

VALUING THE INHERITANCE OF PROMISE

Joshua 1: 10 ó 18

August 1, 2010

Our subject today concerns an INHERITANCE, an INHERITANCE of PROMISE. **We** will learn that it is NOT an INHERITANCE that has been PROMISED to be GIVEN, but, rather, an INHERITANCE that has ALREADY been GIVEN. **And**, it is an INHERITANCE (certain) to be POSSESSED by every sinner to whom it has been GIVEN.

FIRST: WHAT is the INHERITANCE OF PROMISE?

The INHERITANCE OF promise is two-fold. **It is** both Physical and Spiritual. **The** Physical TYPIFIES the Spiritual. **Physically**, it is about the CERTAINTY of National Israel POSSESSING a land they had (already) been GIVEN by a Promise to their father Abraham years earlier.

It was the Land of Promise. **God** described it as a òland flowing with milk and honeyö. **It was** land with walled cities (already) built, wells (already) dug, vineyards (already) planted and producing the choicest fruit.

It was a land Israel could call its own, (which up to this time they had not had). It was a land with perpetual ownership. **Those** who POSSESSED this land would pass it down to the next generation. **So, the** land would remain the POSSESSION of the Israelite tribe God had given it to.

So, the FIRST aspect of the INHERITANCE OF PROMISE concerned a land God had GIVEN to Abraham by Promise, and which was CERTAIN to be POSSESSED by the physical descendants of Abraham in the generation of God's choosing.

This Land of Promise should have been VALUED by every physical descendant of Abraham. **They** should have DESIRED to be the ones to POSSESS it, to INHERIT it, to be joint-heirs with Abraham, who INHERITED it by a Promise.

Finally, the Land of Promise was a land that TYPIFIED Eternal Salvation. **It PICTURED** the Eternal Salvation God had (already) GIVEN His elect

people ÷in Christ before the world beganö, a Salvation that was CERTAIN to be POSSESSED in time in each successive generation by each sinner it had been GIVEN to in eternity. **Physically**, the INHERITANCE OF PROMISE is about the Land of Promise.

But, Spiritually, the INHERITANCE OF PROMISE is about Eternal Salvation. **It is** about the Eternal REST that sinners find in Christø finished work ALONE.

Whether we are talking about National Israel (Abrahamø physical descendants), or Spiritual Israel (Abrahamø Spiritual descendants), all should value the INHERITANCE OF PROMISE in each generation. **They** should VALUE this INHERITANCE for two reasons.

FIRST because: **The INHERITANCE OF PROMISE** is an INHERITANCE, which had ALREADY been GIVEN.

Look back to Joshua 1: 3, “Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.”

This was ALREADY their land. **God** had ALREADY given this land to Israel. **When? It had** been given 470 years earlier by a promise God made to their father Abraham.

Listen to Godø words to Abraham in Gen 13: 15, ÷**For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.”** God Promised Abraham this land. **And**, since Godø promises cannot fail to be fulfilled, Abraham considered this land as having ALREADY been GIVEN to him and his descendants.

This is Isaacø language to Jacob in Gen 28: 4, “**..that thou mayest inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger, which God gave unto Abraham.”**

And, that is how this land was referred to by Moses, a land that had been GIVEN to Israel.

Look at Numbers 32: 7, “**And wherefore discourage ye the heart of the children of Israel from going over into the land which the**

LORD hath given them?” Verse 9, “For when they went up unto the valley of Eshcol, and saw the land, they discouraged the heart of the children of Israel, that they should not go into the land which the LORD had given them.”

God had GIVEN National Israel, (the natural descendants of Abraham), this land. **It was** the physical INHERITANCE they had ALREADY been GIVEN to their father Abraham by Promise.

Let’s understand clearly now! **This** Physical Land was NOT a land PROMISED to Israel IF they would just go in and POSSESS it. **It was**, rather, a land GIVEN to Israel thru Abraham by PROMISE. **And**, it was a land CERTAIN to be POSSESSED by the nation Israel.

But this land was a TYPE, a PICTURE, of a far greater INHERITANCE. **This** land TYPIFIED Eternal Salvation, which was GIVEN to Spiritual Israel BEFORE the world began.

Look at II Timothy 1: 8 ó10, “**Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;**

9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:”

God saved His elect people ðaccording to His own purpose and graceö. **Grace** is all the benefits and blessings of salvation. **And** that ðgraceö with all its benefits and blessings was GIVEN us IN CHRIST ðbefore the world beganö.

Let’s understand CLEARLY now, as well! **This** is NOT a salvation God has PROMISED to give sinners (if) THEY will do something. **The** Gospel is NOT God’s PROMISE to save. **Salvation** is, rather, that (already) GIVEN to a multitude of sinners and CERTAIN to be POSSESSED by each

of them in time in each generation. **And**, the Gospel is the DECLARATION of Him who did everything necessary for God to be Just and declare Righteous every sinner He lived and died for. **He** was victoriously raised again because of our justification.

So, the FIRST reason the INHERITANCE OF PROMISE should be VALUED by sinners in every generation is because the Land of Promise, as well as, the Eternal Salvation it TYPIFIED have (already) been GIVEN to those of God's choosing.

The SECOND reason the INHERITANCE OF PROMISE should be VALUED by sinners in every generation is because: **The INHERITANCE OF PROMISE MUST and SHALL BE POSSESSED** by (every) sinner to whom God has GIVEN it. **It has ALREADY** been GIVEN. **And**, those who have been GIVEN this INHERITANCE will (without fail) POSSESS it.

Let's read our text. Look at Joshua 1: 10-11, **"Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying,**

11 Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it."

Joshua starts out commanding ALL the tribes of Israel. **Prepare** food, because you are about to go in and (actually) POSSESS (take possession of/occupy) the land that you have ALREADY been GIVEN.

If God was to be glorified as One faithful to fulfill His promises, Israel MUST take POSSESSION of this land. **They** (must) OCCUPY the land that had been theirs for over 400 years. **God's** GLORY depended on it.

That is what Moses appealed to when God threatened to destroy the nation when they REFUSED to enter in and POSSESS the land they had been GIVEN. **God's** commandment was, **"Go up and possess the land which I have given you."**

When Israel refused, God told Moses in Ex 32: 10, **"Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may**

consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation.” And, what did Moses appeal to but the glory of God?

Look at Deut 9: 26-28, “I prayed therefore unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, destroy not thy people and thine inheritance, which thou hast redeemed through thy greatness, which thou hast brought forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand.

27 Remember thy servants, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; look not unto the stubbornness of this people, nor to their wickedness, nor to their sin:

28 Lest the land whence thou broughtest us out say, Because the LORD was not able to bring them into the land which he promised them, and because he hated them, he hath brought them out to slay them in the wilderness.”

God had (already) GIVEN Israel this land. They (must) POSSESS it. They (must) OCCUPY it. Or else, His promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob would not be fulfilled. And, His GLORY would be set aside. They (must) POSSESS the land they had (already) been GIVEN.

So, the TWO reasons why Israel (must) POSSESS the land of Promise: God had (already) GIVEN them the land. And, His GLORY was wrapped up in them POSSESSING it.

But, not EVERY descendant of Abraham would POSSESS the Land of Promise. Think about Esau. Think about those who died in Egypt. Think about the rebellious fathers. That is another reason why every Israelite should have VALUED that land above all else. The (actual) POSSESSION of that land would be ONLY to those CHOSEN by God.

The patriarchs and fathers of Israel VALUED that land. They each one POSSESSED it by faith (looking the Promised Seed). Abraham and Isaac lived in that land and were buried there. Jacob came to the end of his life in Egypt. But, he made his sons SWARE that they would not bury him there (but Canaan).

Joseph’s bones were put in a coffin with instructions to carry them to Canaan. Moses pleaded with God to let him enter that land. These are all EVIDENCES that these men saw Israel’s POSSESSION of that land as CERTAIN.

For any Israelite to have no concern for Israel POSSESSING the Land of Promise was to show no VALUE for the God who GAVE them the land and Promised their POSSESSION of it. **It** was to DISREGARD His GLORY as One Faithful to fulfill His Promises.

Worst of all, to fail to VALUE the Land of Promise was to DISREGARD God's REDEMPTIVE GLORY (Just God/Savior), because that land TYPIFIED Eternal Salvation. **And**, the POSSESSING the land TYPIFIED every Spiritual descendant of Abraham POSSESSING (entering into and valuing) the salvation they have ALREADY been GIVEN in Christ before the world began.

The Natural descendants of Abraham who (actually) POSSESSED the Land of Promise were TYPES of Abraham's Spiritual seed, who would each be brought in time to REST their WHOLE salvation in Christ Righteousness ALONE.

Just as CERTAINLY as the natural descendants of Israel (must) POSSESS the land they had ALREADY been GIVEN, the spiritual descendants of Abraham MUST in time in each successive generation POSSESS the Eternal Salvation they have ALREADY been GIVEN.

I believe that is what Paul wrote to the church in his letter to the Galatians concerning Abraham.

Look at Gal 3: 16-18, **“Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.**

17 **And this I say, *that* the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.**

18 **For if the inheritance *be* of the law, *it is* no more of promise: but God gave *it* to Abraham by promise.”**

God did not PROMISE Abraham the inheritance. **He** GAVE the INHERITANCE to him by a promise. **And**, WHAT did God give

Abraham? (I.e. What is the INHERITANCE?) **It is** whatever God Promised Abraham in that Covenant.

John Gill called this Covenant (quote), òa covenant of grace and redemption; because the articles of redemption and reconciliation, of eternal life and salvation, by the free grace of God, are the principal things in it.ö **I.e. The** covenant spoken of is the Everlasting Covenant of Grace made between the Persons of the Godhead. **It is** a covenant of Eternal Salvation with all its blessings and benefits.

Abraham was GIVEN the INHERITANCE. He was GIVEN Eternal Salvation.

Now, if Abraham and all his spiritual descendants had ALREADY been given Eternal Salvation òbefore the world beganö (II Tim 1: 9), how could God give him the same thing in time òby promiseö?

The ògivingö here is as a POSSESSION. **In time** God enabled Abraham to take POSSESSION of by Promise and by faith what He had ALREADY given him òin Christ before the world beganö.

According to Romans, Abraham was òfully persuaded that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.ö **What** had God Promised Abraham? **Salvation?** **That** might be your immediate answer. **But**, think about it.

God did not Promise Abraham salvation. **He** PROMISED him a seed, a seed through whom òall the nations of the earth would be blessedö. **He** promised him a Savior who would òfinish the transgression, make an end of sin, and bring in everlasting Righteousnessö.

He promised him a Savior who would by His obedient life and sacrificial death work out all the details of Eternal Salvation. **Christ** came in time to meet all the conditions and requirements of that salvation His elect people had ALREADY been GIVEN in Him òbefore the world beganö. **That** is what Abraham saw in God's Promised Seed.

And, Abraham believed God (I.e. He was given faith in the Promised Seed). **And**, that faith gave evidence that God had imputed to Abraham for righteousness what Christ would accomplish in time.

How confident was Abraham in the Promised Seed? **I am** not asking you to consider Abraham's confidence. **Consider**, rather, the ONE he had confidence in. **When** God commanded him to take Isaac (his ONLY son) up on the mount, what did he do?

Look at Heb 11: 17-19, “**By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,**
18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:
19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.”

It was through Isaac that Christ MUST come. God had engaged His Redemptive Glory in the Person of Christ. **He had** (already) GIVEN a multitude of sinners all the benefits and blessings of grace in Christ.

Christ (the Promised Seed) MUST come in time and establish the One Righteousness by which God had ALREADY declared those sinners (eternally/unchangeably) righteous in His sight.

That is the confidence Abraham was given in the Promised Seed. **And**, confidence in that SAME Seed is given to Spiritual Israel in each generation.

God gave the INHERITANCE to Abraham by promise. **In time** He GAVE Abraham POSSESSION of that Salvation all of God's elect had ALREADY been GIVEN in Christ before the world began.

Abraham looked forward to the SAME Christ you and I look back on. **He RESTED** in the SAME Righteousness you and I REST in.

Just like Isaac and Jacob were HEIRS with Abraham of the land of Promise (Each of these patriarchs were GIVEN that land by promise. **And**, each of them POSSESSED that land BY FAITH).

In like manner all of Abraham's Spiritual descendants are HEIRS with him of Eternal Salvation. **And each** of them will POSSESS that Eternal INHERITANCE by faith in time in each generation. **They** (each) MUST POSSESS it.

And WHY (must) they POSSESS it? They (must) POSSESS it because the INHERITANCE was GIVEN to them in Christ before the world began; and because God MUST be glorified in them as a Just God and Savior. **They** (must) KNOW the God who loved them eternally. **They** must KNOW the Christ who bought them with His own blood. **They** MUST worship the God who showed them such mercy and grace to bless them and keep them by the doing and dying of Christ ALONE.

Other sheep I have which are not of this fold. Them also I MUST bring... "All that Father giveth to me, shall come to me..."

So, for any sinner to place no VALUE on the INHERITANCE OF PROMISE is to have no REGARD for the God who GAVE Eternal Salvation to a multitude of sinners in Christ before the world began. **And,** who will in time cause each of those sinners to POSSESS that salvation by faith in regeneration.

Listen to Deut 6: 23, "**And he brought us out from thence, that he might bring us in, to give us the land which he swore unto our fathers.**"

God brought His elect nation out of bondage in Egypt by the blood of the Passover lamb. **That** is a picture of God delivering His elect from the legal bondage of guilt and condemnation by the blood of Christ. **That** is a picture of Christ coming in time to put away their sins and establish the Righteousness they need to stand Just in God's sight.

And He did that to bring us in. **He did** that to bring His chosen nation into the land He GAVE them thru Abraham and swore they would POSSESS. **He did** that to cause each of His elect in each generation to POSSESS by faith that salvation GIVEN before the world began, but (worked out by Christ in time).

The INHERITANCE OF PROMISE, what is it? **It was** a land GIVEN to Israel by promise and CERTAIN to be POSSESSED by Abraham's Natural descendants. **And**, it is Eternal Salvation, which that land TYPIFIED. **It is** that salvation GIVEN to each of Abraham's Spiritual descendants in Christ before the world began. **And**, CERTAIN to be POSSESSED in time by each sinner it has been given to.

VALUING the INHERITANCE OF PROMISE is finding an interest in the Promised Seed Abraham rejoiced in. **It is** laboring to enter into that rest which God (Himself) RESTS in. **It is** finding your hope of salvation in the finished work of Christ ALONE.

I'll close with some verses from Galatians.

Look at Gal 3: 27-29, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

Value the INHERITANCE OF PROMISE because: It has ALREADY been GIVEN and is CERTAIN to be POSSESSED by every heir of grace in every generation.

By Mark Pannell