

# The Boundaries of the Land God Promised to Israel

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## TEXTS:

**Genesis 15:18-21** <sup>18</sup> On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I have given this land, From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates: <sup>19</sup> the Kenite and the Kenizzite and the Kadmonite <sup>20</sup> and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Rephaim <sup>21</sup> and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Girgashite and the Jebusite."

**Deuteronomy 1:7-8** <sup>7</sup> 'Turn and set your journey, and go to the hill country of the Amorites, and to all their neighbors in the Arabah, in the hill country and in the lowland and in the Negev and by the seacoast, the land of the Canaanites, and Lebanon, as far as the great river, the river Euphrates. <sup>8</sup> 'See, I have placed the land before you; go in and possess the land which the LORD swore to give to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to them and their descendants after them.'

**Deuteronomy 11:24** <sup>24</sup> "Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours; your border will be from the wilderness to Lebanon, *and* from the river, the river Euphrates, as far as the western sea.

**Joshua 1:3-4** <sup>3</sup> "Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses. <sup>4</sup> "From the wilderness and this Lebanon, even as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and as far as the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun will be your territory.

## EXPLANATION:

From these texts, it becomes apparent that the Promised Land has borders that are quite extensive beyond just the plot of Land that Israel conquered when they crossed the Jordan River under Joshua's leadership in 1406 BC. Israel has not possessed the full extremities of the Promised Land up to the present time. The Promised Land extends from the Mediterranean Sea on the west to the Euphrates River to the East. The northern boundaries include Lebanon all the way south to the Negev and the Dead Sea. The land is vast and plentiful that God promised to Israel (beginning with the Abrahamic covenant in Gen 15:18ff). It is a good land, full and rich, pleasant and beautiful.

To the present, these boundaries have not characterized the land that Israel has possessed. In other words, the full territories of God's promises have not yet reached their fulfillment yet. There still remains a day in the future when God will give the land in its fullness to Israel as a possession. This will take place during the Millennial Kingdom (cf. Ps 72).

That God is faithful, unchanging and absolutely reliable is a biblical truth found throughout the Scriptures. God made promises to Abraham and subsequently to Israel that have not yet reached their fulfillment. Thus, it follows that the faithful character of God guarantees that Israel will indeed possess the fullness of her land.

The irrevocable covenant that God made with Abraham and the part of that covenant that speaks of the boundaries of the land of Israel demands that God will provide His people, Israel, with the fullness of her land to enjoy all of its rich blessings as all of the peoples are conquered and God's King rules and reigns on earth from "sea to sea" (Ps 72:8).