

Christ & His Bride

Lesson #2

Church: Your Inheritance

Jan. 29, 2025

Consider: The subject of my future inheritance in Christ's Millennial Kingdom is a major theme in God's Word. There are ~1518 verses in the Old Testament and hundreds in the New that speak about His Coming Kingdom and the importance of my being able To Inherit It.

Note: It is not heaven or part of eternity. It is God's last 1000 years of dealing with mankind.

Rapture of Church Judgment Seat of Christ Wedding of Christ & Bride

7 Year Tribulation Period

2nd Coming to earth>

MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

Key Belief: My faithfulness and obedience now will dramatically affect my role, my positions and my place in the future Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ.

- All born-again believers will be in His coming Kingdom, but only the overcomers [ones who constantly recognize their choices and choose to follow Christ] will inherit levels of responsibility in His Kingdom.
- Promises to overcomers to have a position of ruling/reigning are given to churches 4-7.
- Our rewards and our places of responsibility in the future Kingdom will be won or lost according to our faithfulness in this life.
- This life is the training ground for the next life in His Kingdom.

New Testament Differentiates Between Gift and Prize:

1. Gift = something that is bestowed freely upon someone = Our Justification

2. Prize = something that is gained through some performance = Our Sanctification

Paul in Phil. 3:12 is **PRESSING** toward the mark for the **PRIZE**.

Not that I have already obtained it [this goal of being Christlike] or have already been made perfect, but I actively press on so that I may take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me *and* made me His own.

- I need to understand and grasp why Jesus Christ has saved me.

Place us back in the position for which we were originally created - to be "joint-heirs" with Christ ruling and reigning with Him over the earth as His bride. [Gen. 1:26]

Phil. 3:13-15a Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I Press Toward The Goal For The Prize Of The Upward Call Of God In Christ Jesus. Therefore, let us, as many as are mature, have this mind.

- This **PRIZE** Must Be Sought After in The Power Of The Holy Spirit.

God has determined to accomplish this purpose in the Millennium where man will

finally occupy a regal position over a restored earth. [Acts 3:21] Last Adam + His Bride

Ruling & reigning with Christ is the mark or goal of the high calling of Christ. [Phil. 3:10-14]

The Bible speaks of inherit or inheritance in 2 ways.

1. Strong's 2816 = κληρονομία = Inheritance By Birth or Sonship Inheritance

- a. This inheritance belongs to me simply because I am a born-again child of God & I am an heir.
 - b. I am justified, the Holy Spirit of God resides in me. I have God Himself as my inheritance.
- Gal. 4:6-7 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

- c. This sonship inheritance is unconditional and automatic. I will always be a son.
- d. This inheritance is a free gift - NO WORKS. [Rom. 4:1-4; 11:5-6; Eph. 2:8-9]
- e. This inheritance **GUARANTEES** me eternal Life; open to all who will accept it.

➤ Eph. 1:11, 14; Heb. 9:15 = Our works are not mentioned.

f. This inheritance gives me entrance to His Kingdom.

Titus 3:7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

2. Strong's 2817 = κληρονομία = Inheritance From The Lord

Thayer Greek Lexicon: To inherit means to be a partaker of Christ's life which is imparted to believers by the Holy Spirit.

Reminder: After our justification, the Holy Spirit spends the rest of our lives cleansing, renewing and sanctifying us for positions in the coming Kingdom.

Sanctification is NOT AUTOMATIC. I must humble myself and surrender to the process which can only be done by the Holy Spirit working in me through the active, living Word of God.

The New Testament affirms again and again the principle of reward according to works.

Some Christians will obtain an extra portion of spiritual possession or blessing.

It is given by the Lord because of faithfulness, obedience and perseverance.

The extra portion of the inheritance: Relates To The 1,000 Year Kingdom Reward

Earned inheritance [meritorious reward] which entitles one to positions, rewards, authority and blessings in the Millennial Kingdom.

Col. 3:24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the Reward Of The Inheritance;

For You Serve The Lord Christ. [works are noted]

- This inheritance is conditional because there are requirements.
- In some way, we will have ownership of the kingdom rather than just being a resident.

Rev. 2:26 he that overcomes, and keeps My works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations

Rev. 21:7 He that overcomes shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

My Belief: People who are justified ENTER the Kingdom.

People who are justified and obedient to sanctification ENTER and INHERIT the kingdom.

SALVATION- Sonship Inheritance	REWARDS-Inheritance From The Lord
Past - I John 3:2	Future - Rev. 22:12
Free - Eph. 2:8-9	Earned - I Cor. 3:8
Can't Be Lost - John 10:28-29	Can Be Lost - II John 1:8
Same For All - Rom. 3:22	Differ Among Christians - I Cor. 3:12-15
For Those Who Believe - John 3:16	For Those Who Work - I Cor. 9:27

Tony Evans: "There are Christians who have been set free from spiritual bondage, but who will never enjoy the full right and privileges they could have inherited in the coming kingdom. That's because these benefits accrue to believers based on their faithfulness to Christ here on earth. Inheritance from the Lord [co-reigning with Him] is earned; whereas, sonship is not."

Key Context: The FIVE WARNINGS in Hebrews are about the possibility of believers losing their reward of inheritance from God: NOT THEIR SONSHIP!

Heb. 12:1, 16 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us... Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

The Inheritance Involving the Birthright with Firstborn Sons

Birthright in the NT is from the Greek: prototokia: The rights of the Firstborn

1. The rights of firstborn sons consist of a plurality of rights, which are inherited rights.
2. The rights of the firstborn sons in the Jewish culture in the OT consisted of 3 things.
 - a. Ruler of the household under the Father
 - b. Priest of the family
 - c. Receive a Double Portion of the Father's estate [Deut. 21:17]

Key Point #1 EVERY Jewish firstborn son was in line to receive this threefold inheritance, but, according to that which God has revealed in His Word, this inheritance was FORFEITABLE.

- The firstborn rights and privileges were provisionally given at their birth.

Point #2 The Positional Standing as a firstborn son did not itself guarantee the inheritance would be received.

- The right to the inheritance was his; but he could lose it.

Point #3 A firstborn son, through rebellious actions, could FORFEIT his firstborn rights. ALL the sons are heirs, but only those who met the conditions of the firstborn achieved the elevated status and authority and retained their inheritance.

Examples Of Forfeiture Of Firstborn Inheritance & Privilege

A. Esau forfeited his birthright and his blessings because of disobedience.

He was still his father's son, but he forfeited his inheritance. [Gen.27:35-40; Heb. 12:16-17]

All 12 of Jacob's sons were eligible to inherit because they were all sons.

However, all the sons did not behave the same way. It impacted their future.

The Bible shows that the father could rescind the birthright and pass it on to a younger son.

B. Reuben, the firstborn, [I Chron. 5:1] defiled his father's bed. His firstborn birthright was taken away from him [still his father's son] and given to Joseph's [#11] sons. Jacob blessed the younger son, Ephraim, above the elder son, Manasseh. Gen. 37:19-22; Gen. 49:1-4; 49:22-26.

- The double portion of the inheritance [of the land] went to Joseph through his two sons (Ephraim and Manasseh), each being given a portion of the land.
- The priestly service was given to the tribe of Levi. [Num. 1:47-51; Deut. 33:8-10]
- The position of authority was allotted to Judah, the tribe from which the Messiah, the future King, would arise. [I Chron. 5:2]

The main meaning of being the firstborn = one of being chief or having the pre-eminence in rank. This is in distinction from just being biologically the first son born. The privilege of having the chief rank normally belonged to the first one born but could be transferred.

Firstborn Birthright In The New Testament

1. Jesus holds the "birthright" and is the heir of all the Father has. Heb. 1:2
2. God has given Christ all of creation which was created for Him. Col. 1:16; John 3:35
3. Christ's inheritance includes believers. John 6:37
4. As God's only begotten Son, Jesus will receive the kingdom from His Father.

Phil. 2:9-11 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him and given Him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Rev. 19:16 And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, King Of Kings, And Lord Of Lords.

5. As adopted sons of God, Christians are treated as firstborn heirs.
6. As New Testament Christians, we have an inherited "birthright" status through Jesus Christ as the firstborn Son of God. [See also Col. 1:15, 18; Rev. 1:5]

Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he [Jesus] might be the firstborn among many brethren.

I Pet. 1:4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

7. Christ promises to share with us His kingdom and inheritance. Gal. 3:29; Eph. 1:18
- Our inheritance includes salvation [Heb. 1:14], eternal life [I Peter 1:4], and even a measure of the throne of Christ [Rev. 3:21].

Difference Between Entering The Kingdom & Inheriting The Kingdom

1. Strong's 1525 = We enter or come into the kingdom because of our new birth and because we have received God's Spirit.
2. Strong's 2817 = We inherit the kingdom [obtain, possess or receive it] as a reward for an obedient and faithful life here on earth; partakes of Christ's life; lives as overcomer. This is the "PRIZE" for surrendering to the work of the Holy Spirit in us to mold us into the image of Jesus Christ.

Warning: Not all Christians will inherit.

II John 1:8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, [worked for; accomplished] but that we receive a full reward.

Bible Prophecy Book: It is possible to lose those things we have worked for.

Although we will not lose our salvation [justification], it is possible to forfeit our rewards.

Key: Inheriting the kingdom is conditional upon our spiritual, worthy walk and not just our beliefs.

Believing something is easy. It means to "mentally ascribe to something. [#5219: hupakous]

- To be obedient, faithful, and persevering = seeing that belief acted out in my life.
- To be obedient: I not only hear God's will, but I choose to do His will.

Luke 6:46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

Key: I must make the choice:

- to be sanctified. I Thess. 4:3

For this is the will of God: your sanctification

- to be a partaker of Christ's Life. Heb. 3:14

For we are made partakers of Christ,

if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end;

- to be a faithful overcomer Rev. 21:7

He that overcomes shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

It is God's will for all believers to inherit, but my continual choices affect my outcome.

Old Testament Scriptures > Requirements For An Inheritance In The Land

Entering the land is not the same as possessing or inheriting the land.

Consider: These Scriptures clearly show us the distinction between simply being in the land and inheriting or owning the land. Inheriting involves an automatic aspect.

They were eligible to inherit the land because they were the children of Israel.

Owning the land was a reward for faithfulness and obedience.

Deut. 6:18 "IF they [Israelites] do what is good and right,

THEN they will not only go into the land, but also POSSESS it."

Deut. 19:9-10 "IF they shall keep the commandment,

THEN they will INHERIT the cities and the land."

Conclusion: For Israel, possessing or inheriting the land had to be earned by their obedience and faithfulness. Heirship was meritorious.

New Testament Scriptures > Requirements For An Inheritance From The Lord

1. Matt. 24:43, 47 IF we are FAITHFUL, THEN He will make us RULER over all His goods.
 2. II Tim. 2:5, 12 Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules. IF we SUFFER [ENDURE], THEN we shall REIGN with Him.
 3. Heb. 10:35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great REWARD.
- Conclusion: "Inheritance from the Lord," [in OT & NT] is always conditioned upon behavior.

Rev. 3:4-5a Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. [#514 = axios]

- Found worthy is linked with not defiling their garments

⁵ He that overcomes, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; [Garment #2]

- The white garment mentioned in Rev. 3:5 is related to the garment in verse 4.
- It is given as a reward for a WORTHY WALK.

Note: 1. The worthiness is linked to the fact these were believers who have not defiled [blackened] their garments. They are defined as being those who overcome.

Belief: It seems they are the ones who will wear these particular garments.

Walking with Him in white is a reward for righteous acts or deeds of the saints.

Fits with Rev. 19:7-8. ⁷ Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." ⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the Righteous Acts Of The Saints.

Key word: Bright = #2986 = lampros = shining, magnificent, radiant, splendid.

It is used to describe both physical brightness and the splendor of character or appearance.

Key Point #1: The Bible says His WIFE has made herself ready. It does not say the CHURCH.

- The wife, bride, is clothed in fine linen, clean and white.
- The fine linen is the Righteous Acts of saints.
- We know there will be believers at the Judgment Seat of Christ who will suffer loss because they have no righteous acts. [I Cor. 3:11-15]
- These believers are part of the body of Christ. Paul calls them "carnal believers."
- If they suffer loss and have no righteous acts, could they be part of the Bride?

My belief: I do not think so. They have not made themselves ready.

Where would they get the garment of fine linen, clean and white?

Belief: The 2nd garment Christ requires for the Marriage festivities is the white, fine linen garment made up of the believer's "righteous works."

Note: These righteous acts must occur prior to our departure from earth.

Embrace God's Word: Jesus cleanses His bride "with the washing of water by the Word."

We need to be saturated in His Word to change and avoid being conformed to the world.

We must be transformed and made suitable to be His bride: worthy or fit to rule and reign with Him in His coming Kingdom.

Embrace the Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit dwelling in us is ready, willing and able to maximize our transformation and service.

Our works will one day be tested and earn us either reward or loss.

The difference in the results depends on whether the believer is spiritual or carnal.

These rewards appear to be directly related to "the righteous acts of the saints" that contribute the beauty and glory of the bride's dress which in turn glorify the Bridegroom.

Embrace Jesus: God's ultimate purpose for us is to be "conformed to the image of His Son.

Rev. 19:14 And the armies which were in heaven Followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

Key Word #1 Follow: #190. Akolouthéó = accompany [as a disciple], attend.

In the New Testament, it is often used in the context of discipleship, where it signifies following Jesus both physically and spiritually. It implies a commitment to adhere to the teachings and lifestyle of Jesus, often involving sacrifice and a change of direction in life.

Cultural and Historical Background: In the first-century Jewish context, following a rabbi or teacher was a common practice. Disciples would leave their homes and occupations to learn from and emulate their teacher. This cultural backdrop highlights the radical nature of Jesus' call to follow Him, as it demanded total allegiance and often counter-cultural decisions. The term also carried connotations of loyalty and dedication, reflecting the relationship between a master and his disciples.

Consider: Same Greek word is used in Matthew 10:38

And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth [#190] after me, is not worthy of me. To cleave steadfastly to one, conform wholly to his example, in living and if need be, in dying.

Key Word: Worthy = 2 Greek words in New Testament

Strong's #2661 = kataxioo = To Be Counted Worthy; To Be Deemed Entirely Deserving

We are counted worthy because of what Christ has already done for us on the Cross.

He is the One who is really counted worthy. [used only 4x in Scripture]

Luke 21:36 Watch ye, therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy [kataxioo] to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

- All justified believers are accounted worthy to escape the things to come and to stand before the Lord. We will stand before Him at the Judgment Seat of Christ.
- Non-believers will not escape the things to come. They will go through the 7-year Tribulation Period which begins with the wrath of the Lamb in Revelation 6.

Strong's #514 = axios = To Be Worthy Of On The Grounds Of Being Fit, Meet, Prepared, Suitable [41x in Scripture]

The Greek word "axios" is used to convey the idea of being worthy or deserving of something, often in the context of honor, respect, or reward. It implies a sense of balance or equivalence, suggesting that the person or thing in question is fitting or appropriate for a particular status or treatment.

Matt. 10:38 And he who does not take his cross [expressing a willingness to endure whatever may come] and follow Me [believing in Me, conforming to My example in living and, if need be, suffering or perhaps dying because of faith in Me] is not worthy of Me. [Amplified]

- The cross refers to *withstanding persecution* (difficult times), by the Lord's power, as He directs the circumstances of life.

As Christ's disciples, believers are to hold true - even when attacked by the ungodly.

Key Word: Clothed #1746. Enduo = put on clothing or be clothed

In the New Testament, it is often used metaphorically to describe the spiritual act of putting on virtues, Christ, or the armor of God.

"Enduo" in the NT emphasized a transformation or adoption of a new spiritual identity.

Key word: Fine linen: #1039. Bussinos = The term "bussinos" refers to something made of fine linen, a high-quality fabric often associated with purity, wealth, and nobility.

Cultural and Historical Background: In ancient times, linen was a valuable textile, prized for its durability and fine quality. It was often used for clothing worn by the wealthy and for sacred purposes, such as priestly garments. Linen's association with purity and holiness made it a fitting material for religious ceremonies and temple use.

The production of linen was labor-intensive, involving the cultivation of flax, spinning, and weaving, which added to its value and status.

Reminder: The fine linen is the righteous acts of saints. [labor-intensive; value; status]

Interesting Note: This Greek word for fine linen is only used 5x in Bible - all in Revelation.

God is seeking those who are willing that their life should be fashioned according to His will & grace. He sifts out those who cannot see God's purpose & design for the blessing of the abundant life.

Ps. 119:1 Blessed are the undefiled [blameless] in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord.

Undefiled: #8549 tamim [Hebrew]

- Blameless does not mean sinless but wholeheartedly devoted to the Lord.

#G5046 teleios [Greek] Often translated as "perfect" or "complete,"

used in the NT to describe Spiritual Maturity & Completeness In Christ

Do I truly believe Jesus Christ is coming again?

I John 3:1-3 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore, the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.

³ And Every Man That Hath This Hope In Him Purifies Himself, Even As He Is Pure.