

OUR INHERITANCE IN CHRIST



2. The Nations

(Leaders Notes)

Introduction

We have seen that God has an inheritance for each one of his children, and the guarantee that we will receive that is the gift of the Holy Spirit. The presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, enables us to receive and enjoy all the spiritual blessings God has for his children right now!

There is a wonderful prophecy in Psalm 2:8 that says, 'Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage and the ends of the earth your possession.' This Psalm is speaking about Jesus. God has an inheritance for his son, and that inheritance is the nations. Now that we are seated in Heavenly places with Jesus, we can ask the Father for the nations. We have the privilege of being part of the fulfilment of that prophecy and sharing in this inheritance. How can we do this?

Let's begin by looking at Acts 1:8 together. This verse expresses the desire and expectation of Jesus for his disciples.

- ★ If Jesus was speaking to you today, where you are living right now, how do you think he would have worded his commission in Acts 1:8?

(Perhaps he would have begun with the town or village where you live, then the province or state you are in, and finally mention the rest of the world!)

- ★ Why do you think it is significant that Jesus included Samaria in his commission? What can we learn from this? See John 4:9, 27

(Samaria was the closest neighbour to Judea, so this was their responsibility after Judea. However the Jews despised the Samaritans, and they were the last people they would want to reach! Yet Jesus included Samaria in his command to his disciples. This shows us we have a responsibility to those in neighbouring countries, whether they are of the same race as us or not.)

- ★ In the first 7 chapters of Acts we see that the disciples obeyed the first part of Jesus' words – they were witnesses to Judea. What was the result of that witness? Acts 2:46-47, 5:42, 6:7

(Many responded to the gospel message.)

- ★ These were tremendous results, but the disciples had not yet begun to obey the rest of the commission that Jesus had given. What happened that forced them to go beyond their own city? Acts 7:59-8:8

(Following the stoning of Stephen, persecution broke out in Jerusalem against the Christians. This caused the believers to scatter, and as they fled Jerusalem, they shared the gospel in the places they went to.)

- ★ Make a list of the places the disciples now went to and some of the racial groups they touched with the gospel. Acts 8:26-27, 8:40, 9:32, 9:42-43, 10:1, 11:19-21

(The Desert Road, Azotus, Lydda, Joppa, Caesarea, Phoenicia, Cyprus, Antioch and Cyrene. They reached Ethiopians, Jews, Greeks, Italians and many more.)

- ★ How does Matthew 24:14 show us that the commission that Jesus gave to the first disciples is relevant to us today?

(If the church had fulfilled Jesus' commission he would have returned! Obviously there are many more people to be reached and our work is not finished. This is the task of every member of the church.)

- ★ Share what the Lord has been saying to you personally as we have studied these verses.

Conclusion

Wherever we live, and whatever race we are, our vision must be beyond our own family and people, to the peoples of the world. This is God's heart, and the inheritance that belongs to the Lord Jesus. We are now 'in Christ' and we share in this inheritance. He has called us to pray and go, and be his representatives here on earth. Begin right where you are today!