

**“The World is Yours”**  
**Romans 4:13-17a**  
**January 17, 2021**

**I. We’re Going to Inherit the World!**

- A. All believers in the gospel are Abraham’s true descendants.

*Galatians 3:7, 29* - <sup>7</sup> Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham...<sup>29</sup> And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s descendants, heirs according to promise.

- B. Abraham and his descendants were promised the whole world.

*Gen. 17:5b* - ...For I will make you the father of a multitude of nations

*Genesis 22:17* - <sup>17</sup> indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies.

*Isaiah 54:3* - For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left. And your descendants will possess nations and will resettle the desolate cities.

*Amos 9:11–12* - <sup>11</sup> “In that day I will raise up the fallen tent of David, and wall up its breaches; I will also raise up its ruins And rebuild it as in the days of old; <sup>12</sup> That they may possess the remnant of Edom And all the nations who are called by My name,” declares the Lord who does this.

- C. The Messiah would be the ultimate inheritor of that global promise.

*Psalms 2:8* – [God to the Messiah] Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession.

- D. Jesus the Messiah has inherited the world, along with the entire created order.

*Matthew 28:18* - And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All rule has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”

- E. Believers are coheirs with Christ!

*Romans 8:16–17a* - <sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ...

- F. Though we only have all things now *in principle*, after Christ’s return, we will truly and tangibly possess everything, after everything has been glorified!

*2 Corinthians 6:10b* - [believers often live] as having nothing yet possessing all things.

*1 Corinthians 2:9* - But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

- G. What are the implications for us?

1. We should reject the notion that the modern nation of Israel has a religious claim to the land known today as Israel.
  - a. God’s promise to Abraham was always far larger.
  - b. Only believers in Jesus – Jew or Gentile – are the inheritors of that promise.

2. We can be free to not fret about the state of the world today, or our current lack of possession of its wealth, influence, or benefits.
  - a. The world already belongs to Jesus.
  - b. After the general resurrection, it will belong to us too...forever!

## **II. We Inherit the World by Faith!**

- A. The promise given to Abraham (and to us through Christ) could never have been based on the Law.
  1. When we inevitably sin after knowing God's Law, our situation is made even worse!
  2. Sins become *transgressions*, and God's wrath is stirred even more.
  3. Were the promised inheritance based on law, no sinner would ever receive what was promised.
- B. Thankfully the promise was, and still is, based on faith in God's plan of salvation, now made clear in Christ.
- C. Our future inheritance of the world is as secure now as it was when we first believed, despite our ongoing failings.
  1. Jesus' perfect obedience secures our inheritance.
  2. Jesus' propitiatory [wrath removing] death atones for all our remaining sins.