

## THE BIBLICAL CONDITION FOR RETURNING

The condition for restoration to the land is then given, “But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers, with their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to Me, and that they also walked contrary to Me, then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and My covenant with Abraham will I remember, I will remember the land” (Leviticus 26:40f). In other words, if, and when, Israel repented, then and only then would Jehovah return them to the land. There is not a single word to hint that He would reward their unrighteousness by re-gathering them to the land in their disobedience.

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The same is true of Deuteronomy 28-30. Over and over the Lord of Hosts threatened them with captivity and scattering if they violated the Covenant (Deuteronomy 28:36-37; 45-49; 28:64 . . . .

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Three times in the text, Jehovah said that when the plagues and dispersion for sin came upon them, and they would call to mind the Covenant “among all the nations where the Lord your God drives you, and you return to the Lord your God and obey his voice, according to all that I command you today, you and your children...that the Lord your God will bring you back from captivity” (Deuteronomy 30:1-3). Repentance and obedience to the Mosaic Covenant were the conditions for return.

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The fact is this, in Deuteronomy 30, no less than three times Moses said the condition for a return to the land, after dispersion, was for Israel to obey the Law of Moses!

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If the Mosaic Covenant has been forever removed in Christ, then you cannot say that events 2000 years after its abrogation are the fulfillment of that Covenant!!

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The Mosaic Covenant, even according to Ice “has forever been fulfilled and discontinued through Christ.” (Prophecy, 258). Of course, it is interesting that in the same book, just two pages earlier, he said, “In the millennial temple, all that was prescribed and initiated in the Old Testament ceremonial and ritual activities will come to completion and find their fullest meaning.” (P. 256). How in the name of reason can one argue that the Mosaic Covenant, with its cultus, has been “completely fulfilled and discontinued in Christ,” and then turn around and say that the Old System will not be completely fulfilled until the millennium?

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[Since] the Mosaic Covenant has been, as virtually all millennialists insist, removed forever, then the divine prerequisite for any return to the land has been removed, and thus, there cannot be a continuing promise of a return to the land! [(Heb. 8:13-9:1, 9:15, 10:9, 10:16-17; Jer. 31:33-34)] If God has forever removed the Mosaic Law, obedience to which was the condition for Israel’s possession of the land, then even if Israel were to attempt to obey the law it would do no good

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It was Jehovah Himself that took away that Covenant with its provisions and promises for return! No obedience, no land. No Covenant, no promise of return to the land. And, what this necessitates of course, is that if there is in fact a yet future restoration of Israel then the Mosaic Covenant has to be restored.