

LENEXA EDIFIER

"and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
(John 8:32)

November 28, 2021

INHERITING THE PROMISE

Jim Stauffer

Everyone understands the concepts of an inheritance. It is something left or granted to an heir. An heir is someone identified by the one leaving the inheritance and is by that very identification acknowledged as a rightful heir or recipient of the inheritance.

God has promised an inheritance to His people in **Gen. 12:1-3**. This promise was made to the descendants of Abraham. It included a land of their own. They would become a nation also as a part of His promise. The ultimate blessing to God's people would come through the seed of Abraham.

Both the land and the nation promise was granted to the people God delivered from their captivity and bondage in Egypt according to Joshua: *"Not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass."* (**Joshua 21:45**)

When we study the entirety of the word of God we understand the physical nation of Israel was not the goal of God's promise to bless all nations through the seed of Abraham as mentioned in **Gen. 12:3 and 22:18**.

The question then for you and me is how do I become qualified to be blessed through the seed of Abraham and what will that blessing be?

First, I must become a descendant of Abraham. I am not of the physical lineage of Abraham. Does that leave me out? Paul says it does not. First, he tells us the seed of Abraham through whom this blessing will come is Christ, *"Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, 'And to seeds,' as of many, but as of one, 'And to your Seed,' who is Christ."* (**Galatians 3:16**) He follows that later in the chapter with an explanation of just who is indeed a descendant of Abraham, an heir of the promise, *"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have*

put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." (**Galatians 3:26-29**)

Those who are sons of God through faith in Christ then are the heirs according to the promise. And this is the reason the apostle Paul was charged with preaching the gospel, *...the power of God unto salvation...* (**Rom. 1:16**). He explained this charge given to him by the Lord in his defense before King Agrippa, *"But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me."* (**Acts 26:16-18**)

In order for me to receive this inheritance, I must obey Christ, Who is the *...author of eternal salvation to all those who obey Him...* (**Heb. 5:8,9**)

I can receive this inheritance in the final day as explained in the article on the resurrection and if I will but seek and follow His authority as the article on **Acts 15** teaches. Once I have done that, I must live my life aware of the temptations Satan will place before me as the Temptor of all mankind.

ACTS 15 and Bible Authority # 2

After Peter finished speaking about his work with the household of Cornelius, Paul and Barnabas then gave their account (**Acts 15:12**). Paul was *"a chosen*

vessel to bear” the Lord’s name before Gentiles. James spoke next (**Acts 15:13-21**). This James was evidently the brother of Jesus (**Mark 6:3**); he was with the disciples in Jerusalem after Jesus went back to heaven (**Acts 1:14**); and he saw Jesus alive after the Lord’s resurrection (**1 Corinthians 15:7**). From other passages we can conclude that James had emerged as one of the leaders in the Jerusalem church. After his release from prison, Peter said to go and tell James what had happened (**Acts 12:17**). In **Acts 15** James sums up what had happened to the Gentiles.

One of the interesting tacks James takes in recognizing the acceptance of the Gentiles is his appeal to the OT—he quotes **Amos 9:11-12**. *“On that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, and repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, And rebuild it as in the days of old; That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and all the Gentiles who are called by My name,” Says the LORD who does this thing.*” The dynasty of David was at an end; it lay in ruins. But one of the seed of David would arise and build the spiritual house of David. In this new house, the Messianic kingdom, Jews and Gentiles would be included (*“the remnant of Edom”*). James, the *de facto* leader of the circumcision, said the prophets would agree with what Peter and Paul had done.

James concludes: *“Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood. For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath”* (**Acts 15 19-21**). The need to abstain from idols, etc., predates the Law of Moses. While the Gentiles did not have to practice circumcision, it was needful that they respect the tender consciences of their newly found Jewish brethren. Scruples about eating meat used in idolatry was something Paul faced when working in Corinth (**1 Corinthians 8-10**).

The leaders sent out a letter (**Acts 15:22-29**) explaining their conclusions. It was clear that the leaders did not teach that the Gentiles had to be circumcised in order to be part of the kingdom. It was clear that the men they chose to deliver this letter were men approved of by all—approved and supported by the council, and third, their conclusions were not those of mere men—*“For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things”* (**Acts 15:28**).

Paul, Barnabas, Judas, and Silas went back to Antioch; they delivered the letter; the brethren were encouraged.

Disagreements among God’s people are not new. Discussions, even heated at times, are necessary to learn, grapple with, and come to a better understanding of any given Bible issue. Attitudes that make for peace are needed by all. Animosities can arise, especially in the heat of spiritual battle. Yet, if God’s people will always have the attitude of wanting to know what God says—God, not man—then they are well-served and well-positioned to come to the truth of the matter. Implicit in **Acts 15** are the different ways God teaches us in His word. **Acts 15** is all about Bible Authority.

Randy Harshbarger

The Reality of Satan

“Satan” is a descriptive term that means “adversary.” “Devil” means “slanderer.” These terms aptly describe the being who is known as the enemy of God and His people. The first encounter with the devil is seen in **Genesis 3**, where the creature here slandered God’s severity by telling Eve that if she ate the forbidden fruit, they would not die as God had said. While he is not called the devil in **Genesis 3**, **Revelation 12:9** tells us that this was indeed *“the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world.”*

Satan’s desires from the beginning are revealed by Jesus when He rebuked the Pharisees: *“You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies”* (**John 8:44**). From the beginning Satan was a murderer and liar. His desire was not to see Adam and Eve have fun and live. By slandering God and deceiving, his design was to murder them. He wanted them to die, and this has been the devil’s desire ever since.

This reveals to us that Satan is not just some force of evil. He is a personality who desires, who acts, and who seeks to hurt those who belong to God. Recall that Jesus warned Peter, “Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat” (Luke 22:31). Satan had designs on Peter specifically, and Peter of all disciples knew the danger of Satan when he wrote his

epistles. With his own experiences, he wrote, *"Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world"* (1 Pet 5:8-9).

Satan, then, is a deceiver, a liar who seeks to murder and devour God's people. This makes him extremely dangerous and not one with whom we should ever play around with or see how close to him we can get. Even at a time of year like now, we need to be very careful here. Pretending to be the devil is not cute. It is not mere fun. It is dangerous and deceptive, and children need to be taught to flee from him, not act like him.

While the devil is dangerous and powerful, he is not God's equal. He does not have the knowledge or power of God, and he is, in fact, both defeated and defeatable. This defeat was affected by Jesus Christ: *"Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives"* (Heb 2:14-15).

Peter said that we can resist him, steadfast in the faith (1 Pet 5:9). James wrote, *"Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you"* (Jas. 4:7). Paul told Christians what they can do to fight and stand their ground against the devil: *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.* (Eph. 6:10-17)

Scripture minces no words when it comes to the devil. We are to take him seriously so that we *"do not give the devil an opportunity"* (Eph 4:27). At the same time, we need to remember that God has already

defeated Satan through Christ and given us the tools of faith to resist his influences *"so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes"* (2 Cor 2:11). While *"the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving,"* God has *"shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ"* (2 Cor 4:4-6). The power of the Gospel will always win out.

Doy Moyer

THE RESURRECTION AND ME

1 Corinthians 15 -- A great text for your own personal study. Work on it. I'll start you...

The entire chapter is about the resurrection. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead and the reality of our subsequent resurrection.

Verses 1-11 The resurrection is the key element of the gospel. The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus is fundamental to the whole plan of salvation. Paul preached, they received and, if they held to that message, they would be saved! Evidence for His resurrection is in prophecy and eye witness testimony. Finally, Jesus' resurrection changed Saul, the persecutor, into Paul, the apostle.

Verses 12-34 That being the case, how can you reject the truth of our resurrection? Our resurrection was the reason for His death and resurrection! If we eliminate that, preaching the gospel is useless, faith is empty, the apostles are all liars, we are all still in our sins and we have no hope. Do not think one can reject the resurrection and hold on to other blessings of the gospel. It all rests on that truth! If you can see that Adam brought sin and death to the world, you can see that Jesus brings righteousness and life to the world. The resurrection of Christ had to happen first. The time will come for our resurrection, at the end, when Christ concludes His rule and turns the kingdom over to God. The whole point of Christ and the gospel is eternal life. How did the church come to doubt the resurrection? By hanging around doubters, those who mock God's plan.

Verses 35-49 How are the dead raised and with what kind of body? We all wonder. The answer, such as it is, will be found in these verses. God's word illustrates the principle of different bodies and their various

realms. We will receive a spiritual body - not something we can fully understand while we live with our material limitations. We can, however, understand this resurrection to spiritual, eternal life.

Verses 50-57 What will happen when Jesus returns and the resurrection will occur? As those resurrected will be given a spiritual body, so must those who are still living be changed, receiving the same kind of spiritual body. At the day of resurrection there will be full, final and complete victory over sin and its multitude of consequences. Death will be defeated - no longer a threat.

Verse 58 In this verse we find our application and motivation. We must persist and abound in our service to God! The reason: Our labor in the Lord is not in vain. That labor stands through eternity, supplying its blessing. Our earthly efforts and works will have zero value and no use any more.

Don Bunting

We offer either in home studies in person or by way of Correspondence Courses.

Call me, Jim Stauffer at 913-620-0563, Evangelist at the Lenexa church of Christ.

We believe in worshiping and serving the Lord as He has instructed in His word.

Things that are taught in the Bible that people do not believe, and foster false teaching as a result.

That religious leaders should not wear titles, see Matthew 23:8-12

Please call us to study the Bible. It is refreshing.

Psa. 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the

judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

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Bill Miller

Brandon Jimison

Joe Hurd

Check out the following websites:

facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist

lenexachurchofchrist.org

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10

News and Notes:

Those in need of prayers:

Alma Baumgartner, Jan Patrick, Denese Goring, Brooklyn Boyer, Tracy Richardson, Don Craig, Tina Brofft, Ken Green, Matt Bassford, Tim Young and Cleveland Reddinger.

The funeral for Andy Robertson is Monday 11/29 at Mercer Funeral Home in Holton, Kansas.

Bible Classes: Sunday Morning - **Revelation** - Bill Miller

Wednesday Evening - **1&2 Peter and Jude** - Ron Peck

Sunday Sermon: *Discipleship and the Master*