

## e-concepts

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### What Did God Say About the Land of Israel

1. **God selected the land** (Genesis 12:1-7). In God's great plan of redemption, He called Abram, as recorded in Genesis 12. A central element in that plan was God's selection of the land of Canaan. It was God's choice, no one else's. So Abram had to pack up his family and move from Ur (Iraq near Kuwait) to Canaan. Never again did he or his descendants return to Ur.
2. **God gave this land to Abram and his descendants forever through Isaac and Jacob** (Hebrews 11:8-10; see also Genesis 12:7; 13:15; 15:7, 18; 17:8).
3. **God defined the extent of the land** (Genesis 15:18-21; see also Numbers 32:33-42 and 34:1-12).
4. **God uniquely and continually watches over it and cares for it** (Deuteronomy 11:11-12).
5. **Initially, it was a very rich and prosperous land** (Numbers 13:17-27), "flowing with milk and honey" (Exodus 3:8, 17; 13:5; Leviticus 20:24; Deuteronomy 6:3; 26:9, 15). Most of it was forest (Joshua 17:15, 18; 1 Samuel 22:5; 2 Chronicles 27:4; Deuteronomy 20:19-20; Ezekiel 20:45-49).
6. **He chose the land to make Israel dependent upon Him** (Deuteronomy 11:8-17). It was a land unlike Egypt. It was nearly impossible to irrigate because of the terrain. Therefore, Israel was dependent upon God for rain, which was conditioned upon their obedience.
7. **God uniquely "placed His name" in Jerusalem**, like a man placing his name and his reputation on his business (e.g. J.C. Penny, Sam's Club, Ford Motor Co.) (2 Chronicles 6:1-6; see also 1 Kings 11:36; 14:21; 2 Kings 21:4; 33:4, 7).
8. **The current desolation of the land testifies to the Jews' disobedience** (Deuteronomy 29:22-27).
9. **The spread of the Gospel during the church age began in Jerusalem** (Acts 1:8).
10. **God has not permanently abandoned the Jews nor the land.** He will not only restore the Jews but will convert the land to a "garden of Eden" (Ezekiel 36:22-36). He will bring them back to the land and restore them to obedience and blessing. And God will be recognized and honored by all nations because of it (1 Samuel 12:20-22; Romans 10:21-11:5; 11:11-12, 25-29).

***For the sons of Israel will remain for many days without a king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar and without ephod or household idols. Afterward the sons of Israel will return and seek the Lord their God and David their king; and they will come trembling to the Lord and to His goodness in the last days. (Hosea 3:4-5)***

For more information see study book **Learning the Land** on Relational Concepts web page:

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