**God’s Inheritance**

**Introduction**

1. When we think of the word “inheritance,” we think of that which God has promised us – **1 Peter 1:3-5; Ephesians 1:11-12**; etc.
2. Those in Christ are ***“heirs according to the promise”*** (**Galatians 3:29**).
3. However, there is something of great significance we should consider that is inseparable from the inheritance God has promised us – that God considers some to be HIS inheritance.
   1. God does not need anything.
   2. However, the scripture makes clear there is something God treasures; something God wants for Himself and was willing to purchase; His portion; His allotment; His possession.
4. God’s Inheritance
5. Passages Considering God’s Inheritance
   1. Isaiah 19:25 – “the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, ‘Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance.’"
   2. Isaiah 47:6 – “I was angry with My people; I have profaned My inheritance”
   3. Isaiah 63:17 – “O LORD, why have You made us stray from Your ways, And hardened our heart from Your fear? Return for Your servants' sake, The tribes of Your inheritance.”
   4. Deuteronomy 9:29 – “Yet they are Your people and Your inheritance, whom You brought out by Your mighty power and by Your outstretched arm.”
   5. Deuteronomy 32:9 – “For the LORD's portion is His people; Jacob is the place of His inheritance.”
   6. Exodus 15:16 – “Fear and dread will fall on them; By the greatness of Your arm They will be as still as a stone, Till Your people pass over, O LORD, Till the people pass over Whom You have purchased.”
   7. Exodus 19:5 – “Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.”
   8. Acts 20:28 – “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”
   9. Titus 2:14 (NASB) – “who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.”
   10. 1 Peter 2:9 (NASB) – “But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God’s OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;”
   11. Ephesians 1:14 (NASB) – “who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.”
6. The Meaning and Significance of God’s Inheritance
   1. **Ownership** – inheritance describes ownership of something.
      1. **Luke 12:13-14** – “Give me what is rightfully mine.”
      2. ***“God’s own possession”*** (**1 Peter 2:9; Ephesians 1:14**; NASB)
      3. Why God created – **Psalm 100:3** – to possess His creation.
         1. ***“It is he that hath made us, and we are his” (ASV)***
   2. **Relationship** – inheritance has a special relational connotation.
      1. **Psalm 4:3** – “set apart for Himself”
         1. Not from selfish motivation.
         2. Fellowship/relationship with Him – **(vv. 1, 5-8)**
   3. **Kinship** (family) – inheritance has a special familial connotation.
      1. Concerning our inheritance – **Romans 8:15-17** – children of God, Abba Father, heirs (inheritors) together with Christ (**cf. Hebrews 2:12** – our Brother).
      2. Concerning Israel – **Deuteronomy 9:29** (brought them out); **Hosea 11:1** (out of Egypt called His son).
      3. Benefits of such relationship – **Exodus 19:4; Isaiah 46:3-4; Psalm 28:8-9** – borne, carried.
7. The Authentication of God’s Inheritance
8. God’s Inheritance Includes Only Those He Has Set Apart
   1. After telling Israelites to destroy the people God is giving into their hands, make no covenant with them, nor marry them, destroy objects of worship (idolatry) – **Deuteronomy 7:6-11** – they are His inheritance because He chose them, sanctified them, and directed them into His love.
      1. Israel not fit to be God’s portion by anything inherent within them.
      2. ***“holy people to the Lord…people for Himself…special treasure above all the peoples”*** – because of His choice of love, CONTINGENT ON HOLINESS EFFECTED BY HIS WORD.
      3. GOD OWNS THE ISRAELITES BECAUSE HE HAS GIVEN HIMSELF TO THEM. (Significant advantage of Israel – **cf. Romans 3:1-2**)
   2. His portion is not the people who despise Him and His word – **Deuteronomy 7:7; Isaiah 47:6**
      1. When they reject His ways, they forfeit the blessings of being His portion.
      2. If He is not their portion, then they are not His – **cf. Psalm 119:57**
      3. WE DON’T DECIDE WHO GOD’S PORTION IS, HE DOES – **Romans 9:19-21**
   3. God does not delight in, nor consider those to be His portion/inheritance, who do not love Him.
      1. His portion would not, and cannot be anything/one who is opposed to His holy character/nature.
      2. Therefore, those who do not delight in His revelation of Self, and who do not participate in who He is are not His portion.
   4. God’s plan was to only bring back those who loved Him as His inheritance – **Isaiah 49:5-6**
      1. ***“preserved ones of Israel”*** – i.e. those set apart as His inheritance – THERE ARE PRESERVED ONES OF THE GENTILES TOO. (not simply preserved physically in captivity) (Remnant, preserved for Him)
      2. **Psalm 2:7-9** – ***“nations for Your inheritance”***
      3. **Ephesians 3:6** – ***“Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body”* (Ephesians 2:17-22)**
9. We Can Know Whether We are God’s Possession
   1. Especially today there is only a particular people who are God’s possession/portion/inheritance – they bear the mark of belonging to Him.
      1. **Psalm 4:3** – the godly man God has set apart for Himself.
   2. Sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise – **Ephesians 1:11-14**
      1. **(v. 3)** – every spiritual blessing in Christ.
      2. **(v. 5)** – adopted as sons by Christ – His people/family/portion/inheritance.
      3. **(vv. 11-12)** – inheritance.
      4. **(vv. 13-14)** – sealed, given guarantee of inheritance.
         1. ***“with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession” (NASB)***
         2. God purchased us and wants to finally fully bring us to Himself for eternity.
         3. Flesh and blood cannot inherit that (**cf. 1 Corinthians 15:50**) – must have changed form (transformation, resurrection).
      5. **Those who are “God’s own possession” are sealed with the HS of promise (also a down payment of our inheritance):**
         1. Seal – *sphragizō* – “3 to mark with a seal as a means of identification” (BDAG)
         2. Spirit’s instrument – **Ephesians 6:17**
         3. Illustrated – **Ephesians 4:30-32** – do not grieve HS by whom you were sealed.
            1. **4:1, 20, 24** – walking worthy, learning Christ, new man put on.
            2. **(vv. 30-32)** – avoid grieving Spirit by acting according to His revelation in Christ.
            3. Sealed by HS = submission to His revelation (**cf. Romans 8:16**)
            4. Guarantee/down payment = transformed into image of Christ.
      6. **I belong to God as I’m faithful to God and being changed into who God wants me to be. This guarantees I will be changed finally to be God’s possession in heaven for eternity.**
10. The Purpose of God’s Inheritance
11. Previous point helps us understand the purpose of God choosing some to be His portion – they that are His portion are those who are changed according to His revealed standard – such is a reflection of His glory.
12. Israel was God’s inheritance to bring Him glory – **Isaiah 46:12-13** – Israel is Jehovah’s glory, but not in their stubborn unrighteous condition.
    1. In their rebellion God was profaned – **Ezekiel 36:21-23, 26-27** – He would be glorified in them again when they got a new heart and submitted to His commands (messianic) 🡪
13. We are God’s inheritance to bring Him glory – **Ephesians 1:6, 12, 14** – ***“to the praise of His glory”*** – **Ephesians 3:21** – glory to God in the church.
    1. When we go against His commands, we fall short of His glory – **Romans 3:23**
    2. We are God’s portion/inheritance/family when we yield to His will – such brings Him glory – **cf. Matthew 5:16**

**Conclusion**

1. It is significant that God views us as His own inheritance. We are God’s portion and belong to Him.
2. We must constantly examine that we are indeed a part of God’s portion, and that we are reflecting His glory daily.