

OUR INHERITANCE IN CHRIST



3. A Purpose for our Lives

(Leaders Notes)

Introduction

Everyone who belong to Jesus Christ receive an inheritance from him. This inheritance includes the spiritual blessings we learnt about in our first study, and the privilege of reaching the nations of the world for the Lord Jesus Christ. However, God also has an inheritance for us that is personal and individual.

When parents prepare their will, they often leave what they have to their children. Sometimes each one receives the same, but parents can also choose what they leave for each child. God has made each one of us unique and different, and he has given us differing gifts and abilities, so what he gives us will differ. This inheritance is linked to his purpose for our lives.

- ★ What does God's word tell us about his purpose for our lives? Look up the following scriptures: Psalm 139:13-18, Jeremiah 29:11, Ephesians 2:20

(He has created each one of us as individuals and has a certain number of days ordained for our lives. His desire is to prosper us and give us hope for our future. Then we are told in Ephesians 2 that God has already planned what he wants us to do with our lives.)

- ★ Who sets us in our places and assigns us our inheritance according to Acts 17:24-26 and Psalm 16:5-6?

(God determines the place where we will live and assigns us our share and inheritance.)

- ★ How can we know what God's plan or purpose for our lives is? Ephesians 1:17-18, Proverbs 3:5-6

(We need to ask him for wisdom and revelation so that we will know what he has called us to do. As we learn to trust him and not rely on our own understanding, he will show us the way to go.)

- ★ God promised to give the Children of Israel an inheritance, and that inheritance was the Promised Land. What did they have to do to claim their inheritance? Joshua 1:13-16, 3:3-5, 8:1

(The people needed to remember and believe what God had promised them, and then go in and take possession of the land. They had to follow the leading and direction of the Lord in order to be successful.)

- ★ Once the Children of Israel had entered the land, each tribe was allotted a part as their own inheritance. God told them where the boundary lines were for each tribe. For example see Joshua 17:7 and 19:10. In Psalm 16:6 it says our boundary lines have fallen in pleasant places. How do you think this relates to our lives?

(God has an inheritance for us too, and he is the one who decides what this is and sets the boundaries.)

God has a purpose and destiny for each one of our lives which is linked to our inheritance. For some, it may be to have influence just within their own family and village, for others within their own city, or nation, and there are others who God uses across the globe. He sets the boundary lines.

- ★ How did the enemy try to stop Zerubbabel and the people from rebuilding the temple and obtaining their inheritance? Ezra 4:4-5

(The enemy used the people who lived around Jerusalem to discourage them, make them afraid and frustrate their plans.)

- ★ When the enemy sought to discourage Zerubbabel, God sent prophets to encourage him. Zechariah 4:6-9. How do the promises given to Zerubbabel encourage you to press on?

Conclusion

God has made each one of us unique and individual, so we can fulfil the purpose he has for our lives. We don't need to copy others, or wish we had their abilities, or try to be like them. There is an inheritance for us. Like the Children of Israel we need to go in and take possession of all God has for us. The enemy may try to discourage or frustrate us, just as he did with the people in Zerubbabel's time, but we have been given the power of the Holy Spirit to overcome and be victorious. Remember, the plans God has for you are good, to give you hope and a future!