

INHERIT THE KINGDOM

TEXT: 1 Peter 1

KEY VERSE: 1 Peter 1: 3-5

Anyone ever receive an inheritance?

Perhaps you had a wealthy relative who died and left you a fortune...or a package of fortune **cookies**.

What is an inheritance?

An inheritance is a benefit left to you when someone dies.

That is so simple, theologians and religious folk will fall all over it!

I. It is left to you.

You do not **earn** an inheritance. It is left to you by someone who loves you, most often your father. If you had worked for it, it would be wages¹, not an inheritance.

II. It is claimed at the death of the benefactor.²

You do not get the inheritance until the one who owns it dies. Before he dies, what you received from him is a gift or wages, but it cannot be an inheritance.

III. It is defined by a testament.

(Oh! Somebody shout!) The one who loves you writes down, in no uncertain terms, the benefits you will receive at his death. (Oh! Glory to God!) He brings in the law to be certain that you cannot be deceived out of what has been provided to you by his death. After his death, that testament is made public; and your inheritance is made known³ to you and becomes your possession. -SELAH

The document that defines all your inherited wealth is called, "The Last Will And Testament".

Right there it is! Right there before, "Matthew".

¹ Romans 4: 4

² Hebrews 9: 16, 17

³ Ephesians 6: 19, 20; Colossians 1: 24 -27; 4: 3

"The New Testament"

It is, very literally, **God's** "Last Will And Testament"!

1: It is left to you.

-Ephesians 2: 1 -10

*"but God, **being rich** In mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ -by grace you have been saved -and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that **in the coming ages** he might show the **immeasurable riches** of his grace in **his kindness toward us** In Christ Jesus.*
-Ephesians 2: 4 -7 (ESV - emphasis added)

There is no work of merit -no work of any kind -In claiming the Inheritance left to you by God!⁴ it is received by believing that it is yours. "Believe", in the word, means, "depend on, rely on, trust in."

The moment you sit down in that lawyer's office for the reading of the will, you have a choice to make. You can depend on, rely on, and trust in Uncle Larry's gift to you or not. Either way, it is yours, but unclaimed it is no inheritance to you.

Esau had an inheritance. He despised his inheritance. That is what he said, "So what is this birthright to me?" "And thus, Esau despised his birthright."⁵

You too may receive or despise your birthright. That is what Romans 10: 9, 10 is saying. When you confess the faith that is in your heart - faith in the birthright you inherited when Jesus rose from the dead - you will be saved. "Saved" is the Greek word, "sozo". It means, "made new, complete, righteous, and whole in every way." That is your inheritance!

2: It is claimed at the death of the benefactor.

*It is a sad, solemn, gathering. Days prior, someone dear had passed away. There has been weeping, viewing, and eulogizing. Nerves are frayed. Bodies are exhausted. Minds are numb. Now the legal matters must be faced. Did uncle Larry leave behind the wealth he appeared to possess, or a legacy of debts for his family to settle? Whatever he has left remained a mystery until his testament was opened **after he died.***

⁴ Ephesians 2: 8, 9; Romans 4: 5 -8; 6: 23; 10: 9 -13; John 3: 16 -18; Galatians 3: 1 -29; Titus 3: 5 -6

⁵ Genesis 5: 32, 34

READ:

Ephesians 3

[And] that the mystery (secret) was made known to me and I was allowed to comprehend it by direct revelation, as I already briefly wrote you. When you read this, you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ. [This mystery] was never disclosed to human beings in past generations as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles (consecrated messengers) and prophets by the [Holy] Spirit. Ephesians 3:3-5 [AMPC]

3: it is defined by a testament.

*Now this family sits down with a man who is thoroughly trained to interpret the law of testaments; and he makes known to the family the will of the deceased regarding his estate. This man understands testaments, so he can now explain the mystery of what belongs to you. He is a lawyer. If uncle Larry was a wealthy man, he is **the best**. He has credentials. Somewhere around his wall is a diploma bearing the keyword: "**Harvard**".*

When God had his will and testament read, he hired none but the best!

In Israel, at the time of Jesus, there was a "Harvard". His name was Gamaliel.⁶ Only law students of the utmost potential "sat at the feet" of Gamaliel. His name meant "benefit of God", in other words, "**gift** from God." He had one, star pupil, the epitome of his training, the prize of his efforts, none like this one, TOP OF THE CLASS!

Saul of Tarsus

He would be Gamaliel's legacy! One day, a shingle would read, "Gamaliel and Saul – Attorneys At Law." There was no lawyer as zealous to defend the Old Testament Law of God, and His prophets! His pursuit of those who opposed God's Law was relentless – to the death!

There was a sect known as "the Way"; who followed a teacher Saul's own age, called Jesus. This Jesus, like many other sect leaders, was dead now, crucified by Rome. Proof of God's sentence! Now Saul would weed out the rest of his followers. Damascus was in his crosshairs...

Then Jesus retained his services!

With a single statement, "I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting", Saul's entire case against "the Way" fell apart. The One who claimed He would rise from death, [**DEATH**, the final condemnation pronounced by Saul's beloved Law] **ROSE** as He declared He would! It was evidence even Saul of Tarsus could not refute!

Not guilty!

⁶ Acts 5: 34 -39

The only person **EVER** declared innocent by God's Law!



That day, the
prosecuting attorney
became the defense
attorney!

DELIVERANCE

*For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might
be made the righteousness of God in him. 2 Corinthians 5:21 [KJV]*

*Men, brethren, and fathers, hear ye my **defense** which I make now
unto you. Acts 22:1*

God does **NOTHING** second-rate! The testator – Jesus – had died. Therefore, the will and testament, kept a mystery through the ages, could now be opened and read. So, God “hired” The best lawyer Jerusalem had! In no uncertain terms, not with words of man's wisdom, but with the power of the Holy Spirit, he spoke the wisdom of God's mystery - our inheritance.⁷

READ:

1 Corinthians 2

Luke 15:11-32

grace by faith is legal!

the Kingdom is your inheritance!

Two boys had a wealthy father. Repeatedly, they are called “sons”, so they are family. There were rights, and privileges, and inheritance included. But, **neither** one, understood what their relationship meant.⁸

The younger son demanded “the portion of the goods that [fell to him.” He **wanted** his inheritance. He did not **get** his inheritance! Nowhere in the story is the word inheritance used. The father did not divide their inheritance to them, he divided his “livelihood” - the assets he had on hand. Notice, when the son returned, the father was still wealthy. He still had what would become their inheritance. That was not theirs until he died.

He told the older son, “all that **I have** is thine.”⁹ It was the father's wealth; but as a son, it was his to enjoy freely.¹⁰ This wise father gave his sons their portion of his day-to-day living, so they could learn the value of his wealth **before** he died and **all** became theirs.

You and I live in God's Kingdom, wealthy beyond our imagination, because he is our father. Some of us think that our father's wealth is there for us to waste on riotous living. The father may give us wealth, so that we learn where that attitude will land us. And when we come home broke from “Pigsty University, he will welcome us back. Others do not realize what is rightfully ours in this King's family. We think we are poor servants¹¹, Earning our right to share the father's wealth. So, we slave away in his field¹², never able to enjoy the abundance God has richly given us.

Both sons were prodigal, but **both** were invited into the house to enjoy their father's company ...

...**AND** his feast!

⁷ Ephesians 3: 6

⁸ Get: #16: The Prodigal Sons

⁹ Luke 15: 31

¹⁰ 1 Timothy 6: 17

¹¹ Luke 15:29; John 15: 15

¹² Luke 15: 25a

Inherit the Kingdom

- I. Inheriting God's Kingdom does not mean being saved or going to heaven when you die.

It is human nature to put the brain on autopilot. Often, we read something in the word, and our mind wants to do the knee jerk, "Oh, that must mean this..." Often, we assume a salvation doctrine where there is not one. We must study to be approved to God with the doctrines of his Word¹³, guided by the Teacher¹⁴.

For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: Isaiah 28:10 [KJV]

In the context of Isaiah 28, God is saying, "My people, like drunkards, would not listen to me. So I taught them in plain, simple terms - precept upon precept - so they would understand. Instead, they complained that I was treating them like babies! "

Let us break that down: if we are not correctly understanding God's word, it is time to boil it down to its simplest terms. It's time to study words and phrases, line upon line, until we "rightly divide the word of truth."¹⁵ a verse, phrase, or word may **sound** like it means a certain thing, but means something entirely different when you read the entire context.

I belabor the point, but **so many** false doctrines are born that way! Bible study #41: God With Us, came of God correcting a belief I had held for most of my 54 years! As a child, my Sunday School teachers had taught me that believers would live forever in heaven with Jesus. I had read Revelation 21 hundreds of times. About two months ago, The Holy Spirit opened my eyes. God is going to make a new earth **and come live with us!** So, what I believed had to change. I even told God, "That **can't** be right! Prove me wrong! Show me if I misunderstood Revelation 21 and 22." I studied Old Testament¹⁶, and New¹⁷, and only further confirmed it! OK, onward ...

- A. The Kingdom is not a physical location. Luke 17: 20, 21

*Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.
Luke 17:21b*

Israel wanted their own Kingdom again, with a descendant of David on the throne. It was all they could conceive. It had been prophesied. Their knee jerk interpretation of God's prophets [his Word] blinded them to the

¹³ 2Timothy 2: 15

¹⁴ John 14: 26; 15: 26; 16: 13

¹⁵ 2Timothy 2: 15

¹⁶ Isaiah 65; Ezekiel 37: 27, 28

¹⁷ John 14: 1 -4

fact that he was speaking of a spiritual Kingdom, and “David my servant” meant Jesus, son of David. After teaching this for over three years, his own disciples did not understand. “**Now** will you restore the Kingdom to Israel?”¹⁸

One day God will, physically, remake this earth. He, Jesus, will sit on David's throne in the new Jerusalem, which will come down from God.¹⁹ But even that physical Kingdom will be populated by the real, spiritual Kingdom. That Kingdom is the body of Christ. It is those redeemed in this age, “the times of the gentiles;” and the restored nation of Israel, who will then accept Jesus as their Messiah.

SONGS

The Kingdom of God
is the Body of Christ.

DELIVERANCE

One body.

One Kingdom.

God with us.

OK, AFTER ALL THAT, GO GET YOU A COOKIE AND SOME MILK,

OR THAT LAST PIECE OF DOUBLE CHOCOLATE CAKE AND A COFFEE —

MY BRAIN NEEDS A BREAK ...

Ready?

Men think of kingdoms with boundaries; red borders that show up on Google earth. God's Kingdom is boundless. It is the Dominion of God over a man's heart. One day, Satan's Kingdom will be forever done away²⁰, and the Kingdom of God will be all that remains. **THEN**, It will include a physical residence where Jesus will dwell with us bodily again. Glory to God!

No wonder John said, “Even so come Lord Jesus!”

A. Inheriting the Kingdom means receiving what God gave you when Christ died.

Dominion.

You and I were created to rule!

¹⁸ Acts 1:6

¹⁹ Revelation 21 & 22; Isaiah 65: 17 -25

²⁰ Revelation 20: tech

*And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and **let them have dominion** over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and **over all the earth**, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. Genesis 1:26 [ESV emphasis added]*

Our likeness to God **IS NOT** in our physical appearance. God does not have two arms, two legs, a trunk, and a head. God is a spirit.²¹ He only assumes a form for our benefit. Look how diverse peoples' visions of God are in the Bible.²² That is because God appeared as that person needed to see him. Indeed, they were visions of God, and not God **himself**, because "no man can see God and live."²³ So God showed visions of his characteristics, not actually himself.

Our likeness to God is our Dominion over our world.

He explains that: "let us make man in our image. Let them have Dominion ... "

One prodigal son thought he had to **leave** home to have Dominion. He thought Dominion meant throwing off **all** authority.²⁴ The other thought he had **no** dominion, that he was just another servant in the field.

No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. John 15:15

*notice: the older son did not even know what was happening in his own house! **A servant** had to tell him.

***Our place of Dominion is:**
submitted to God - dominating all else!*

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. 1 Peter 5:6,7 [KJV]

When we humble ourselves before the father, we are once more, returned to Adams place of authority; under God, ruling our entire world.

²¹ John 4: 24; Luke 24: 39; 1 Corinthians 15: 50

²² Ezekiel 1:26 -28; revelation 4: 2, 3

²³ Exodus 33: 20

²⁴ Psalm 2

- Within the bounds of submission, the younger son **had** freedom. There was joy in the father's house!
- Within the bounds of submission, the older son **also had** freedom. There was rest in the father's house!

Jesus said, “you are **not** servants, you are friends! The way you know that is the father shows you what he is doing.” The servant gets orders, not explanations. The son knows the 30-day plan, and the 5-year plan, and the mission statement. He works **with** the father to achieve **their** goals.

We work with our father to build his Kingdom.

His Kingdom is its people, so we build his people.

Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. Ephesians 4:29 [NKJV]

READ:

2 Corinthians 5:16-61

Since we understand our Father's Kingdom - people - we enjoin his purpose to edify his citizens, and to bring more citizens into this Kingdom of God.

It is **our** Kingdom.

It is **our** country.²⁵

It is **our** eternal home.

Its King is our father.

Its people are our family.

It belongs to us.

We have the keys.²⁶

We have inherited the Kingdom.

²⁵ Hebrews 11: 14 -16

²⁶ Matthew 16: 19