



Gutenberg College Summer Institute 2015
REUNION: Tanakh and the Gospel of Matthew

Talk 24: Reunion of Exodus 3:6 and Matthew 22:32
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I. What God Promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

A. God promised Abraham (Genesis 13:14-17).

¹⁴ The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward; ¹⁵ for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever. ¹⁶ I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth, so that if anyone can number the dust of the earth, then your descendants can also be numbered. ¹⁷ Arise, walk about the land through its length and breadth; for I will give it to you.” God promised Abraham, “all the land that you see I will give to you and to your descendants forever.”

B. God promised Isaac (Genesis 26:2-3).

² The Lord appeared to [Isaac] and said, “Do not go down to Egypt; stay in the land of which I shall tell you. ³ Sojourn in this land and I will be with you and bless you, for *to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands*, and I will establish the oath which I swore to your father Abraham.

C. God promised Jacob (Genesis 28:13).

¹³ And behold, the Lord stood above [the ladder] and said, “I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; *the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants*.”

II. Matthew's Use of the Tanakh

God spoke to Moses from the bush, saying, ⁶ “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. . . . ⁷ I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up from that land to a good and broad Land, a land flowing with milk and honey

For God heard Israel groan and remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob, to give the Land to Israel, their descendants. Therefore, he would deliver Israel from Egypt and bring them into the Land.

But God did not promise to give the Land only to the descendants, but first of all to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob themselves.

He said to Abraham, “all the land that you see I will give to you” (Genesis 13:15).

And God said to Isaac “. . . to you . . . I will give all these lands” (Genesis 26:3).

And God said to Jacob, “The land on which you lie, I will give to you” (Genesis 28:13).

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob did not receive the Land God promised them. They were “sojourners” on it all their days.

But God is not the God of the dead, but of the living. If God gave the Land to the descendents, how much more to the Fathers to whom it was promised. If he delivered the descendents from slavery to give them the Land, how much more will he raise Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob from the dead to give them the Land.

III. Promises to the Fathers

“Messiah has become a servant to the Jews in behalf of the truth of God, to confirm the promises to the Fathers [Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob] and for the nations to glorify God for his mercy.” (Romans 15:8-9a)