

ISRAEL — THE LAND OF PROMISE

Joshua 11:23

(Josh 11:23), “So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD said unto Moses; and Joshua gave it for an inheritance unto Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. And the land rested from war.”



WHAT WAS ISRAEL DOING IN THE LAND OF CANAAN IN THE FIRST PLACE?

S THE ANSWER TO **THAT QUESTION** is explained throughout the course of this message. We will discover, in great detail, why Israel was in the land of Canaan.

S **SOMETHING TO REMEMBER — GOD LOVES ALL PEOPLE.** Three times the N.T. tells us that God is no respecter of persons. God does not play favorites. God has chosen the Jewish people for a special purpose, but that does not mean they are more important in the sight of God than any other people. It means they have a special place and purpose in the plans of God. It is encouraging to realize that God has people from every nation and race in His family. Name the nation, and you will find someone in their midst that has placed their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

- I. **GOD'S PROMISE OF THE LAND**
- II. **OPPOSITION TO GOD'S PROMISE OF THE LAND**
- III. **GOD'S VICTORY IN SPITE OF THE OPPOSITION TO HIS PROMISES**

I. GOD'S PROMISE OF THE LAND

GOD'S PROMISE OF THE LAND WAS **THREEFOLD**

- #1. **GOD PROMISED THE LAND**
- #2. **GOD PROMISED REMOVAL FROM OFF THE LAND**
- #3. **GOD PROMISED RETURN TO THE LAND**

#1. GOD PROMISED THE LAND

GOD'S PROMISE TO JOSHUA

(Josh 1:2), “Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, **UNTO THE LAND WHICH I DO GIVE TO THEM**, even to the children of Israel.”

GOD'S PROMISE TO MOSES

(Num 33:50-53), “And the LORD spake unto Moses in the plains of Moab by Jordan near Jericho, saying, {51} Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye are passed over Jordan into the land of Canaan; {52} Then ye shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy all their pictures, and destroy all their molten images, and quite pluck down all their high places: {53} And ye shall dispossess the inhabitants of the land, and dwell therein: for **I HAVE GIVEN YOU THE LAND TO POSSESS IT.**”

GOD'S PROMISE OF THE LAND HAS A LONG HISTORY

1) **JOSEPH SAID TO HIS BROTHERS:**

(Gen 50:24-25), “. . . I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring

you out of this land unto the land which he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. {25} And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence."

2) **JACOB SAID TO JOSEPH:**

(Gen 48:3-4), "... God Almighty appeared unto me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and blessed me, {4} And said unto me, Behold, I will make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, and I will make of thee a multitude of people; and will give this land to thy seed after thee for an everlasting possession."

3) **ISAAC**

(Gen 26:3-4 NIV), "Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you. For to you and your descendants I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham. {4} I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed,"

THE PROMISE WAS FIRST ISSUED TO ABRAHAM — GOD'S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM:

(Gen 12:1-3), "Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee: {2} And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: {3} And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."

ABRAHAM LEFT HARAN AND ARRIVED AT SHECHEM. We looked at that location in chapter 8. That is where Joshua took Israel and made them stand between mount Ebal and mount Gerizim. I believe part of the reason they were taken there was to remind them of God's original promise to Abraham.

(Gen 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."

THE TIME CAME FOR ABRAHAM TO SEPARATE FROM HIS NEPHEW LOT. Abraham told Lot to choose whichever land he wanted. Abraham was left with the Land of Promise. God came to Abraham and said:

(Gen 13:14-17), "... Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: {15} For **ALL THE LAND** which thou seest, **TO THEE WILL I GIVE IT, AND TO THY SEED FOR EVER.** {16} And I will make **THY SEED AS THE DUST** of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered. {17} Arise, **WALK THROUGH THE LAND** in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for **I WILL GIVE IT UNTO THEE.**"

A FAMOUS VERSE IS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROMISE MADE TO ABRAHAM. IT SPEAKS OF FAITH. The N.T. picks up this verse and expounds on it.

(Gen 15:6), "And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness."

(Rom 4:3), "For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness."

(Rom 4:5), "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justificieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."

- God had promised Abraham that his descendants would be as uncountable as the **STARS** of the sky at night. Abraham believed God and it was counted as righteousness.
- **GOD CONTINUED TO TALK TO ABRAHAM**
(Gen 15:7), "And he said unto him, I am the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, **TO GIVE THEE THIS LAND TO INHERIT IT.**"
- **GOD EXPLAINED AN INTERIM IN WHICH ISRAEL WOULD NOT BE IN THE LAND**
(GEN 15:13-14), "And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be **A STRANGER IN A LAND THAT IS NOT THEIRS**, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them **FOUR HUNDRED YEARS**; {14} And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward **SHALL THEY COME OUT WITH GREAT SUBSTANCE.**"
(Gen 15:16), "But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full."

CONSIDER ONE ADDITIONAL PROMISE TO ABRAHAM. HE WAS **99 YEARS OLD**. Sarah was 90 years old. They had no child and were past the age for having children. God came to Abraham and said he would have a child and the land would be given to him and his descendants.

(Gen 17:7-8), "And I will establish **MY COVENANT** between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for **AN EVERLASTING COVENANT**, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. {8} And **I WILL GIVE** unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, **THE LAND WHEREIN THOU ART A STRANGER, ALL THE LAND OF CANAAN, FOR AN EVERLASTING POSSESSION**; and I will be their God."

DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH LAND ABRAHAM OWNED IN THE LAND OF PROMISED WHEN HE DIED? He owned **THE CAVE** in which Sarah, his wife, was buried. God had a lot of work to do in order to keep His promise to Abraham and Abraham's descendants.

THROUGH ALL THESE PROMISES THE QUESTION IS ANSWERED, "WHAT WAS JOSHUA AND ISRAEL DOING IN THE LAND OF CANAAN?" THE ANSWER IS **GOD HAD LED THEM THERE BECAUSE GOD HAD GIVEN IT TO THEM.** Taking the land was **NOT THE IDEA OF ABRAHAM, MOSES** or **JOSHUA**. GOD INITIATED THE PROMISE for **HIS OWN PURPOSES.**

- S **ISRAEL HAD RESISTED** going to the land of Canaan. While still in the wilderness, thirty-eight years earlier, Moses sent out **12 SPIES** to survey the land of Canaan (Numb 13). Ten spies came back with a negative report saying the occupants of the land were too mighty to conquer. Only Joshua and Caleb had faith enough in God to believe the land could be taken. The result of the negative report was that Israel spent the next thirty-eight years in the wilderness until all the men over the age

of twenty had died. The only two men to live, who were over the age of twenty, were Joshua and Caleb.

S **GOD HAD SOMETHING TO SAY THROUGH THAT EXPERIENCE.** God was saying that **TAKING THE LAND** of Canaan **WAS NOT OPTIONAL.** God did not ask Israel if they wanted to take the land. God told them to take the land. If they refused to take it, which they had refused, then God would use the younger generation to conquer it.

S **GOD HAD A PURPOSE FOR THE LAND OF CANAAN. GOD CHOSE TO REVEAL HIMSELF TO THE WHOLE WORLD** through the nation of Israel in the land of Israel (Gen 12:1-3). It was in that land that **THE MESSIAH**, a descendant of Abraham, would be born. In the city of Jerusalem, the Messiah would die on **A CROSS** for the sins of the world.

It is to that Land the Messiah will **SOMEDAY RETURN.** The Book of all books, **THE BIBLE**, would be written in part, from that land. God had **HIS PURPOSES** for Israel possessing the land.

S **PROOF THAT ISRAEL WAS IN THE CORRECT PLACE** under God's guidance was **THE CLOUD OF GOD'S PRESENCE** had led them there. They had traveled for **FORTY YEARS** in a wilderness following God's direction. They were in the **right place**, at the **right time**, because God Himself had led them there.

#1. GOD PROMISED THE LAND

#2. GOD PROMISED REMOVAL FROM OFF THE LAND

THREE TIMES Jesus made a statement that went something like this: I tell you these things before they happen, so that when they happen, you will know that have told you. Jesus' purpose in those statements was to keep His disciples from getting caught off guard and doubting their faith. When the difficulty came their way, they would realize that God was still sovereign. **ISRAEL NEEDED TO KNOW** in advance that God's promise of the land had not failed simply because a time was coming in which they would be kicked out of the land.

DEUTERONOMY 27-28 and **LEVITICUS 26** are similar. Both books contain God's promises to **BLESS AND CURSE** Israel **BASED ON** their **faithfulness**, or **lack thereof**.

- **(Deu 28:58-59)**, "IF THOU WILT NOT OBSERVE to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD; {59} **THEN THE LORD WILL . . .** "
(A LONG LIST FOLLOWS)
- **(Deu 28:63-64)**, "And it shall come to pass, that as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you; so the LORD will rejoice over you to **DESTROY YOU**, and to bring you to nought; and ye shall be **PLUCKED FROM OFF THE LAND** whither thou goest to possess it. {64} And the LORD shall **SCATTER THEE** among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; . . . "

PROPHECY

- **(Deu 4:25-27)**, "When thou shalt beget children, and children's children, and YE SHALL HAVE REMAINED LONG IN THE LAND, AND **SHALL CORRUPT YOURSELVES**, and make a graven image, or the

likeness of any thing, and shall do evil in the sight of the LORD thy God, to provoke him to anger: {26} I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that **YE SHALL SOON UTTERLY PERISH FROM OFF THE LAND** whereunto ye go over Jordan to possess it; ye shall not prolong your days upon it, but shall utterly be destroyed. {27} And the LORD shall scatter you among the nations, and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen, whither the LORD shall lead you."

(IT DOESN'T SAY "IF" — IT SAYS "AND SHALL")

- **SURE ENOUGH, IT HAPPENED JUST AS GOD HAD WARNED.**

In **722 B.C.** the northern kingdom of Israel fell to the armies of **ASSYRIA**. In **587 B.C.** the southern kingdom of Judah fell to the armies of **BABYLON**. For **SEVENTY YEARS** the land lay under Babylonian control. Many of the Jews were exiled to Babylon. Eventually, the deported Jews were permitted to return to the Promised Land but under **PERSIAN DOMINANCE**. The day came when Persian control gave way to **GRECIAN CONTROL**. Following GRECIAN CONTROL came **ROMAN RULE**. When Jesus was born, the land was under Roman dominance.

AS JESUS RODE THE DONKEY INTO JERUSALEM, HE PROPHESED A FUTURE EXPULSION FROM THE LAND. As Jesus rode, He began to cry. He stated:

- **(Luke 19:43-44)**, "For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, {44} And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation."
- **SURE ENOUGH, IT HAPPENED JUST AS JESUS SAID.** In **70 A.D.**, **TITUS, THE ROMAN GENERAL**, sacked Jerusalem, slaughtering many Jews. Jesus' tears of sorrow were an accurate picture of things to come. Israel had virtually no control over the land which God had promised to them for more than **1,800 YEARS**.

#1. GOD PROMISED THE LAND

#2. GOD PROMISED REMOVAL FROM THE LAND

#3. GOD PROMISED RETURN TO THE LAND

#3. GOD PROMISED RETURN TO THE LAND

ON MAY 14, 1948 the **STATE OF ISRAEL** was REBORN. It came about in large part because of the world's compassion toward Israel over the **SIX MILLION JEWS** that had been exterminated in Hitler's gas chambers and concentration camps during WWII. Having been out of the land for more than **1,800 YEARS**, they had again established their authority over the land that God had promised them.

ISAIAH PROPHESED REGARDING THE SUDDEN BIRTH OF THE NATION:

(Isa 66:8), "Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children."

THEIR RETURN TO THE LAND HAD BEEN PROPHESED IN DEUTERONOMY. We already considered DEUT 4:25-27. It is important to read the following verses:

(Deu 4:29-31), "But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul. {30} **WHEN THOU ART IN TRIBULATION**, and all these things are come upon thee, even **IN THE LATTER DAYS**, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice; {31} (For the LORD thy God is a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, **NOR FORGET THE COVENANT** of thy fathers which he sware unto them."

- **WHAT COVENANT?** It was God's covenant with Abraham that was passed down to Isaac, Jacob, Moses and Joshua.
- SOME FOLKS ARE OF THE CONVICTION that the promises in the O.T. are now to be applied to the N.T. church. To take such a stance regarding such a vast multitude of Scriptures is **A STRETCH THAT GOES TOO FAR**. The great mass of unfulfilled Scriptures that address the nation of Israel cannot possibly be accurately applied to the N.T. church if one remains true to the original intent of the Scripture when it was given.
- **THE WEIGHT OF SCRIPTURE REVEALS THAT GOD IS NOT THROUGH WITH HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE, ISRAEL**

CONSIDER A FEW OF MANY SCRIPTURES

OLD TESTAMENT

S **(Psa 89:29-37)**, "His seed also will I make to endure for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven. {30} If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments; {31} If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; {32} Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. {33} **NEVERTHELESS** my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail. {34} **MY COVENANT** WILL I NOT BREAK, NOR ALTER the thing that is gone out of my lips. {35} Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David. {36} **HIS SEED SHALL ENDURE FOR EVER**, and his throne as the sun before me. {37} It shall be established for ever as the moon, and as a faithful witness in heaven."

S **(Amos 9:11)**, "In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old:"

(Amos 9:14-15), "And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. {15} And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall **NO MORE BE PULLED UP OUT OF THEIR LAND** which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God."

NEW TESTAMENT

S **(Luke 21:24)**, "And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be

trodden down of the Gentiles, **UNTIL THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES BE FULFILLED.**"

S **(Rom 11:11-12)**, "I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy. {12} Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; **HOW MUCH MORE THEIR FULNESS?**"

(Rom 11:25-26), "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until **THE FULNESS OF THE GENTILES BE COME IN.** {26} And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:"

S **AS YOU READ THE EVENTS THAT PRECEDE JESUS RETURN, WHERE DO THEY TAKE PLACE?** They do not take place in **Europe.** They are not carried out in the **United States** or **Australia.** They take place **IN ISRAEL** where Jews are located.

- In the Book of Revelation, where do **THE 144,000** stand with Jesus? It is on **Mt. Zion** in Jerusalem.
- Where do **THE TWO WITNESSES** minister? It is in the temple in Jerusalem.
- Where does **THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON** take place? It is in the valley of Megiddo in Israel.
- When Jesus returns, **WHAT MOUNTAIN** does His foot first touch? It is the Mount of Olives.

(Zec 14:3-4), "Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. {4} And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south."

I. GOD'S PROMISE OF THE LAND

II. OPPOSITION TO GOD'S PROMISE OF THE LAND

WHAT DOES THE WORLD THINK OF GOD'S PROMISE?

(Psa 2:1-3), "Why do the heathen **RAGE**, and the people **IMAGINE** a vain thing? {2} **THE KINGS OF THE EARTH** set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, {3} Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us."

S **THAT SOUNDS LIKE WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN JOSHUA 10-12.** The kings in the land of Canaan had decided that God was not going to have the land. It did not matter if it was God who initiated the

promise or not.

S **GOD'S ENEMIES** are intent on preventing the promises of God from coming to pass. **THAT IS THE RECORD FROM SCRIPTURE FROM BEGINNING TO END.**

S **JESUS TOLD A PARABLE ABOUT A HUSBANDMAN IN MARK 12:1-11.** When the owner of the vineyard sent his servants to collect rent, they beat the servants and sent them running. The owner sent his own son to collect payment thinking they would heed his request. They killed the son thinking such an act would cause the vineyard to belong to them. **HOW WRONG THEY WERE.**

This parable is not really about grapes. It is **ABOUT MAN'S OPPOSITION** to God's rule in their lives. This is a parable about the power of darkness trying to prevent God's plans to the degree that they would kill God's own Son, Jesus.

S **SOMEONE MIGHT ASK, "WHAT SHOULD THE INHABITANTS IN THE LAND OF CANAAN HAVE DONE?"**

- **FIRST**, they should never have allowed themselves to get into such a spiritual condition as a nation that they became the enemies of God. They had fallen under the wrath of God.
- **SECOND**, once they heard that God had given the land to Israel, they should have moved over and given it to Israel. When **KING SAUL** heard that David had been chosen by God as the new king, he should have scooted over and let David reign. Was Saul ever going to do that? Never! Did Saul do that? No!
- **WERE THE INHABITANTS OF CANAAN EVER** going to let God's purposes for the land of Canaan come to pass? Never, not if they had anything to say about it! God knew they would never submit to His will in ten thousand years. **EVIL ALWAYS RESISTS GOD** rather than submits to God. **THEY HAD REACHED A PLACE OF HARDNESS** that God described as **"INIQUITY IS FULL"** (Gen 15:16). In other words, they had reached such a point that they no longer abided under God's mercy and grace. Rather, they abided under God's wrath.

S **GOD'S WORD CLEARLY STATES THAT THE LAND BELONGS TO ISRAEL.** What should my response to that fact be? I should say, **"THE WILL OF THE LORD BE DONE!"** That is what **RAHAB** did (Joshua 6). That is what **GIBEON** did (Joshua 9). **THE RESPONSE OF THE CANAANITES** could have been the same as **RAHAB'S RESPONSE.** The Canaanites could have been willing to humble themselves and say, "The will of the Lord be done."

- I. **GOD'S PROMISE OF THE LAND**
- II. **OPPOSITION TO GOD'S PROMISE OF THE LAND**

III. GOD'S VICTORY IN SPITE OF THE OPPOSITION TO HIS PROMISES

THE KINGS HAD DETERMINED THAT GOD'S PROMISE WOULD NOT BE FULFILLED. That is what Joshua chapters 10 through 12 are all about. What was God's response to their resistance?

(Psa 2:4), "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision."

S **WHEN GOD MAKES A PROMISE, NOTHING CAN KEEP IT FROM COMING TO PASS!** God is the original **PROMISE KEEPER. GOD HAD ESTABLISHED HIS COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM** and God intended to carry it out. **GOD IS THE COVENANT KEEPER.**

MANY EXAMPLES:

- 1) **ABRAHAM** and Sarah were too old to have children. He was one hundred and Sarah was ninety. It seemed the obstacles were insurmountable. It appeared that the covenant would be broken. The doubter was wrong again. Soon little **ISAAC** was born. His name meant **LAUGHTER**.
(Psa 2:4), "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh . . ."
- 2) **MOSES** was sent by God to deliver Israel from Egyptian bondage. **THE KING OF EGYPT, THE PHARAOH**, told Moses the people could not go. God said through Moses in no uncertain terms, "Do you know how to spell **PLAGUE?**" Ten miracles later Moses was leading the **MASSIVE MULTITUDE** into the wilderness. From a human perspective, no group of people the size of Israel could possibly survive in a barren desert. What would they eat and drink? How would they find their way? Besides, in front of them lay the **RED SEA** and behind them was the Pharaoh's army. The Pharaoh had changed his mind. All those obstacles would have posed a problem for us, but it did not pose a problem for the creator of the universe. God divided the Red Sea and Israel walked through on **DRY GROUND**. God provided food called **MANNA** so that the multitudes never went hungry. At a desperate time of thirst, God sent water out of **A ROCK** to feed the multitude. Israel knew they were headed in the right direction because up above them was the **CLOUD OF GOD'S PRESENCE** guiding them. They were on this journey under the guiding hand of God. They would survive forty years in a wilderness because it was God who had called them and led them.
- 3) **JOSHUA** eventually took over after Moses. They had to cross **THE JORDAN RIVER** at flood stage. You cannot cross a river at flood stage and survive. How would God ever keep His promise? It might have been a big problem for Israel, but for God, it was simple. God stopped the flow of the river and they walked across on dry ground.

The first city they came up against was the unconquerable **JERICHO**. God told them to walk around it for seven days. They obeyed and the walls came tumbling down.

They had to face the massive **CANAANITE ARMIES** in the land of Canaan. How would they ever succeed? God saw to it. On one occasion God sent hailstones on the Canaanites so that more were conquered by hailstones than by the sword. On another occasion more time was needed in the day to accomplish the victory. God extended the sunlight by the length of about a day.

JESUS ONCE SAID

(Mat 19:26), ". . . With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible."

- 4) **YEARS LATER GOD SENT HIS DEAR SON** to be the Savior of the world. Satan did not like God's plan and did all he could to prevent it. He had **A KING NAMED HEROD** to plot the death of the child when he was but a young boy. That did not work, so he plotted **HIS CRUCIFIXION**. For

three days he thought he had succeeded. How wrong he was. On the third day, Jesus came **UP FROM THE GRAVE** victorious over death. Jesus sacrifice, rather than being a victory for Satan, was God's plan for the salvation of the world. **GOD KEPT HIS PROMISE.**

- **A LITTLE BOY WAS ONCE ASKED**, "What did Jesus say when He first appeared to someone after coming up out of the grave?" The little boy replied humorously, "Jesus said, '**TaaDaa!**'"
- **(1 Cor 2:7-8)**, "But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: {8} Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."

5) THE SCRIPTURE HAS PROMISED THAT **JESUS IS COMING BACK AGAIN** someday to the very land that God had promised. Again the wicked will do all they can to prevent it from happening. Satan will assemble the armies of the world in an attempt to prevent God's success (Rev 19). Read the final chapter — **GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISE!**

UNTIL THEN, WHAT ARE WE TO DO? OUR ORDERS ARE TO PICK UP OUR CROSS and follow Jesus (Luke 9:23). We are to be **LIVING SACRIFICES** (Rom 12:1). We are to **GO FORTH** in His name sharing the Good News of the Gospel. Rather than killing, we must be willing to lay down our lives so that others might hear. He are to conquer by way of the cross.