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God's chosen people – Pt 2 God gives to His children & expects obedience.

We previously established that God made a covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and He chose the descendants of Israel as a peculiar people, and gave them His law. In this study we establish that God gave Israel the land He promised to Abraham, He drove out the inhabitants of the land and gave Israel a blessing for obedience and a curse for disobedience.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. God gave Israel the land He promised to Abraham.

"Art not thou our God, [who] didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever?" (2Chr.20: 7).

The land of Canaan that God gave to the children of Israel was a land flowing with milk and honey (Ex.3: 8, 17), it was like none other. And the creator of the heavens and the earth gave this land to His chosen people for ever, and UNESCO or any other organisation can never decree otherwise.

2. God drove out the inhabitants of the land and fought for Israel.

"For the Lord hath driven out from before you great nations and strong" (Josh.23: 9). C.f. "And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries, when they had heard that the Lord fought against the enemies of Israel" (2Chr.20: 29).

How did God actually give Israel the land? **He** drove out the inhabitants, **He** fought for Israel, **He** laid "the fear of you and the dread of you upon all the land that ye shall tread upon" (Deut 11:25).

3. God gave His Israel a blessing if they obey and a curse if they obey not.

"Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God..." (Deut.11: 26-28). See also Deut.27 & 28.

Before Israel inherited the land God knew that when they were settled in the land, when their tummies were full they would no longer need Him, and so He set out **consequences**. For obedience they would be blessed and for disobedience they would receive a curse, including being "plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it" (Deut.28: 63).

Additional comments on our three points.

The picture of Israel in the Old Testament is one of a nation whom God loved, He made a covenant with, He gave them His law, took land off other nations who were wicked and gave it as a blessing for His children. But just as God did all of this for His children so He would do the opposite if they obeyed not His law.

Applying the teaching to our life today.

"Raiders of the lost ark" was a movie about the race between the Nazis and an American archaeologist to find the ark of the covenant (supposedly) which would enable them to overcome their enemies as it did when Israel had the ark in their possession (1Sam.4: 3). But the Nazis forgot that God only drove out the enemy if those who have the ark are His children and are obedient – otherwise it would become a curse to you as it did to the Nazis in the movie.

Question to think about.

God gave His only begotten Son for our sin and He raised Him from the dead, when a man believes the gospel of Christ crucified he is a child of God. What does God require of His children today?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

God requires obedience to His word. There is a blessing for the children that obey, in the form of rewards, and there is a curse for those that do not – no rewards at the judgment.