

## COVENANTS

### PALESTINIAN

Deuteronomy 30:1-10 gives the basic elements of the Palestinian Covenant. However, Deuteronomy 9:1-6 shows at what stage of Israel's history that God is reaffirming His promise to give them the land of Canaan for their inheritance. The Lord is telling them at that time that He will fight for them and destroy the nations before them who were living in the land. He also assures Israel that it was not because they were so righteous that He was doing this, but it was to be a judgment upon those nations because of their exceeding wickedness. Also, He was performing the promise He had made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Abrahamic Covenant.

In chapters 28 and 29 of Deuteronomy, God is telling Israel of the blessings that would be theirs if they would obey Him, as well as the chastisement that would come upon them for disobedience. However, this does not mean that their inheriting the land was conditional—for God had promised that to Abraham and his seed in an unconditional covenant. For individuals to enjoy the blessings of the promise, however, they must believe and receive them.

Then in Deuteronomy 30:1-10, the Lord once again stated His covenant promise to them. He told them He would gather them from all the nations wherein they had been scattered and place them in the land promised to them. This covenant is eternal and unconditional for the nation Israel, although for individuals to enjoy the blessings attached to it, it was conditioned on their belief.

The gift of the land is modified by three times of their dispossessing the land, and then being restored. In Genesis 15:13-14, we read of their being a stranger in the land of Egypt for 400 years before coming out again to their own land. Many years later, first the ten tribes were taken captive by Assyria, and then the two tribes were taken captive by Babylon, where they remained for 70 years, before being allowed to go back to their land. Lastly, it was prophesied in Deuteronomy 30:1-3 that Israel would be scattered among all nations, from which the Lord would gather them and place them in the land He had promised to them. (See also Ezekiel 11:17). The first two times of their being out of their land and then returning have been fulfilled. Although at the present time, many of Israel have returned to part of their land and are once again being recognized as a nation (as of 1948), they still are not in possession of all the land God has promised them. It will not be until the return of the Lord as their King under the Davidic Covenant that they will enter into the complete fulfillment of God's covenant blessings for them.

We will explore the elements of the Davidic Covenant in our next study.