

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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WHERE IS YOUR INHERITANCE?

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We can answer this question with one passage of Scripture: “*unto an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you*” (1 Peter 1:4). This passage clearly teaches us that an inheritance awaits us in heaven. In fact it is “reserved in heaven for you.”

With God’s Word firmly placed in your mind, it may surprise you to hear that the inheritance the two Jehovah Witnesses are promoting when they come to your door is not found in heaven at all. They are happy to tell you that your inheritance lies upon this earth under peaceful and righteous conditions that will occur in the near future.

Psalm 37:29 is one of the passages used to show that the earth will one day be our inheritance. “*The Righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever.*” The Hebrew word “eres”, translated in this passage “land” occurs 5 other times in this Psalm. It is translated consistently “land” in the American Standard version (v.3, 9, 11, 22, 34). The King James Version translates the Hebrew word as “earth” in verses

9, 11, and 22. The Psalm is encouraging the Jews to “Trust” in and “Wait” upon Jehovah as well as be “Meek”, and be “Righteous”. These were necessary conditions to be a people “blessed” of Jehovah which allowed them to continue to dwell in the promised land they had inherited from God (Genesis 15:18).

“Forever” in the Old Testament often indicates a long and indefinite period of time, not literally forever. For example, the portion from the peace offering sacrifice was to be Aaron’s and his sons “forever” (Exodus 29:28); activities connected with the Tabernacle were to be “forever” (Exodus 27:21); and fleshly circumcision was to be an “everlasting covenant” (Genesis 17:13). But we know these “forever” practices came to an end with God taking away the first covenant and establishing the second or New Covenant in Christ (Hebrews 7:11-12, Galatians 5:6).

The same is true for the Israelites regarding the promised land. It was to be theirs “forever” (Genesis 13:15), in the sense that it would be theirs for a long time if they continued to be

“righteous”.

This earth is not our future eternal inheritance, for it will be “burned up”. “*But the day of the Lord will come as a thief; In the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall be dissolved with fervent heat, and the earth and the works that are therein shall be burned up*” (2 Pet. 3:10).

The “Witnesses” point us to verse 6 where “the world perished” in the flood. They remind us that the world is still here, and therefore like in the days of the flood, the earth will be cleansed and continue as the inheritance for the righteous.

They fail to see that “the world” perished, meaning “people” (2 Pet. 3:6). Peter does not say here the “earth” perished. While the Greek word translated “world” can mean the earth, it often means “people” (John 3:16). But the Greek word translated “earth” never is used to denote people. This earth is reserved for fire, not for our eternal inheritance. Our’s is in heaven.