



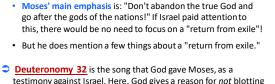
First of all, what does the Bible say about Israel's future?

The best way to find out is to read what the Old Testament prophets say. See for yourself! We will look at a few randomly-selected passages that seem to say something about Israel's future; but many more exist!

What does Moses say?

In several passages, Moses describes:

- 1) Blessings for being loyal to the God of Israel;
- Curses for abandoning the true God and turning to the gods of the surrounding nations. (In some passages, the consequences are described as *increasing* in horribleness, as the rebellion increases.)
- 3) Destruction and exile from the land, along with many horrible experiences during that exile.
- 4) Repentance and return to the land. This is associated with a *change* in the hearts of the people.



betteronomy 32 is the song that God gave Moses, as a testimony against Israel. Here, God gives a reason for <u>not</u> blotting them out of existence (the way he did with many other nations):

> "I would have said that I would cut them to pieces and blot out their memory from mankind, if I had not dreaded the taunt of the enemy,* lest their adversaries misunderstand and say: 'Our own hand has prevailed; it was not the LORD who did all this.'"

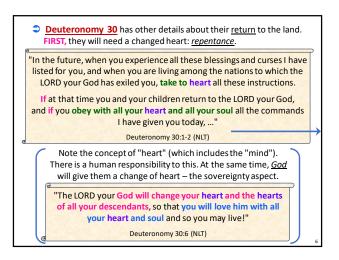
> > Deuteronomy 32:26-27 (BSB)

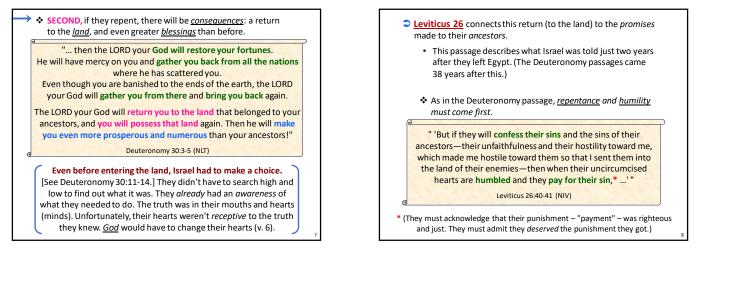
* (Though spoken by God, this "dreading" is a poetic expression of the "cause and effect" that occurs on *our* level of existence, not on the level of God's sovereignty.)

 Later in the passage, God says: 1 He will judge his adversaries, and 2 he will "make atonement for" (or "cleanse") his <u>land</u> and <u>people</u>. But there are no further details about this "atonement" (or "cleansing").
 "... I will take vengeance on My adversaries and repay

those who hate Me." Rejoice, O heavens, with Him, and let all God's angels worship Him. Rejoice, O nations, with His people; for He will avenge the blood of His children. He will take vengeance on His adversaries and repay those who hate Him; He will cleanse His land and His people. Deuteronomy 32:41b, 43 (BSB)

An important issue to consider: Moses says these things <u>before</u> they have even entered the land! God knew what they would do; he wasn't surprised when they <u>did</u> have to be judged and exiled!





The results of this repentance/humility? Two things. First, there was a <u>land</u> issue. This issue was related to the covenant God made with Israel's ancestors.

" '... I will remember my covenant with Jacob and my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham,

and I will remember the land. For the land will be deserted by them and will enjoy its sabbaths while it lies desolate without them.'" Leviticus 26:42-43a (NIV)

The land sabbaths: Every seventh year ("sabbath"), the people were supposed to let the land rest dormant, instead of planting crops. (God said he would provide for their food.) Apparently, they never did obey him in this matter. But during their exile ...

The land enjoyed its sabbath rests; all the time of its desolation it rested, until the seventy years were completed in fulfillment of the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah. 2 Chronicles 36:21 (NIV); see Jeremiah 29:10.

- Second, there was a <u>people</u> (sin) issue. This issue was related to a second covenant: one made with Israel after God brought them out of Egypt.
 - Even so, God made this second covenant with the nation <u>because</u> of the covenant he made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

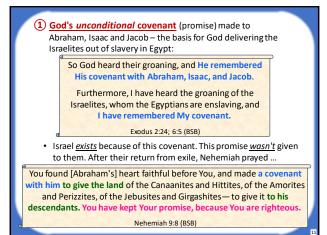
" 'They will pay for their sins because they rejected my laws and abhorred my decrees.

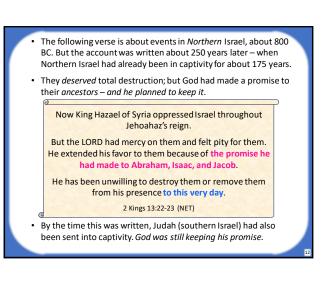
Yet in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject them or abhor them so as to destroy them completely, breaking my covenant with <u>them</u>. I am the Lord their God.

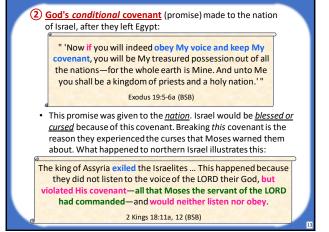
But for their sake I will remember the covenant with <u>their</u> ancestors whom I brought out of Egypt in the sight of the nations to be their God. I am the Lord.'"

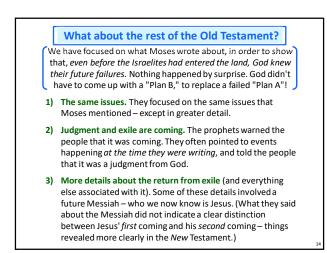
Leviticus 26:43b-45 (NIV)

A comparison of these two covenants:









Daniel 9: The book of Jeremiah tells us that Judah's captivity would last 70 years. When this time was nearly over, Daniel prayed a prayer of repentance for the nation. Here is part of what he prayed:

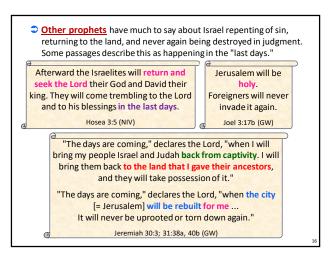
All Israel has transgressed Your law and turned away, refusing to obey Your voice; so the oath and the curse written in the Law of Moses the servant of God has been poured out on us, because we have sinned against You. ...

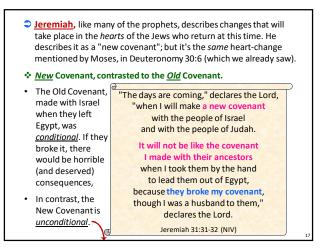
Just as it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us, yet we have not sought the favor of the LORD our God by turning from our iniquities and giving attention to Your truth.

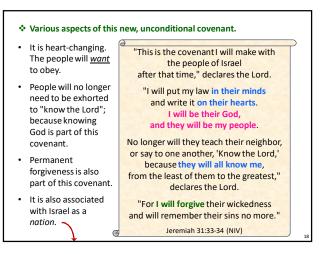
Therefore the LORD has kept the calamity in store and brought it upon us. For the LORD our God is righteous in all He does; yet we have not obeyed His voice.

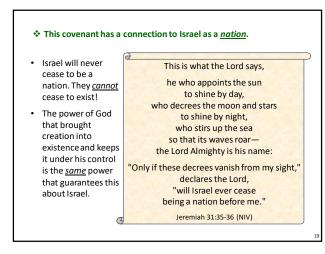
Daniel 9:11, 13-14 (BSB)

★ Daniel acknowledged that God is *righteous in his judgments*. ★











What can we conclude (from these passages)? There are so many more passages we could include, involving all sorts of details regarding Israel's future. You are encouraged to look for them. From the passages we have looked at, we can see that <u>three covenants are involved</u>. They are as follows: The covenant made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. ✓ Permanent and unconditional ✓ NOT made with the nation, NOT influenced by their conduct. *They cannot break this covenant!* ✓ This is the reason the people *exist*, and why God is unwilling to

- This is the reason the people exist, and why God is unwilling to totally destroy them.
- ✓ It also applies to the *land*.
- ✓ God will keep this promise, *because he is righteous*.

The covenant made with the nation (through Moses). Conditional; what happens depends on their conduct.

- ✓ It does not nullify or cancel the covenant made with Abraham.
 ✓ Perpetual disobedience brought judgment and exile. (The nations that destroyed Israel are also judged for their own sins.)
- To return, they must humbly repent and have a changed heart. Then God will bring them back to the land and restore their fortunes. They will never again be destroyed.
- ✓ This need for a changed heart points to the New Covenant.

(3) The new covenant made with the nation (through Christ).

- ✓ (Today, <u>we</u> know details that <u>they</u> didn't understand. We know it was through Christ. We also know that Gentiles are included.)
 ✓ God will change their hearts; they will no longer rebel.
- Knowing God and having complete forgiveness are included in this covenant

We will finish this issue next time. Right now, we can focus on ...

Appreciate the value of these three covenants!

★ ♦ Our MISSION!

\star If we are saved, we have a connection to each of them! \star

- 1 The covenant made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob:
 - ✓ If we have the same type of faith that Abraham had, then we are his children, and recipients of the promise (covenant) that God made with him (Romans 4 and Galatians 3).
- (2) The covenant made with the nation (through Moses).
 - ✓ Even though there are parts of this covenant that have no application to us, we learn from it the *moral* law, which is to guide us in the way we live.

The new covenant made with the nation (through Christ). Our connection to the first two covenants is made possible because of the New Covenant changes that occur in our hearts.

Credits

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