

It has been called the Land of Canaan. This was the most ancient name given to the whole country. In the IX. chap. of Genesis we see that Noah called his second son Ham, sometimes by the name Canaan, in reference it is to be presumed, to the numerous tribes which were to spring from him; but properly the name is derived from Canaan the grandson of Noah, and youngest son of Ham; who after the confusion of Babel settled there and divided the country among his three children, the descendants of whom became large families, then separate tribes, and ultimately distinct nations. There was one tribe at the time of Moses and Joshua called the Canaanites, but when we read of this country called by this name we are not to suppose that it all belonged to one nation. Before their overthrow, these descendants of Ham were widely distinct, the tribes had broken the bonds of affinity, and were entirely dependant on their own resources as petty kingdoms, or chief-tancies. We may illustrate them by our Indians. In all likelihood the Indians of this northern continent were from one common origin, but as the families increased, they divided; some one or two families sought for a new hunting ground, they increased, they became a tribe, and they gave themselves, or got from others, a new name; and no more were the Canaanites one tribe than the Indians, now, Canaan, means properly a level or low country, being situated along the coast, in opposition to Syria, a high country.

It is called the "Land of Promise," from the promise God made to Abraham when he was passing through it, that his posterity should yet possess it, and as his descendants were also called Hebrews, it got the name of the "Land of the Hebrews." It is called the "Land of Judah." When this name was first given it referred solely to the part allotted to, and occupied by the tribe of Judah, but afterwards the whole land went by this name on account of the pre-eminence of that tribe over the others. In the last benediction of Jacob, Judah was constituted superior to his brethren, and in the march they had the first place, and at the division of the country they had the largest territory. When the ten tribes separated, the land of Judah and Benjamin were formed into a separate dominion, and called the land, or kingdom of Judah, or as we find it called in the New Testament, Judea. This name it retained as a province, while under the Romans.

It is called the "Land of Israel" from the descendants of Jacob, or as he was afterwards called, Israel. This name when used embraces the whole country on each side of the Jordan, and contained all the places visited by our Lord, with the exception of Egypt.

It is called the "Holy Land." This is the familiar name by which it is known in our day by all Christians. The reason why it has this name must be obvious. It was there God chose the seat for his worship, he, in a peculiar manner consecrated it by his presence. "In Zion he had his tabernacle, and he had his seat in Israel." Thither he sent his