

~INHERITANCE (978)

[Hebrew, *na-chal'*, Greek, *kle'ros*]

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- Any property passing at the owners death to the heir or to those entitled to succeed, anything received from progenitors or predecessors as if by succession. The principal Hebrew verb used is *na-chal'*, noun, *na-chalah'*. It involves getting or giving an inheritance or hereditary possession, usually as a result of succession.
- Only by the lot should the land be apportioned. According to the names of the tribes of their fathers they should get an **inheritance**. (Numbers 26:55)
- And the chieftain should not take any of the **inheritance** of the people so as to force them out of their possession. From his own possession he should give his sons an **inheritance**, to the end that my people may not be scattered each one from his possession. (Ezekiel 46:18)
- The Hebrew verb *ya-rash'* is used at times in the sense **succeed as heir**, but more often, **take possession**, apart from succession.
- And Abram added; Look! You have given me no seed, and, look! a son of my household is **succeeding me as heir**. (Genesis 15:3)
- Hence I said to you; You, for your part, will take possession of their ground, and I, for my part, shall give it to you **to take possession of it**, a land flowing with milk and honey. Yehowah your God I am, who have divided you off from the peoples. (Leviticus 20:24)
- It also has the meaning **dispossess, drive away**, involving military action.
- And the Horites dwelt in Seir in former times, and the sons of Esau proceeded to **dispossess** them and to annihilate them from

- before them and to dwell in their place, just the same as Israel must do to the land that is his holding, which Yehowah will certainly give to them. (**Deuteronomy 2:12**)
- Yehowah your God is the one crossing before you. He himself will annihilate these nations from before you, and you must **drive them away**. Joshua is the one crossing before you, just as Yehowah has spoken. (**Deuteronomy 31:3**)
 - The **Greek** words having to do with **inheritance** are related to *kle'ros*, which originally meant **lot**, but came to mean **share**, and finally **inheritance**.
 - When they had impaled him they distributed his outer garments by casting **lots**. (**Matthew 27:35**)
 - Because he had been numbered among us and he obtained a **share** in this ministry. (**Acts of Apostles 1:17**)
 - To open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God, in order for them to receive forgiveness of sins and an **inheritance** among those sanctified by their faith in me. (**Acts of Apostles 26:18**)
 - In Israel the **inheritance** applied primarily to land possessions, although it was used with respect to movable property as well. The Bible speaks of the **inheritance** of things of a spiritual nature also. Spirit-begotten Christians are called heirs indeed of God, but joint heirs with Christ. They look forward, if they remain faithful, to the everlasting **inheritance**.
 - If, then, we are children, we are also heirs. Heirs indeed of God, but joint heirs with Christ, provided we suffer together that we may also be glorified together. (**Romans 8:17**)
 - So that is why he is a mediator of a New Covenant, in order, that, because a death has occurred for their release by ransom from the transgressions under the former covenant, the ones who have been called might receive the promise of the everlasting **inheritance**. (**Hebrews 9:15**)

·· Patriarchal Period

- The faithful Hebrew patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob possessed no land, except for the field with the cave used as a burial place and the field near Shechem purchased by Jacob.
- And after that Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah in front of Mamre, that is to say; Hebron, in the land of Canaan. ([Genesis 23:19](#))
- Thus the field and the cave that was in it became confirmed to Abraham for the possession of a burial place at the hands of the sons of Heth. ([Genesis 23:20](#))
- Then he acquired a tract of the field where he pitched his tent at the hand of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem, for a hundred pieces of money. ([Genesis 33:19](#))
- Concerning Abraham's residence in Canaan, the Christian martyr Stephen said;
 - And yet he did not give him any **inheritable** possession in it, no, not a footbreadth, but he promised to give it to him as a possession, and after him to his seed, while as yet he had no child. ([Acts of Apostles 7:5](#))
 - The material **inheritance** that these men passed on consisted of their cattle and their movable goods. The firstborn son **inherited** a double portion, two parts, of the property as compared with that allotted to other sons.
 - In the case of the patriarch Job, his daughters received an **inheritance** in among their brothers. It is not stated whether this included land **inheritance**.
 - And no women were found as pretty as Job's daughters in all the land, and their father proceeded to give them an **inheritance** in among their brothers. ([Job 42:15](#))
 - The father could transfer the birthright if he had a good reason, giving the firstborns **inheritance** to a younger son. In the instances of this noted in the Bible, it was not through whim or favoritism, but there was a basis on which the father determined to make the change in the birthright **inheritance**. Ishmael, as Abraham's oldest son, was prospective heir for about 14 years.

- **And Abram was eighty-six years old at Hagar's bearing Ishmael to Abram. ([Genesis 16:16](#))**
- **After that Abraham said to the true God; O that Ishmael might live before you! ([Genesis 17:18](#))**
- **To this God said; Sarah your wife is indeed bearing you a son, and you must call his name Isaac. And I will establish my covenant with him for a covenant to time indefinite to his seed after him. ([Genesis 17:19](#))**
- **But as regards Ishmael I have heard you. Look! I will bless him and will make him fruitful and will multiply him very, very much. He will certainly produce twelve chieftains, and I will make him become a great nation. ([Genesis 17:20](#))**
- **However, my covenant I shall establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this appointed time next year. ([Genesis 17:21](#))**
- **And Abraham was a hundred years old when Isaac his son was born to him. ([Genesis 21:5](#))**
- **But at Sarah's request and with Yehowah's approval, Abraham dismissed Ishmael, then about 19 years of age. Isaac then possessed the firstborn's right and later received everything that Abraham had, with the exception of gifts that Abraham gave to sons later born to him by Keturah.**
- **Now the child kept growing and came to be weaned, and Abraham then prepared a big feast on the day of Isaac's being weaned. ([Genesis 21:8](#))**
- **And Sarah kept noticing the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, poking fun. ([Genesis 21:9](#))**
- **So she began to say to Abraham; Drive out this slave girl and her son, for the son of this slave girl is not going to be an heir with my son, with Isaac! ([Genesis 21:10](#))**
- **But the thing proved to be very displeasing to Abraham as regards his son. ([Genesis 21:11](#))**
- **Then God said to Abraham; Do not let anything that Sarah keeps saying to you be displeasing to you about the boy and about your**

- slave girl. Listen to her voice, because it is by means of Isaac that what will be called your seed will be. (**Genesis 21:12**)
- **And as for the son of the slave girl, I shall also constitute him a nation, because he is your offspring. (Genesis 21:13)**
 - **Later on Abraham gave everything he had to Isaac. (Genesis 25:5)**
 - **But to the sons of the concubines that Abraham had Abraham gave gifts. Then he sent them away from Isaac his son, while he was still alive, eastward, to the land of the East. (Genesis 25:6)**
 - **Reuben the firstborn of Jacob lost his birthright inheritance by reason of fornication with his father's concubine.**
 - **Reuben, you are my firstborn, my vigor and the beginning of my generative power, the excellence of dignity and the excellence of strength. (Genesis 49:3)**
 - **With reckless license like waters, do not you excel, because you have gone up to your fathers bed. At that time you profaned my lounge. He went up to it! (Genesis 49:4)**
 - **And the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel, for he was the firstborn, but for his profaning the lounge of his father his right as firstborn was given to the sons of Joseph the son of Israel, so that he was not to be enrolled genealogically for the right of the firstborn. (1 Chronicles 5:1)**
 - **For Judah himself proved to be superior among his brothers, and the one for leader was from him, but the right as firstborn was Joseph's. (1 Chronicles 5:2)**
 - **Jacob gave the greater blessing to Ephraim, Joseph's younger son, rather than to Manasseh, the older.**
 - **Joseph now took the two of them, Ephraim by his right hand to Israel's left, and Manasseh by his left hand to Israel's right, and brought them close to him. (Genesis 48:13)**
 - **However, Israel put out his right hand and placed it on Ephraim's head, although he was the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh's head. He purposely laid his hands so, since**

Manasseh was the firstborn. (Genesis 48:14)

- **And he proceeded to bless Joseph and to say; The true God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked; The true God who has been shepherding me during all my existence until this day. (Genesis 48:15)**
- **The angel who has been recovering me from all calamity, bless the boys. And let my name be called upon them and the name of my fathers, Abraham and Isaac. And let them increase to a multitude in the midst of the earth. (Genesis 48:16)**
- **When Joseph saw that his father kept his right hand placed on Ephraim's head, it was displeasing to him, and he tried to take hold of his father's hand to remove it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. (Genesis 48:17)**
- **Hence Joseph said to his father; Not so, my father, because this is the firstborn. Put your right hand on his head. (Genesis 48:18)**
- **But his father kept refusing and said; I know it, my son, I know it. He too will become a people and he too will become great. But, just the same, his younger brother will become greater than he will, and his offspring will become the full equivalent of nations. (Genesis 48:19)**

.. Concubinage Was Legal

- **In fact, in the Bible the concubine is sometimes designated **wife**, and the man with whom she lives, **husband**. Her father is called his father-in-law, and he is called her father's son-in-law.**
- **Then Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar, her Egyptian maidservant, at the end of ten years of Abram's dwelling in the land of Canaan, and gave her to Abram her husband as his wife. (Genesis 16:3)**
- **Then her husband got up and went after her to speak consolingly to her so as to bring her back, and there were with him his attendant and a couple of he-asses. So she had him come into her father's house. When the father of the young woman got to see him, he at once rejoiced to meet him. (Judges 19:3)**
- **Consequently his father-in-law, the young woman's father, took hold of him, so that he continued to dwell with him three days,**

and they would eat and drink, and he would stay overnight there. **(Judges 19:4)**

- **And it came about on the fourth day, when they got up early in the morning as usual, he now rose to go, but the father of the young woman said to his son-in-law; Sustain your heart with a bit of bread and afterward you people may go. (Judges 19:5)**
- **The sons of concubines were legitimate and therefore had an inheritance status equal to that of the sons of a regular wife.**
- **Before Abraham had any children, he spoke of his slave Eliezer as the prospective heir of his goods but was told by Yehowah that he would have a child as heir.**
- **After these things the word of Yehowah came to Abram in a vision, saying; Do not fear, Abram. I am a shield for you. Your reward will be very great. (Genesis 15:1)**
- **At this Abram said; Sovereign Lord Yehowah, what will you give me, seeing that I am going childless and the one who will possess my house is a man of Damascus, Eliezer? (Genesis 15:2)**
- **And Abram added; Look! You have given me no seed, and, look! A son of my household is succeeding me as heir. (Genesis 15:3)**
- **But, look! The word of Yehowah to him was in these words; This man will not succeed you as heir, but one who will come out of your own inward parts will succeed you as heir. (Genesis 15:4)**

•• **Period Of The Law**

- **Under the Law a father was prevented from constituting the son of a better-loved wife his firstborn at the expense of his actual firstborn from a wife less loved. He had to give to the firstborn a double portion of everything that he owned.**
- **In case a man comes to have two wives, the one loved and the other hated, and they, the loved one and the hated one, have borne sons to him, and the firstborn son has come to be of the hated one. (Deuteronomy 21:15)**
- **It must also occur that in the day that he gives as an inheritance to his sons what he happens to have, he will not be allowed to**

- constitute the son of the loved one his firstborn at the expense of the hated ones son, the firstborn. ([Deuteronomy 21:16](#))
- For he should recognize as the firstborn the hated ones son by giving him two parts in everything he is found to have, because that one is the beginning of his generative power. The right of the firstborns position belongs to him. ([Deuteronomy 21:17](#))
 - When there were no sons, the **inheritance** went to the daughters.
 - Yehowah then said this to Moses. ([Numbers 27:6](#))
 - The daughters of Zelophehad are speaking right. By all means you should give them the possession of an **inheritance** in the midst of their father's brothers, and you must cause their fathers inheritance to pass to them. ([Numbers 27:7](#))
 - And to the sons of Israel you should speak, saying; In case any man should die without his having a son, you must then cause his **inheritance** to pass to his daughter. ([Numbers 27:8](#))
 - As for Zelophehad the son of Hopher, the son of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, he proved to have, not sons, but daughters, and these were the names of his daughters, Mahlah and Noah, Hoglah, Milcah and Tirzah. ([Joshua 17:3](#))
 - So they presented themselves before Eleazar the priest and Joshua the son of Nun and the chieftains, saying; Yehowah it was who commanded Moses to give us an **inheritance** in the midst of our brothers. Accordingly he gave them, at the order of Yehowah, an inheritance in the midst of the brothers of their father. ([Joshua 17:4](#))
 - And there were ten allotments falling to Manasseh apart from the land of Gilead and Bashan, which were on the other side of the Jordan. ([Joshua 17:5](#))
 - For the daughters of Manasseh came into an **inheritance** in the midst of his sons, and the land of Gilead became the property of the sons of Manasseh who were left over. ([Joshua 17:6](#))
 - However, daughters who inherited land were required to marry only in the family of their fathers tribe, in order to prevent the circulation of their **inheritance** from tribe to tribe.

- This is the word that Yehowah has commanded for the daughters of Zelophehad, saying; To whom it is good in their eyes they may become wives. Only it is to the family of the tribe of their fathers that they should become wives. (**Numbers 36:6**)
- And no **inheritance** of the sons of Israel should circulate from tribe to tribe, because the sons of Israel should cleave each one to the inheritance of the tribe of his forefathers. (**Numbers 36:7**)
- And every daughter getting possession of an **inheritance** out of the tribes of the sons of Israel, to one of the family of the tribe of her father she should become a wife, in order, that the sons of Israel may get possession each one of the inheritance of his forefathers. (**Numbers 36:8**)
- And no **inheritance** should circulate from one tribe to another tribe, because the tribes of the sons of Israel should cleave each to its own inheritance. (**Numbers 36:9**)
- If there were no children, the order of passing on the **inheritance** was to (1) brothers of the deceased. (2) his father's brothers. (3) the closest blood relation.
- And if he has no daughter, you must then give his **inheritance** to his brothers. (**Numbers 27:9**)
- And if he has no brothers, you must then give his **inheritance** to his father's brothers. (**Numbers 27:10**)
- And if his father has no brothers, you must then give his **inheritance** to his blood relation who is closest to him of his family, and he must take possession of it. And it must serve as a statute by judicial decision for the sons of Israel, just as Yehowah has commanded Moses. (**Numbers 27:11**)
- A wife received no **inheritance** from her husband. If there were no children, the wife was considered to be the owner of the land until it was redeemed by the one having the right of repurchase. In such case the wife was repurchased along with the property.
- As for Boaz, he went up to the gate and began to sit there. And, look! The repurchaser was passing by, whom Boaz had mentioned. Then he said; Do turn aside, do sit down here, So-

- and-so. Hence he turned aside and sat down. (**Ruth 4:1**)
- **After that he took ten men of the older men of the city and said; Sit down here. So they sat down. (**Ruth 4:2**)**
 - **He now said to the repurchaser; The tract of the field that belonged to our brother Elimelech, Naomi, who has returned from the field of Moab, must sell. (**Ruth 4:3**)**
 - **As for me, I thought that I should disclose it to you, saying; Buy it in front of the inhabitants and the older men of my people. If you will repurchase it, repurchase it, but if you will not repurchase it, do tell me, that I may know, for there is no one else but you to do the repurchasing, and I am next to you. At that he said; I shall be the one to repurchase it. (**Ruth 4:4**)**
 - **Then Boaz said; On the day that you buy the field from Naomi's hand, it is also from Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead man, that you must buy it so as to cause the name of the dead man to rise upon his **inheritance**. (**Ruth 4:5**)**
 - **To this the repurchaser said; I am unable to repurchase it for myself, for fear I may ruin my own **inheritance**. You repurchase it for yourself with my right of repurchase, because I am not able to do the repurchasing. (**Ruth 4:6**)**
 - **Now this was the custom of former times in Israel concerning the right of repurchase and concerning the exchange, to establish every sort of thing. A man had to draw his sandal off and give it to his fellow, and this was the attestation in Israel. (**Ruth 4:7**)**
 - **So when the repurchaser said to Boaz; Buy it for yourself, he proceeded to draw his sandal off. (**Ruth 4:8**)**
 - **Then Boaz said to the older men and all the people; You are witnesses today that I do buy all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and Mahlon from the hand of Naomi. (**Ruth 4:9**)**
 - **And also Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, I do buy for myself as a wife to cause the name of the dead man to rise upon his **inheritance** and that the name of the dead man may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his place. You are witnesses today. (**Ruth 4:10**)**

- **At this all the people that were in the gate and the older men said; Witnesses! May Yehowah grant the wife who is coming into your house to be like Rachel and like Leah, both of whom built the house of Israel, and you prove your worth in Ephrathah and make a notable name in Bethlehem. (Ruth 4:11)**
- **And may your house become like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, from the offspring that Yehowah will give you out of this young woman. (Ruth 4:12)**
- **Under the Law of brother-in-law marriage, the first child born to the woman by the repurchaser became heir of the deceased husband and carried on his name.**
- **In case brothers dwell together and one of them has died without his having a son, the wife of the dead one should not become a strange man's outside. Her brother-in-law should go to her, and he must take her as his wife and perform brother-in-law marriage with her. (Deuteronomy 25:5)**
- **And it must occur that the firstborn whom she will bear should succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be wiped out of Israel. (Deuteronomy 25:6)**

•• Hereditary Lands

- **The inheritance of the sons of Israel was given to them by Yehowah, who outlined the boundaries of the land to Moses.**
- **And Yehowah spoke further to Moses, saying; (Numbers 34:1)**
- **Command the sons of Israel, and you must say to them, you are going into the land of Canaan. This is the land that will fall to you by inheritance, the land of Canaan according to its boundaries. (Numbers 34:2)**
- **And your south side must prove to be from the wilderness of Zin alongside Edom, and your south boundary must prove to be from the extremity of the Salt Sea on the east. (Numbers 34:3)**
- **And your boundary must change direction from the south of the ascent of Akrabbim and cross over to Zin, and its termination must prove to be on the south of Kadesh-barnea, and it must go**

- out to Hazar-addar and pass over to Azmon. (**Numbers 34:4**)
- **And the boundary must change direction at Azmon to the torrent valley of Egypt, and its termination must prove to be at the Sea. (Numbers 34:5)**
 - **As for a west boundary, it must prove to be for you the Great Sea and the shoreland. This will become your west boundary. (Numbers 34:6)**
 - **Now this will become your north boundary. From the Great Sea you will mark out to Mount Hor as a boundary for yourselves. (Numbers 34:7)**
 - **From Mount Hor you will mark out the boundary to the entering in of Hamath, and the termination of the boundary must prove to be at Zedad. (Numbers 34:8)**
 - **And the boundary must go out to Ziphron, and its termination must prove to be Hazar-enan. This will become your north boundary. (Numbers 34:9)**
 - **Then you must mark for yourselves as your boundary on the east from Hazar-enan to Shepham. (Numbers 34:10)**
 - **And the boundary must go down from Shepham to Riblah on the east of Ain, and the border must go down and strike upon the eastern slope of the sea of Chinnereth. (Numbers 34:11)**
 - **And the border must go down to the Jordan, and its termination must prove to be the Salt Sea. This will become your land according to its boundaries all around. (Numbers 34:12)**
 - **From the wilderness and this Lebanon to the great river, the river Euphrates, that is, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun your territory will prove to be. (Joshua 1:4)**
 - **The sons of Gad, the sons of Reuben, and half of the tribe of Manasseh were granted their allotment of territory by Moses.**
 - **At this Moses gave to them, that is, to the sons of Gad and to the sons of Reuben and to half the tribe of Manasseh the son of Joseph, the kingdom of Sihon the king of the Amorites and the**

kingdom of Og the king of Bashan, the land belonging to its cities in the territories, and the cities of the land round about. (Numbers 32:33)

- For Moses had given the **inheritance** of the two other tribes and the other half tribe on the other side of the Jordan, and to the Levites he did not give an inheritance in their midst. (Joshua 14:3)
- The rest of the tribes received their **inheritance** by lot at the direction of Joshua and Eleazar.
- Now this is what the sons of Israel took as a hereditary possession in the land of Canaan, which Eleazar the priest and Joshua the son of Nun and the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the sons of Israel caused them to inherit. (Joshua 14:1)
- Their **inheritance** was by lot, just as Yehowah had commanded by means of Moses for the nine tribes and the half tribe. (Joshua 14:2)
- In harmony with Jacob's prophecy at;
- Simeon and Levi are brothers. Instruments of violence are their slaughter weapons. (Genesis 49:5)
- Cursed be their anger, because it is cruel, and their fury, because it acts harshly. Let me parcel them out in Jacob and let me scatter them in Israel. (Genesis 49:7)
- Simeon and Levi were not given a separate section of territory as **inheritance**. Simeon's territory consisted of land, along with enclave cities, inside the territory of Judah
- Then the second lot came out for Simeon, for the tribe of the sons of Simeon by their families. And their **inheritance** came to be in the midst of the inheritance of the sons of Judah. (Joshua 19:1)
- And they came to have in their **inheritance** Beer-sheba with Sheba, and Moladah. (Joshua 19:2)
- And Hazar-shual and Balah and Ezem. (Joshua 19:3)

- And Eitlad and Bethul and Hormah. (**Joshua 19:4**)
- And Ziklag and Beth-marcaboth and Hazar-susah. (**Joshua 19:5**)
- And Beth-lebaoth and Sharuhen, thirteen cities and their settlements. (**Joshua 19:6**)
- Ain, Rimmon and Ether and Ashan, four cities and their settlements. (**Joshua 19:7**)
- And all the settlements that were all around these cities as far as Baalath-beer, Ramah of the south. This was the **inheritance** of the tribe of the sons of Simeon by their families. (**Joshua 19:8**)
- The **inheritance** of the sons of Simeon was out of the allotment of the sons of Judah, because the share of the sons of Judah proved to be too large for them. So the sons of Simeon got a possession in the midst of their inheritance. (**Joshua 19:9**)
- While Levi was granted 48 cities throughout the entire territory of Israel. Since the Levites received the appointment to special service at the sanctuary, Yehowah was said to be their **inheritance**. They received the tithe as their portion or inheritance in return for their service.
- And Yehowah went on to say to Aaron; In their land you will not have an **inheritance**, and no share will become yours in their midst. I am your share and your inheritance in the midst of the sons of Israel. (**Numbers 18:20**)
- And to the sons of Levi, look! I have given every tenth part in Israel as an **inheritance** in return for their service that they are carrying on, the service of the tent of meeting. (**Numbers 18:21**)
- These are the cities that you will give to the Levites, six cities of refuge, which you will give for the manslayer to flee there, and besides them you will give forty-two other cities. (**Numbers 35:6**)
- All the cities that you will give to the Levites will be forty-eight cities, they together with their pasture grounds. (**Numbers 35:7**)
- Families were given assignments within the territory of their tribe. As families would increase and sons would inherit, the land would be progressively divided up into smaller and smaller parcels.

- **Since land was kept in the possession of the same family from generation to generation, it could not be sold in perpetuity. The sale of land was, in effect, only the leasing of it for the value of crops it would produce, the purchase price being on a graduated scale according to the number of years until the next Jubilee, at which time all land possession would revert to the original owner if it had not been repurchased or redeemed prior to the Jubilee.**

- **In this year of the Jubilee you should return each one to his possession. (Leviticus 25:13)**

- **By the number of the years after the Jubilee you should buy from your associate, by the number of the years of the crops he should sell to you. (Leviticus 25:15)**

- **So the land should not be sold in perpetuity, because the land is mine. For you are alien residents and settlers from my standpoint. (Leviticus 25:23)**

- **And in all the land of your possession you should grant to the land the right of buying back. (Leviticus 25:24)**

- **This regulation included houses in unwalled cities, which were regarded as part of the open field. As for a house in a walled city, the right of repurchase remained only for one year from the time of sale, at which time it became the property of the buyer.**

- **In the case of houses in Levite cities, the right of repurchase continued to time indefinite because the Levites had no **inheritance** of land.**

- **Now in case a man should sell a dwelling house in a walled city, his right of repurchase must also continue till the year from the time of his sale finishes out, his right of repurchase should continue a whole year. (Leviticus 25:29)**

- **But if it should not be bought back before the complete year has come to the full for him, the house that is in the city that has a wall must also stand in perpetuity as the property of its purchaser during his generations. It should not go out in the Jubilee. (Leviticus 25:30)**

- **However, the houses of settlements that have no wall about**

- them should be accounted as part of the field of the country. Right of repurchase should continue for it, and in the Jubilee it should go out. (**Leviticus 25:31**)
- **As for cities of the Levites with the houses of the cities of their possession, the right of repurchase should continue to time indefinite for the Levites. (**Leviticus 25:32**)**
 - **And where property of the Levites is not bought back, the house sold in the city of his possession must also go out in the Jubilee, because the houses of the cities of the Levites are their possession in the midst of the sons of Israel. (**Leviticus 25:33**)**
 - **Moreover, the field of pasture ground of their cities may not be sold, because it is a possession to time indefinite for them. (**Leviticus 25:34**)**
 - **The inviolability of the hereditary possession is illustrated in the case of Naboth's vineyard. Naboth refused either to sell it to the king or to exchange it for another vineyard, the crown did not have the right of eminent domain.**
 - **So Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying; Do give me your vineyard, that it may serve as a garden of vegetables to me, for it is close by my house, and let me give you in place of it a vineyard better than it. Or if it is good in your eyes, I will give you money as the price of this. (**1 Kings 21:2**)**
 - **But Naboth said to Ahab; It is unthinkable on my part, from Yehowah's standpoint, for me to give the hereditary possession of my forefathers to you. (**1 Kings 21:3**)**
 - **Consequently Ahab came into his house, sullen and dejected over the word that Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him, when he said; I shall not give you the hereditary possession of my forefathers. Then he lay down upon his couch and kept his face turned, and he did not eat bread. (**1 Kings 21:4**)**
 - **Finally Jezebel his wife came in to him and spoke to him; Why is it that your spirit is sad and you are not eating bread? (**1 Kings 21:5**)**
 - **At that he spoke to her; Because I proceeded to speak to Naboth the Jezreelite and say to him, Do give me your vineyard for**

money. Or, if you prefer, let me give you another vineyard in place of it. But he said; I shall not give you my vineyard. ([1 Kings 21:6](#))

- A person could, however, **devote** a part of his inheritance to Yehowah for the sanctuary. If so, it could not be redeemed, but it remained the property of the sanctuary and its priesthood.
- If a man wished to **sanctify** part of his property for the temporary use of the sanctuary, he could do so, and if he later wished to redeem it, he could do this by adding a fifth of its valuation.
- This doubtless protected the sanctuary treasury from loss and also created greater respect for the sanctuary and that which was offered in the worship of Yehowah.
- If the sanctified field was sold to another man, then in the Jubilee it would be as a field **devoted** and would not be returned to the original owner but would remain the property of the sanctuary and its priesthood.
- But if the sanctifier wants to buy his house back, he must then give a fifth of the money of the estimated value in addition to it, and it must become his. ([Leviticus 27:15](#))
- And if it is some of the field of his possession that a man would sanctify to Yehowah, the value must then be estimated in proportion to its seed, if a homer of barley seed, then at fifty shekels of silver. ([Leviticus 27:16](#))
- If he should sanctify his field from the year of Jubilee on, it should cost according to the estimated value. ([Leviticus 27:17](#))
- And if it is after the Jubilee that he sanctifies his field, the priest must then calculate for him the price in proportion to the years that are left over until the next year of Jubilee, and a deduction should be made from the estimated value. ([Leviticus 27:18](#))
- But if the sanctifier of it would at all buy the field back, he must then give a fifth of the money of the estimated value in addition to it, and it must stand fast as his. ([Leviticus 27:19](#))
- Now if he should not buy the field back but if the field is sold to another man, it may not be bought back again. ([Leviticus 27:20](#))

- **And the field when it goes out in the Jubilee must become something holy to Yehowah, as a field that is devoted. The possession of it will become the priests. (Leviticus 27:21)**
- **Only no sort of devoted thing that a man might devote to Yehowah for destruction out of all that is his, whether from mankind or beasts or from the field of his possession, may be sold, and no sort of devoted thing may be bought back. It is something most holy to Yehowah. (Leviticus 27:28)**

See Also SANCTIFICATION (Sanctifying of Land)

- **From the foregoing it can be seen that wills had no place in Hebrew terminology or practice, the laws of **inheritance** obviating any necessity of such a document.**
- **Even movable property was disposed of by its owner during his lifetime or by the laws of inheritance at the time of his death. In Jesus illustration of the prodigal son, the younger son, on request, received his share of the property before his father's death.**
- **And the younger of them said to his father; Father, give me the part of the property that falls to my share. Then he divided his means of living to them. (Luke 15:12)**

•• Benefits Of Hereditary Laws

- **The Laws governing the **hereditary** possessions and the dividing of them into smaller portions as the population increased were in themselves a contributing factor to greater family unity.**
- **In a land such as Israel, consisting of much hill country, as in Judea, this was advantageous in that it caused the Israelites to make the optimum use of the land, even terracing hillsides, resulting in clothing the land with beauty and greenery, the olive, the fig tree, the palm, and the vine, providing food for a great population.**
- **The fact that every man was a possessor of land created a greater love for the soil on which he lived, promoted industriousness, and, along with the Jubilee regulation, restored the nation to its original theocratic status every 50th year.**

- This helped maintain a balanced economy. However, as with other features of the Law, abuses eventually crept in.
- As Yehowah had told Israel, he was the real Owner of the land. They were alien residents and settlers from his standpoint. Therefore, he was able to put them out of the land at any time he saw fit.
- So the land should not be sold in perpetuity, because the land is mine. For you are alien residents and settlers from my standpoint. (**Leviticus 25:23**)
- Because of their many violations of God's Law, they were sent into exile for 70 years under the power of Babylon and remained under Gentile domination even after their restoration in **537 B.C.E.**
- Finally, in **70 C.E.**, the Romans took them completely off the land, selling thousands into slavery. Even their genealogical records were lost or destroyed.

· Christian Inheritance

- Jesus Christ, as the son of David, **inherits** the throne of David.
- To the abundance of the princely rule and to peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and upon his kingdom in order to establish it firmly and to sustain it by means of justice and by means of righteousness, from now on and to time indefinite. The very zeal of Yehowah of armies will do this. (**Isaiah 9:7**)
- This one will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and Yehowah God will give him the throne of David his father. (**Luke 1:32**)
- As the Son of God, he inherits heavenly kingship through the covenant Yehowah made with him.
- Yehowah has sworn, and he will feel no regret: You are a priest to time indefinite according to the manner of Melchizedek! (**Psalms 110:4**)
- However, you are the ones that have stuck with me in my trials. (**Luke 22:28**)
- And I make a covenant with you, just as my Father has made a

covenant with me, for a kingdom. (Luke 22:29)

- That you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones to judge the twelve tribes of Israel. (Luke 22:30)
- Christ, therefore, inherits the nations, to break to pieces all opposers and to rule forever.
- Saying; I, even I, have installed my king upon Zion, my holy mountain. (Psalms 2:6)
- Let me refer to the decree of Yehowah, he has said to me; You are my son. I, today, I have become your father. (Psalms 2:7)
- Ask of me, that I may give nations as your inheritance and the ends of the earth as your own possession. (Psalms 2:8)
- You will break them with an iron scepter, as though a potters vessel you will dash them to pieces. (Psalms 2:9)
- The anointed members of the Christian congregation are spoken of as having a heavenly inheritance, sharing Jesus inheritance as his brothers.
- Which is a token in advance of our inheritance, for the purpose of releasing by a ransom God's own possession, to his glorious praise. (Ephesians 1:14)
- Thanking the Father who rendered you suitable for your participation in the inheritance of the holy ones in the light. (Colossians 1:12)
- To an incorruptible and undefiled and unfading inheritance. It is reserved in the heavens for you. (1 Peter 1:4)
- Who are being safeguarded by God's power through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last period of time. (1 Peter 1:5)
- This includes the earth.
- Happy are the mild-tempered ones, since they will inherit the earth. (Matthew 5:5)

- Because God redeemed Israel out of Egypt, they became his possession or **inheritance**.
- For Yehowah's **share is his people**. Jacob is the allotment that he **inherits**. (**Deuteronomy 32:9**)
- Happy is the nation whose God is Yehowah, the people whom he has chosen as his **inheritance**. (**Psalms 33:12**)
- Remember your assembly that you acquired long ago, the tribe that you redeemed as your **inheritance**, this Mount Zion in which you have resided. (**Psalms 74:2**)
- Shepherd your people with your staff, the flock of your **inheritance**, the one who was residing alone in a forest, in the midst of an orchard. Let them feed on Bashan and Gilead as in the days of a long time ago. (**Micah 7:14**)
- They foreshadowed the nation of Spiritual Israel, whom God considers his **inheritance** because he possesses them, having purchased them by means of the blood of his only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ.
- But you are, a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for special possession, that you should declare abroad the excellencies, of the one that called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (**1 Peter 2:9**)
- Shepherd the flock of God in your care, not under compulsion, but willingly, neither for love of dishonest gain, but eagerly. (**1 Peter 5:2**)
- Neither as lording it over those who are God's **inheritance**, but becoming examples to the flock. (**1 Peter 5:3**)
- Pay attention to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has appointed you overseers, to shepherd the congregation of God, which he purchased with the blood of his own Son. (**Acts of Apostles 20:28**)
- Jesus Christ pointed out that persons who give up valuable things for the sake of his name and for the sake of the Good News will **inherit everlasting life**.

- **And everyone that has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands for the sake of my name will receive many times more and will inherit everlasting life. (Matthew 19:29)**
- **Jesus said; Truly I say to you men, No one has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for my sake and for the sake of the Good News (Mark 10:29)**
- **Who will not get a hundredfold now in this period of time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and fields, with persecutions, and in the coming system of things everlasting life. (Mark 10:30)**

See Also BIRTHRIGHT

See Also BROTHER-IN-LAW MARRIAGE

See Also FIRSTBORN, FIRSTLING