

The Doctrine of Inheritance

CRITICAL THINKING QUIZ

As with the other metaphors we have looked at, we will refer most of the imagery to Roman law for its content. Inheritance as such we can take more generally, but the technical ideas of heirship need to be located in a single legal system. As we will see, the Roman and the Jewish laws have markedly different concepts of heirship, and the evidence argues for the Roman reference. Briefly, the “heir in Jewish law does not exist until the death of his ancestor. In Roman law the concept of heir is more profound, the heir having legal existence during the life of his predecessor.”

Lyall, Slaves, Citizens, Sons, Legal Metaphors in the Epistles

Heb. 9:15, “And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were *committed* under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.”

So that those who are called may receive the **promise** of the eternal **inheritance**, a death having come about for the redemption of the transgressions of the first covenant.

The Doctrine of Inheritance

Col. 3:23–24, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.”

1. κληρονομος (*klēronomos*), inheritor, heir; n.
inheritance, possession, property

κληρονομεω *kleronomeo* v. to possess, to receive as one's own possession, to obtain.

נַחֲלָה (nahălâ) *inheritance, heritage, possession.*

יָרַשׁ (yārash), *take possession off, dispossess, inherit, disinherit, occupy, seize, be an heir, impoverish (Qal).*

κληρονομεω *kleronomeo* v. to possess, to receive as one's own possession, to obtain.

Ex. 34:9, “Then he said, ‘If now I have found grace in Your sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray, go among us, even though we are a stiff-necked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us as Your **inheritance.’”**

2. Christ is the heir of all things, Heb 1:2

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Heb. 1:2, “in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.”

3. Christ's inheritance is based on His successful completion of His strategic victory on the cross.

4. Jesus Christ is qualified because He was impeccable in His humanity. This impeccability in His humanity was developed through “learning obedience though the things He suffered.”

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- Hebrews 2:10, “For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.”**
- Hebrews 5:8, “Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.”**

5. His spiritual growth qualified Him for His inheritance. Psa 2:8; Heb 1:2

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Psalm 2:8, “Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance [*nahal*], and the very ends of the earth as Your possession [*ahaz*].”

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Gal. 3:29, “And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s descendants, heirs according to promise.”

Gal. 4:1, “Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything,”

6. Our Heirship is based on Adoption, Sonship, therefore inheritance is related to our position in Christ. Gal. 3:29, 4:1

Rom. 8:16, “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children [*teknon*] of God,

Rom. 8:17, “and if children, heirs also, heirs of God, and fellow heirs with Christ if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.”

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.

Woman without her man is nothing

Woman, without her, man is nothing

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Eph. 1:11, “also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,”

1 Pet. 1:3, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,”

8. So, what *exactly* is Christ's heirship?

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He is called "heir" because of Who He is, not because of what He did?

Matt 21:28ff

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Psa. 8:3, “When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained;

**Psa. 8:4, “What is man that You take thought of him,
And the son of man that You care for him?”**

8. So, what *exactly* is Christ's heirship?

Psa. 8:5, “Yet You have made him a little lower than the angels [*elohim: God, gods, heavenly beings*], and You crown him with glory and majesty!

**Psa. 8:6, “You make him to rule over the works of Your hands;
You have put all things under his feet,”**