

SPAKE OF THEIR INHERITANCE

Sunday Morning: February 11, 2001

Text: Hebrews 1:1-2 "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners **spake in time past unto the fathers** by the prophets,

2. Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;"

Reflecting upon on this passage of scripture some thoughts came to me that I did not have before. They are thoughts of encouragement for all of us. Verse one tells us 'that God at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets.' I appreciate the fact that there are many prophets in the Old Testament when I think of Elijah, and Abraham, and Moses, but the thought that struck me, as I was musing on this, was to look at the writings of the prophets that wrote the prophetic books. Isaiah, Joel, Micah, Jeremiah, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. These prophets prophesied to Judah primarily. There were two prophets to the Northern ten tribes of Israel and they were Hosea and Amos. Obadiah prophesied to Edom, which is the land to the Southeast of the land flowing with milk and honey. This is the land that was given to Esau. Jonah and Nahum prophesied to Assyria which had to do with the Gentile kingdom to the Northeast of the land flowing with milk and honey. When I was reflecting upon the fact God was using these prophets. What were these prophets talking about.

In 2 Peter 1 we sort of have a definition of a prophet.

PROPHETS WERE HOLY MEN

2 Peter 1:20-21 "Knowing this first, that **no prophecy** of the **scripture** is of any **private interpretation**. 21. For the **prophecy** came not in old time by the will of man: but **holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost**."

Holy men of God who live a life exemplary and they were not leading the people astray. They were tell the future of course, but they were naming the sins of the people. They were warning the people of the impending captivity, the destruction, of the curse. Remember Moses gave the children of Israel the blessing and the cursing. I will bless you if you will behave. I will curse you if you don't, and the prophets from Isaiah to Malachi were dealing with the kings that were rebelling against the Him. Keep in mind that prophecy is not open to private interpretation. The word of God is expressed and it has a primary mean. There may be other applications, but the meaning is not changed and is not open to our whims of interpretation.

In 1 Corinthians 13 we have additional insight into prophecy.

PROPHETS EXPLAIN THE MYSTERIES

1 Corinthians 13:2 "And though I have *the gift of prophecy*, and **understand all mysteries**, and all **knowledge**; . . ."

Prophets had the ability to explain things they understood. If they understood the mysteries of the Kingdom of heavens, they shared that. If they had knowledge as to the will of the Lord, not necessarily as to an individual, because the prophets spake in the fellowship of the church. In fact it tells us in 1 Corinthians 14 verse 29 there was an order for the prophets to follow.

CHURCH LEARN BY PARTS

1 Corinthians 14:29-31 "Let the **prophets speak two (parts)** or **three (parts)**, and let the other judge. 30. If *any thing* be **revealed** to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace. 31. For ye may all **prophecy** one by one, that **all may learn (in parts)**, and **all may be comforted [exhorted]**."

PROPHESED IN PARTS

Hebrews 1:1 "God, who at **sundry times** [one compound word = many + parts] and in divers manners **spake** in time past unto the fathers by **the prophets**,"

In Hebrews chapter 1 verse 1 there is the words 'sundry times' and that is one Greek word, it is a compound word and it has the word 'many' and the word 'parts.' Not all the prophets of the Old Testament had all the knowledge. God used sixteen of them to write sixteen books. They did not all have the same knowledge and they were separate from each other. When they all got through writing their prophetic books along with the rest of the Old Testament all came together as a complete work, a complete book, but it was done in parts.

The passage in 1 Corinthians 14:29 the prophets stood up and they proclaimed the truth of the word of God in parts. Not one prophet had all the truth. The reason for that is that the word of God was not yet complete, and yet God had thing that he wanted his people to learn and to know and he used prophets by moving on these men to proclaim what was needed by the body of believers. God had certain men like Matthew, Mark, Luke, and others to write down the Word of God in parts. Paul did not have all the knowledge, Peter did not have all the knowledge. In fact Peter said that Paul had knowledge of some thing I do not understand. 2 Peter 3:16. So the New Testament was written in parts. Therefore two prophets stood up and they gave their parts or may maybe three prophets stood up and gave their part one at a time. They taught mysteries, they taught the knowledge of God's will that all might learn in parts and that all might be exhorted. Obviously we need comfort, but we need more exhortation than comfort. The exhortation is to behave, to be obedient, to be faithful. It is important to be exhorted particularly in these last days because of lawless days. People are getting away with unmentionable things. The prophets taught the people.

In 1 Corinthians 13 and verses 8 through 10 it says;

WHEN THE PARTS ARE COMPLETE

1 Corinthians 13:8-10 "Charity never faileth: but whether *there be prophecies*, they shall **fail** [inoperative, done away, v.10]; whether *there be tongues*, they shall cease; whether *there be knowledge*, it shall vanish away. **9. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10. But when that (all the parts) which is perfect [complete, finished] is come**, then that which is in part (prophetic parts) shall be [inoperative, fail, v. 8] **done away.**"

Because of the light of this verse, when the New Testament was completed, then the need for prophets ended. Tongues were a sign gift. Since no one had a copy of the Word of God in Paul's day the way that a man proved he was sent from God was to raise the dead. He healed the sick. He would go to a local lake and cast a few trees into the lake as the said was possible in Luke 17:6 "And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this **sycamine** tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you." No one is producing this sign to prove they are a prophet or a man from God. The sign gifts are no longer needed to prove a man is come from God. The way that you tell whether I am a man of God by what I teach. You can judge and they did the prophet in Paul's day. When Paul taught at Berea what happened? They were checking the Old Testament scriptures to see what Paul was saying was right or wrong. Obviously they did not catch Paul on anything.

Notice in Hebrews 1:1 that they were speaking in past times to the fathers. What were they speaking about? What were they talking about to the nation of Israel.

THE PROPHETS ADDRESSED

Hebrews 1:1 "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners **spake in time past unto the fathers** by the prophets,"

They were talking about the Land. What land? The land flowing with milk and honey. In Isaiah 1:19-20 it says:

THE LAND (376 times)

Isaiah 1:19-20 "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of **the land**: 20. But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it*."

The prophets were talking about their inheritance. I want you to get that, that is essential! The prophets were talking about the inheritance of the nation of Israel and the loosing of that inheritance because of disobedience. I check this, and this may not refer to the Land directly in every place, but there 376 times that the word Land is used from Isaiah to Malachi. That was important. They were talking about the inheritance.

In Ezekiel 47:14

THE INHERITANCE (42 times)

Ezekiel 47:14 "And ye shall inherit it, one as well as another: *concerning* the which I lifted up mine hand **to give it unto your fathers**: and **this land** shall fall unto you **for inheritance**."

The prophets were talking about their inheritance. And the word inheritance is used forty two times from Isaiah to Malachi. This is significant, they were talking to the fathers about the inheritance.

In Isaiah 61:1 is says;

DELIVERANCE

Isaiah 61:1 "The spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the **meek**; he hath sent me to bind up the **brokenhearted**, to proclaim **liberty to the captives**, and the opening of the prison to *them that are bound*;" (captivity 137 times)

Deliverance from captivity and the word 'captivity' is found 137 times from Isaiah to Malachi. There were people in bondage. He is talking about deliverance and remission of sins, if you please. Jesus quoted that verse when he opened the Word of God in the Temple in Luke chapter four. He said this is being fulfilled today. Who was Jesus Christ? He was the Son of God. What was Jesus talking about when he came to the nation of Israel? Good times, no, he was talking about the inheritance, he was talking about the kingdom, He was talking about deliverance, to whom? To the nation of Israel. He was talking about the kingdom of the heavens.

In Daniel Chapter nine verse eleven, we find the curse the prophets were talking about:

THE CURSE

Daniel 9:11 "Yea, all Israel have **transgressed thy law**, even by **departing**, that they might **not obey** thy voice; therefore **the curse** is poured upon us, and the oath that *is* written in the law of Moses the servant of God, because we have sinned against him."

The prophets were talking about their sin and the curse. Do you know what the curse is? I just found a little insight into what the curse is. People think the curse is being lost. The men of Gibeon did not think the curse was bad, because, if the Gibeonites had not fooled Joshua they

would have been destroyed. Joshua and the elders did consult the Lord about these people therefore they let them live but Joshua cursed them. Joshua said in Joshua chapter nine and in verse 23:

BONDAGE

Joshua 9:23 "Now therefore **ye are cursed**, and there shall none of you be freed from being **bondmen**, and **hewers** of wood and **drawers** of water for the house of my God."

Do you know what it means to be cursed in the Kingdom? You are going to be bondmen. You are going to be drawing water and cutting wood in the kingdom. Who want to be doing that during the kingdom of heaven? The prophets were talking about the curse. They were talking about the judgments.

In Ezekiel 39:23

OF JUDGMENT

Ezekiel 39:23 "And the heathen shall know that the house of **Israel went into captivity for their iniquity**: because they trespassed against me, therefore hid I my face from them, and gave them into the hand of their enemies: so fell they all by the sword."

There are so many verses I could have used to point out what the prophets were telling the People of God. These that were chosen to help us to see what was going to happen to the nation of Israel because of their sin and disobedience.

In Hebrews chapter one and verse one:

GOD USED TYPES

Hebrews 1:1 "**God**, who at sundry times and in **divers manners spake** in time past **unto the fathers** by the prophets,"

The prophets were giving us types, that is word pictures, to us to help us to understand the consequences of living a similar life style of that of the nation of Israel.

THE FATHERS SUFFERED JUDGMENT

1 Corinthians 10:1-6 "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that **all our fathers** were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; 2. And were **all** baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; 3. And did **all** eat the same spiritual meat; 4. And did **all** drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. 5. But **with many** of them **God was not well pleased**: for they were **overthrown** in the wilderness. 6. Now **these things were our examples [types]**, to the **intent** we should (learn from the fathers) not lust after evil things, as they also lusted."

We are to learn from the experiences of the fathers so that we do not lust after things that we should not have.

In verse eleven of chapter ten.

A WARNING

1 Corinthians 10:11 "Now all **these things happened** unto them for **ensamples [as a type]**: and they are **written for our admonition [warning]**, upon whom the **ends** of the **world [ages]** are come."

The Old Testament are word pictures, stories of historical facts that have a meaning that carries over into the New Testament to help us to appreciate what God has prepared for those who will love Him and obey Him and serve Him.

In Romans chapter fifteen and verse 4:

FOR HOPE OF INHERITANCE

Romans 15:4 "For whatsoever things were **written aforetime** were written **for our learning**, that we through **patience** and **comfort** [exhortation] of the scriptures **might have hope.**"

What is the hope of Christian? It's not salvation. It is something I have now. When I believed on the Lord Jesus I was saved, but there is something that I don't have now. I am not ruling over ten cities. I am not ruling over even a block of a city. My hope is the hope of glory which will come when I am ruling over five or ten cities.

ABOUND IN HOPE

Romans 15:13 "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may **abound in hope**, through the power of the Holy Ghost."

Believing is in the present tense. God wants us to abound in hope, because if we are abounding in hope we are going to be abounding in faithfulness and fruitfulness.

We find something interesting in Peter along this line of thought:

INHERITANCE SALVATION BY FAITH

1 Peter 1:3-5 "Blessed *be* the God and Father . . ., which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a **lively** (living) **hope** by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4. To [for] **an inheritance** incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5. Who are **kept** by the **power** of God through (un-shipwrecked) **faith** unto [leading to] **salvation ready** [prepared salvation] to be **revealed** [unveil] in **the last time.**"

We have a living hope for an inheritance 'reserved in heaven for you.' Most people stop reading right there. They want to believe that everything in heaven is guaranteed. Wrong! The reason it wrong is found in the next phrase. 'We are kept by the power of God through faith. Beloved you can make shipwreck of the faith and lose the power of God to reserve your inheritance. In other words our inheritance can be lost or forfeited. That what happen to the nation of Israel. They were looking for prophet to tell them thing they wanted to hear and the next thing you know they are in Babylon. Hanging their harps on the willow tree because they are in bondage and in captivity and they are the hewers of wood and the haulers of water for a pagan king, Nebuchadnezzar. What a drag. If we are kept by the power of God though faith that leads to salvation to be revealed in the last times. Do you see the word 'ready'. This is interesting. The word 'ready' is an adjective and it modifies the word 'salvation' and it would be better translated 'prepared' as in 'prepared salvation'. This is a prepared salvation this is revealed in the last days or times. This salvation is referred to in verse 9 of this chapter.

THAT REVEALED SALVATION

1 Peter 1:9 "**Receiving** the **end of your faith**, *even* the **salvation** of *your* **souls**."

The salvation of the soul has to do with the coming kingdom of heaven. Our spirits are saved when we believe on the Lord Jesus. Our soul is saved when we live by faith. The word 'soul' which is also translated 'life' has to do with our life in the coming kingdom. The life is the life of ruling and reigning with Him. Further insight into the salvation of the soul is found in the following verse.

OF WHICH SALVATION

1 Peter 1:10-12 "Of which **salvation** (so great salvation, Heb. 2:2, and not the common salvation, Jude 1:3, which is not of faith) the (Old Testament) **prophets** have inquired

and searched diligently, who **prophesied** of the grace *that should come* unto you: 11. Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of [for] Christ, and **the glory** that should **follow** (in the kingdom of heaven). 12. Unto whom it was revealed, that **not unto themselves**, but unto **us** they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the **gospel** (of the kingdom) unto you with the Holy Ghost (the earnest of our inheritance) sent down from heaven; which things the **angels** (who now rule in the heavens) desire to look into."

The Old Testament prophet were scratching their heads over this salvation. Does that mean the prophets in the Old Testament were not saved? NO! They had the common salvation. Their God was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The salvation they were inquiring about was the so great salvation of Hebrews 2:2 and not the common salvation of Jude 1:3, which is not of faith. You know you are not saved, that is the common salvation, by faith. You are saved, common salvation, by believe, the verb. Faith is a noun. When you believe on Jesus Christ, you receive the common salvation of all those in the family of God. You can make shipwreck of the faith and lose the so great salvation that Israel anticipated in the Land but lost because of disobedience.

The prophets were prophesying 'of the grace *that should come* unto you: 11. Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of [for] Christ, and **the glory** that should **follow**.' (those who suffer for Christ sake, in the kingdom of heaven). The Word of God says it's the will of God for us not only to suffer for Him but to believe in the present tense. If you believe in the present tense you are going to suffer for Christ sake.

Continuing: 12. Unto whom it was revealed, that **not unto themselves**, but unto **us** they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the **gospel** (what Gospel was preached by the apostles? The gospel of the kingdom) unto you with the Holy Ghost (the earnest of our inheritance) sent down from heaven; which things the **angels** (who now rule in the heavens) desire to look into."

This gospel is not the gospel of the common salvation, but the gospel of the Kingdom. Jude wanted to write of the common salvation, but Lord said 'no.' you talk about faith which pleases me. So we are not talking about the common salvation we are talking the salvation of the soul which is the So Great Salvation of Hebrews 2:2.

12. "unto you with the Holy Ghost (the earnest of our inheritance) sent down from heaven; which things the **angels** (who now rule in the heavens) desire to look into." What angels? I believe it is the fallen angels that looking to this, because through our faithfulness we will be taking their places in the kingdom of the heavens when they are booted out of Heaven. To day there is the Prince of Persia and the Prince of Greece as well as Satan who are ruling in the kingdom of heaven and when these are removed then Jesus Christ will replace Satan and the saints will replace the other principalities and rulers of heaven. The reason these angels are looking into this salvation, because they would like to defeat you, because you are like politicians. Politicians want to defeat their opponents, and you know what? We are their opponents, except we are in a war.

OUR INHERITANCE PREACHED

Hebrews 1:2 "Hath in these last days **spoken** unto us **by his Son**, whom he hath appointed **heir** of all things, by whom also he **made the worlds** [ages];"

Do you know what this verse is saying? Just like the prophets spoke to the nation of Israel about their inheritance and about their inheritance in the land flowing with milk and honey, God the Father is speaking to you and to me about our inheritance in the kingdom of the heavens. Jesus Christ is the Son of God who received his inheritance as an overcomer. As the Son of God he inherited all things and he will share that inheritance with other that overcome. Jesus Christ was an overcomer and in

THE SONS EXAMPLE

Revelation 3:21-22 "To **him** that **overcometh** will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also **overcame**, and am set down with my Father in his throne. 22. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

God the Father is speaking to us, that have ears to hear, through the example of His Son. The purpose and example given to us by His Son. Jesus Christ stood in the presence of His Father approved. That is what the Son wanted to do. We think of Jesus Christ being perfect and sinless and he couldn't sin, but He lived a life as if He could in a since, if you understand what I am saying. He lived as if might fail, to be an example to us who do fail, so that we would take his example and live a life judging our sins daily that we might be overcomers.

THE OVERCOMER

Revelation 21:7 "He that **overcometh** shall **inherit all things**; and I will be his God, and he shall be my **son**."

God will not be ashamed of me. I sure don't want God to be ashamed of me. He was not ashamed be called the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and all those in Hebrews 11. Hebrews 11:16 ". . . wherefore God is not **ashamed** to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city." "And he shall be my son" The prophets talked about the inheritance to the fathers, you know what the Son talks about?, the same thing.

I hope that is an encouragement to you, it was to me, when I saw that the prophet talked about the inheritance and judgment just as the Son spoke of our inheritance and possible judgment because of our own disobedience to Him. I have never looked at those two verse like that before. That helped me to appreciate what the Sons means when he says He that esteems the Son esteems life the age. 1 John 5:12.

Father, we just thank you for your Son who speaks to us to day. We thank you Lord that we can read in the Old Testaments about the prophets who encouraged the people to repent. They didn't and they suffered. The were cursed. Lord, we don't want to be cursed in the kingdom. We don't want to be bondmen. We don't want to be the hewers of wood and the haulers of water. We want to be kings in your kingdom. We want to be Lords in your kingdom. We want to rule over 10 over 5 over 7 what ever cities you have for us, Lord. We want to be fruitful, and faithful, and profitable, we want hear 'well done' to come from your lips and to inherit all things your have prepared for each of us. That we might glorify you Father in the Son, for it is in Jesus Christ name that we pray, Amen.