEM BACK TO THEIR LAND

1. GOD PROMISED TO MAKE THEM WORTHY OF THE LAND THEY WERE GIVEN



# ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO THE LAND

***THE PURPOSE OF THE COVENANTS WAS TO ENSURE THAT ISRAEL WOULD BE ABLE TO POSSESS AND LIVE IN THEIR LAND FOREVER!***

- 1. ABRAHAMIC COVENANT – The promise of ownership of the land forever**
- 2. MOSAIC COVENANT (The Law) – The conditions for remaining in the land**
- 3. THE LAND COVENANT – God's promise to enable them to meet the conditions – to save Israel**
- 4. THE DAVIDIC COVENANT – the promise of the Seed – the promised Messiah Who would do all required to save Israel so they could meet the righteous conditions to dwell in the land**
- 5. THE NEW COVENANT – The promise of unconditional grace and salvation for Israel**

## ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO THE LAND

### E. GOD HAS GRACIOUSLY BROUGHT THEM BACK TO THEIR LAND

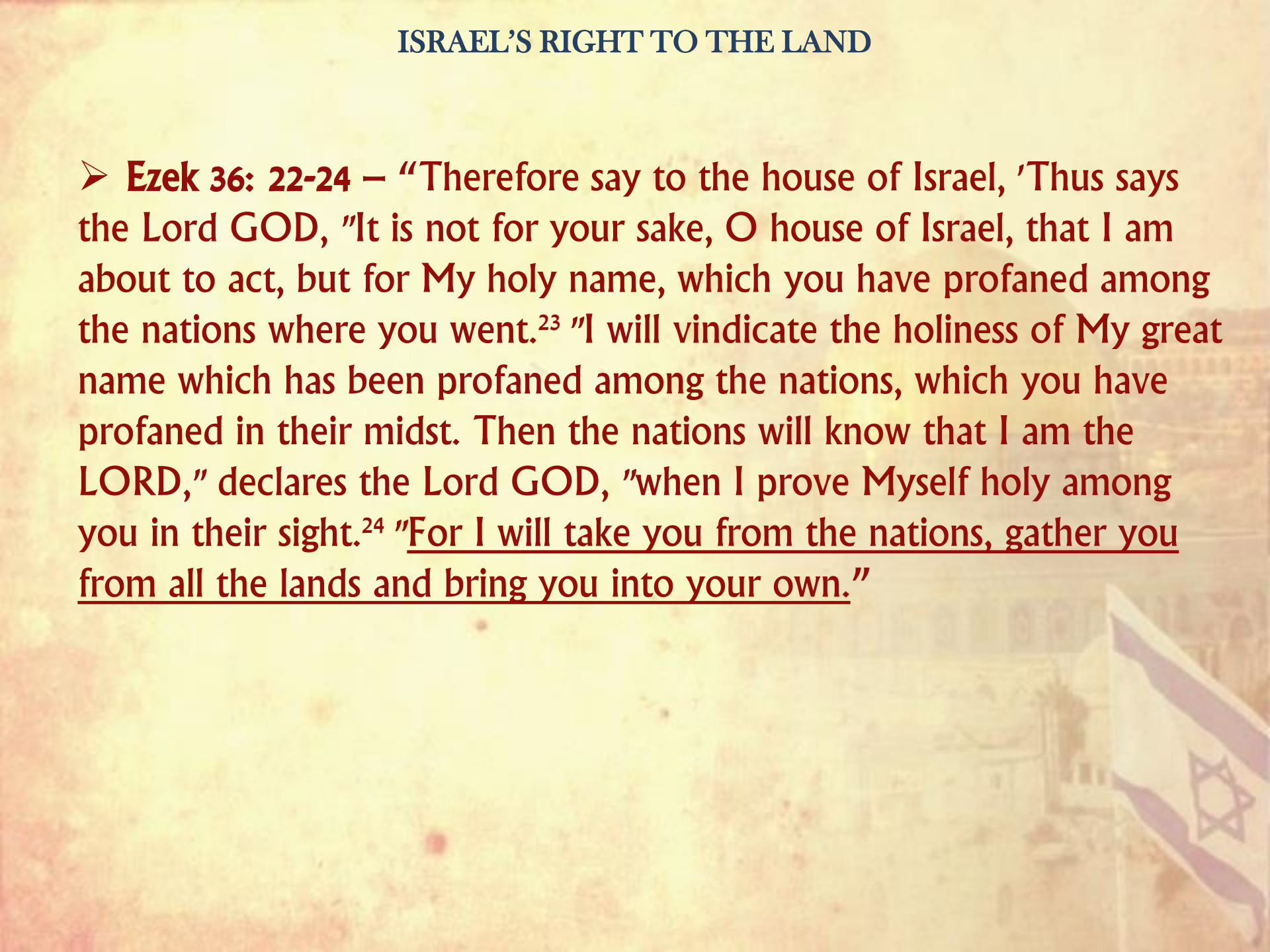
1. GOD PROMISED TO MAKE THEM WORTHY OF THE LAND THEY WERE GIVEN
2. GOD HAS BROUGHT THEM BACK TO THEIR LAND WHILE STILL IN SIN





## ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO THE LAND

➤ **Ezek 36: 22-24** – “Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went.<sup>23</sup> “I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD,” declares the Lord GOD, “when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight.<sup>24</sup> “For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own.””

The background of the slide is a faded, light-colored image. On the right side, the flag of Israel is visible, featuring a white field with two horizontal blue stripes and a blue Star of David in the center. Below the flag, there is a faint, light-colored image of a building, possibly a church or a historical structure, with a dome and arched windows. The overall background has a warm, yellowish-orange tint.

## ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO THE LAND

➤ **Ezek 36: 25-28** – “Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.<sup>26</sup> ”Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.<sup>27</sup> ”I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.<sup>28</sup> ”You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God.””



## ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO THE LAND

***Notice the motivation behind God's decision!***

➤ **Ezek 36: 22-24** – “Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went.”<sup>23</sup> “I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD,” declares the Lord GOD, “when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight.”<sup>24</sup> “For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own.”

***Israel is NOT coming back to their land because they deserve it!***



## ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO THE LAND

**GOD IS NOW BRINGING ISRAEL  
BACK TO THEIR LAND TO VINDICATE HIS  
GLORY AND REPUTATION AS GOD!**

***GOD HAS SOVEREIGNLY ESTABLISHED  
THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL!***



## ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO THE LAND

### **E. GOD HAS GRACIOUSLY BROUGHT THEM BACK TO THEIR LAND**

- 1. GOD PROMISED TO MAKE THEM WORTHY OF THE LAND THEY WERE GIVEN**
- 2. GOD HAS BROUGHT THEM BACK TO THEIR LAND WHILE STILL IN SIN**
- 3. GOD WILL SOON MAKE THEM WORTHY OF THE LAND THROUGH SALVATION**

***“Israel’s presence in the land today is because of the gracious promise of God to bring them back, when still undeserving and unbelieving, and then save them, making them worthy to remain in the land which God has given them forever!!”***