

Inheritance as possession.

1. In the Old Testament inheritance referred to the ownership of property, especially property that is passed down from one generation to another.
2. The property that belonged to Zelophehad in the tribe of Manasseh. Numbers 36:2

Numbers 36:2 And they said: "The LORD commanded my lord Moses to give the land as an inheritance [*(na lā)* "inheritance, heritage, possession"] by lot to the children of Israel, and my lord was commanded by the LORD to give the inheritance of our brother Zelophehad to his daughters.

Z died without a son. Under the law of primogeniture the eldest son inherited. With no son the inheritance was passed to his five daughters. But what if they married outside of the tribe of Manasseh? Then the property would have gone outside the tribe and the land owned by Manasseh would shrink. To protect their property, Moses stipulated that the daughters had to marry within the tribe, thus keeping the land intact. Read Numb 36:7-9

Numbers 36:7 "So the inheritance of the children of Israel shall not change hands from tribe to tribe, for every one of the children of Israel shall keep the inheritance of the tribe of his fathers.

Numbers 36:8 "And every daughter who possesses an inheritance in any tribe of the children of Israel shall be the wife of one of the family of her father's tribe, so that the children of Israel each may possess the inheritance of his fathers.

Numbers 36:9 "Thus no inheritance shall change hands from one tribe to another, but every tribe of the children of Israel shall keep its own inheritance."

3. "Inheritance," "property," "possession" and "ownership" are interchangeable ideas.
4. Certain categories of people lived in the land but did not own the land: sojourners, strangers, even Levites: Exod 12:48–49; Num 18:20, 24 Even Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob lived in the land but never owned it Heb. 11:3; Gen. 21:33; 35:27

Ex. 12:48 "But if a stranger sojourns with you, and celebrates the Passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near to celebrate it; and he shall be like a native of the land. But no uncircumcised person may eat of it.

Ex. 12:49 "The same law shall apply to the native as to the stranger who sojourns among you."

Num. 18:20 Then the LORD said to Aaron, “You shall have no inheritance [(n al) “*inherit, possess*”] in their land, nor own any portion among them; I am your portion [(leq) *share, part, territory*] and your inheritance [(na lâ) “*inheritance, heritage, possession*”] among the sons of Israel.

Num. 18:24 “For the tithe of the sons of Israel, which they offer as an offering to the LORD, I have given to the Levites for an inheritance; therefore I have said concerning them, They shall have no inheritance among the sons of Israel.”

Heb. 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

Gen. 21:33 And Abraham planted a tamarisk tree at Beersheba, and there he called on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God.

Gen. 35:27 And Jacob came to his father Isaac at Mamre of Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron), where Abraham and Isaac had sojourned.

5. Even in the Millennium kingdom not all who dwell there will possess it;

1Cor. 15:50 ¶ Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

6. Inheritance was given positionally or potentially on the the basis of grace, but the realization and enjoyment of the inheritance was a reward of obedience.

Josh. 14:8 “Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt with fear; but I followed the LORD my God fully.

Josh. 14:9 “So Moses swore on that day, saying, ‘Surely the land on which your foot has trodden shall be an inheritance [(na lâ) *inheritance, heritage, possession.*] to you and to your children forever, because you have followed the LORD my God fully.’

7. The possession of the land therefore was conditioned on obedience, it was merited. Therefore as a possession it could be lost (as seen in the case of Zelophehad’s daughters).

Gen. 17:14 “But an uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant.”

Num. 14:24 “But My servant Caleb, because he has had a different spirit and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land which he entered, and his descendants shall take possession of it.

8. The entire Exodus Generation had become God's firstborn son Ex 4:22-23, yet the entire generation with the exception of Caleb and Joshua forfeited the inheritance due the firstborn. God disinherited them, but they did not lose their salvation. They never entered the land. The blessing in time was given, but when they disobeyed at Kadesh Barnea it was withdrawn.

Exodus 4:22 "Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: "Israel is My son, My firstborn.

Exodus 4:23 "So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn." ' "

9. Though not all have an inheritance in the land all have God as their inheritance and possession.

Psa. 73:26 My flesh and my heart may fail, But God is the strength of my heart and my portion [(/eq)] forever.

Psa. 119:57 The LORD is my portion; I have promised to keep Thy words.

Psa. 142:5 ¶ I cried out to Thee, O LORD; I said, "Thou art my refuge, My portion in the land of the living.

10. For the church age, Christ is given ownership of all things, and the believer share in that ownership as a joint heir in Christ only as we mature as believers.

Romans 8:17 and if children, then heirs -- heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

Note the punctuation

Woman without her man is nothing

The Doctrine of Christ's Heirship

1. Heirship is rooted in the essence of the Son, not in the acts of the Son in history. He is called to be heir because He is God, not because of what He did.

Matt. 21:33 The parable of the man who planted a vineyard. Was the Son the heir before or after He came to the vineyard. Before, he came because He was the Son not became a son because He came.

Galatians 4:1 Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all,

Summary: It is an eternal heirship based on WHO He is not on WHAT He did. Said another way, He has eminent domain. The earth is JC's personal property. So when the State argues for eminent domain they are in rebellion.

2. Ps. 8:5 Man is placed under the authority of man. Man is some way, not directly, but indirectly through man's relationship to planet earth, has control over the universe. Planet earth is the control point. Whoever controls the earth, controls the universe, whoever controls the earth, controls the angels. So Christ's dominion over the earth gives him a cosmic dominion.
3. Heb 2:5 He has put the world under the angels. Right now the angels are in control of the angels, but the Son will be in charge of the world to come. heb. 11:9 Abraham knew this.

Summary: Three points, Christ's heirship is eternal, cosmic, and ultimate, Eph. 1:10; This makes us, by virtue of our relationship to Christ, joint heirs, cf. Gal. 4:5. Notice it is the HS who testifies that we are sons. Rom 8:16. This should effect the way we view things. We should have a relaxed mental attitude toward things, we should be like Christ and not worry about who has control for the moment.