

Christians Will Inherit Planet Earth

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Do you belong to Christ?

If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed., and heirs according to the promise (Gal. 3:29).

If you belong to Christ, then God counts you as Abraham's seed. As a child of Abraham, you have an inheritance according to a promise made by God Himself.

God first spoke of this promise long ago when He guaranteed an inheritance to Abraham and his seed, Jesus Christ:

The promises were spoken to Abraham and his seed. The Scripture does not say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but "and to your seed," meaning one person, who is Christ (Gal. 3:16).

Jesus Christ is the Seed, or offspring, of Abraham. If we belong to Christ, then we are incorporated into his life. God declares that we, too, have become Abraham's seed. Then we also become heirs of all that God promised Abraham and Christ.

What did God promise Abraham and his seed as an inheritance?

It was not through Law that Abraham and his offspring [seed] received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith (Rom. 4:13).

God promised Abraham that he and his seed would inherit the world! This inheritance would not come through the Law, but by faith. If we have faith in Christ, then God says we too are counted as Abraham's seed. If we are in Christ, we too will inherit the world because now we are heirs according to the promise of God.

Heirs Receive Promise by Faith

We no longer have to live under the laws of Moses to become children of Abraham. Abraham lived by faith before the Law was given. Now Christ has redeemed us from the burden of the Law. He had a magnificent purpose in mind when he accomplished this for us:

He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit (Gal. 3:14).

The blessing given to Abraham is now available to the Gentiles through faith. The blessing given to Abraham is called the promise of the Spirit (which is the pledge of our inheritance, Eph. 1:14). What did God promise to Abraham as a blessing?

May He give you and your descendants the blessing given to Abraham, so that you may take possession of the land where you now live as an alien, the land God gave to Abraham (Gen. 28:4).

The "blessing given to Abraham" is the land God gave to Abraham as an inheritance forever. God promised the land to Abraham and his seed, who is Christ. If you belong to Christ, then you also will inherit the land.

Speaking in a prophecy to Jesus Christ, the Seed of Abraham, God expanded His promise of the land to encompass the whole world with all its nations:

Ask of Me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. You will rule them with an iron scepter. You will dash them to pieces like pottery (Ps. 2:8).

If we inherit something this means we receive possession of it. This promise of the ownership of the earth - ruled in the future by Abraham's Seed - was passed from Abraham to his son Isaac, who in turn passed in on to Jacob (see Gen. 28:4, above). Jacob was later renamed Israel. The children of Israel, Jacob's descendants, carried this promise with them for hundreds of years.

Heirs Will Govern The Earth

If we are the seed of Abraham, then owning the earth means participating in Jesus Christ's

government of the world. God elaborated upon His promise to Abraham when He promised the children of Israel that they would become a kingdom of priests:

You will be for Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites (Ex. 19:6).

This same promise of ruling the earth with Christ has now been offered to the Gentiles through faith:

And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth" (Rev.5:9-10).

This vision of the saints reigning over the earth was given to Daniel:

He [the Son of Man, Jesus Christ] was given authority, glory, and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshipped him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High. His [their, GNB] kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him [them] (Dan. 7:14,27).

Jesus called this future age the Kingdom of God. Observe that it is through the Son of Man that the Saints are to reign with power. The saints are incorporated into his life; where Messiah rules, the saints will rule also. Since Gentiles will also inherit the Kingdom of God through faith, Paul calls Christians the "Israel of God":

Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation. Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, even to the Israel of God (Gal. 6:15,16).

Heirs Are God's Children

Once we understand that God has made us heirs of the promise to Abraham in Christ, we can rejoice in His love for us:

Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (that done in the body by the hands of men) - remember that at that time you were separated from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel, and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus, you who were once far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ (Eph. 2:11-13).

People of all languages, races and nations are no longer excluded from citizenship in Israel; they are no longer foreigners to the covenants of The Promise made to Abraham and his seed:

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone (Eph. 2:19,20).

We are members of God's household. He has made us His sons and daughters. God's children inherit all that he gives them.

Now, if we are children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may share in his glory (Rom.8:17).

We are co-heirs with Christ Jesus, the Seed of Abraham, because we are also counted as Abraham's offspring through our faith in God. If we faithfully live for Christ, regardless of the opinions or actions of others, we are guaranteed by God to share in his inheritance, which is his glory on earth forever.