

THURSDAY

The Land Restored

- Promised Land / central to Israel's identity = more than geographical inheritance = Symbolized relationship / restoration / rest
- O.T. makes clear = God's **promises** regarding / land
 - **Conditional** = based on = Israel's faithfulness
- **Deuteronomy 28:63–64, Joshua 23:13, 1 Kings 9:7** warn
 - Disobedience would lead to exile = redemptive purpose
 - Indeed/happened = first to Assyria = then to Babylon
- Yet /God's heart yearned for restoration—not because Israel earned it = but, because His covenant love remained
- Even as judgment fell on Israel / Judah thru Babylonian exile
- God's message was not only one of correction = but of hope
- Prophets declared = God had not abandoned His people
- Promise of restoration / remained alive
 - because of faithfulness of God

Jeremiah 24:6 – “For I will set My eyes on them for good, and I will bring them back to this land; I will build them and not pull them down, and I will plant them and not pluck them up.”

Jeremiah 31:16 – “Refrain your voice from weeping... your work shall be rewarded... they shall come back from the land of the enemy.”

Ezekiel 11:17 – “I will gather you from the peoples... and I will give you the land of Israel.”

- These verses offer more than / mere political restoration
 - Reaffirm covenantal belonging
 - God had not forgotten His people
- Though they became rootless thru rebellion

- He would replant them = when they returned to Him
 - w/ all their hearts
- One phase of this promise = return from Babylon under
 - Zerubbabel [Ze-**ROO**-ba-bel] / Ezra / Nehemiah
- Pointed to something greater = coming of = a Davidic King
 - who would bring permanent restoration
- **Isaiah 9:6–7** prophesied: “For unto us a Child is born... Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end... upon the throne of David and over His kingdom.”
- Promise fulfilled in Jesus Christ = true Seed / Messiah in whom all of God’s covenantal promises find “Yes / Amen” **2 Cor 1:20**.
- Exile of Israel reminds us / deeper truth
 - w/o being rooted in Christ = we are spiritually homeless
- Covenantal faith in God = not passive
 - must be alive / active / growing
- **James 2:17** “Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”
- Faith without obedience = **stillborn** = has no heartbeat of love
 - No breath of prayer / no movement toward mission
 - Does not respond to call of God
- Just as Israel wandered because of disobedience
 - We, too become disoriented / rootless
 - When we separate faith from faithful living
- God invites us into covenant relationship / righteousness by faith by His grace
 - God’s initiative must be met by human response
 - demonstrated thru obedience
 - **NOT** saved by works = but true faith works **Eph 2:8–10**
- Works of faith = path to restoration in Israel’s history

- Today / Remains pathway = to spiritual inheritance
- Promise of the land began w/ God's covenant to Abraham
 - Culminates in new earth = where God will dwell forever
 - w/ His people
- While Old Testament focused on **physical** land
 - In light of Christ = land is reinterpreted
 - Becomes symbol of spiritual blessings/ God plans to give to His faithful people = here/now = and hereafter
 - peace / identity/ belonging / inheritance
- **Ephesians 2:6** "He raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus."
- Jesus redefines "home" = not by geography/ but by relationship
- Wherever Christ dwells = there is true land of promise
 - Thru Him = people of God = both Jew / Gentile
 - Are heirs according to promise = **Galatians 3:29**
- Still = there's future literal fulfillment of God's promise of land
 - One that is eternal = prophets saw it
 - **Ultimate Inheritance = New Earth** = John saw in vision
- **Revelation 21:1–3** "Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth... and I heard a loud voice... saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them.'" —
- Where God's people will dwell w/Him forever
 - Free from sin / sorrow / separation
- Jesus guaranteed promise w/ His own blood. He assured us
- **John 14:1–3** "I go to prepare a place for you... I will come again and receive you to Myself."
- Paul echoed this blessed hope
- **Titus 2:13** "Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ."

- After Christ returns /and 1,000 years are complete = Rev 20
 - earth will be made new
- Redeemed will inherit land = not Palestine / but Paradise
- Not nation / KINGDOM that shall never pass away = Dan 7:27

CLOSING THOUGHT = God is a Restorer

- Even when His people were scattered / rootless,
 - His eye remained on them “for good” (Jer. 24:6)
- He is /same today = if you feel like you’re in exile / wandering / or = dry and disconnected
 - God is still calling = still planting = still promising
- Let your heart be His land = Let Christ be your inheritance.
- Land restored is not merely about geography
 - It’s about relationship
 - That restoration is offered to you today
- **Matthew 5:5** “Blessed are / meek, for they shall inherit / earth.”