

## The Promise Land

On November 27, 1095 AD at the Council of Clermont, in France Pope Urban II delivered a speech before several hundred clerics and noblemen. The result of this speech was the beginning of a roughly 200 year period of what we call the Crusades. Because of poor record keeping the estimates vary but possibly 1 to 9 million people died fighting in the Crusades. Pope Urban opened the Crusade period because the Turks controlled the “Holy Land” including Jerusalem. He told the crowd gathered before him it was God’s will to fight for and retake this land. He promised remission of sins for all who died in the service of Christ. Many answered the Pope’s call to service. Some went on Crusades for land, money, or power that could be gained by taking back some of this land from the Turks. However, some went to war and died believing it would save their soul to take part in the Crusades. How sad it is that all this death was completely unnecessary. Hopefully this lesson will explore some of the terrible errors above.

## Is there a Promised Land?

**Genesis 12:7** “And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him”, **Genesis 26: 2-5** “And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of: 3 Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father; And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws”, and **Exodus 6:8** “And I will bring you in unto the land, concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it you for an heritage: I am the LORD” The Scriptures tell us of a land promised to the descendants of Abraham or the Israelites. So there was a land promise to the Israelites but this promise was not made to any other people.

**Joshua 21: 43-45** “And the LORD gave unto Israel all the land which he sware to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein. And the LORD gave them rest round about, according to all that he sware unto their fathers: and there stood not a man of all their enemies before them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand. There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass” God fulfilled the promise He made to the Israelites by giving them the land He told them he would. So not only did God make this land promise to the Israelite but he also fulfilled his promise centuries ago.

## The Purpose of the Israelites

**Genesis 22: 17-18** “That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice” Why did God separate the people of Israel from all other nations and make them a people of promise? This was done for the sake of mankind as a part of God’s incredible plan of redemption. In Genesis 3 we are told of the fall of mankind through sin. Mankind would need a way to be redeemed or all was lost. God made a very special covenant with Abraham in Through the seed of Abraham all people were going to be blessed because Jesus would come through Abraham’s lineage. Also, we see this in **Galatians 3: 6-9** “Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham” and **Galatians 3:16** “Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.”

**Jeremiah 31:31-34** “Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more” We are told that Christ would come through the lineage of Abraham and also that the Old Law that applied to the children of Israel would one day give way to the New Law which would be the Law of Christ which you and I live under today.

The Old Law of Moses is replaced today by the Law of Christ our promise of today

**Matthew 5: 17-18** “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled” The new law fulfills God’s purpose for the old law. God’s plan for the seed of Abraham to bring forth Jesus is the expected fulfillment of the old law which brings forth the Christian era.

**Galatians 4: 4-7** “But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then

an heir of God through Christ” When God felt the time was right, he did away with the old law and gave us Christ’s Law which is what we live under today.

Today the “promised land” is spiritual not psychical. Christ’s kingdom is the Church.

**John 18:36** “Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence” and **Colossians 1:12-14** “Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins” Christ died for us so that our sins could be forgiven and so we could be a part of His kingdom which is not a place or land.

**Matthew 16:15-19** “He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven”, **Romans 14:17** “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost”, and **2 Peter 2:9** “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light” Christ came to build his spiritual kingdom. Also notice that Christ’s kingdom is the Church.

**Acts 20:28** “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood” Christ paid for the Church with his own blood, how important it must be.

**Matthew 28:19-20** “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Christ commanded his followers to teach others about him to bring them into his kingdom.

**Acts 2: 47** “Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.” Those who will be saved will be in Christ’s blood bought church.

**Acts 4: 10-12** “Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”, and **1 Corinthians 15:**

**20-24** “But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power” One can not be saved apart from the kingdom which is the Church.

### Conclusion

Sadly, the men that fought in the Crusades died unnecessarily. The Pope wrongly taught that in our Christian age that a kingdom on earth was the Kingdom of God. Today in the Christian era the Kingdom of God is spiritual and can be found in the Church Christ died for and paid for with his blood. Today this is the only way to salvation.