

Countryside

Bible
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Inheritance

“*Something to Think About*” Series by Don Ward

A German writer, Erich Sauer, in his book TRIUMPH OF THE



CRUCIFIED (1952) wrote, “Belief in the visible kingdom of God on the old earth was originally the common spiritual property of all Christians. Only with the start of the growing Catholicism was it lost, as by Clement, Origen and Augustine”.

The “kingdom of God” makes sense out of the bible from beginning to end, from the heavens and earth created new in Genesis to the glorious “*new heavens and earth*” of Revelation 21.

Did God pronounce His creation “*good and very good*” (Gen. 1:31) only to finally destroy it? Was His original purpose completely thwarted beyond redemption by the fall? *For this is what the LORD says-- he who created the heavens he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited—*(Isaiah 45:18)

Daniel describes God’s kingdom as the last and lasting kingdom. *“In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.* Daniel 2:44

Sin and corruption have badly marred God's world. But Jesus is returning to restore everything. *He (Jesus) must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.* (Acts 3:21)

The primary significance of inheritance was land. God selected Abraham to be the father of His chosen race and made a covenant with Abraham that he and his descendants would inherit land as an everlasting possession (Gen. 13:14, 17:7-8). It appeared at first to be the land of Canaan but that only foreshadowed a greater, future fulfillment which is to include the whole "world" (Rom. 4:13) From that time the promised inheritance of land ("the earth", KJV) was reiterated to the faithful of that race (consider just Psalms alone -25:13; 37:9; 37:11; 37:22; 37:29; 37:34). Even as Jesus said, "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth" (Matt. 5:5)

Yet the promised inheritance made to Abraham and his faithful descendants was never fulfilled, again pointing to a future fulfillment- the coming kingdom of God. "*These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised.* (Heb. 11:39)

As the boundaries of the inheritance were expanded to include the entire earth, his heirs were expanded to include all who are in Christ Jesus. Through Christ, Abraham's seed, Gentile peoples can also share in the same promised inheritance made to Abraham and his descendants! *You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise* (Gal. 3:26-29).

Still, many think salvation comes in two varieties; one for Israel and another for Gentile Christians. No. Salvation is the same and our opportunities are the same through expressed faith in Christ Jesus. Rom. 11:17-21 explains that where Israel was broken off because of failure to believe in Christ, Gentiles are grafted in because of faith- into the same plan of salvation. And of Israel the bible says, *And if they do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.* Romans 11:23

Chapters 2 & 3 of Ephesians are very helpful here. We quote only Eph. 3:6. *This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.*

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. . . Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. (Matt. 25:31, 34)

Here is a real-world gospel. A tangible inheritance. God's eternal kingdom.

Pray, . . . your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Matt. 6:10

Have you responded to this "good news"? Now is the day of salvation. We can be among those who will "inherit the earth". You know the saying, "God made only so much real estate." And I'm afraid without an inheritance we are not going to have any of it.

Give me a call if I can be of help or for further study material go to

<http://www.mindspring.com/~anthonybuzzard/articles.htm> or <http://www.comingkingdom.org/ATCmag.html>