

How To Claim Our Spiritual Inheritance

“Behold, the days are coming when I will make a New Covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah” says the Lord (Jeremiah 31:31; Hebrews 8:8).

‘Jesus took bread and praising God, gave thanks and asked God to bless it to their use. When He had broken it He gave it to the disciples and said, “Take, eat. This is My body given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.” Then He took a cup (filled with the juice of grapes) after supper and when He had given thanks, He gave it to the disciples saying, “Drink of it all of you, for this is My blood of the New Covenant being poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins” (Matthew 26:26 to 28; Mark 14:22 to 24; Luke 22:19 to 20). ‘This cup is the New Covenant in My blood ... Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming the Lord’s death until He comes again’ (1 Corinthians 11:25 & 26).

‘Give thanks to the Father, Who has made us worthy to share the inheritance of His holy people in the Light. He has delivered us out of the power of darkness into the Kingdom of the Son of His love’ (Colossians 1:12 & 13). Jesus was the Mediator of the New Covenant (Hebrews 12:24). The Old Covenant which was God’s Will and Testament given to the Israelites, is called the Old Testament in English and the Tenach in Hebrew. The New Covenant Jesus made with His blood, is called the New Testament in English and the B’rit Hadashah in Hebrew. The house of Israel will always be Israel and those Israeli’s who have chosen to accept Jesus as their Messiah are part of the New Covenant, and they are also, and will always be part of the Old Covenant. Together, Jews and Gentiles are joint heirs with Jesus to inherit the Kingdom of God. ‘We are children of God and we are His heirs also. Heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus’ (Romans 8:17). The New Testament is the charter of what was once called, ‘The Way’ or ‘The Assemblies’, now called Christianity. When we use the word ‘Testament’ we are using it in the same context as a ‘last Will and Testament’ of someone. That word Testament implies something has been bequeathed to us by the Will of someone who has died. The New Testament tells us of all that has been made available to us through the death of Jesus on our behalf. It reveals our inheritance and it reveals all who believe in Him are heirs of a Kingdom.

Before Jesus came, only the Jewish people had access to God via the temple and its ordinances. Very few Gentiles were accepted into the Jewish way of life. Gentiles were largely ignored as God slowly built His nation of holy people (Deuteronomy 7:6), beginning with Abraham and Sarah. Once the Jewish people were ready, God sent His Messiah Jesus, born into the Jewish culture to Jewish parents, speaking the Hebrew language in the land of Israel. Once Jesus came and Christianity was established amongst Jewish people, only then did God reach out to Gentiles, who were so far removed from God, they had completely lost their way. ‘Remember, at one time you Gentiles were considered unclean in the flesh. You were at that time separated from the Messiah, alienated from the Commonwealth of Israel, estranged from the Covenants of the promise, having no hope and without God in the world. Now in Messiah Jesus, you who once were far off are made near in the blood of Jesus. He is our peace, Who made both (Jews and Gentiles) one, and He broke down the wall of partition, having abolished in the flesh the hostility (between Jews and Gentiles), the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so He could create in Himself one New Body of the two, making peace and reconciling them both in one Body to God through the cross, having killed the hostility. Jesus came and preached peace to you (Gentiles) who were far off and to those (Jews) who were near. Through Him we both (Jews and Gentiles) have our access in one Holy Spirit to the Father. You are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and of the Household of God, being built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Messiah Jesus Himself being the Chief Cornerstone in Whom the whole building, fitted together, grows into a Holy Temple in the Lord, in Whom you (Gentiles) are also built together for a habitation of God in the Holy Spirit’ (Ephesians 2:11 to 22). Only after Gentiles accept Jesus, does God refer to us as, “A chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, people for God’s own possession so you may proclaim the excellence of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light. In time past you were nobody’s but now you are God’s people, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy” (1 Peter 2:9 & 10).

The word ‘Jew’ comes from the name ‘Judah’, one of the twelve sons of Jacob. All the descendents of Abraham’s eight sons and his nephew Lot’s two sons were Hebrews but only the descendents of Judah, Benjamin and Levi were called Jewish. The Old Testament mentions three Gentiles who joined the Israelites; Caleb, Rahab and Ruth. Caleb’s father Jephunneh was from the tribe of the Kenizzites so his mother must have come from the tribe of Judah because Caleb was given land ‘among the people of Judah’. The Kenizzites came from Kenaz, the grandson of Esau through his son Eliphaz, so Caleb’s father was a Hebrew man but not Jewish. Caleb joined with the Israelites and was given a vast amount of land as an inheritance

because he wholly followed the Lord (Numbers 32:12; 34:19). 'Joshua blessed Caleb and gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh for an inheritance. So Hebron became the inheritance of Caleb, son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite because he wholly followed the Lord, the God of Israel ... to Caleb, Joshua gave a portion among the peoples of Judah' (Joshua 14:13 & 14; 15:13). Rahab was the woman from the tribe of the Hittites who became an ancestor of Jesus (Joshua 2:1 to 6:25). She married Salmon and had a son named Boaz who was the great grandfather of King David. Ruth was from the tribe of the Moabites who came from Abraham's nephew Lot, so although she was not Jewish, she was Hebrew. She married Rahab's son Boaz so she also became an ancestor of Jesus (Matthew 1:5).

'A mixed multitude of people went with the Children of Israel (out of Egypt), with flocks, herds and very much livestock' (Exodus 12:38). Of all the thousands of people who came out of Egypt, only two people were allowed to inherit the land promised to Abraham's descendants; Joshua and Caleb. All the rest of the multitude of people were dis-inherited because of their bad attitude or because they disobeyed the Lord. Caleb said, "Let us go up at once and possess the land, for we are well able to conquer it" (Numbers 13:30). Because the Israelites were afraid of the Anakim, they wanted to stone Caleb and Joshua for suggesting they go into the Promised Land and conquer the enemy living there (Numbers 14:10). Because Joshua and Caleb had the correct attitude and wholly followed the Lord, they were the only two people who were allowed to inherit land. 'You will not enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun ... Joshua and Caleb remained alive of all those men who went to spy out the land' (Numbers 14:30 & 38). Apart from Joshua and Caleb, it was only the children born during the wilderness travels who were permitted to enter the Promised Land that later became Israel.

That is a lesson we all need to learn. We need to know how to claim our Godly inheritance. If we want to inherit the promises of God, we too must wholly follow the Lord and obey His every word. We also need to have the correct attitude of faith like Joshua and Caleb expressed. It was the lack of faith that angered the Lord. "Because My servant Caleb had another spirit (attitude) and has followed Me fully, I will bring him into the land into which he went (to spy out) and his descendants will possess it" (Numbers 14:24). Salvation and eternal life are the inheritance we can have if we walk in the Light. Some Christians are like a person who has inherited a fortune but has never tried to find out what their inheritance is or claim it, or they behave so badly they are 'dis-inherited'. There is the Kingdom of God and Light, and there is the kingdom of darkness. These two kingdoms are in opposition to each other. Our inheritance is in the Kingdom of Light but to gain our inheritance, we first have to be delivered from the kingdom of darkness and slavery to sin. The Israelites were delivered from the bondage of slavery in Egypt by the blood of the sacrificial lamb, and 'baptised' through the water of the Red Sea then they walked under the fire and cloud of the Holy Spirit. Only then they were expected to walk in obedience under the Old Covenant. Under the New Covenant we too are delivered and redeemed by the blood of our Lamb (Jesus) that was shed on the cross, ushering in the New Covenant, we should be baptised in water by full immersion, filled with the Holy Spirit then we must walk in obedience. If we accept our salvation then refuse to be obedient, then although we have the promise of eternal life, it will not happen unless we walk wholly with the Lord. The example of that is the Children of Israel who had the potential to inherit the land but lost it due to disobedience.

Once we are brought into the Light, we receive forgiveness of sin, which makes us able to claim and enter into our inheritance. When people are in spiritual darkness, they are blind to their real condition. We need God's Light to reveal our true condition and that Light is provided by the Gospel written in the Word of God. It is the Word of God that reveals our condition of being spiritually lost. 'Even when we were dead in our sin, He made us alive together in fellowship with Jesus, for it is by grace we were saved and He raised us up together with Him and made us sit down together in heavenly places' (Ephesians 2:5 & 6). That is our eternal inheritance – sitting with the Lord Jesus in heaven. The Lord does not mean we were physically dead, but we were spiritually dead in our sin and cut off from our lives in God. Our disobedience to God exposes us to the influence of the spirit of disobedience. That is true of all of us. We were all by nature, the children of wrath (Ephesians 2:3). God's purpose of the Gospel is to deliver us from God's wrath and bring us into the Light. God's purpose is for us to be forgiven so we can be found worthy to receive the inheritance He has for us. Every person ever born, all have an inheritance waiting for them. If people refuse to accept God into their lives and they die in their sin and are not forgiven, they will miss out on their God-given inheritance.

The word 'redeem' means to buy back. 'In Jesus we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sin according to the riches of His grace' (Ephesians 1:7). We were 'bought' with the blood of Jesus when He paid the price for us. 'You are not your own. You were bought with a price' (1 Corinthians 6:19 & 20). There is the spiritual aspect of salvation and the physical aspect, because we are both mortal and spiritual. In fact, because we are body, soul and spirit, we are two-thirds spiritual and one third physical. Jesus made

provision for us in all three realms. Transgressions and iniquities are spiritual. They are acts of disobedience and rebellion against God. Jesus paid the price for us and gave us spiritual peace that passes the human understanding and reaches down into our soul. 'God's peace which passes all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Jesus our Messiah' (Philippians 4:7). Shalom, the Hebrew word for peace means much more than just the absence of worry. It means freedom from all kinds of fear, agitation and inner conflict. Peace begins in the soul. Jesus' death gave us peace. 'He was wounded (pierced, stabbed) for our transgressions and He was bruised for our iniquities (spiritual), the chastisement of peace was on Him and with the stripes (lashing) we are healed' (Isaiah 53:5).

We are made up of body, soul and spirit but we can only see the body. Our soul and spirit are invisible to us but not to God Who oversees our souls. 'You were going astray like sheep but now have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls' (1 Peter 2:25). When we die, the body is lost to the sea if the person died at sea and could not be found; to the earth after burial or fire during cremation. After death, the spirit (of life) returns to God Who gave it at the time of our conception. 'You do not know what is the direction of the wind, or how the spirit (of life) comes to the bones in the womb of a pregnant woman ... The spirit returns to God Who gave it' (Ecclesiastes 11:5; 12:7). It is the soul, not the spirit of life that feels emotions like love, elation, peace, anguish or sorrow. Love: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind' (Luke 10:27). Elation: Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord" (Luke 1:46). Peace: 'Take My yoke and learn from Me, for I am gentle and meek in heart and you will find peace for your souls' (Matthew 11:29). Anguish: Jesus said to the disciples, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death" (Matthew 26:38) Sorrow: Mary was told, "Yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul (when she watched Jesus brutally tortured then crucified)" (Luke 2:35). It is the soul of the unsaved that will end up in Hades, not the spirit. In either Heaven or Hades we will receive a resurrected body. Some people will be resurrected to eternal life with God and others will be resurrected to eternal torment (Daniel 12:2). 'There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen, living in luxury every day. A beggar named Lazarus lay at his gate, full of sores and starving. Lazarus died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, the rich man lifted up his eyes and being in torment, saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. The rich man cried out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue for I am in anguish in this flame"' (Luke 16:19 to 24). 'Do not be afraid of people who kill the body but are not able to kill the soul. Rather, fear God Who is able to destroy both soul and body in Hades' (Matthew 10:28).

The universal guilt of all humanity, is each of us has turned to our own way. Not all of us have committed every sin, but we are all guilty of turning away from God. 'All we like sheep have gone astray. We have all turned, every one to his own way and the Lord has laid upon Him (Jesus) the guilt and iniquity of us all' (Isaiah 53:6). To inherit eternal life, we must turn to God. Listening to God's voice is vitally important. Our whole destiny and well-being is determined by whose voice we listen to. It is not sufficient to just listen to the Lord, we must also obey His voice. It is impossible to obey God unless we first hear and listen to Him. It is His voice that tells us what He requires us to do in the first place. The one thing God expects of us, is for us to listen to His voice every day as He meets with us. God really does come to meet with us every morning. 'What is man that You should magnify him, that You are mindful of him, that You should visit him every morning?' (Job 7:17 & 18). Many people are unaware God comes to meet with us every morning with His quiet, still, small voice, so sadly, they miss out on intimate fellowship with Him when the dew is still fresh. 'God commanded them, "Listen to My voice. I will be your God and you will be My people. Walk in the entire way I have command you so it may be well with you." But they would not listen to Me nor obey Me. They went their own way and in the stubbornness of their own hearts, and they went backwards instead of forwards' (Jeremiah 7:23 & 24). That is what happens to people who do not listen to God. They backslide into sin – they go backwards instead of forwards into the promises of God. The key requirement of God is we listen to His voice. Notice the simple requirement for God to be ours and for us to be His people, is for us to listen to Him and obey Him. 'Behold, God's dwelling is with His people. He will dwell with them. They will be His people and God Himself will be with them as their God' (Revelation 21:3).

As born-again believers, God has given us everything we need to fulfil our spiritual destiny with Him. God's provision is in His promises. 'May grace and God's peace be multiplied as you come to a full knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. God's divine power has given us everything we need for life and Godliness through our knowledge of the One Who called us by His own glory and holiness. By these He has given to us His precious and great promises, so through them we may come to share in God's own divine nature and escape the corruption of the world' (2 Peter 1:2 to 4). Here are some points to ponder ... Our ultimate inheritance is God Himself ... God's provision is in abundance ... God is our only source and Jesus is the only way to salvation ... God's power has already given us everything we need and it is all through knowing

Jesus ... By accepting the promises, we participate in His divine nature ... As we do this we escape the corruption in the world that works through evil desires ... The nature of God and corruption are incompatible ... The Light of God dispels the darkness of this world.

Joshua provided a path for us to follow. Hear the words of the Lord our God as He spoke to Joshua. "No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses so I will be with you. I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and of good courage for you will inherit the land. Be strong and very courageous so you may do according to all I command you. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left so you may prosper wherever you go. This Book (the Torah; the first five books of the Bible) will not depart out of your mouth but you will meditate on it day and night so you may observe all that is written in it. You will make your way prosperous and then you will deal wisely and have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and very courageous. Do not be afraid neither be dismayed for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:5 to 9). We can apply all these promises to our lives on condition we obey the voice of the Lord.

Read what the Bible says about the Promised Land. It typifies eternal life, eternal rest for the people of the New Covenant who would come thousands of years after the people of the Old Covenant. "We who have believed do enter into rest as God said, "As I swore in my wrath, they (disobedient people) will not enter My rest," although the works (for salvation) were finished from the foundation of the world ... The promise remains for some to enter their rest, and those who were formerly given the good news about it and failed to receive it, did not enter because of their disobedience ... this mention of a rest was not a reference to them entering into Canaan (the Promised Land), for if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have mentioned another day (time period). There is still a Sabbath rest reserved for the true people of God. Those people who have entered into God's rest have also ceased from human labours just as God rested from His own labours (on the seventh day)' (Hebrews 4:3 to 10; Genesis 2:2). After God had spoken, the Israelites had the legal right to cross over into their Promised Land but they had not taken possession of it. When God makes a promise to us, it is the same. He makes the promise, so we are assured we already have it, but from the time God promises to the time we receive it, could take years. It is one thing to accept the promise, but another thing entirely to actually receive what has been promised. That is where the timing of the Lord stretches our patience and faith. The Lord promised Abraham a son but it took 25 years for the Lord to fulfil that promise, and Isaac was born at God's set time (Genesis 21:2). Once the Israelites were given the land, there were initially two miracles that helped them on their way – the miraculous parting of the Jordan River and the miracle at Jericho but after that, they had to fight for all the rest of the land. They had to actually stand on the ground they were claiming (Joshua 1:3). The area of land promised to the children of Israel was a vast piece of land. 'Every place where the sole of your foot will tread will be yours, from the (Sinai) desert to Lebanon, from the Euphrates River to the (Mediterranean) sea will be your border' (Deuteronomy 11:24). Sadly, because of their subsequent disobedience, they only kept a small portion of the land that was promised. In Hebrew, Joshua (pronounced Y'shua) and Jesus (also pronounced Y'shua) is the same name and both mean 'Jah is Salvation or Saviour'. Joshua led the people into the Promised Land and into their rest. In the New Testament, Y'shua leads us into the promise of eternal life and our spiritual rest. We have our inheritance in theory but we do not yet have it in real experience because obviously, if we are on earth we have not yet proceeded to our eternal resting place in heaven. While on earth we must apply the lessons of Joshua and the children of Israel.

We need to get to the point where we realise, if His promise is going to come then only God can do it. When we receive the promise after the circumstances are 'dead' then all the glory goes to God and that is the purpose of the promises in the first place, for God to be glorified. When there is a possibility we can achieve the promise by our own effort, then we can take the credit for it. When there is no possibility for us to achieve it on our own, then God takes the credit and the glory is His (Ephesians 2:8 & 9). Abraham was one hundred years old before he finally received his promised son, Isaac (Genesis 21:5). In this age of grace, we receive the promise of the Holy Spirit through faith. Jesus called the Holy Spirit the promise of the Father (Luke 24:49). The infilling of the Holy Spirit is a special promise of God the Father to His children through faith in Jesus. The promise of the Holy Spirit is singled out because He is the key to the blessing of eternal life; our proof of salvation; our advance down-payment or deposit; our holy seal (2 Corinthians 1:22). Without receiving the Holy Spirit, we are not able to enter into our inheritance. The Holy Spirit is the One Who administers the inheritance and makes it available to us. Jesus said, "If you love Me you will keep My commandments and I will ask the Father and He will give you another Helper/Comforter/Counsellor" (John 14:15 & 16). 'The Holy Spirit will teach you all things' (John 14:26). That is how the disciples were able to remember all the things Jesus taught them. The New Testament record did not depend on their human memories. Those who wrote the New Testament were enabled to recall what Jesus taught them with help

from the Holy Spirit (John 12:16). He teaches us all we need to know of Scripture and He brings to our remembrance the things Jesus has taught that in our humanity, we could forget. 'The Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth. He will not speak His own message but He will declare whatever He hears from the Father. He will tell us what is to come (in the future). He will glorify Jesus. He will take of Mine (the preaching of Jesus) and disclose it to you' (John 16:13).

Most certainly God can do miracles, but He will not unless it is necessary. Like Israel, for most of our inheritance, we will have to fight for it. They had to physically war against their enemies, whereas we go to 'war' in fervent prayer. It takes spiritual strength to fight for our inheritance and we have to set our feet or 'stand' on what God has promised us. That means we need to claim then stand on the promises God has given us in the Bible. 'For as many are the promises of God, they all find their answer in Jesus. For this reason we say, Amen' (2 Corinthians 1:20). Our inheritance is the promise of eternal life, not material possessions or earthly desires. Whatever we ask for must be to the glory of God. If our request or the claim of a promise does not glorify God, we will not receive it. The nature of sin robs God of the glory that is due to Him (James 4:3). We need to claim the promise in unwavering faith with the correct attitude. Almost all promises are conditional so we cannot claim a promise unless we first meet His conditions. Furthermore, the fulfilment of God's promises does not depend on our circumstances, they depend on our faith. We can look to Abraham for our example. His faith was attributed to him as righteousness (Romans 4:9 & 22). We must also realise, Abraham and Isaac were vital people in God's master plan for bringing redemption to mankind. That is why every prayer they prayed around that time of history was answered in full, sometimes before they had finished speaking. God was building His nation of Hebrews to bring His oracles to mankind and to achieve His goals of salvation. He worked alongside Abraham and his descendents.

Isaac needed a wife who would be able to fulfil God's plan for the Hebrew tribe who would eventually become the Jewish people (Genesis chapter 24 onwards). This story is significant because to draw enough water from the well, to water 10 camels would have been very heavy, exhausting work. Rebekah would have to have drawn about 400 gallons with a bucket out of a well. She must have been a very strong, healthy woman. She had never seen Abraham or Isaac and the only contact with the family was through Abraham's servant Eliezer. Finding a wife for the son of promise Isaac, is a true-life parable of God finding a 'bride' for Jesus His Son of Promise. Abraham typifies the Father, Isaac typifies the Son, Rebekah typifies the Bride or the church and Eliezer typifies the work of the Holy Spirit, Who gently leads the 'bride' to the Groom but the bride has the choice to go or not. She is not forced. Eliezer had charge of everything Abraham owned. He sought nothing for himself but only what Abraham wanted for Isaac. It was Eliezer's responsibility to find a bride for Isaac. He came with gifts; he confronted Rebekah with the choice; he was Rebekah's only source of information and it was Eliezer who guided Rebekah to the father and to the son. Rebekah is a 'type' of church. Her first contact was with Eliezer, not with Abraham or Isaac; her response to Eliezer determined her destiny; her response was to serve Eliezer by giving water; she received the gifts from Eliezer that adorned her and marked her out as the chosen bride. She could have kept the gifts if she had not accepted Isaac; she made room in her home for Eliezer and all the camels; she followed Eliezer by faith back to Israel to be with the son, Isaac.

That typifies the way we are to respond to the Holy Spirit. Our first contact with God is always through the Holy Spirit who draws us to Himself. It is our response to the Holy Spirit that determines our eternal destiny. If Rebekah had said 'no' to Eliezer, she would have missed everything God had for her. She served Eliezer the servant. That is faith with works. She did not just say yes, she actively watered the camels. She received the gifts just as we are given gifts that the Lord never takes back from us – even if we later refuse Him. The gifts visibly marked out Rebekah as the chosen Bride. When the gifts of the Holy Spirit are active in the church, the gifts reveal that church has the anointing of God. Rebekah made room for Eliezer and his camels. We have to make room for the Holy Spirit in our lives. The camels that Rebekah watered were the same ones Eliezer had brought to provide comfortable transport back to Isaac, so God was providing for Rebekah even before she agreed to accompany Eliezer. She accompanied Eliezer to her appointed destination and she also brought with her, many friends. The only way we will ever see the Bridegroom is by following the Holy Spirit wherever He leads us. Rebekah's relationship with Eliezer was essential to her destiny in God. Our relationship with the Holy Spirit determines our destiny with God. The Holy Spirit plays the same role in the church that Abraham's servant played in the life of Rebekah. We depend on the Holy Spirit. All of the promises and our inheritance comes to us via the New Covenant set up by Jesus and continued by the apostles and disciples of the early church (Ephesians 2:20). To claim our spiritual inheritance, we have to follow the example given to us by Rebekah. Abraham's birth, Isaac's birth, Rebekah's acceptance of her destiny and the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus, all happened at exactly

the correct time in God's plan for the redemption of mankind, according to the promises God written by His many prophets who wrote the Bible.

In the following verses, the Holy Place is the Kingdom of God where Jesus entered after having opened the way for all people, Jews and Gentiles alike to receive redemption and become one Body, together with no partition between us (Ephesians 2:13 to 17). Only by accepting Jesus, can we ever claim our spiritual inheritance. 'At the appointed time, Jesus came as a High Priest of the future eternal life, through the greater and more perfect Tabernacle, not made with human hands, that is to say, not of this creation, nor through the blood of animals but through His own blood, entered in once for all mankind into the Holy Place, having obtained eternal redemption. If the blood of animals and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who have been defiled can sanctify and cleanse the flesh, how much more will the blood of Jesus, Who through the eternal Holy Spirit, offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? For this reason, He is the mediator of a New Covenant, since a death has occurred for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the First Covenant so those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. Where a last Will and Testament is, there must of necessity be the death of him who made it. A Will is only in force where there has been death, for it is never in force while he who made it still lives. The First Covenant was dedicated with blood, for when every commandment had been spoken by Moses to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of the animals with water, scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people saying, "This is the blood of the Covenant which God has commanded you" (Hebrews 9:11 to 20).

'Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus our Messiah. By His great mercy we have been born-again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, to an incorruptible, pure inheritance that cannot fade away, reserved in Heaven for you' (1 Peter 1:3 & 4).

Amen and God bless you.

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