

## **Biblical Origins: The Promised Land**

### *A. The Promise to the Forefathers – Genesis 13:14-18 & 35:9–15*

<sup>13:14</sup> And יהוה said to Abram, after Lot had parted from him, “Raise your eyes and look out from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west, <sup>15</sup> for I give all the land that you see to you and your offspring forever. <sup>16</sup> I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, then your offspring too can be counted. <sup>17</sup> Up, walk about the land, through its length and its breadth, for I give it to you.” <sup>18</sup> And Abram moved his tent, and came to dwell at the terebinths of Mamre, which are in Hebron; and he built an altar there to יהוה.

<sup>35:9</sup> God blessed him, <sup>10</sup> saying to him, “You whose name is Jacob, You shall be called Jacob no more, but Israel shall be your name.” Thus he was named Israel. <sup>11</sup> And God said to him, “I am El Shaddai. Be fertile and increase; a nation, yea an assembly of nations, shall descend from you. Kings shall issue from your loins. <sup>12</sup> The land that I assigned to Abraham and Isaac I assign to you; and to your offspring to come will I assign the land.” <sup>13</sup> God parted from him at the spot where [God] had spoken to him; <sup>14</sup> and Jacob set up a pillar at the site where [God] had spoken to him, a pillar of stone, and he offered a libation on it and poured oil on it. <sup>15</sup> Jacob gave the site, where God had spoken to him, the name of Bethel.

### *B. The Promise to the Israelites – Deuteronomy 11:8–17*

<sup>11:8</sup> Keep, therefore, all the Instruction that I enjoin upon you today, so that you may have the strength to enter and take possession of the land that you are about to cross into and possess, <sup>9</sup> and that you may long endure upon the soil that יהוה swore to your fathers to assign to them and to their heirs, a land flowing with milk and honey.

<sup>10</sup> For the land that you are about to enter and possess is not like the land of Egypt from which you have come. There the grain you sowed had to be watered by your own labors, like a vegetable garden; <sup>11</sup> but the land you are about to cross into and possess, a land of hills and valleys, soaks up its water from the rains of heaven. <sup>12</sup> It is a land which your God יהוה looks after, on which your God יהוה always keeps an eye, from year’s beginning to year’s end.

<sup>13</sup> If, then, you obey the commandments that I enjoin upon you this day, loving your God יהוה and serving [God] with all your heart and soul, <sup>14</sup> I will grant the rain for your land in season, the early rain and the late. You shall gather in your new grain and wine and oil— <sup>15</sup> I will also provide grass in the fields for your cattle—and thus you shall eat your fill.

<sup>16</sup> Take care not to be lured away to serve other gods and bow to them. <sup>17</sup> For יהוה’s anger will flare up against you, shutting up the skies so that there will be no rain and the ground will not yield its produce; and you will soon perish from the good land that יהוה is assigning to you.

## The Path Forward: Israel Fundamentals Bootcamp

Biblical Origins: The Promised Land □ Monday, November 18, 2024

### C. *The Promise of Return – Psalm 126*

<sup>126:1</sup> A song of ascents. When יהוה restored the fortunes of Zion—we were like those who dream—  
<sup>2</sup> our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues, with songs of joy. Then they said among the nations, “יהוה has done great things for them!” <sup>3</sup> יהוה has done great things for us and we rejoiced.

<sup>4</sup> Restore our fortunes, יהוה, like watercourses in the Negev. <sup>5</sup> They who sow in tears shall reap with songs of joy. <sup>6</sup> Though he goes along weeping, carrying the seed-bag, he shall come back with songs of joy, carrying his sheaves.

### D. *An Enduring Connection –*

*Elie Elyashar, A Jew of Palestine before the Royal Commission (1936)*

*Elie (Eliyahu) Elyashar (1899-1981) was a Sephardic Jewish leader, politician, businessman, and writer from Jerusalem. He gave testimony to the Palestine Royal Commission in 1936 and self-published his testimony later that year.*

Are the Jews an Alien race to Palestine as pretended? Is not every corner, every stone in it pregnant with Jewish history whether dating back to the Old or the New Testament? Has there been any period, even the shortest, when Jews did not live somewhere in Palestine and has there ever been any stoppage of Jewish immigration, no matter what the temporal rule of the country may have been at the time? For two thousand years, scattered throughout the world, we have turned our faces towards the East, to Palestine the birthplace of our race.

The Messianic ideal of a return to this country never left us and our history is rich in movements aiming [at] the re-establishment of the Jews in their ancient homeland. The Talmud says that a Jew living outside Eretz Israel is deprived of the Divine Grace.

Our religion is in direct relation with the natural conditions that distinguish Palestine from other countries. Our blessings and curses do not and cannot apply to any other country but Palestine. Our prayers are meaningless if not connected with Palestine. In our prayers we look towards Palestine and in death we are buried with our faces turned towards Palestine.

*Translation: Moshe Behar and Zvi Ben-Dor Benite (2013).*