

## *The Land, the People, the Promise*

“The Land Between”

Deuteronomy 8.6-18

18 June 2023

Hi Folks! Well, I’m back from my venture into the Middle East, specifically the Holy Land, where Karyn and I immersed ourselves in the lands of the Bible. As a result, I thought it would be intriguing to reflect on some of the things we gleaned while in the land. Our first week centers on just that: the land. I’m intentionally shortening the questions because it’s summer, so jump on in!

Pastor Eric

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*Group Sharing:* Have you ever been to the Holy Land? If so, what do you remember most? If not, is it on your “bucket list?” Why or why not?

Someone once said that the land itself is the ever present, but rarely mentioned, character in biblical stories. What are some things you know about the lands of the Bible? From the sermon, what surprised you about the land where the biblical narrative unfolded?

The land takes up a more central role on Deuteronomy 8 as Moses stops the entourage on its journey out of Egypt and into the land of promise. Read Deuteronomy 8.6-18. Why does Moses seem so insistent here about the people walking in obedience once they arrive? (As you look over the text, you should be able to note several reasons). Amidst the warnings there also emerges some references to how wonderful the Promised Land is. What is it that seems so awesome about that land?

Among the other reasons the land is so wonderful (even though the text doesn’t mention it), is that the land is centrally located and contains major highways (ancient Near East style highways!). Another factor that isn’t brought up here is that the Promised Land is surrounded by big and powerful nations like the Egyptians and the Hittites. Go back through your list and identify how those characteristics, good or bad, could become terrible threats.

In light of all that, what is Moses imploring the people to do once they enter the land? What does that say to you about how you live your life in this rich and prosperous place where we live? Take time, even now, to recognize the care and provision of the Lord, and then consider how your life should be lived in light of God’s goodness.