

THE INHERITANCE OF THE SONS

INTRODUCTION: God the Father wants to give a spiritual inheritance to His sons (and daughters) through spiritual fathers (and mothers), 2 Cor.12:4. Yet our preparations influence our inheritance and it's end result.

1. FATHERS CAN GIVE THEIR NATURAL & SPIRITUAL CHILDREN A SPIRITUAL INHERITANCE

In the Old Testament, an inheritance (natural & spiritual) was passed down through the forefathers.

In the New Testament, a spiritual inheritance is imparted from our spiritual fathers & mothers, 1 Cor.15:46

A. Anointings or mantles, Deut.34:9, 2 Kings 2:9-10 & 13-15.

B. Prophecies to guide us, 1 Tim.1:18, Jud.4:6-7, 5:7-8.

C. Spiritual gifts, 2 Tim.1:6, Rom.1:11.

D. Leadership positions, Tit.1:4-5, 1 Tim.1:2-3, 2 Kings 2:15-16.

2. ACCORDING TO OUR PREPARATIONS WE WILL EACH RECEIVE A DIFFERENT INHERITANCE.

A. The spiritual sons of the prophet Elijah:

1) Elijah's 1st servant, 1 Kings 18:38-43. He was faithful in revival... but he disappeared during trouble, 1 Kings 19:1-4. He was never heard from again! No ministry, no eternal reward, not even named in the Bible. He didn't lose his salvation, but he lost out on a great inheritance.

2) The sons of the prophets that studied under Elijah, 2 Kgs.2:2-7. They gained revelation and followed Elijah (1/2 heartedly), they were sons who received some of his prophetic ministry.

3) Elisha: He was fully faithful in following Elijah to the end, 2 Kgs.2:8-9. He wanted the double portion reserved for the eldest son's inheritance, Deut.21:17. In 2 Kgs.2:11-15, Elijah gained the full mantle and inheritance, & became the next national prophet & spiritual father in Elijah's place, 2 Kgs.13:14.

B. The firstborn blessing of Jacob:

1) Reuben was the firstborn who should have received a double portion and leadership over his brethren. However, he was disqualified because of his immorality, Gen.49:3-4, Gen.35:22.

2) The double portion was given to Joseph, Gen.49:26 & 1 Chron.5:2.

3) The position of leadership was given to Judah, Gen.49:10 & 1 Chron.5:2.

3. THE RESULT OF OUR INHERITANCE WILL ALSO BE INFLUENCED BY OUR ACTIONS

A. The Prodigal Son:

1) Luke 15:11-12 He was blessed with an inheritance, but he demanded it before he was ready, Prov.20:21.

2) Luke 15: 13 While enjoying his inheritance, he left his father and fell into sin

3) Luke 15: 17-21 The son repented and returned

a) At first the Prodigal had requested, "*give me,*" v.12

b) The Prodigal later asked, "*make me,*" v.19

c) Character must come before ministry, Gen.1:26

4) Luke 15:22 The restored son received:

a) a robe (of righteousness, Is. 61:10)

b) a ring (of authority, Gen. 41:42)

c) sandals (a ministry, Eph. 6:15)

d) Luke 15:31 But the prodigal had lost his inheritance! The blessing became a curse!

B. Levi:

1) Gen. 49: 5-7 Levi's father cursed him for his sin.

2) Gen.34:25 Levi at first used his sword in self-righteous anger, Deut. 34:25

3) Ex. 32: 25-29 the Levites later used their sword for the righteous anger of God

4) Deut.33:8-11 Moses blessed the tribe of Levi for their obedience

5) Neh. 13:2 God turned the curse into a blessing, Deut. 23:5

a) Levi was given no natural inheritance, the Lord became his inheritance, Deut. 10: 8-9

b) Levi was scattered (the curse of Gen. 49:7), but this was turned into a blessing:

c) Levi was scattered to teach, to lead, to minister, Deut. 33:10

C. The Daughters of Zelophehad

1) Num. 27:1-8 Women are often given a spiritual inheritance (gifts, ministries, anointings, etc.)

2) Num.36:1-9 To keep their spiritual inheritance a woman must marry someone from the same 'tribe,' someone with the same calling, or they may lose their inheritance, 2 Cor.6:14!