

DOCTRINE OF INHERITANCE

1. DEFINITION:

- a. Inheritance is the acquisition of possessions or property as a right or divine portion from an ancestor at his or her death, also the reception of genetic qualities by transmission from parent to offspring.
- b. Inheritance is the reception of a common, sometimes valuable, possession, condition, or trait from past generations.

2. VOCABULARY:

- a. κληρονομία - kleronomia – (Greek noun) – inheritance, possession, property. (1 Peter 1:4)
- b. κληρονομέω - kleronomeo – (Gk. verb) – to inherit, to be an heir, to obtain. (Heb. 1:4, 14; Rev. 21:7)
- c. κληρονόμος - kleronomos – (Gk. n.) – an heir, one who inherits or takes possession. (Titus 3:7; James 2:5)
- d. יָרַשׁ - yarash – (Hebrew verb) – to take possession of, to inherit (Gen. 15:7)

3. Jesus Christ is the heir of all things. (Heb. 1:2)
4. Inheritance is based on the death of another. (Heb. 9:15-17; Rom. 5:8)
5. As believers in Jesus Christ we are said to inherit salvation. (Heb. 1:14)
6. Our inheritance is based on our election (1 Pet. 3:9; Heb. 9:15b), which is based on our position in Jesus Christ. (Eph. 1:10c, 11 with Eph. 1:4)
7. Abraham was given a promise of inheritance of the land from the River of Egypt to the Euphrates River. (Gen. 15:7-21)
8. Since we are in Christ, then we are spiritually the seed of Abraham, and we share in the inheritance promised to him and to his descendents. (Gal. 3:18, 29; Rom. 4:13, 14)
9. Our inheritance is based on our relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Therefore, we are His children and joint heirs with Jesus Christ. (Gal. 3:26; Rom. 8:16, 17)
10. Our inheritance demands that we have eternal life. (Titus 3:7)
11. Our inheritance includes sharing the destiny of our Lord Jesus Christ in all things except His death. (Eph. 1:5, 11)

12. Our inheritance is related to heaven forever and is the basis of our eternal security. (1 Pet. 1:4, 5; 1 John 5:11-13)
13. Our inheritance includes a resurrection body (1 John 3:2; 1 Cor. 15:35-57) and a heavenly home. (1 Pet. 1:4; John 14:2,3)
14. The indwelling Holy Spirit is the “down payment” (pledge) on our inheritance. (Eph. 1:14)
15. Our inheritance is augmented by our intake of the word of God’s grace. (Acts 20:32; Col. 3:24)
16. As believers in the “church age,” we are to inherit positions in the future millennial kingdom. (James 2:5; Matt. 5:3, 5; 25:34)
17. In addition to the inheritance guaranteed to every believer, there are special rewards given for spiritual production during the Christian life:
 - a. **Wreath of life** – for persevering under testing, for courage under suffering, for enduring false persecution. (James 1:12; Heb. 10:32-36; Matt. 5:10-12; Rev. 2:10)
 - b. **Wreath of righteousness** – for fighting the good fight, finishing the course, keeping the faith, loving His appearing. (2 Tim. 4:6-8)
 - c. **Wreath of rejoicing** – for winning souls to salvation (1 Thess. 2:19-20; Phil 4:1)
 - d. **Wreath of glory** – for those who shepherd the flock well. (1 Pet. 5:1-4)
 - e. **Incorruptable wreath** – for those who strive in all things with self control. (1 Cor. 9:25-27)
 - f. (possibly) **The “Order of the Morning Star”** – for those who are given rulership over the nations during the millennial kingdom, for overcomers. (Rev. 2:26-28; Rom. 12:21; Luke 19:10-27)