

JOINT HEIRS

by George Kirkpatrick

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you." I Peter 1:3-4

Our inheritance is incorruptible, undefiled and will never fade away. It will never diminish in value. God says He has reserved it for us in heaven (the Spiritual Realm). Our inheritance is in God's hands where no man can touch it or defile it.

If there is an inheritance, there must be inheritors who will inherit. The Word tells us that the meek, the obedient, the righteous, and those who are watching and praying are the inheritors. We must be and do all of these if we are to inherit, but first we must be His children.

"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together." Romans 8:16-17

This Scripture does not say we are joint-heirs with Jesus. It says we are joint-heirs with Christ. The original says that we are joint-heirs of Christ (the Holy Spirit). We become heirs, by and through, the Holy Spirit.

Paul said we become joint-heirs through suffering. If we suffer with Him, we will be glorified together. Who, then, are we to be glorified together with? We are to be glorified together with Christ! Those who suffer for the cause of Christ will be joint heirs with Christ. What does suffering bring? Suffering brings maturity, and when we mature, then we are no longer children. Paul informs us:

"Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all." Galatians 4:1

As long as the heir is a child, or as long as the heir is immature, he will not inherit. God told Abraham the servant would not inherit. Jesus also spoke to the servant realm, and John recorded His words:

"Ye are My friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of My Father I have made known unto you." John 15:14-15

Whenever the immature heir becomes obedient to God's commandments (His Word), then they can become His friends. It is only by the Word that we can know what the Lord is doing. We come to maturity through suffering, and those who suffer with Christ and become obedient to His Word will become joint-heirs with Him. Paul reveals:

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." Romans 8:18

Peter reveals those who are suffering in this present time are those who will have the glory of Christ revealed in them.

"But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." I Peter 4:13

When the Glory of Christ is revealed in us, we will then be glad with exceeding joy, but we must be willing to go through the sufferings of this present time, and in the times ahead, to have His glory revealed in us.

As children, we are heirs, but we will not inherit as children. We will not inherit until we come to maturity. So then, what is our inheritance?

"And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life." Matthew 19:29

In order for us to understand our inheritance, we must begin at the beginning. Our inheritance comes through Abraham's seed. God spoke to Abraham:

"Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." Genesis 12:1-3

The Lord told Abraham to leave his country and his relatives. God promised Abraham a land (a great inheritance) and that He would make Abraham a great nation. He also promised Abraham that anyone who blessed him, God would bless. Anyone who cursed him, God would curse. He also promised Abraham that all families of the earth would be blessed in him. This blessing was to his promised seed. Who is Abraham's promised seed?

"Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ." Galatians 3:16

Abraham only had one promised seed, and that seed is Christ. Christ is the anointing. Christ was the anointing on Jesus' life, and Christ is the anointing in our lives. When we allow the Holy Spirit anointing in our life, then we are the blessed of Abraham.

The name **Abraham** means "*a multitude*." Because Abraham was obedient to God's voice, He made him a father of a multitude.

Abraham begat a son by the name of Isaac. If Isaac was the promised seed, then all would have been fulfilled in Isaac, but Isaac was made the same promise God made to Abraham.

"And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; Because that Abraham obeyed My voice, and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws." Genesis 26:4-5

God renewed the Abrahamic promise through Isaac, and that was - - - that Isaac too - - - would be a blessing to all nations. The blessing and inheritance passed from Father to son. Isaac had two sons, Esau and Jacob. Esau and Jacob were twins, and Esau was the oldest. When these twins were born, Jacob took hold of Esau's heel. Jacob was called "heel grabber." The name **Jacob** means "*surplanter*" which means "*to take the place of; through force or scheming*." The birthright always belonged to the eldest son; but Esau gave away his birthright, or inheritance, for a bowl of pottage. Those, today, who give away their birthright for the things of the world have no birthright in the Father, and will receive no blessing or inheritance. Let's review the blessing Jacob received:

"Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine: let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed be every one that curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee." Genesis 27:28-29

This was the same promise that God made to Abraham. So the blessing passed from father to son, and then to grandson. Jacob received a further blessing from Isaac.

"And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people; And give thee the blessing of Abraham, to thee, and to thy seed with thee; that thou mayest inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger, which God gave unto Abraham." Genesis 28:3-4

The blessing God gave to Abraham was passed on to Isaac, and then on to Jacob. This blessing was passed through to the seed, and that seed is Christ.

Jacob received yet another blessing. At the time Jacob wrestled with a man, the man said unto Jacob "Let me go!" Jacob said, "I will not let thee go except Thou bless me." Genesis 32:24-26

"And He said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. And He said, thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed." Genesis 32:27-28

Jacob wrestled with the man all night and demanded a blessing. This man said, "What is your name?" Jacob said, "surplanter". "I am a deceiver, I am a cheat, I have taken that which I have, by being crooked." Jacob confessed his sin before this man with his name. "I am the one who comes after. I am the heel grabber."

The man said to Jacob, "You are no longer going to be called Jacob, but your name is going to be called Israel because you are a prince of God." A prince is a king's son. What was the blessing Jacob received? The man revealed Jacob's position in God, saying, "You are a prince, or a son of God from this day on." The man also revealed unto Jacob, "As a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed." Genesis 32:28

The Holy Spirit anointing came upon Jacob that day, and it was the Holy Spirit anointing that changed Jacob. He became Abraham's seed, not by lineage, but by the anointing. The Holy Spirit was bestowed on Jacob that day. What a blessing he received! The Holy Spirit changed Jacob from a surplanter to a prince, the son of the King. It is only by and through the Holy Spirit that we, too, can become the sons of God. John recorded the words of Jesus:

"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the Sons of God. . ." John 1:12

The power to become the sons of God is the Holy Ghost cleansing power in our lives. We, as Jacob, through the power of the Holy Spirit have the power to become the sons of God.

"And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved." Genesis 32:30

The man Jacob wrestled with was the man, Christ Jesus. Jacob proclaimed, "I have seen God (Christ Jesus) face to face." God filled him with the Holy Spirit and the blessing and inheritance was passed on to him.

Jacob had two wives and two concubines. By these two wives and two concubines, Jacob had twelve sons. These twelve sons became the twelve tribes of Israel. Of these, ten sons were born to Leah and the two concubines named Bilhah and

Zilpah. Rachel brought forth two sons, Joseph and Benjamin. Rachel's name means "ewe lamb." The ewe lamb represents the church.

Rachel's eldest son, Joseph, was sold into Egypt by his brothers. While in Egypt, Joseph had two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh. When Jacob was old and about to die, Joseph brought his two sons to see their Grandfather. At this meeting, Jacob passed on the blessing and inheritance to Joseph.

"And Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near unto him. And Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid it upon Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh's head, guiding his hands wittingly; for Manasseh was the firstborn.

And he blessed Joseph, and said, God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God which fed me all my life long unto this day. The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth." Genesis 48:13-16

Jacob blessed Joseph first (verse 15), before he blessed Ephraim and Manasseh, because the blessing had to go from father to son. It did not go from father to grandson. Thus we see, the blessing and inheritance was passed from Jacob to Joseph.

Before Jacob (Israel) died, he gave a prophesy of each of his sons:

"And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days." Genesis 49:1

By Jacob's words we know his prophesy is what would befall his sons in the last days, or at the end of the age. Genesis 49 tells us that of Jacob's twelve sons, only Joseph received a blessing.

"Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall: the archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him: but his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel:)

Even by the God of thy father, who shall help thee; and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lieth under, blessings of the breasts, and of the womb:

The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren." Genesis 49:22-26

This blessing was to befall Joseph in the last days. As we study, we begin to understand the blessing that came to Joseph was passed from the father (Jacob) to Joseph. The prophesy given to Joseph was, "From thence is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel." From this we discover that in the last days, the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel would come from the lineage of Joseph.

We need to gain understanding as to who the Shepherd of the flock is, and who the Stone of Israel is. To shed light on this, let's look at the prophesy given to Judah by Jacob:

"Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee. Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? The sceptre (rulership, authority) shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, (that means be born) until Shiloh come: (Shiloh means Messiah) and unto Him shall the gathering of the people be." Genesis 49:8-10

By this prophesy we know the Messiah, Jesus Christ, would come through the lineage of Judah. Matthew recorded this lineage from Abraham:

"Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren." Matthew 1:2

By this we know that Jesus' lineage came through Judah. But as Jacob prophesied, it was from Joseph, the Shepherd and the Stone of Israel would come.

The name **Joseph** means *"another son."* Joseph was the firstborn son of Rachel, the Ewe Lamb, or the Ekklesia, the true church.

Jesus was the Son of God. He was the only begotten Son of the Father. Jesus revealed His earthly mission in Matthew 15:24:

". . . I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

John wrote, "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not," John 1:11. Jesus was not sent to the Gentiles. He was sent to natural Israel. But Jesus promised He would raise up another son. This is the promise that came through Joseph. Jesus related:

" . . . As many as received Him (Jesus), to them gave He power to become the sons of God. . . " John 1:12

Jesus revealed to His disciples:

"And, behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." Luke 24:49

Jesus promised He would send the promise of His Father if they would tarry in Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high. This was not a promise his father had made. Rather, the promise of the Father was the Holy Spirit anointing. That was the power that came upon the believers in the upper room on the Day of Pentecost, and it is through this power (the Holy Ghost) that we have the power to become the Sons of God.

We know Jesus was the Good Shepherd. We know He was the Cornerstone. But we also know He finished the work the Father gave Him to do. The beloved John recorded:

"After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst." John 19:28

Jesus accomplished all things the Father had given Him to do.

"When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, He said, It is finished: and He bowed His head, and gave up the ghost." John 19:30

Jesus' earthly ministry was complete, and He gave up the Ghost. When Jesus finished the work His Father sent Him to do, He regained His rightful place and that was on the right hand of the Father. Jesus is still on the right hand of the Father. Stephen saw Jesus in this position when he was being stoned:

"But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God." Acts 7:55

The question arises, "Who, then, was to continue the work of the kingdom on earth?" Jesus promised:

"And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." John 14:16-17

Jesus promised He would send another Comforter. Jesus was our first Comforter, but we needed a second Comforter to finish the work Jesus began. It is the second Comforter, the Spirit of truth that directs our lives today.

Jacob prophesied, "Out of Joseph will come the Shepherd of the flock, the Stone of Israel." As we have learned, the Holy Spirit is the Shepherd of the flock today. So who is the Stone of Israel? The promise of the Stone of Israel comes through the lineage of Joseph. Paul revealed to the church at Ephesus:

"And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone;" Ephesians 2:20

Jesus is the Chief Cornerstone, and the foundation of God's Kingdom are the apostles and prophets, which are the New and the Old Testaments, His Holy Bible - - - but the Cornerstone and the foundation are not the whole house. Jesus revealed another stone.

"Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the Scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?" Matthew 21:42

Jesus was not speaking of Himself as this stone, He was speaking of the stone that was above the Cornerstone. This was the Headstone or the Capstone. This is the Stone of Israel. So who is Israel, Jacob prophesied of in the last days? In his letter to the Galatians, Paul explains who God's Israel is today:

"For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God." Galatians 6:15-16

Those who have become His new creation are the Israel of God. These are those who know the Stone the builders rejected. Thus, the Headstone is Christ Jesus, the risen, glorified Christ. [see "Christ Jesus" and "Who Are God's Chosen People" by George Kirkpatrick]

With this understanding, we then know the Cornerstone, Jesus, came through the lineage of Judah.

The promise of the Headstone, the Stone of Israel, Christ Jesus came through the lineage of Joseph.

This promise was made to Joseph for the latter days, or the message of Christ Jesus would come forth at the end of the age.

It is by the anointing of the Holy Spirit that we understand we are to have a deeper relationship with God. We need to recognize Jesus now as the risen, glorified Christ (Christ Jesus). Christ Jesus was the anointed. Now He has become The Anointing, the Headstone, the crowning glory of the body of Christ.

When the Spirit begins to reveal God's truths and mysteries hidden from the foundation of the earth, we hunger and thirst for more. It is then that God will reveal His very personage to us.

Jesus stated, "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last." Revelation 22:13

Jesus came as Alpha (Jesus, the Saviour of the world). Now He has become the Omega (the risen, glorified Christ Jesus), the completion of the body, the Headstone (Capstone). It is Christ Jesus who will grant us our inheritance and blessing. Paul wrote to the Hebrews:

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:2

Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith, but He did not finish our faith as Jesus, the Christ. He is the finisher of our faith as Christ Jesus, the risen, glorified Christ.

The book of Ephesians reveals Jesus as the Cornerstone. As stated before, the Cornerstone is not the whole house, it is only the beginning of the house. God's house is being built by and through the Holy Spirit. The inheritance of the blessing promised to Abraham comes through Abraham's seed, which is Christ, the Holy Spirit. All things come together in the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ was the designer, but it is Christ Jesus who will complete the design to bring us into the Kingdom of God. Peter also gives us insight to the Headstone:

"Unto you therefore which believe He is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner." I Peter 2:7

The stone the builders disallowed is the Headstone. When God's building is complete, He will set His Headstone in place as the head of His ekklesia. This will be a glorious church without sport or wrinkle, and holy without blemish, Ephesians 5:27.

Peter, speaking by the Holy Spirit, relates two peoples. To the obedient, the Holy Spirit is precious. But to the disobedient, the Holy Spirit is a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence.

As we look again at our inheritance in God we are informed:

". . . We are joint-heirs in Christ. . ." Romans 8:17

In Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob we have the promise that we are going to inherit a blessing. This blessing began with Abraham. It was passed on to Isaac, to Jacob, and then to Joseph.

Through Joseph came the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel, Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Headstone, the Finisher of our faith.

Joseph's name was a prophesy. Joseph's name means "another son." The Stone of Israel, the Holy Spirit, will produce this other son. So the blessing and the inheritance was passed through the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel.

As stated before, Jacob had two wives and two concubines. His first wife, Leah, and the two concubines produced ten sons for Jacob. These ten sons were his natural sons. Rachel was barren all during the time these ten sons were being born. Then God opened her womb and she bare two sons which were Jacob's Spiritual children.

Paul shows us a mystery in God's Word in his letter to the Corinthians:

"Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual." I Corinthians 15:46

The natural always comes first, then that which is Spiritual. This is one of the keys that opens the Word of God. The Old Testament spoke in the natural. The New Testament speaks in the Spiritual. The Old Testament was the Spirit speaking to the flesh. The New Testament was the flesh (Jesus) speaking by the Spirit.

When Rachel bore Joseph, his birth promised another son. When Rachel was pregnant with the other son, she died in the delivery process. Her desire was to name this son Benoni which means "son of my sorrow." But Jacob called him Benjamin which means "the son of my right hand."

As stated before, Rachel's name means "ewe lamb", or she is a picture of the true church. With Spiritual eyes, we then see the true church will bring forth the son of His right hand. This will be done by the second Comforter which is the Headstone of Israel, the Shepherd of the flock. The son of His right hand will be brought forth by and through the Headstone.

Rachel had to die to bring forth this son. Jesus had to die to bring forth the Headstone. And we too must die to the flesh if we are to become the sons of promise, the sons of His right hand.

As we witness the blessing and inheritance, we need to go back to the blessing Jacob made to Joseph:

"Moreover I have given to thee one portion above thy brethren, which I took out of the hand of the Amorite with my sword and with my bow." Genesis 48:22

Jacob stated that he was going to give Joseph a portion above all of his brothers. In doing this, Jacob gave Joseph the inheritance of the eldest son. Let's look further at the prophecy given to Joseph by his father, Jacob:

*"The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separated from his brethren."
Genesis 49:26*

The blessing bestowed upon Joseph was above the blessing of Jacob's other progenitors. The word progenitors means "those who were born to Jacob by natural birth, his ten sons by Leah and the two concubines." Joseph was given a portion above his brethren, or Joseph received a double portion blessing.

God's Word reveals that Jesus is our elder brother. What double portion did He receive? To understand this we must look at the birth of John the Baptist. John the Baptist's father was the last of the Levitical priesthood to serve in the temple. The priesthood always passed from father to son. So John would have been the last of the legitimate priesthood. John's father's name was Zacharias and His mother's name was Elisabeth.

"And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years." Luke 1:7

This is the same picture we saw of Abraham and Sarah. As Zacharias was burning incense in the temple, the angel Gabriel appeared to him and informed Zacharias he and Elizabeth would have a son, and they would call his name John.

"For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb." Luke 1:15

John was the forerunner of Jesus. When John was of full age, he went into the wilderness. He did not remain in Jerusalem to become part of the religious system. John baptized in the wilderness. When it came time for Jesus to begin His ministry, He went out to John to be baptized.

"Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbad Him, saying, I have need to be baptized of Thee, and comest Thou to me?" Matthew 3:13-14

The words of Jesus were most profound:

"And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered Him." Matthew 3:15

Jesus' answer was, "It becometh us to fulfill all righteousness." There were two things John possessed that Jesus needed in order to fulfill the Scriptures. John was the last of the Levitical priesthood. The Levitical priesthood was part of the Old Covenant God had made with Israel. We are informed:

"The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the Kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it." Luke 16:16

The law and the prophets are the Old Covenant (the Old Testament) which God made with ancient Israel. John was the end of the Old Covenant. So the right of priesthood that John possessed, now had to pass to Jesus so He could put an end to the old Levitical priesthood and the Old Covenant. This priesthood was passed on to Jesus when John baptized Him. Paul records:

"For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law. For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda: of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood." Hebrews 7:12 & 14

Jesus' lineage was through the tribe of Judah, not Levi the priesthood tribe. Jesus became our High Priest, but not from the Levitical priesthood. As Paul recorded:

"Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an High Priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec." Hebrews 6:20

Jesus was made an High Priest after the order of Melchisedec. With the coming of the Melchisedec priesthood, the old Levitical priesthood had to pass away. [see "The Melchisedec Promise" by George Kirkpatrick] Paul informed the Hebrews:

"In that He saith, A new covenant, He hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away." Hebrews 8:13

John was the end of the Old Covenant. At this time the priesthood passed to Jesus. Those who are trying to keep the old, Mosaic Law or any part of it do not understand that the Mosaic Law is no longer in effect.

The second item that passed from John to Jesus was the anointing John possessed from his mother's womb. This is the first fruit anointing we all received at our Pentecost. When John baptized Jesus, John no longer possessed the anointing. He went out, got involved in politics, telling Herod he could not have Herodias, his brother Phillip's wife, and because of this he lost his head, Matthew 14:3-4.

After Jesus was baptized of John, and He stepped out of the water, He received another anointing:

"And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him:" Matthew 3:16

A voice from the Spiritual realm descending like a dove and spoke, "This is My beloved Son." The dove anointing is the anointing of peace coupled with the first fruit anointing which is the cleansing anointing. After being baptized, Jesus received the double portion anointing. John related:

"For He whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto Him." John 3:34

Jesus received the Spirit without measure. It was by this anointing that Jesus was enabled to do the mighty works He accomplished. Mark recorded:

"And immediately the Spirit driveth Him into the wilderness. And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto Him." Mark 1:12-13

As soon as Jesus received the double portion anointing, the Holy Spirit began to direct His life, and Jesus operated in this double portion anointing during all His earthly ministry. But Jesus' earthly ministry came to an end. Paul gives us insight as to why:

"And for this cause He is the mediator of the New Testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth." Hebrews 9:15-17

Jesus was the mediator of the New Testament (New Covenant). But in order for the New Covenant which contains the promises of our eternal inheritance to come forth, it required the death of the Testator, or the one who made the testament, because a testament (covenant) can only be acted upon after the testament giver is dead. So it was after the death of Jesus, that the New Testament or New Covenant could be claimed by those for whom the New Testament was made.

Those who would be partakers of this New Testament are the inheritors. So the promises of blessings and inheritance made to Abraham came through the death of Jesus. Looking again at the words of Paul in his letter to the Galatians we discover:

"Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ." Galatians 3:16

Abraham only had one seed who would inherit, and that seed are those who have obtained a life in Christ (the anointing). But there was another promise given to Joseph:

"Moreover I have given to thee one portion above thy brethren, which I took out of the hand of the Amorite with my sword and with my bow." Genesis 48:22

The promise of blessing and inheritance God made through Joseph is made to those who receive a portion above those of their brothers. The portion above is the Double Portion Anointing. It is the same anointing Jesus received on the banks of the Jordan River.

The first fruit anointing came on the Day of Pentecost. This was the cleansing fire to cleanse and prepare a people to receive a portion above their brethren. This anointing is called The Early and Latter Rain. James prophesied this anointing:

"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain." James 5:7

We are to be patient for the Lord to bring forth His precious fruit of the earth. He will bring forth this precious fruit when we receive the early rain (the first fruit anointing) and the latter rain (the Spirit without measure). Joel tells us when we can expect this early and latter rain:

"Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for He hath given you the former rain, moderately, and He will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month." Joel 2:23

This anointing is for the children of Zion (the sons of God), those who have come into the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Thus far, we have only received the early rain moderately (or the earnest down payment). But God has promised we will receive the former rain and the latter rain in the first month, or at the beginning of the new day:.

This anointing does not come through the tribe of Judah, but through the tribe of Joseph. This anointing does not come from the Cornerstone, it comes from the Headstone.

Paul gave us insight as to those who would receive this anointing of the portion above that was promised to Joseph:

"Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on Him which should come after Him, that is, on Christ Jesus." Acts 19:4

We are to believe on Him that came after Jesus, and that is Christ Jesus. Jesus was the Cornerstone. Christ Jesus is the Headstone. We need to look again to Luke for understanding as to who will receive this Double Portion Anointing:

"And he beheld them, and said, What is this then that is written, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner? Whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken; but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder." Luke 20:17-18

When we fell on the Cornerstone, we were broken. This is when we were convicted of our sin and we repented before our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

But those upon whom the Headstone (Christ Jesus) falls, will be ground to powder (flour). This is when everything of the old man will be done away, and God will take this flour and mold it into one body. Our nature will change, our desires will change, and our whole life will reveal we have become a new creation.

These, then, are those who are blessed.

These are those who have their inheritance in Christ Jesus, the risen, glorified Christ.

These are those who will become joint heirs with Christ.

These are those who have suffered with Him and for Him, and will be glorified together with Him.

These are those who have willingly received the cleansing power of the Holy Spirit to become the sons of God.

These are the sons the woman brought forth in the wilderness.

These are those who were caught up to God and to His throne.

These are the manifested sons Paul wrote of to the church at Rome.

These are the fulfillment of the blessing Jacob gave to Joseph.

These are the joint heirs who will rule and reign with Him for one thousand years, and then for all eternity.

These are the Christ, the promised seed of Abraham.

These are the ones who will be brought forth by the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel.

God's Word is complete, and His promises are complete. Those who are His joint heirs will make up and inhabit His Holy City, New Jerusalem. It was God who made the promises, and it will be God who will complete His promises to His creation, man.

We can become God's precious fruit of the earth if we yield our lives completely to the Holy Spirit anointing. Jesus informed us:

"Ye are My friends, if ye do whatsoever I command." John 15:14

Abraham was the only man in the Bible called the friend of God. We too, as Abraham's seed, can become friends of God, if we do whatsoever He commands us.

His blessing and inheritance is waiting for His friends, His joint heirs. Praise the Lord!