

The People and Land of Israel in Jewish Tradition

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Study Questions

1. In what sense is the relationship between the Jewish people and the land of Israel unique?
2. What is the spiritual and spatial meaning of *aliyah*?
2. How is Rashi's famous commentary to Genesis 1:1 strangely relevant to our day?
4. According to the Scriptures, what part of the earth is the Lord's own inheritance?
5. Is it possible for the Jewish people to experience the fullness of God's blessings while exiled from the land of Israel?
6. What are some examples of rabbinic literature attributing supernatural dimensions to the Land itself?
7. Why was Old Testament scholar S. R. Driver (writing in 1906) pessimistic about a future national restoration of Israel? How different do things look today?
8. How does the future Messianic hope tie in with the Land of Israel?
9. Give one example of a rabbinic interpretation of Scripture pointing to a glorious future for the Jewish people in the land of Israel.
10. What are some rabbinic descriptions of the original Paradise in the Garden of Eden, and how will Paradise one day be restored?