

1 Peter Series

Lesson #023

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Dean Bible Ministries

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HOPE AND INHERITANCE

1 PETER 1:3-4



1ST PETER

LIVING IN LIGHT
OF ETERNITY

1 Pet. 1:3, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Pet. 1:4, “to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

1 Pet. 1:5, “who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

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Titus 3:4, “But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,

Titus 3:5, “not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

Titus 3:6, “whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

Titus 3:7, “that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

γίνομαι *ginomai*

aor pass subj 1 plur

might become

to become, be, be created

ἐλπίς *elpis*

acc fem sing

hope

The Doctrine of Inheritance

1. Three forms of the word appear in Hebrews.

a. The verb κληρονομέω *klēronomeō*; used 18× in the New Testament; 4× in Hebrews (1:4, Christ inherited...; 1:14 those who will inherit salvation; 6:12; 12:17 Esau's desire to inherit the blessing)

verb: to possess, to receive as one's own possession, to obtain.

- a birthright, which one enters by virtue of their sonship, Gal. 4:30; Heb. 1:4
- property received as a gift in contrast to reward, Heb. 1:14; 6:12
- property received on condition of obedience to certain conditions, 1 Pet. 3:9
- reward based on meeting certain conditions and following certain activities.

b. The noun for inheritance or property κληρονομία *klēronomia*; used 14× in the New Testament; 2× in Hebrews (9:15 the promise of the eternal inheritance; Heb. 11:8, Abraham, referring to the land he would receive as an inheritance)

c. The noun indicating the designated recipient, κληρονόμος *klēronómos*; used 15× in the New Testament

2. Inherit has the core semantic meaning of possession, property, ownership. Biblically speaking property is not necessarily included in the idea of someone dying and passing on the property to the next generation.

Hebrews 11:8, “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.”

Hebrews 1:2, “has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;”

3. Certain categories of people lived in the land but did not own the land: sojourners, strangers, even Levites:

Exod. 12:48–49; Num. 18:20, 24. Even Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob lived in the land but never owned it, Heb. 11:3; Gen. 21:33; 35:27.

Ex. 12:48, “But if a stranger sojourns with you, and celebrates the Passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near to celebrate it; and he shall be like a native of the land. But no uncircumcised person may eat of it.

Ex. 12:49, “The same law shall apply to the native as to the stranger who sojourns among you.”

Num. 18:20, “Then the LORD said to Aaron, ‘You shall have no inheritance [נָחַל (nāḥal) “inherit, possess”] 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.’ ”

Heb. 11:13, “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.”

4. 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.

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

Rom. 4:13, “For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.”

Gen. 15:5, “Then He brought him outside and said, ‘Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.’ And He said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ ”

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Gen. 15:6, “And he believed [had already believed] in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.”

Two Types of Covenants:

- 1. Suzerain-Vassal Treaty: Mosaic Law**
- 2. Royal Grant: Abrahamic Covenant**

Gen. 15:1, “After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.’ ”

Gen. 22:18, “In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”