

INHERIT YOUR INHERITANCE –IT’S GOD PROMISE
SUNDAY 17TH JANUARY 2010

Joshua 1:1-9

GOD’S PROMISE OF INHERITANCE.

God has promised us an everlasting inheritance and every spiritual blessing through Jesus Christ. Because He has promised us eternal life, forgiveness, peace, joy and abundant life, we must claim our inheritance.

Ephesians 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.” NKJV Warren Wiersbe says that ‘too often we live like defeated paupers’. It’s like going hungry in the midst of plenty.

WHAT IS INHERITANCE:

Definition: The receipt of property/estate as a gift or by legal right, usually upon the death of one's father.

In ancient Israel the property of a deceased person was usually distributed according to law or tribal custom. Written wills were rarely used. The real and personal property of a father was normally divided among his sons. A larger amount, usually a double portion, went to the eldest son, who assumed the care of his mother and unmarried sisters.

To the Hebrew mind, the term inheritance had strong spiritual and national associations extending far beyond the family estate. The land of Canaan was regarded as an inheritance from the Lord because God had promised the land to Abraham and his descendants (Num 33:53). Both Moses and Joshua were told by the Lord to divide the land of Canaan among the tribes "as an inheritance" (Num 26:52-53; Josh 13:6). God directed that the land be distributed to each tribe by lot according to its population.

You might say that is unfair, but no one queries you about your property, you give it to whoever you like. So God cannot be queried because ‘The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein (Psalm 24:1).

For this promise of inheriting the inheritance and any other promises of God to be fulfilled, people have their part of obedience and stepping out in faith to play and God has His part of ensuring the success to play.

If you inherit anything from your parents, you have got to claim it otherwise it will not come to you automatically. You have to liaise with the executors, show proof that you are legitimate beneficiary through your identity etc. Sometime other people challenge the will, and then you’ve got to fight for it. And we do everything within our power to inherit our inheritance.

The heir hunters’ programme on BBC 1 10am Monday to Friday, Fraser & Fraser, Lady Tevoit and others are making a living by doing extensive search to find the people who might unknowingly be entitled to an inheritance left by their relatives they do not even know and every time they are successful. If we do so much to inherit what is perishable how much more we must fight to keep our eternal inheritance.

From today, we will be reminding ourselves, of the spiritual inheritance we have from God and the process to get this inheritance by studying part of the book of Joshua.

God's promise is irrevocable and he has all the resources, power, might, strength and blessings to fulfil what He has promised and nothing can and will stand in His way to accomplish his promise. Is it not wise to trust that God?

God has promised Abraham (Gen 13:15), Isaac (Gen 26:3) and Jacob (Gen 28:13) the land of Canaan as their inheritance. His promise in Genesis 15:13 that they will serve other nation for 400 years have passed and they have wandered in the wilderness for 40 years because of their complaining and disobedience. Now is the time to stop complaining and become conquerors and inherit their inheritance.

WHO IS THIS JOSHUA?

Moses, the leader they knew is now dead, God buried His worker but His work continues. The Israelites would need another leader who will lead them into the Promised Land. This new leader was Joshua. What is the profile of this leader?

This man was born into slavery in Egypt and was named Hoshea meaning 'salvation' (Num 13: 8) but Moses changed his name to Joshua, meaning 'Jehovah is salvation' (Num 1:16). The one God will use he prepares from the womb and the name means so much to God.

He was a slave in Egypt and knew all the hardship and persecution of slavery.

He was a fine soldier, he fought the Amalekites two months after they left Egypt (Exo.17:8-16).

He was a servant because he served under Moses and was always remaining in the Tabernacle and he was also a worshipper always before God at the tent of meeting.

He was a spy, one of the twelve who surveyed the Land of Canaan for 40 days and one of the two who gave good and confident report about the Land.

Joshua was a successor, after Moses, God chose him to lead His people across the Jordan to inherit their inheritance.

From these accounts you will realise that God takes care to prepare the people He would use for His work.

Therefore, there is the challenge for the new leader to go into a new land and live a new life. God is always doing new things and as He led His people into new life of freedom and prosperity, He will lead you to into a new life of freedom and prosperity in 2010 and I believe that new things are about to come your way.

Of course Joshua must have felt that Moses' shoes were too big and his garments too heavy for him to wear but what a leader needs is an encouragement and the God who worked with Moses assured Joshua that He would work with him also. Hence, within the first 9 verses of chapter one, God encouraged Joshua to be strong and courageous three times.

ARISE AND INHERIT V2 -5

God commanded Joshua to arise, get up and cross over with all the people to possess/inherit the land He is giving them. Why must they arise, because they have camped in the plains of Moab to mourn the death of Moses (Deut.34:8) but now is the time to go into action.

Warren Wiersbe commented that at this time, what a new leader like Joshua would need is not advice but encouragement and this God provided abundantly at the onset. This is a good advice for all that instead of advising your leaders which often highlights their inadequacies or shortcomings, encourage them which often focuses on their strengths.

Flowing from this strong affirmation that God would never let Joshua down was God's threefold encouragement.

1. v 6. First, Joshua was commanded to be strong and courageous because of God's promise of the land. Strength and courage would be required for the strenuous military campaign that lies ahead, but Joshua was to keep uppermost in his mind the fact that he would succeed in causing Israel to inherit the land because it had been promised to their forefathers, that is, to Abraham (Gen 13:14-17) Isaac (Gen 26:3-5), Jacob (Gen 28:13), and the entire nation, the seed of Abraham (Ex 6:8), as an eternal possession. And Joshua now at last was to lead the children of Israel into possession of this Promised Land. What a strategic role he was to play at this crucial time in his nation's history!

While in any given generation the fulfilment of this great and significant promise depends on Israel's obedience to God, there can be no question that the Bible affirms her right to the land. By divine contract the title is hers even though she will not possess it totally and enjoy it fully until she is right with God.

2. v 7-8. Joshua was again commanded to be strong and very courageous, being careful to obey all the Law of Moses. This command is based on God's power through His Word. This is a stronger exhortation, indicating that greater strength of character would be required to obey God's Word faithfully and fully than to win military battles! The emphasis in these verses is clearly on a written body of truth, the Torah or Pentateuch.

To enjoy prosperity and be successful in the conquest of the Promised Land, Joshua was to do three things with regard to the Scriptures:

- (a) The Law was not to depart from his mouth; he was to talk about it
- (b) He was to meditate on it day and night, to think about it
- (c) He was to do everything written in it, to obey its commands fully and to act by it.

I am not underplaying prayer here, but I believe that obedience works better than prayer. Praying till tomorrow in total disobedience to the word of God does not move God, whereas silence before God in obedience moves His hands.

Joshua's life demonstrates that in a practical way he lived according to the teachings of the Law of Moses, the only portion of the Word of God then in written form. This alone explains the victories he achieved in battles and the success that marked his entire career.

3. v 9. The third call to courage addressed to Joshua was based on the promise of God's presence. This did not minimise the task Joshua faced. He would encounter giants and fortified cities, but God's presence would make all the difference.

Joshua probably had times when he felt weak, inadequate, and frightened. But God knew all about his feelings of personal weakness and fear and told Joshua three times, be strong and courageous (vv. 6, 7, 9). God also urged him not to be afraid or discouraged (Deut 1:21; 31:8; Josh 8:1).

These charges with their accompanying assurances, God's promise, God's power, and God's presence were sufficient to last a lifetime.

We too today can benefit and can be uplifted by the same three assurances.

Whatever situation you find yourself, be assured that God's promise, His power and presence are with you. He will ensure that you receive your inheritance only be courageous and strengthened.

CONCLUSION:

But before you inherit your possession, you must believe God's promises for your life.

You must believe that He has power to accomplish that which He has promised and you must believe that He will never leave you nor forsake you, meaning His presence will always be with you.

You must also yield to the book of the law like Joshua did. Joshua had the Torah to meditate on; we have the whole scripture to meditate on. Joshua led the Israelites to possess their inheritance of the Land of Canaan; Jesus has led us to possess our inheritance in God. We have to fight the battle with the Devil and all his devices to take this possession.

In order to win we must know the enemy's stronghold, it is wise to do so; we must be ready and position ourselves for the battle, it is necessary; we must obey God through the scripture, it is essential for success; we must avoid sin because it brings defeat. If we fall into sin, we must repent immediately because it brings us victory. We must not engage in deception in enslaves us again; we must expect God to wrought His miracles; they deliver us from our enemies.

I feel the Holy Spirit saying to me that year 2010 is year of fullness, fulfilment and fruitfulness. You may be feeling weak and inadequate, those state of your life make you qualify for God's help. As He encouraged Joshua to be strong, he is encouraging you to be strong too.

As I was pondering on this, He reminded me that year SEVEN is a year of perfection, fullness, abundance, rest, and completion. He also reminded me that this is our seventh year of ministry and he wants to do something for those who will believe Him for this

I believe that this message is for some people here who will believe it. I do not know how long you have been in camp, mourning about your situation, God is saying this is the time to get up and possess the your inheritance

By the time we finish this series you will experience the supernatural presence of God in your life and you will possess your possession.

God bless you.