

**S10/2009 28/6/2009 The Whole Bible in 9 Weeks – “Promised Land”
from Exodus 3:1-12; John 14:1-6; Revelation 21:1-7**

Introduction

- 1 I have a friend from mainland China, called Simon who has been born-again Chn about 3,4 yrs
- 2 He is amazed how many Caucasian Australians will not discuss Ch'ty, heaven, judgement etc.
- 3 It seems they don't want to think about anything that threatens their present life-style, comfort z
- 4 In Africa many indigenous groups do not believe in heaven because they believe at death their spirits go to the place of departed spirits to join all their ancestors, who control lives of the livin
- 5 Most nominal Christians believe they haven't done anything wrong, so hope will go to heaven
- 5 Of other major world religions, only Judaism & Islam believe in heaven, but don't who will go!
- 6 Bible says born-again Chns can know they are going to heaven at death, many promises Jn 5:24

“Whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life and will not be condemned, he has crossed from death to (eternal) life.”

I Promised Land in the Bible

A Exodus 3:1-12 Israel's Promised Land

- 1 Over past 8 weeks we have examined 8 major Bible subjects from Genesis to Revelation
 - 2 Genesis described how sin came into the world, when Adam/Eve rebelled against God, breaking God's relationship with man, who now came under God's judgement.
 - 3 Because God knew this was going to happen before the creation of the world, **He had a plan in place** for man to be reconciled to Himself. – (1 Peter 1:18-21)
 - 4 God made a Covenant with Abraham in which He gave him many promises, one being that his descendants would inherit the land of Canaan after 400 years.
 - 5 God wanted to give the Amorites who lived in Canaan, chance to change their sinful ways
 - 6 Abraham's grandson, Jacob/Israel, 11 sons and families went to live in Egypt, where they joined the 12th, Joseph who was PM during 7 yrs of great crops and 7 yrs of great drought.
 - 7 Israel's descendants had increased in number so much that a new King made them slaves
 - 8 Israel had cried out to God and He remembered His promise to Israel about promised land
 - 9 Exodus 3 describes how God told Moses he wanted him to lead His people out of a land of slavery to the promised land of Canaan – Exodus 3:6,9
- “I am the God of your father Abraham ... Isaac ... Jacob ..., I have seen the misery of My people, so I have come down to rescue them from ...the Egyptians ... to bring them... into a good and spacious land ... flowing with milk and honey.**
- 10 Exodus describes how Moses led Israel out of Egypt after God judged Egypt - 10 plagues
 - 11 However it took 40 years before they eventually entered the promised land, because Israel continually rebelled against God and refused to trust God in spite of all amazing miracles
 - a God parted Sea of Reeds so they could walk on dry ground, yet drowned Egyptian army
 - b God confirmed them as His chosen nation at Mt Sinai if they obeyed, kept his Covenant
 - c God as their ruler gave them many laws, sacrifices incl. 10 Commandments on Mt Sinai
 - d They refused to enter promised land after bad report by 10 of 12 spies - 2 trusted God
 - e Wandered in Desert 40 yrs as God judged but protected them - provided manna, water
 - f They continued complaining, often wanted to return to Egypt, placed Moses under strain
 - g Even Moses was not allowed to enter the promised land, saw it from Mt Nebo, died
 - h “Joshua” describes how they entered promised land after 40 yrs, God judged nations
- 12 Joshua 11:23

“So Joshua took the entire land, just as the Lord had directed Moses gave it as an inheritance to Israel

B John 14:1-6 Jesus promises His true followers a future place in heaven

- 1 As the apostles face a future without Him, Jesus advises -don't be troubled- trust God/Him

- 2 14:2-3 Jesus tells about the future home for born again believers in heaven
- a Heaven described as God the Father's House -will also be the home of Christ, Christians
Home is a place where people are loved for who they are, not their fame, beauty or gifts
Believers are only on earth a short time, but citizens of another kingdom for eternity
 - b Is a place with very many rooms, enough for everyone who belongs to God big/small
 - c Lord Jesus is going ahead of each Christian and preparing each's place in heaven
 - (1) He did this thru' His death on cross and resurrection giving chance to repent/believe
 - (2) He redeemed us, bought us back into a relationship with God, provided we trust Him
 - (3) Each who repent of sin, believe in Jesus will go, be with Him in heaven for all eternit
 - d He will come and take each one to be with Him when person's life on earth is done
eg Pilgrim's Progress – Christian escorted across the river of life – My Dad on death bed
- 3 14:6 In this very important verse, Lord tells us many things- **I am (claimed = with God)**
- a **Jesus is the way** to heaven, peace with God –the ladder, doorway, road that leads to God
 - b **Jesus is the truth** – is the whole truth, meets and satisfies every desire of human mind
 - c **Jesus is the life** – He offers eternal life, the real meaning of spiritual life
 - d **Jesus shuts out all** ways of being saved from God's judgement **apart from** faith in Him
 - e Doesn't matter how clever, rich, poor, weak, strong, kindhearted, generous – **won't save**
 - f Jesus alone is the Saviour, Redeemer, Ransom-payer, Mediator between people and God

C Rev 21:1-7 New heaven, new earth, picture of bride/church prepared for husband

- 1 Bible is journey from Creation to the New Creation, which becomes Chns' Promised land
- 2 21:1 This promised land is the new Jerusalem, new heaven, new earth, Holy City-old gone
- 3 What is this Holy City and who will live there?
- a 21:2 It is pictured as the bride beautifully prepared for her bridegroom, Christ Jesus
 - b 21:27 All believers in God **from every age** who have their names written in the Lamb's book of life from all languages, cultures, peoples, nations, big and small, rich and poor, weak and strong will live in this promised land, **which is this eternal Holy City**
 - c 21:3 God now speaks from His throne and 3 times says He will dwell (pitch His tent) among His people and He will become their God and live among them, and they will each become His child
 - d 21:4-6 God, who is the Beginning and the End, **is making everything new**
 - e 21:7 Everyone who stands strong in their faith to the end, will inherit all these things.
- 4 **What will it be like in this Promised land?** – Many tragedies of normal life will end
- a 21:4 He will **wipe away every tear** from their eyes – think of those who suffer for their faith as they love Jesus. Since 1901 over 100 million Chns have been martyred in Africa, ME, countries where other religions dominate, imprisoned/persecuted, property destroyed
 - b There will be **no more death** – Death is time of sadness, particularly when young people die before their parents for whatever reason – life cut short through accident, sickness etc
 - c **No more mourning**-Tragic to see what is left behind after suicide bombing, with images seen of family, friends **mourning**, or after floods/bushfire - loss of houses, possessions,
 - d **No more crying** – Has the **idea of noise** as people express grief eg wailing in Africa, Asia, South America etc., unlike British upper stiff lip – don't show grief
 - e **No more pain** –Sense of pain, **tired** after many years of hard labour to earn enough food for family in many 3rd world cultures- difficult for Westerners to understand this. But we live in world full of pain among the sick, crippled, maimed, wasting bodies from cancer, hip, knee other body part replacements - won't it be great to live in heaven **with no pain**
- 5 Old order of things will pass away – Gen 3:17 curse on the earth will be withdrawn (22:3)
- 6 What other good things will happen in the Christian's promised land in the new Jerusalem
- a 21:6 God will provide for our thirst from the spring of the water of life
 - b 22:2,14 Man will again have access to tree of life - closed in Garden of Eden Gen 3:24
 - c 21:23 God's glory gives light as the Lamb is its lamp-end of night/light from sun/moon

II Place of Promised Land in our Future, Past and Present

A Future

- 1 We have just seen all the blessings mentioned in John 14 and Revelation 21-22
- 2 God's throne will be in heaven and all will serve Him, see His face, worship Him forever
- 3 Do **each of us know whether** that will be **part of our** future? Have we repented, believed
- 4 All our physical and spiritual defects through sickness, old age will be replaced- I John 3:2
"Now we are God's children, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is
- 5 Won't that be exciting?-those parts of our bodies which we've never liked will be changed

B Past

- 1 Israel were slaves in Egypt, miraculously God brought them out under Moses' leadership
- 2 God wanted them to enter the promised land, but this was delayed 40 years, because of their disobedience and rebellion against God, often wanting to return to slavery in Egypt
- 3 This gives a picture of us after we became Christians **when we do not want to do things** God's way. We find the Christian life to be difficult and are often tempted to return to our old life when we were slaves to sin, pleasing ourselves without any reference to God, self-centred, selfish - **refusing God any important place in our lives - doing our own thing**
- 4 As each reflects on the past since becoming a Christian, what changes have taken place in our lives which show the outside world that we are Christians. – 2 Corinthians 5:17

C Present

- 1 One big difference between the Children of Israel under the Old Covenant and Christians under the New Covenant is that the Holy Spirit has been sent to live in the hearts and lives of all born-again Christians to help each to live for God.- Galatians 5:17- **war within**
"For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to Spirit ...They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit...
- 2 Are we **continuing to allow Him to change us from within** to become more like Jesus?
- 3 This will come about as we spend a regular daily time of prayer, Bible reading – **not legalism**, but is all about building and maintaining a **living relationship** with God
Probably still have struggles-those beasts within of self-righteousness, anger, lust, deceit..
- 4 Thru' prayer/Bible R/obed., Holy Spirit helps us overcome those besetting sins we have **eg** hatred, jealousy, pride, evil thoughts, gossip, revenge, envy, love of money or position
- 5 With heaven being such a great place, what are we doing about telling others about Jesus such as our loved ones, friends who aren't Chns, or anyone else including our neighbours
- 6 Do we really believe those who haven't repented, believed will go to hell for all eternity?
- 7 During this year of Connect09 are we continuing to **Pray** for our family, neighbours friends, **Connecting** with them and **Expecting** God to open opportunities to share our faith with them, **giving** them copies of **"The Essential Jesus"**?
- 8 Two certain uncertainties in life-**a** Time of death **b** When will Jesus return to judge world
- 9 **Are each of us ready** when one of these things happen, - **to be with God and the Lamb for all eternity in the Promised land He has prepared for us? - Will you/I be there?**
- 10 **Never give up** on your praying for your loved ones – **my father became a Christian** at 69yo, 7 months before he died, **my aunt became a Christian** at 79 yo !!!!