



14 | JOSHUA 13

ENJOY YOUR INHERITANCE

Faith is what characterizes the true believer.

Outline

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A Calling of Heavenly Mindedness

Call to Worship

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. — Colossians 3:1-3

Songs

O Praise the Name

Christ Our Hope in Life and Death

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Amazing Grace My Chains Are Gone

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME: We are glad you are here! Be sure to grab a Welcome Packet from the Welcome Center if you are visiting with us. So good to have Jim and Lydia Johnson with us from Brazil.

LIGHTS: We now have lights in our parking lot. Thanks to Gavin Barclay and the deacons for making this happen so we can get to our cars safely when we are here at night, esp Wednesdays.

GIVING: You can still give over Zelle through your bank with no fees.

Use secretary@livinghopechurch.net.

We also have a collection box on the Welcome Center

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Children's Church is available for ages 2-6 at the start of the sermon

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Starting next week, Oct 18, Jerry Soen will be teaching a class for men only and Pastor Mike will continue his class on Creation, Man, and Sin

MIDWEEK SERVICE: Midweek service is NOT this week, but next week.

LIFE GROUPS: Life Groups are beginning back up! If you need a group check with one of the pastors or elders and we will get you connected. There will be no Midweek service on Life Group weeks. Check with your Life Group leader to confirm meeting dates and locations. All meet on Wednesdays at 7pm.

Leader: Matt Black; Host: Cerrillos, Elgin

Leader: Mike Klikas, online

Leaders: Marcel Reid/Jerry Soen; Host: Andrews, Carol Stream

Leader: Mike Tiberi; Host: Poldermans, Bartlett

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Calling all men and boys! Come join us for our Men's Breakfast Saturday, Oct 17 at 8am for some food, fellowship and the Word. Please bring a breakfast item to share.

CARING NETWORK GALA: Join us for the Caring Network Gala from your own home on Thursday, October 22, 7:00-8:30 PM for an update on their ministry, how you can get involved, and to hear from guest speaker Dr. David Jeremiah. If you would like more info on how to get access to this event, please contact Wendy Jones at Allhisglory6@yahoo.com.

Introduction

We continue in a series in the book of Joshua called "Footsteps of Faith." Our title this morning is: "Our Glorious Inheritance".

This is a message for anyone here that might be tired. You are weary in this world. Things are spinning out of control in this world.

Here's the message: This world is temporary. Don't put your hope in this world. We have an inheritance that is not from this world.

My hope this morning is that we will no longer be focused on this world, but that we will lay up treasure in heaven.

This world is not my home.

I'm just a-passing through.

*My treasures are laid up
somewhere beyond the blue.*

Israel was given an inheritance: a place to worship God. It had been promised to Abraham, and now they were finally going to take possession of it. For centuries, Israel

had waited to receive its long-promised inheritance. And now, the day to inhabit the land had arrived. Joshua 13–19 explores the placement of God’s people in the land. What was once promised to Abraham, is now coming to fulfillment in the days of Joshua.

For us today, this passage is equally exciting when we consider **the inheritance promised to us in Christ**—an inheritance we still look for in the new heavens and the new earth. Thus, these chapters should not bore us with their detail; they should stir excitement in our own hope of heaven—i.e., a heaven on earth when Christ returns.

But something further, and this is what I hope to emphasize, we have the down payment of our inheritance already, **the promised Holy Spirit**. We get to enjoy heaven now. I want to look at how to do that and what that means.

Key thought: Every child of God has a glorious inheritance that should be enjoyed right now.

In Joshua 13, there is a drama and an excitement. The day of inheritance has come. For Joshua and Israel, and for us, it’s more than we can grasp and comprehend.

1. OUR INHERITANCE IS **INEXHAUSTIBLE** (13:1-7)

LEADERS ARE EXPENDABLE (13:1)

Leaders are expendable, but our inheritance is inexhaustible. We need to make sure the next generation is engaged, trained, and ready. God’s plan is not bound to your lifetime but encompasses the coming generations. That means the next generation needs to be prepared. It is incumbent upon every believer to do everything you can to train up the next generation. We see this clearly in Joshua’s life, as he nears the end.

Joshua 13:1 | Now Joshua was old and advanced in years, and the Lord said to him, “You are old and advanced in years, and there remains yet very much land to possess.”

Joshua was 80 years old when he began to conquer Canaan. He’s nearing 110 when he dies. Ok now that’s old. Joshua had conquered so much, but there is always more land to be conquered.

A careful look at ‘the land that remains’ shows that it consists of Philistia and Lebanon.¹ In essence, these were the edges of Israel. They had conquered almost the entirety of the land that God had promised. In order to expand the land and hold it, they needed to raise up the next generation. The book of **Judges** showed how leaving a vacuum in leadership can be such a great failure. Let’s take heed to this.

A WORD ON DISCIPLESHIP

We are all called to make disciples. If you are not making disciples, you are missing a major part of your spiritual growth. You grow by helping others grow. The last command given by Jesus is to:

¹ See Yohanan Aharoni, *The Land of the Bible: A Historical Geography*, rev. and enl. (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1979), 233–39, and Yohanan Aharoni and Michael Avi-Yonah, *The Macmillan Bible Atlas*, rev. ed. (New York: Macmillan, 1977), 50–51

Go... and make disciples of all nations. –Matthew 28:20

Who are you discipling? This is the key to our spiritual growth as a church. I am praying that while the culture is having a *breakdown*, we will have a *breakthrough* with God, so that each one of us will be mobilized to help another toward holiness.

Discipleship entails a learner's spirit. It takes a humble, childlike attitude. If you are serious, you will begin to surrender and be free in ways that you never thought possible.

Are you getting discipleship? If not, are you mature enough now so that you are making disciples?

If you want discipleship, talk to me or one of the elders. We will get you going. It's intense, but it will change your life. So, we have learned with Joshua's old age, that leaders are expendable, and each one of us needs to step into that vacuum and lead through discipleship.

LAND IS LIMITED (13:2-5)

And look at the land. There's still so much to conquer. And even if they conquered it all, God is not limited to one strip of land. The whole world is to worship him.

Joshua 13:2 | This is the land that yet remains...

In verses 2-5 we read about the land that remains. Land is limited. As I said, we see in the book of Judges that within one generation, Israel's disobedience invites foreign oppressors. But even more devastating in the history of Israel is the expulsion of Israel from the land when the powers of Assyria and Babylon come and conquer God's obstinate people. What's the answer?

You must choose to enter into the Lord's inheritance for yourself. Go and conquer. Even small sins are not ok. We are to be holy as the Lord is holy (1 Pet 1:16). How holy is God? How perfect is he?

We are to live life, experiencing God in the events and circumstances that the Lord gives us with victory! God guarantees the victory if we proceed in faith. **In this inheritance, there are many trials, tests, and tribulations, but the Lord chooses these things for us.** Enter into the inheritance God appoints for you and rejoice in it.

He will choose our inheritance for us, the excellence of Jacob whom he loves. –Psalm 47:4, NKJV

OUR GOD IS INEXHAUSTIBLE (13:6-7)

Joshua is near the end of his life. He's exhaustible. The land is limited.

We Have a Perfect Weapon

But I want you to see that the people have a weapon that is greater than chariots of iron or horses. We have the inexhaustible God! Look at verse 6.

Joshua 13:6 | I myself will drive them out from before the people of Israel. Only allot the land to Israel for an inheritance, as I have commanded you.

When we speak of Israel's earthly inheritance, we talk in terms of the land, and it's limited and can be taken away. It's just the wrapping paper for the real inheritance. The real inheritance is God who will drive out the enemies. For us that Person is the Holy Spirit. He is what, or better yet, who you are getting in heaven. He's the first installment of our glorious inheritance according to Ephesians 1:13-14 because we cannot encompass God fully.

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. – Ephesians 1:13-14

We are limited and sinful. But God wants us to grow in our capacity to enjoy the fullness of his fellowship. The Holy Spirit is the first installment of our inheritance, and he is able to hold us, sustain us and satisfy us. You cannot exhaust the blessings you have in Christ right now (Eph 1:3).

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.
–Ephesians 1:3

He wants us to experience the unlimited fullness of God.

The Lord wants you... “to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” – Ephesians 3:19

So when God says, “I’ll fight for you...”, he’s saying you lack nothing. You have everything you need. This is a truth that is found constantly in the Word of God. You have everything you need in Jesus for perfect peace and holiness in your life right now.

It's incredible what you have in your inheritance if you will just take hold of it. Paul says you need to open your eyes to the incredible riches of the inheritance you have.

Having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints. –Ephesians 1:18

We have so much, but we need to know how to access the riches of our glorious inheritances as God's saints. You and I are like one of my favorite superheroes.

PETER PARKER

You are like Peter Parker. Remember how Peter Parker became Spiderman? He got bit by a radioactive spider. Understand that the moment he got bit, he had all the power of Spiderman, but not of the skills. He had no idea how to use his powers, but he still had the power. Remember the first time he touched his sink spickets, he ripped them off and water spurted everywhere? Remember he got scared and jumped to the ceiling and was stuck there because he didn't know how to release his adhesive hands? He had the power but not the skills.

God promises to give Israel all that they need. He will drive out the Canaanites. A major phase of our inheritance begins right now, where God drives out the sinful, selfish works of the flesh from us, and gives us the Kingdom of God right here and right now.

Every Christian has all the power they need for holiness and perfect peace. Holiness only comes from a fully surrendered heart. That's what discipleship is all about: learning to walk in perfect harmony with God.

We Have a Better Joshua

Israel's Joshua died. He couldn't train the people the way he might have wanted. **You see Joshua was a great general, but he's just a black and white picture of redemption. The good news of the rest of the story is that another Joshua has come, and our Joshua, King Jesus, gives us an inheritance that is inexhaustible, and cannot be taken away from us.**

Our great God came to us to deliver our inheritance to us. The Son of God gave himself for us on a tree, that we might have the full inheritance.

We Have Greater Promises

That promise looks a bit wild in light of the map, since it prods Israel to aim for dominance far north of Tyre and Sidon. But then the Lord's promises frequently are **wild, as Abraham and a few others could attest.**²

We have greater promises than Joshua. Israel was promised the land of Israel, and we are promised the cosmos.

What are some wild promises that you are looking to God for? Are they spiritual? Are they according to God's will? No matter how outlandish they are, you ought to expect them. God wants you mature. He wants you to leave a spiritual legacy. He wants you to make disciples. He wants to answer far more than anything you ask.

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. –Ephesians 3:20-21

2. OUR INHERITANCE IS **ATTAINABLE** (13:8-13)

Verses 8-33 discuss the inheritance of Manasseh, Gad, and Reuben and all the land East of the Jordan River which Moses conquered with the children of Israel before he died. It's quite impressive. There are so many rivers and mountains and landmarks that are named.

And while it is true that the Lord was their portion, God did not just give Joshua a magic wand to defeat the Canaanites. They had to work hard for it. They had to fight. And sadly, they didn't conquer everything they could have.

² Dale Ralph Davis, *Joshua: No Falling Words*, Focus on the Bible Commentary (Scotland: Christian Focus Publications, 2000), 109.

REACH FOR THE ATTAINABLE

Joshua 13:13 | Yet the people of Israel did not drive out the Geshurites or the Maacathites, but Geshur and Maacath dwell in the midst of Israel to this day.

Israel's inheritance was for them. They were to enjoy it all. They were to attain it, but trusting God in battle. But sad thing is they fell short. As we look at the first three tribes, we see in verse 13 an **incomplete obedience**. It brings no immediate crisis. It seldom does. However, here is a testimony to all God's people from Theologian Dale R. Davis,

We frequently and strangely prove faithful in the great crisis of faith, remain steadfast in severe storms, perhaps even relish the excitement of the heaviest assaults, yet lack the tenacity, the dogged endurance, the patient plodding often required in the prosaic affairs of believing life; we are often loath to be faithful in (what we regard as) little.³ –Theologian Dale R. Davis

What does Christ say about the little things?

One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. –Luke 16:10

God wants us to attain the fullness of our salvation on earth, not just when he comes to get us in his Second Coming. We are promised the full power of the Spirit, the full love of Jesus, and all the fullness of God. He wants us to have “perfect peace” and to “be holy” as God himself is holy.

Christ has attained our eternal salvation, but we are to “move into the land” and attain maturity in Christ, who is our inheritance.

LITTLE VICTORIES

Dear saints, Solomon said it's the “little foxes that spoil the vine” of our relationships (Song 2:15). It's the **little angers and fears** that cut off the vine of God's presence and drive us into unbelief. You don't have to put up with that. You can live a truly happy and contented life regardless of the difficulties and trials of your circumstances. You may think these little victories in your life are unattainable. I want to tell you that God wants you to live a life of holiness perhaps that you've not attained before or that you've attained, but only for short amounts of time.

Do you want that? It's possible through discipleship. That's the only way.

Discipleship provides the Word of God with the presence of God and the encouragement and accountability of mature believers who love you and will care for you in the environment of the local church.

I'm asking, do you want that?

³ Davis, 110.

REMEMBER WHAT YOU HAVE ALREADY ATTAINED

In verse 8 through the end of the chapter, all this seems like so many lakes, rivers, valleys, plains, and towns all jumbled together. However, we must not miss the constant allusions and reminders of Israel's victories. What does this mean for us?

It means we need to remember the victory God has for you in Christ. You have everything you need for victory. You have been united to Christ in his death, his burial and his resurrection, as well as his victorious ascension where Christ sat down at the right hand of God. Now you too are seated in the heavenly places.

In the Spirit, you have the power that raised Jesus from the dead.

In the Word, you have the pathway and instruction for victory.

In the Father, you have all the love and encouragement you could ever need.

In Jesus, you have the right standing, and he wants your outward life to be conformed to your eternal standing with God.

You've been saved. You've experienced the victory of Christ, now it's time to inhabit the land!

3. OUR INHERITANCE IS PERSONAL (13:14-33)

Our final truth we want to understand is the very personal nature of our inheritance. In this section the writer points the people of God to their true inheritance. He does this in the two notes about the Levites. They were exceptional in that they did not receive a land allotment like the other tribes. Rather, Levi's inheritance consisted of the offerings by fire (or "food offerings" or "gifts") belonging to the Lord (13:14) or, quite plainly, of the Lord himself (13:33).

Joshua 13:14 | To the tribe of Levi alone Moses gave no inheritance. The offerings by fire to the Lord God of Israel are their inheritance, as he said to him.

Joshua 13:33 | But to the tribe of Levi Moses gave no inheritance; the Lord God of Israel is their inheritance, just as he said to them.

This was just as God had told Aaron, that the Levites would have no inheritance in the Land, but God would be the priests' inheritance.

And the LORD said to Aaron, "You shall have no inheritance in their land, neither shall you have any portion among them. I am your portion and your inheritance among the people of Israel. – Numbers 18:20

It doesn't get more personal than this.

WE HAVE A PERSONAL GOD

Any believing Israelite could come to adopt this Levite perspective, realizing that, above all else, the Lord himself was his inheritance.

You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living. – Psalm 142:5

Indeed God was the Old Testament believer's 'portion forever'.

God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. –Psalm 73:26

The Israelites knew that the land wasn't the main inheritance. That's why we read so often about the Lord being our portion and inheritance. The Lord remained Israel's inheritance, even when the land was taken away as we read about in Lamentations. Jeremiah is writing while Babylon is destroying the Temple, enslaving the people, and occupying the land. So even when the land is taken away, the Lord, Jeremiah says, is his people's inheritance.⁴

The LORD is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him. –
Lamentations 3:24

The Bible is full of references to the inheritance believers have in Christ.

In [Christ] we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will. –Ephesians 1:11

Our inheritance is, in a word, full fellowship with God himself. It is the sum total of all God has promised us in salvation. Look at these hopeful words in 1 Peter.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. –1 Peter 1:3-5

Imperishable: that means our inheritance in Christ won't decay, rust or fall apart. His love will never fail for you!

Unspoiled: this speaks of having no blemish, but being absolutely perfect. Christ is truly perfect. He is "holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens" (Heb 7:26)

Unfading: it never loses its intensity or excitement. So it is with Christ!

Reserved: Like Abraham, we are "looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God" (Heb 11:10). And it's just for you, guarded and kept. No one can take Christ from you. That city God has built is his people united to him!

So to answer the question in a different way... What is our inheritance? The only thing that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading is God himself. It's as the Psalmist wrote:

Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. –Psalm 73:25

⁴ Davis, 111.

WE HAVE A PERSONAL CALLING

We are not so focused on the things of this earth, the earth's politics and earthly solutions.

A Calling of Heavenly Citizenship

Our inheritance isn't ultimately on earth, though we will inherit the earth. It's just as we read in Philippians.

Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. –Philippians 3:20

We are awaiting Jesus to return at his Second Coming when he will rule and reign over the entire earth. Heaven and earth will be joined in one.

Of course, a good citizen of heaven will be a good citizen on earth, but our great mission is not the politics of this world. No. We are getting people ready for eternal life with Jesus. What good will it do if all the people of our nation have a good economy, but they lose their soul.

Go out and vote, go out and affect change. But that's way, way down on our list of priorities. My mission and goal, like my Lord, is to be a visible representative of the invisible God. We are ambassadors from another country. We are to recruit more citizens for the New Jerusalem, when heaven comes to earth. Get people ready for that.

Just as the compass points north we should be pointing to heaven where our inheritance is.

A Calling of Heavenly Mindedness

So many of us are racked with fears and frustrations. You are so concerned about the things of this earth. How absurd that we who have tasted heaven would not be getting people ready for the world to come. Instead, we have become worried about making this world more comfortable. Listen, real eternal freedom and comfort comes from Christ alone.

We are not here to lay up treasure on earth. We are not here to set up kingdoms on earth. We are here for the expansion of God's kingdom.

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. –Matthew 6:19-21

Where is your heart? That's where you are going to spend your time and treasure. It's fine to give your kids an earthly inheritance, but what good is any of that if they don't have an eternal inheritance?

Conclusion

In the ancient world, kings would mark their territory with images of themselves. They would put up statues. So instead of “Welcome to Babylon”, you’d have a statue of Nebuchadnezzar.

God has also marked his territory. It’s not only Israel, but every tribe, language, people, family, and nation on the earth.

And you are God’s statue. You are his image. You are the visible image of the invisible God, being conformed each day, more and more to his likeness. And through you, God is saying, this earth is mine!

It is so vitally important that you celebrate God’s inheritance by living a that reflects Christ. You are his image to a dying world.