

# Ephesians Series

## Lesson #034

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# EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK  
& WARFARE  
OF THE BELIEVER

**Salvation, Rewards, Heirship**  
**Ephesians 1:14**



**Eph. 1:13, “In Whom (Him), you also—  
when you heard the word of truth (the  
gospel of your salvation)—In Whom (Him),  
when you believed—you were sealed by  
the Holy Spirit of promise,” [RD]**

**πιστεύω *pisteuo***

**aor act part masc  
plur nom**

**to believe, trust**

**σφραγίζω *sphragizo***

**2 plur aor pass  
indic**

**to seal**

# ETERNAL REALITIES



ACTS 16:31

IN CHRIST

Baptism by the Holy Spirit

Indwelt by the Spirit

Sealed by the Spirit



**Eph. 1:14, “who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”**



**Eph. 1:14, “who [the Holy Spirit] is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”**

**ἀρραβών *arrabon*  
masc sing nom  
down payment, a  
pledge guarantee,  
paying the first  
installment**

**κληρονομία  
*kleronomia*  
fem sing gen  
inheritance,  
possession,  
property**



**Eph. 1:14, “who [the Holy Spirit] is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”**

**ἀπολύτρωσις**

***apolutrosis***

**Noun fem sing**

**acc**

**redemption,  
release due to the  
payment of a  
price**

**περιποίησις**

***peripoiesis***

**fem sing gen**

**possession**

# What the Bible Teaches About

## *Inheritance*





**1. In Ephesians we have the following forms of the word:**

**κληρόω *kleroo* verb “to appoint by lot, choose”; Eph. 1:11**

**κληρονομία *kleronomia* noun**

**“inheritance, possession, property;”  
Eph. 1:14, 18; 5:5**



**2. Inherit has the core semantic meaning of  
“possession, property, ownership.”**



**Acts 7:5, “And God gave him [Abraham] no inheritance in it, not even enough to set his foot on. But even when *Abraham* had no child, He promised to give it to him for a possession, and to his descendants after him.”**

**κληρονομία *kleronomia***

**Noun**

**inheritance, possession,  
property**

**Eph. 1:14, 18; 5:5**

**κατάσχεσις**

***kataschesis***

**fem sing acc  
possession**



**Gen. 12:1**, “Now the LORD had said to Abram:

‘Get out of your country,  
From your family  
And from your father’s house,  
To a land that I will show you.

**Gen. 12:2**, “ ‘I will make you a great nation;  
I will bless you  
And make your name great;  
And you shall be a blessing.

**Gen. 12:3**, “ ‘I will bless those who bless you,  
And I will curse him who curses you;  
And in you all the families of the earth  
shall be blessed.’ ”



**Gen. 12:6, “Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land.**

**Gen. 12:7, “Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, ‘To your descendants I will give this land.’ And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.”**



**3. Inheritance in relationship to Abraham can be related to the land promise or the seed promise, but it is always related to the idea of the divine promise.**



**Galatians 3:18, “For if the inheritance *is* of the law, *it is* no longer of promise; but God gave *it* to Abraham by promise.”**



**4. Inheritance is related to rewards for what is earned for service, whereas salvation is a free gift.**



**Colossians 3:24, “[because you] know that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. Y’all serve the Lord Christ!” [~RD]**

**δουλεύω**

***douleuo***

**2 plur pres act  
impera**

**“to serve as a  
slave”**



**1 Cor. 6:9, “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,”**



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**“Unrighteous Bible” (KJV, 1653; Cambridge Press):**

**1 Corinthians 6:9 lacks the word “not” and reads “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall inherit the kingdom of God?”**



## **The Problem:**

**Some passages speak of inheritance as a *gift*, but others speak of it as a *reward*.**

***A gift is free.***

***A reward is earned.***



**Eph. 5:5, “For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.”**



**Gal. 5:19**, “Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,

**Gal. 5:20**, “idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,

**Gal. 5:21**, “envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”



# What the Bible Teaches About

## *Inheritance as Possession*





**1. In the Old Testament inheritance referred to the ownership of property, especially property that is passed down from one generation to another.  
Numb. 36:2–3**



**Numbers 36:2, “And they said: ‘The LORD commanded my lord Moses to give the land as an inheritance [נַחֲלָה, (naḥălâ) ‘*inheritance, heritage, possession*’] by lot to the children of Israel, and my lord was commanded by the LORD to give the inheritance of our brother Zelophehad to his daughters.”**



**“The Old Testament terms for heir, inheritance, *do not necessarily bear the special sense of hereditary succession and possession*, although they are found in laws concerning succession to the headship of the family, with consequent control of the family property (Gen. 15:3–5; Num. 27:1–11; Num. 36:1–13; Deut. 21:15–17).”**

**~*Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*, 561.**



**“In many instances of Biblical usage, the theological meaning of the word goes beyond the legalistic. Apart from any legal processes, it may characterize the bestowal of a gift or possession upon his people by a merciful God, in fulfillment of a promise or as a reward for obedience.”**

***~Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible, 701.***



**3. “Inheritance,” “property,” “possession,”  
and “ownership” are interchangeable  
ideas.**



**4. Certain categories of people lived in the land but did not own the land: *sojourners, strangers, even Levites*:  
Exod. 12:48–49; Numb. 18:20, 24.**

**Even Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob lived in the land but never owned it; Heb. 11:3; Gen. 21:33; 35:27.**



**Num. 18:20**, “Then the LORD said to Aaron,  
‘You shall have no inheritance [נַחֲלָה,  
(naḥălâ) “*inheritance, heritage, possession*”] in their land, nor own any  
portion among them; I am your portion  
[חֵלֶק (ḥēleq) *share, part, territory*] and your  
inheritance [נַחֲלָה, (naḥălâ) “*inheritance, heritage, possession*”] among the sons of  
Israel.’ ”



**Num. 18:24, “ ‘For the tithe of the sons of Israel, which they offer as an offering to the LORD, I have given to the Levites for an inheritance; therefore I have said concerning them, They shall have no inheritance among the sons of Israel.’ ”**



**5. Even in the Millennium Kingdom not all who dwell there will possess it.**



**1 Cor. 15:50, “Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.”**



**6. Inheritance was given positionally or potentially on the basis of grace, but the realization and enjoyment of the inheritance was a reward of obedience.**



**Josh. 14:9, “So Moses swore on that day, saying, ‘Surely the land on which your foot has trodden shall be an inheritance [נַחְלָה] (naḥălâ) *inheritance, heritage, possession* to you and to your children forever, because you have followed the LORD my God fully.’ ”**



**7. The possession of the land therefore was conditioned on obedience, it was merited. Therefore, as a possession it could be lost (as seen in the case of Zelophehad's daughters).**



**8. The entire Exodus Generation had become God's firstborn son, Ex. 4:22–23, yet the entire generation with the exception of Caleb and Joshua forfeited the inheritance due the firstborn. God disinherited them, but they did not lose their salvation. They never entered the land. The blessing in time was given, but when they disobeyed at Kadesh Barnea it was withdrawn.**



**Caleb and Joshua were the exceptions because of obedience.**

**Josh. 14:8, “Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt, but I wholly followed the LORD my God.**

**Josh. 14:9, “So Moses swore on that day, saying, ‘Surely the land where your foot has trodden shall be your inheritance and your children’s forever, because you have wholly followed the LORD my God.’ ”**



**Exodus 4:22, “Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the LORD: “Israel is My son, My firstborn.”**

**Exodus 4:23, “ ‘ “So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn.” ’ ”**



**9. Though not all have an inheritance in the land, all have God as their inheritance and possession.**



**Psa. 73:26, “My flesh and my heart may fail, But God is the strength of my heart and my portion [חֵלֶק (ḥēleq)] forever.”**



**Psa. 119:57, “The LORD is my portion; I have promised to keep Thy words.”**



**Psa. 142:5, “I cried out to Thee, O LORD; I said, ‘Thou art my refuge, My portion in the land of the living.’ ”**



**10. For the Church Age, Christ is given ownership of all things, and the believer shares in that ownership as a joint heir in Christ only as we mature as believers.**



**Romans 8:17, “and if children, then heirs --  
heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if  
indeed we suffer with Him, that we may  
also be glorified together.**



**Woman without her man is nothing**

**Woman, without her, man is nothing**

**Woman without her man, is nothing**



**Romans 8:17, “and if children, then heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”**

**Two types of heirs:**

- **Heirs of God: all believers**
- **Joint heirs with Christ: for those who grow spiritually**