

Thursday Evening Bible Study

Series: the End Times – Bible prophecy about future events and periods

Teaching Summary for Week 13

The Kingdom and the Covenants

Part 3. The Palestinian Covenant

The Palestinian Covenant is an unconditional, eternal, literal covenant whereby the Lord **re-affirms the land promises** of the Abrahamic Covenant to the **nation of Israel**.

The Palestinian covenant demonstrates that national failure does not nullify the agreement the Lord previously made in the Abrahamic Covenant. It is **unconditional** – though the time of fulfillment can be postponed as a result of disobedience.

The Palestinian covenant is established with the nation of Israel in the book of **Deuteronomy chapter 30 verses 1-10**.

The character of the Palestinian covenant

There are at least four reasons why the Palestinian must be understood to be unconditional.

First, the Lord calls it an **eternal covenant** in Eze 16:60.

Second, it is **an amplification of the Abrahamic covenant**, which is itself unconditional.

Third, the **Lord** promises that He will Himself **perform the entire conversion of the nation of Israel** which must occur before the covenant is fulfilled (Deu 30:6; Eze 11:16-21; Hos 2:14-23; Rom 11:26-27 all state this).

Fourth, **portions of this covenant have already been fulfilled literally.** Israel has been sent into exile for her apostasy several times in her history. She has also been restored to her land afterwards, except for the most recent time in 70 AD. Now she awaits her final restoration to the entire promised land, where she will dwell in peace and prosperity forever.

In addition, the Lord has judged her enemies several times in her history also.

These partial, literal fulfillments of the Palestinian covenant foreshadow the future literal fulfillment of the entire covenant.

It could perhaps be argued that statements in Deu 30:1-3 make this a conditional covenant.

Deut 30:1-3

*1 "So it shall be **when** all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind in all nations where the Lord your God has banished you, 2 and you return to the Lord your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today, you and your sons, 3 **then** the Lord your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you. 4*

However, the only thing that hangs in the balance here is the timing of its fulfillment. The covenant will be fulfilled when the nation is finally converted. And it's "when" and "will", not if. And the Lord is the one who promises to bring about this conversion:

Deut 30:6

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.

Deut 30:8

8 *"And **you shall** again obey the Lord, and observe all His commandments which I command you today.*

The significance of the Palestinian covenant for Eschatology (end times)

In order for the Palestinian covenant to be fulfilled literally, Israel must be converted as a nation, must be completely regathered from all the nations of the earth, installed permanently in her land as her perpetual possession, witness the judgment of all her enemies, and receive all of the material and spiritual blessings promised to her.

Since these things have never been fulfilled, and an unconditional covenant means they **MUST** be fulfilled, they **WILL** be fulfilled in future events.

And this is what the prophets of Israel predicted would happen.

We will end our study of the Palestinian Covenant with the prophets. Let's read the following passages together:

Isa 14:1-3; Jer 16:14-16; Eze 11:16-21; 34:11-16; 39:25-29; Hos 2:14-23; Amo 9:11-15.

Part 4. The Davidic Covenant

The Davidic Covenant is an unconditional, eternal, literal covenant whereby the Lord re-affirms the **seed promises** of the Abrahamic Covenant.

There is a further provision: the seed promises to Abraham will now attach permanently to the historic house and succession of **David**.

Recall the seed promises to Abraham:

Gen 17:6-7

*6 "I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and **kings** will come forth from you. 7 "I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you.*

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Jacob prophesied that the royal house would come from the **line of Judah**:

Gen 49:10

*10 " The **scepter** shall not depart from **Judah**,
Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,
Until **Shiloh** comes,
And to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.*

The Lord made this covenant with David in **2 Samuel 7:12-16**.

2 Sam 7:8-17

8 "Now therefore, thus you shall say to My servant David, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, " I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people Israel. 9 " I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like the names of the great men who are on the earth.

10 "I will also appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will the wicked afflict them any more as formerly, 11 even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. The Lord also declares to you that **the Lord will make a house for you.** 12 " When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 " He shall build a house for My name, and **I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.** 14 " I will be a father to him (Solomon) and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, 15 but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 " **Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.**" 17 In accordance with all these words and all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

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Note that there are three aspects to this Davidic covenant: his **house**, his **kingdom**, and his **throne**.

Recall how at the beginning of this series on the End Times, we learned the definition of a kingdom?

A **Kingdom** consists of three essential elements:

- (1) A RULER with authority and power
- (2) A REALM of subjects to be ruled
- (3) Actual exercise of the function of RULERSHIP

This corresponds precisely with what the Lord promised David.

<p>HOUSE = RULER (David's descendent – the King)</p> <p>KINGDOM = REALM (the nation of Israel)</p> <p>THRONE = RULERSHIP (the right to rule, the authority as King)</p>

By God's grace, these rights, even if historically interrupted for a season, will at last, in a FUTURE KINGDOM, be restored to the nation and to the line of David in perpetuity (forever), with no further possibility of interruption.

16 " Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever."

David was a prophet himself, and this is what he prophesied at the end of his life:

2 Sam 23:1-5

1 Now these are the last words of David.

*David the son of Jesse declares,
The man who was raised on high declares,
The anointed of the God of Jacob,
And the sweet psalmist of Israel,
2 " The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me,
And His word was on my tongue.
3 "The God of Israel said,
The Rock of Israel spoke to me,
' He who rules over men righteously,
Who rules in the fear of God,
4 Is as the light of the morning when the sun rises,
A morning without clouds,
When the tender grass springs out of the earth,
Through sunshine after rain.'
5 "Truly is not **my house** so with God?
For He has made an **everlasting** covenant with me,
Ordered in all things, and **secured**;
For all my salvation and all my desire,
Will He not indeed make it grow?*