

Eschatology: Studies Concerning Future Events

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Lesson 2. Eschatology Developed in the Old Testament

Introduction: Our understanding of future events does not merely come from the Book of Revelation. Many of the future events were already revealed in the Old Testament.



Prophetic Covenants Reveal Israel's Future

Introduction

The study of future events must begin with what God is going to do for believing Israel.

Then we can consider how the present church age fits into God's future plan.

God made some covenants with His people which were eternal in nature and are yet to be fulfilled. Understanding these covenants will help in knowing what the future will be like.

I. Abrahamic Covenant Genesis 12:1-3, 7

➤ The nation is to be preserved. They will dwell in the land forever, be blessed, and be a blessing to the nations.

- This is an eternal covenant. Genesis 17:7-8

A. The Abrahamic covenant is repeated throughout Genesis.

See Genesis 12:1-3, 7; 13:14-17; 15:1-7, 18; 17:1-8, 15-19; 18:18; 22:16-18; 24:7; 26:2-5, 24; 28:13-15; 31:13; 35:9-12

B. Content of the Covenant: Blessing

1. Personal blessing for Abraham (Genesis 24:1)
land (Genesis 13:14, 15, 17); servants (Genesis 14:14); money (Genesis 13:2; 24:34-35)
2. National blessing for Israel
Great nation (1 Chronicles 17:21-22; Psalm 73:1; 147:19-20; Deuteronomy 4:7-8)
3. Universal blessing for all the nations of the earth (Galatians 3:6-8)

C. Note three components of the Abrahamic covenant:

1. The promise of the land – Genesis 13:14-17; 17:8
(Genesis 12:7; 13:14-17; 15:7, 8, 18; 17:7-8 [everlasting]; 24:7; 26:3-5; 28:13-14; 35:12; 48:4) (see boundaries of the land in Genesis 15:18; Deuteronomy 1:6-8)
2. The promise of a "seed" (descendants) – Genesis 15:2-5; 22:17-18
(Genesis 12:7; 13:15-16; 15:2-5, 13; 17:2, 7-10, 13, 16, 19; 21:12; *22:17-18; 24:7; 26:3-4, 24; 28:13-14; 32:12; 35:10-12)
3. The promise of blessing to the nations – Genesis 17:4-6; 18:18
(Genesis 12:3; 17:4-6; 18:18; 22:17-18; 26:3-4; 28:13-14; cf. Galatians 3:8)

D. Promise confirmed

To Abraham – Genesis 12:1-3; to Isaac – Genesis 26:1-5; to Jacob – Genesis 28:13-15; 35:9-12; to Moses – Exodus 6:2-8

- The promise of the land, seed, and blessing are expanded in the following three covenants.

II. The Palestinian (Land) Covenant Deuteronomy 29-30

Note: Deuteronomy 30:19-20 ties this promise to the Abrahamic covenant.

- A. The people will be gathered together from the lands of their captivity. (30:1-2)
- B. The Lord will bring them into the land. (30:3-5)
- C. The people will be spiritually renewed to serve the Lord. (30:6, 8)
- D. The enemy of God's people will be cursed. (30:7)
- E. The people will be fruitful. (30:9)
 - ☑ What benefits are promised in this covenant? (Deuteronomy 30:3-10)
 - ☑ What condition is made for Israel to realize the benefits of the covenant? (30:10)
 - ☑ What is the duration of the covenant promise?

III. The Davidic Covenant 2 Samuel 7:8-16; Psalm 89:33-37

The promise of the land as a dwelling place for God's people and rest from their enemies is also repeated in this covenant.

- A. The throne of David will be established forever. (:12)
- B. A kingdom rule will endure forever. (:13)
- C. The covenant will not be broken. It is eternal. (:16)
- D. For fulfillment in Jesus Christ see Luke 1:30-33 and Acts 2:29-32.
 - ☑ What promise did God make to David?
 - ☑ How long would the house of David and the kingdom endure? (:16)
 - ☑ What further information about this promise is revealed in Luke 1:30-33 and Acts 2:29-32?

IV. The New Covenant Jeremiah 31:31-37

- A. The people will have a personal relationship with the Lord. He will be their God and they will be His people. All will know God.
- B. God will forgive their sins. Their sins will no longer be remembered.
 - ☑ What blessings were promised to God's people in these verses?

Summary of the Covenants

- The fulfillment of these covenants is yet to come.
- 1. The believing descendants of Abraham will have an eternal inheritance of blessing in the land of Canaan.
 - 2. They will be gathered from among their enemies, restored to their land, and be blessed as God's people.
 - 3. The house of David will endure forever. The throne of David will be established forever.
 - 4. God will dwell in the midst of His people.

Does the Church replace Israel?

- For a New Testament summary of Israel's past, present, and future status before God see Romans 9-11.
- 1. The covenants await future fulfillment. Romans 11:25-29
 - 2. The covenants will not be set aside. Galatians 3:17; 1 Chronicles 16:15
- The church is not Israel (1 Corinthians 10:32; Romans 11:1-25)



The Coming King Revealed in the Psalms

- I. The King will judge the enemies of Israel.
 - Psalm 2; 110:5-6
 - Psalm 96 The Lord reigns; He is coming to judge the earth

 - II. The King will reign on the throne of David.
 - A. Anticipation of the King of Glory.
 - Psalm 24:7-10
 - B. He will reign in Zion.
 - Psalm 48:2-11
 - C. He will have dominion over all the nations of the earth.
 - Psalm 22:27-31; 72:8-11
 - D. He will rule in righteousness.
 - Psalm 72:1-7; 110:1-2
 - E. His reign will have no end.
 - Psalm 45:6-7; 72:17-19; 89:27-29
 - F. He will be a priest for His people forever.
 - Psalm 110:1-4

 - III. The promises to Israel will be fulfilled. Psalm 89
 - A. There will be repentance. People from all nations will turn to the Lord.
 - Psalm 22:27-28; 102:15-17; 110:3

 - B. Israel will inherit the land forever.
 - Psalm 60:34-35; 89:1-4, 28-29

 - C. The people will enjoy blessing and prosperity.
 - Psalm 68:34-35; 72:12-17
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Isaiah's Sequence of Future Events

- I. Desolation of the earth precedes the reign of the Lord.
The Lord will judge the whole earth.
Terror and majesty are seen by Isaiah.
Isaiah 2:10-22; 24:1-6, 17-22; 27:1; 34:1-4, 8
- II. Restoration of God's people will take place.
A remnant of God's people will remain through the judgment of the wicked.
Isaiah 4:2-6; 11:11-12; 27:12-13; 60:21
 - They will be restored physically to the land of their inheritance.
 - They will be restored spiritually from their sin to serve the Lord.
- III. The Lord will reign among His people.
He will have an everlasting rule with righteousness and justice forever.
Isaiah 9:4-7; 24:23
- IV. God will bless His people.
 - A. There will be peace and harmony in the kingdom of the Lord.
Isaiah 11:1-9
 - B. There will be a new heaven and a new earth.
Isaiah 65:17-25; 66:22-24
 1. Former things are not remembered.
 2. Life is characterized by rejoicing rather than weeping and crying.
 3. There will be length of life.
 4. Physical prosperity will be enjoyed.
 5. Communion with the Lord will be evident.
 6. There will be harmony in nature.

➤ **Retribution... Restoration... Reign... Reward**

This sequence of events is consistently proclaimed by the Prophets.

- 1. Judgement of the enemies of God**
- 2. Restoration of the people of God**
- 3. Reign of the King in His eternal kingdom**
- 4. Blessing of God's people forever**