

INHERITANCE OF THE CHURCH

Jesus inherited all created things from his Father (Heb 1:2) and will give portions of his inheritance (Luke 10:42; John 13:8) to his brothers and sisters for an eternal inheritance (Acts 20:32; 26:18; Eph 1:11; Col 3:24; Heb 9:15; 1 Peter 1:4).

Our inheritance consists of everything we will receive in the next life, such as a blessing, eternal life, the earth, the kingdom, rewards, glory and honor, special honors, new names, crowns, and diadems—everything promised by God:

- (1) the promises of God (Heb 6:12),
- (2) a blessing (1 Peter 3:9),
- (3) eternal life (Matt 19:29; Rom 2:7; Titus 3:7; Heb 1:14; 1 Peter 3:7),
- 4) the earth (Matt 5:5),
- (5) entrance into and life in the millennial and eternal kingdoms of God (Matt 5:3, 10; James 2:5; Rev 21:1–7),
- (6) glory and honor (Rom 2:7),
- (7) pure gold (Rev 3:18a) and treasure stored up in heaven (Matt 19:21; Mark 10:21; Luke 12:21, 33; 18:22; 1 Tim 6:19),
- (8) payment for good works, rewards for service, or spiritual investments, such as showing hospitality (Matt 10:41–42), praying (Matt 6:6), preaching and teaching (1 Cor 3:12–15), almsgiving (Matt 6:4), and giving to missions (Phil 4:14–19),
- (9) special honors for extraordinary accomplishments in *cosmos diabolicus* and in the angelic conflict (such as the crown of righteousness, crown of life, imperishable crown, and unfading crown of glory)

[note: payment for good works (service) is owed and cannot be lost (Matt 10:42; Rom 4:4; 1 Peter 1:4), but opportunities for pay can be lost (1 Cor 3:15); special honors (crowns and diadems) can be lost due to unfaithfulness and be given to someone more worthy (1 Cor 9:27; 2 John 8; Rev 3:11)],

(10) job, ministry, or vocation serving Jesus and God the Father, such as priests in the millennial temple (Rev 3:12; cf. Ezek 44:10–16) and saints before the throne in the eternal Kingdom (Rev 22:3),

(11) position, privilege, and access, such as receiving hidden manna, a white stone, new names, and being a pillar in the millennial temple (Heb 1:4; Rev 2:17; 3:12),

(12) house and land to possess (Isa 49:8b; John 14:2–3; Heb 12:23; cf. Isa 65:9–10 and Zech 8:12 for Israel) and to rule over (Matt 19:28; Luke 22:30; Rev 21:24; cf. Rom 4:13 for Abraham) on the millennial and new earth, and

(13) authority and right to rule with Christ, such as receiving diadems for overcoming many enemies in spiritual warfare (2 Tim 2:12; Rev 2:26–27; 3:21; cf. Rom 8:35–37; 2 Cor 10:4–5; James 4:7; Rev 20:4).

Crowns (*corona, στέφανοι*) were wreaths made of grass, leaves, flowers, wood, or gold in ancient Greece and Rome; diadems (*diadema, διάδημα*) were headbands often made of white cloth or gold in the Greco-Roman Empire.

Eternal life is a free gift of grace (Rom 6:23; Eph 2:8–9); payment for service and honors such as crowns and diadems are given on the basis of merit.

