

HWMR - CRYSTALLIZATION STUDY OF NUMBERS, Book 4, Week 19

**The All-inclusive Christ
Being the Allotted Portion of the Saints,
according to God's Choice,
as Their Divine Inheritance for Their Enjoyment**

MC Hymns: 554, 907

Scripture Reading: Num. 32:1-6, 12, 16-22, 33; Deut. 8:9; Col. 1:12; 2:6-7; Phil. 3:7-11, 14

- Num 32: 1 - Now the children of Reuben and the children of Gad had a very **great abundance of livestock**. And when they saw the land of Jazer and the land of Gilead, that the **place** was indeed **a place for livestock**,
- Num 32: 2 - The children of Gad and the children of Reuben came and spoke to Moses and to Eleazar the priest and to the leaders of the assembly, saying,
- Num 32: 3 - Ataroth and Dibon and Jazer and Nimrah and Heshbon and Elealeh and Sebam and Nebo and Beon,
- Num 32: 4 - The land which Jehovah struck before the assembly of Israel, is a land for livestock, and your servants have livestock.
- Num 32: 5 - And they said, If we have found favor in your sight, **let this land be given** to your servants for a possession; **do not make us cross over the Jordan**.
- Num 32: 6 - And Moses said to the children of Gad and to the children of Reuben, Shall your brothers go to war, while you stay here?
- Num 32:12 - Except Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite and Joshua the son of Nun, because they have fully followed Jehovah.
- Num 32:16 - And they came near to him and said, We will build sheepfolds here for our livestock and cities for our little ones;
- Num 32:17 - But we ourselves will be armed and ready to go before the children of Israel until we have brought them to their place, while our little ones dwell in the fortified cities because of the inhabitants of the land.
- Num 32:18 - We will not return to our houses until each one of the children of Israel has inherited his inheritance.
- Num 32:19 - For we will not inherit with them on the other side of the Jordan and further on, because **our inheritance** has come to us on this **side of the Jordan eastward**.
- Num 32:20 - And Moses said to them, If you will do this thing, if you will arm yourselves before Jehovah for battle,
- Num 32:21 - And all of your armed men will cross over the Jordan before Jehovah until He has driven out His enemies from before Him,
- Num 32:22 - And the land is subdued before Jehovah, then afterward you shall return and **be free of obligation** toward Jehovah and toward Israel; and this land shall be yours for a possession before Jehovah.
- Num 32:33 - And Moses gave to them, to the children of Gad and to the children of Reuben and to the half-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 according to its cities with their territories, the cities of the surrounding land.
- Deut. 8: 9 - A **land** in which you will eat bread without scarcity; you will not lack anything in it; a land whose stones are iron, and from whose mountains you can mine copper.
- Col. 1:12 - Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of **the allotted portion of the saints in the light**;
- Col. 2: 6 - As therefore you have received the Christ, Jesus the Lord, **walk in Him**,
- Col. 2: 7 - Having been **rooted** and being **built up** in Him, and being established in the faith even as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.
- Phil. 3: 7 - But what things were gains to me, these I have counted as loss **on account of Christ**.
- Phil. 3: 8 - But moreover I also **count all things to be loss** on account of the **excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus** my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as refuse that I may gain Christ
- Phil. 3: 9 - And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is **through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God** and based on faith,
- Phil. 3:10 - To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the **fellowship** of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,
- Phil. 3:11 - If perhaps I may attain to the **out-resurrection** from the dead.
- Phil. 3:14 - I **pursue toward the goal** for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.

The Portion of the Saints

In Colossians 1:12 Paul says, “*Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light.*” This verse indicates that **the portion of the saints is the all-inclusive Christ for our enjoyment**. When Paul was writing the Epistle to the Colossians and was speaking of the **portion of the saints**, he had in mind the type of the **good land**. When the children of Israel entered the good land and **took possession** of the land, God commanded them to divide the land into lots and to allot them to the children of Israel so that they would receive a portion of the good land for their inheritance and enjoyment. Paul in Colossians presented **the all-inclusive Christ as the reality of the good land allotted to us by God**. We, the believers in Christ, have received a **portion of Christ** as the good land, which Paul calls the **portion of the saints**.

The New Testament believers' **inheritance**, their allotted portion, is **not** a physical land; **it is the all-inclusive Christ as the life-giving Spirit** (2:6-7; Gal. 3:14). He is the allotted portion of the saints as their **divine inheritance** for their **enjoyment**. **The riches of the good land typify the unsearchable riches of Christ** in the different aspects of His **bountiful supply** to His believers in His Spirit (Deut. 8:7-10; Eph. 3:8; Phil. 1:19). By **enjoying the riches of the land**, the believers in Christ **are built up to be His Body** as the house of God and the kingdom of God (Eph. 1:22-23; 2:21-22; 1 Tim. 3:15; Matt. 16:18-19; Rom. 14:17).

To say that Christ, the all-inclusive One, is the image of God implies that He is God, the Creator. When we see Christ, we see the **expression** of the **invisible God**, for He Himself is God. **Christ is the image of the invisible God, God Himself expressed**. **The Christ who is our good land, the allotted portion of the saints, is also the image of the Triune God, His expression**.
(Conclusion of the New Testament, The (Msgs. 346-366), Chapter 7)

Day 1 & Day 2

I. The all-inclusive Christ is typified by the **good land**, a land in which we will not lack anything—Deut. 8:9:

- A. Christ as the **allotted portion** of the saints (Col. 1:12) **refers** to the **lot of the inheritance**, as **illustrated** by the **allotment** of the good land of Canaan given to the children of Israel for their **inheritance** (Josh. 14:1):
 1. The New Testament believers' inheritance is not a physical land; **it is the all-inclusive Christ**; He is the pledge of **our inheritance**—Eph. 1:14.
 2. He is the **allotted portion** of the saints as our **divine inheritance for our enjoyment**—Acts 26:18b.

To Inherit the Triune God as Their Inheritance with the Holy Spirit as the Pledge

Through **regeneration** in the resurrection of Christ we have become **heirs** to **inherit** the **Triune God** as **our inheritance** with the Holy Spirit as the pledge. The “Holy Spirit of the promise” is the “*pledge of our inheritance, unto the redemption of the acquired possession*” (Eph. 1:13b-14). **God is our inheritance. We shall inherit all that God is and has**. For such an inheritance the Holy Spirit is the pledge, the guarantee. The Greek word for “pledge” in verse 14 also means foretaste, guarantee, a partial payment in advance. God gives His Holy Spirit to us not only as a guarantee of our inheritance, securing our heritage, but also as a **foretaste** of what we shall **inherit of God**.

We need to be impressed with the fact that **our inheritance is the Triune God Himself**, not a heavenly mansion in a city of golden streets and pearly gates. The **pledge** of our **inheritance** is the Holy Spirit. But God would not give the Spirit to us as a pledge for a heavenly mansion, for in such a case the pledge would not match the inheritance. **A material mansion would not need the divine person of the Spirit as a pledge, sample, foretaste, and guarantee**. Since the pledge of our inheritance is a divine person, the inheritance must also be a divine person—the Triune God Himself. The Triune God is the inheritance God intends to give to us, and the **Spirit** as the ultimate consummation of the Triune God **reaching us is the pledge of this inheritance**. As the pledge of our inheritance, the Spirit guarantees that the Triune God will be our portion for our enjoyment. This is the Triune God as our inheritance.

Furthermore, Ephesians 1:14 says that the Spirit is the pledge of our inheritance **unto the redemption** of the acquired possession. We, God's redeemed ones, the church, are God's possession acquired by His purchase with the precious blood of Christ (Acts 20:28). In God's economy God becomes our inheritance, and **we become God's possession**. As God's possession, **we still need the redemption of our body**, for our body is still in the old creation. One day we, **God's possession, will be redeemed in our body**. The Triune God has put His Spirit into us as a pledge of Himself as our inheritance unto, or with a view to, the day when, as God's acquired possession, **we shall be redeemed into His glory for Him to enjoy us**. On the one hand, the Triune God is **our inheritance**; on the other hand, **we are His possession**. The crucial matter in Ephesians 1:14 is that the Spirit is pledged into us as a guarantee that God will be our inheritance in full. Eventually, we shall be redeemed to be God's possession in glory. Then, **in the glory, we shall enjoy God as our inheritance, and He will enjoy us as His possession**.

Our inheritance is not anything material. The divine Trinity is **our inheritance**, and His consummated Spirit has been **imparted into our being** as a pledge. Now this pledge is working within us to redeem God's possession until the day we enjoy Him as **our portion** and He enjoys us as **His possession**. (Conclusion of the New Testament, The (Msgs. 099-113), Chapter 3, Section 3)

- B. God's intention is to **bring all His people into the good land**, which typifies **Christ as the goal**; in the Old Testament God's people journeyed and **then arrived at the goal**, but in the New Testament we, the believers, **having been baptized into Christ, are already in the goal**—Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27; 1 Cor. 1:30; Col. 2:6-7 and footnotes.
- C. **The good land today is Christ as the all-inclusive Spirit** (v. 6; Gal. 3:14), who **dwells in our spirit** (2 Tim. 4:22; Rom. 8:16) to be our **enjoyment**; to walk according to this Spirit (v. 4; Gal. 5:16) is the central and crucial point in the New Testament:
1. Colossians 2:6-7 reveals that Christ as the good land is the **rich soil** in which we have been **rooted** so that we may **grow** with the elements that we **absorb** from the soil—cf. 1 Cor. 3:6, 9; Col. 2:19.
 2. If we have been **rooted** in Christ, we shall **spontaneously walk** in Christ—living, acting, moving, and having our being in Christ.
 3. **The only way to become deeply rooted in Christ is to contact the Lord and spend time with Him in the Word with much prayer**; we first grow downward and then bear fruit upward—Eph. 5:26; 6:17-18; Isa. 37:31.
 4. While we **walk** in Christ, we will be **built up** in Christ to **live out** Christ; this living out of Christ will produce the corporate expression of Christ, the church life—Col. 2:6-7.
 5. **Every morning we need to take adequate time to absorb the Lord**; although even ten minutes is good, it is best to spend thirty minutes to enjoy Him at the start of each new day; as we spend time contacting the Lord in the morning and throughout the day in our spirit, we will spontaneously absorb into us the riches of Christ as the soil.
 6. **We must take time to enjoy the Lord as the all-inclusive land** so that all the elements of Christ as the rich soil may be absorbed into us for us to be made full in Him in our experience—v. 10a; 4:2:
 - a. If we would **absorb** the riches of Christ as the soil, we need to have tender, **new roots**; we should not let ourselves get old but be fresh and renewed every day—2 Cor. 4:16; cf. Deut. 34:7; Luke 11:34-36; Acts 3:19-20; Psa. 16:11.
 - b. **We need to forget our situation, our condition, our failures, and our weaknesses and simply take time to absorb the Lord so that we may be built up in Him for the building up of His Body, His corporate expression**—Luke 8:13; Matt. 14:22-23; 6:6.

AN ORGANIC PROCESS

No matter how old or young we may be, **we all have been deeply rooted** in our culture with the many factors and elements which make up our daily living. Just as we have been rooted in our culture, **we should now be rooted in Christ**. Being rooted is a **matter of life**. For a plant to be **rooted** in the soil involves an **organic process**. Apart from such a process, no plant can become rooted. The deeper a plant's roots extend into the earth, the more far-reaching is the organic process. As a plant's root system develops, the life of the plant spreads and develops. To be **rooted** in Christ is to experience such a development, spreading, and activity of life.

The **only way to become deeply rooted in Christ** as the soil is to **contact Him as the soil and to daily absorb the water in the Word**. The more we contact the soil and absorb the water, the more we shall grow. First we **grow** downward, then upward. After we have grown downward for a period of time, we shall **automatically** cease to walk in things other than Christ. **Instead**, because **we have been deeply rooted in Christ, we shall live, walk, act, and have our being in Christ**.

(Life-Study of Colossians, Chapter 46, Section 4)

Day 3 & Day 4

II. The book of Numbers reveals the prearrangement of the distribution of the good land, typifying the sharing of the enjoyment of the rich Christ according to God's choice—32:1-42; 33:50—36:13:

- A. The good land is surrounded by two seas (the Mediterranean Sea and the Dead Sea) and one river (the Jordan River); these **two seas** and this **river** all **signify** the **death of Christ**—34:2-3, 6, 12.
- B. This indicates that the enjoyment of Christ is closely **related** to **His death**; the enjoyment of Christ must be in the **sphere**, the **territory**, of His death—Phil. 3:7-11.
- C. That the good land rose up from the waters that **bordered** it on either side indicates that it is an **elevated, uplifted** land; this **signifies** the **resurrected** and **ascended** Christ, the heavenly Christ, who has entered into us in His resurrection (John 20:22) and whose riches we enjoy in His ascension (Eph. 2:6; Col. 3:1-4).
- D. The request by Reuben and Gad to receive the land that God had promised (Num. 32:1-5, 33) was not wrong; however, they were not right in wanting to receive this **according to their choice** as to what was best:
 1. Eventually, their land was the first part of the land of Israel to be taken over by the Gentile invaders from the east (1 Chron. 5:25-26); those who **remain halfway** and are satisfied with only a little blessing from God will be **easily** captured by the enemy.
 2. In spiritual matters **it is much better to not act according to our choice** but to **leave matters in the hand of the Lord and let Him do according to His choice**—Hymns, #907; cf. Gen. 13:5-18.

3. The land requested by Reuben and Gad could be reached without crossing the river Jordan, which signifies the old man not being dealt with and buried (see footnotes on Joshua 3:16—4:12); **only after our old man has been dealt with and buried** (Rom. 6:3-6) **are we in a position to possess the all-inclusive Christ as the good land for our enjoyment.**
4. The land given to Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh (Num. 32:33), the land that was according to their choice, could be reached **without** crossing the Jordan and thus was **not actually** a part of the good land of Canaan (cf. 34:14-15; 35:14); this indicates that, in **type**, it was **outside the death of Christ.**

The **typology** in Numbers reveals that if we are to **enjoy** Christ as our inheritance, **participating** in the riches of Christ, **we must have the church life.** In order to enjoy Christ, we must have the church life. The church life is somewhat related to our **fellowship** with those who are close to us. Numbers 27:8-11 indicates that **the possession of the inheritance, the possession of the enjoyment of Christ,** is based on our **relationship in life.** Perhaps it is better to replace relationship, a human word, with fellowship, a divine word. Our **fellowship with the saints** in the church is a kind of relationship. We must have this relationship, this fellowship, if we are to have the enjoyment of Christ. If we lose our fellowship with the saints, we will also lose our enjoyment of Christ. From this we see that it is risky and dangerous to give up the church life, as some dear ones have done. Those who give up the church life with the fellowship of life spontaneously lose their right to inherit the enjoyment of Christ. May we all be enlightened concerning this crucial matter and **remain in the fellowship of life** with the saints, the members of God's great family. (Life-Study of Numbers, Chapter 38, Section 3)

The principle is the same concerning our enjoyment of Christ today. **Christ has been given to us as our portion for our enjoyment,** yet there is a **condition** which we must fulfill in order to have this enjoyment. This condition is that **we cooperate with God's ordination to drive out everything in us which is other than God and Christ.** This means that we must destroy all the idols within us. An idol is anything other than God that occupies us. A degree, a good job, a nice house, a position or rank, a good name—all these can become **idols occupying us.** We must destroy any idols that may be in us and not leave any ground within us for the worship of idols. Without dealing with the idols in us, we cannot have the **genuine** enjoyment of Christ. (Life-Study of Numbers, Chapter 46, Section 1)

In verses 16 through 29 we have the **distributors** of the good land. The leaders of the two and a half tribes are **not included in the list** of distributors. The two and a half tribes **possessed something,** but what they possessed was **not part of the good land.** In principle, this may also be our situation in the church life. We may have our choice and gain something. What we gain may seem to be according to God's promise, **but actually** it is merely **something according to our own choice** and cannot be reckoned as a part of God's promise.

There should be some significance in the fact that this list does not include the names of the leaders of the two and a half tribes. I believe that their names do not appear because these tribes made their own choice. Today, **if we have our self-choice, our names may not be included on God's "list."** Concerning this, we should not care about man's opinion, appraisal, appreciation, criticism, and condemnation. Today is "man's day" (1 Cor. 4:3), the present age in which man judges. Let us wait for the day of the Lord when He will judge (1 Cor. 4:4-5). Only the Lord is qualified to give the final word. Therefore, **let us learn not to have our self-choice, which keeps us outside the death of Christ. We should care for the Lord's choice, not for our choice, and let our names be on His list, not on our list.** (Life-Study of Numbers, Chapter 46, Section 4)

Day 5

5. The **obligation** of Reuben and Gad toward Jehovah and toward Israel (32:22) was due to the fact that **they had their own choice** regarding their portion of the land (vv. 1-5); in serving the Lord, **we need to learn to give up our own choice in order to avoid obligating ourselves to God and to His people.**
 6. Our self-choice is likewise outside the death of Christ and therefore has nothing to do with the real enjoyment of the rich Christ; if we do not pass through the death of Christ, we cannot enter into the realm of His resurrection and ascension to enjoy Him as the heavenly, elevated One—cf. Gal. 2:20; Phil. 3:10-11; Col. 3:1-4.
- E. Obtaining "the land east of the Jordan" reaches God's spiritual goal but not His **glorious goal—receiving** the rich inheritance in Christ, the glory of the riches of Christ, **in the position of His ascension.**

Day 6

- F. The tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh thought only about themselves, cared too much for their own enjoyment, and did not care for God's will, plan, goal, kingdom, or testimony.
- G. This indicates that if we care only for our own salvation, peace, blessing, or material things and are unwilling to go forward, we will not be able to fulfill God's will and plan or reach His goal, kingdom, and testimony; **we should not substitute the second best for the best.**
- H. Moses permitted the promise of Reuben and Gad (Num. 32:16-19, 33), telling them that if they went to battle with their brothers, subdued the land, and freed themselves from their **obligation,** they could have the land east of the Jordan (vv. 20-22):
 1. Here Moses represented God; many times **God permits** such promises as this; **He does not force us.**
 2. Today in the church many of the Lord's lovers and pursuers remain on the east of the Jordan; they only want to be under God's blessing and care.

- I. The choice of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh caused their descendants to lose the right to inherit the land of Canaan (vv. 18-19, 33):
1. This typifies that **if we lust for ease and comfort today**—caring only for ourselves, **stopping halfway**, and giving up our rights in the matter of pursuing the Lord—we will not be able to recover those rights, and there will not be any compensation for them; this is an eternal loss.
 2. In contrast, **if we are willing to pay the price today** to go **forward continually** into God's glorious goal so as to enjoy His fullness, we will have an extremely rich and special enjoyment in the future—Phil. 3:14.
- J. God has ordained Christ to be our portion for our enjoyment, but we must **cooperate** with God's **ordination** by **driving out everything within us** that is other than God and Christ; we must **destroy all the idols within us** and not leave any ground within us for the worship of idols (Num. 33:50-53; 1 John 5:21); only then can we have the genuine enjoyment of Christ for the church as His building and His kingdom.

The Statutes for Inheriting the Good Land

Jehovah commanded Moses to say to the people, "*When you pass over the Jordan into the land of Canaan, then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy all their figured stones, and destroy all their molten images, and demolish all their high places; and you shall take possession of the land and settle in it, for I have given the land to you to possess it*" (vv. 51-53). These verses **reveal** that, **after driving out the devilish inhabitants of the land**, they were to **destroy all the idols and high places**, the places where the idols were worshipped. **Only then would they be qualified to take possession of the land and enjoy it.**

The **principle** is the same concerning **our enjoyment of Christ today**. Christ has been given to us **as our portion** for our enjoyment, yet there is a **condition** which we must fulfill in order to have this enjoyment. This condition is that **we cooperate with God's ordination to drive out everything in us which is other than God and Christ**. This means that **we must destroy all the idols within us**. An idol is anything other than God that occupies us. A degree, a good job, a nice house, a position or rank, a good name—all these can become idols occupying us. We must destroy any idols that may be in us and not leave any ground within us for the worship of idols. Without dealing with the idols in us, we cannot have the genuine enjoyment of Christ.

Some may talk about the enjoyment of Christ, but for them this is merely a slogan. Whether or not we can have the real **enjoyment of Christ** depends upon **the extent to which there is a clearance of our inner being**. Today **Christ as the good land is in us**, but the enjoyment of this good land **requires** an **absolute clearance of anything other than God that occupies us**. To give even a little ground to the worship of something other than God will annul our enjoyment of Christ. May we all have a thorough **clearing away** of every kind of idol so that we can enjoy Christ as the good land.

(Life-Study of Numbers, Chapter 46, Section 1)