

讀經：創二五 29 ~ 34 · 路四 16 ~ 19 · 來十二 16、23

- 創 25:29 有一天，雅各熬湯，以掃從田野回來累昏了。
- 創 25:30 以掃對雅各說，我累昏了，求你給我一些紅湯喝。因此以掃又叫以東。
- 創 25:31 雅各說，你先把長子的名分賣給我吧。
- 創 25:32 以掃說，我現在快死了，這長子的名分對我有甚麼用？
- 創 25:33 雅各說，你先對我起誓吧。以掃就對他起誓，把長子的名分賣給雅各。
- 創 25:34 於是雅各將餅和紅豆湯給了以掃，以掃喫了喝了，便起身走了。以掃就這樣輕看了他長子的名分。
- 路 4:16 耶穌來到拿撒勒，就是祂長大的地方，在安息日，祂照例進了會堂，站起來要念聖經。
- 路 4:17 有人把申言者以賽亞的書卷遞給祂，祂展開書卷，找到一處上面寫著：
- 路 4:18 『主的靈在我身上，因為祂膏了我，叫我傳福音給貧窮的人，差遣我去宣揚被擄的得釋放，瞎眼的得復明，叫那受壓制的得自由，
- 路 4:19 宣揚主悅納人的禧年。』
- 來 12:16 免得有淫亂的、或貪戀世俗如以掃的，他因一口食物把自己長子的名分賣了。
- 來 12:23 來到名字記錄在諸天之上眾長子的召會，來到審判眾人的神這裏，來到被成全之義人的靈這裏，

壹 因為神造人有祂的形像以彰顯祂，並藉著運用祂的管治權管理萬有以代表祂，所以每一個人與生俱來都有權利（長子名分），就是生來而有彰顯神並代表神的權利；然而，每一個墮落的人都因著向神獨立，而出賣了這權利—創一 26，四 16 ~ 17，十 8 ~ 11。

Scripture Reading: Gen. 25:29-34; Luke 4:16-19; Heb. 12:16, 23

- Gen 25:29 And Jacob cooked a stew. And Esau came in from the field, and he was faint.
- Gen 25:30 And Esau said to Jacob, Let me swallow down some of the red stew, that red stew there, for I am faint. Therefore his name was called Edom.
- Gen 25:31 And Jacob said, First sell me your birthright.
- Gen 25:32 And Esau said, I am now about to die. Of what use then is this birthright to me?
- Gen 25:33 And Jacob said, First swear to me. And he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob.
- Gen 25:34 And Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose up and went away. Thus Esau despised his birthright.
- Luke 4:16 And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, and according to His custom He entered on the Sabbath day into the synagogue and stood up to read.
- Luke 4:17 And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,
- Luke 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to announce the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to send away in release those who are oppressed,
- Luke 4:19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, the year of jubilee."
- Heb 12:16 Lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one meal gave up his own birthright.
- Heb 12:23 And to the church of the firstborn, who have been enrolled in the heavens; and to God, the Judge of all; and to the spirits of righteous men who have been made perfect;

I. Since God created man to express Him with His image and to represent Him by exercising His dominion over all things, by birth every human being has a birthright—the right by birth to express God and represent Him; however, every fallen person has sold this birthright by being independent of God—Gen. 1:26; 4:16-17; 10:8-11.

創 1:26 神說，我們要按著我們的形像，照著我們的樣式造人，使他們管理海裏的魚、空中的鳥、地上的牲畜、和全地、並地上所爬的一切爬物。

創 4:16 於是該隱離開耶和華的面，去住在伊甸東邊挪得之地。

創 4:17 該隱與妻子同房，他妻子就懷孕，生了以諾。該隱建造了一座城，並按著他兒子的名，將那城叫作以諾。

創 10:8 古實又生寧錄，他是地上最早的勇士。

創 10:9 他在耶和華面前是個英勇的獵戶，所以有話說，像寧錄在耶和華面前是個英勇的獵戶。

創 10:10 他國的起頭是巴別、以力、亞甲、甲尼，都在示拿地。

創 10:11 他從那地出來往亞述去，建造尼尼微、利河伯、迦拉，

Gen 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

Gen 4:16 And Cain went forth from the presence of Jehovah and dwelt in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

Gen 4:17 And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and gave birth to Enoch; and he built a city and called the name of the city after the name of his son Enoch.

Gen 10:8 And Cush begot Nimrod: He began to be a mighty one on the earth.

Gen 10:9 He was a mighty hunter before Jehovah; therefore it is said, Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before Jehovah.

Gen 10:10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

Gen 10:11 From that land he went into Assyria and built Nineveh and Rehoboth-ir and Calah

## 貳 在聖經裏，長子名分是長子特殊的分；照著全本聖經來看，長子名分包含雙分地土、祭司職分和君王職分——代上五 1～2，申三三 8～10，創四九 10。

代上 5:1 以色列長子流便的子孫記在下面。（流便是長子，但因他污穢了父親的牀，他長子的名分就歸了以色列兒子約瑟的兩個兒子。他沒有按長子名分載入家譜；

代上 5:2 猶大勝過他的弟兄，君王也是從他而出，長子的名分卻歸約瑟。）

申 33:8 論利未說，耶和華啊，願你的土明和烏陵都在你的虔誠人那裏；你在瑪撒曾試驗他，在米利巴水曾與他爭論。

申 33:9 他論自己的父母說，我沒有看見；他不承認自己的弟兄，也不認識自己的兒女；這是因利未人謹守你的話，護衛你的約。

申 33:10 他們要將你的典章指教雅各，將你的律法指教以色列；他們要把香焚在你面前，把全牲的燔祭獻在你的壇上。

創 49:10 權杖必不離猶大，王杖必不離他兩腳之間，直到細羅來到，萬民都必歸順。

## II. In the Bible the birthright is the special portion of the firstborn; according to the Bible as a whole, the birthright includes a double portion of the land, the priesthood, and the kingship—1 Chron. 5:1-2; Deut. 33:8-10; Gen. 49:10.

1 Chron 5:1 And the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel (for he was the firstborn; but because he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph the son of Israel; but he was not to be enrolled in the genealogy according to the birthright,

1 Chron 5:2 For Judah prevailed among his brothers, and from him was the leader, but the birthright was Joseph's),

Deut 33:8 And concerning Levi he said, May Your Thummim and Urim be with Your faithful man, / Whom You tested at Massah, / With whom You contended at the waters of Meribah,

Deut 33:9 He who said of his father and mother, / I do not regard him; / And his brothers he did not acknowledge, / And his children he did not recognize; / For they have kept Your speaking / And have guarded Your covenant.

Deut 33:10 They shall show Jacob Your ordinances, / And Israel Your law; / They shall put incense before Your nostrils / And whole burnt offerings upon Your altar.

Gen 49:10 The scepter will not depart from Judah, / Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, / Until Shiloh comes, / And to Him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

## 叁 在創世以前，神就揀選並豫定雅各得著長子的名分——弗一 4～5，羅九 10～13：

弗 1:4 就如祂在創立世界以前，在基督裏揀選了我們，使我們在愛裏，在祂面前，成為聖別、沒有瑕疵；

弗 1:5 按著祂意願所喜悅的，豫定了我們，藉著耶穌基督得兒子的名分，歸於祂自己，

## III. Before the foundation of the world, God chose and predestinated Jacob to have the birthright—Eph. 1:4-5; Rom. 9:10-13:

Eph 1:4 Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love,

Eph 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

羅 9:10 不但如此，還有利百加，既從一個人，就是從我們的祖宗以撒懷了孕，  
羅 9:11 雙子還沒有生下來，善惡也沒有作出來（只因要堅定神揀選人的旨意，不是本於行為，乃是本於那呼召人的），  
羅 9:12 神就對利百加說，『將來大的要服事小的。』  
羅 9:13 正如經上所記：『雅各是我所愛的，以掃是我所恨的。』

## 一 神要給祂選民的這長子名分，包含彰顯神，代表神，以及有分於神的國——創一 26，啓二十 4、6。

創 1:26 神說，我們要按著我們的形像，照著我們的樣式造人，使他們管理海裏的魚、空中的鳥、地上的牲畜、和全地、並地上所爬的一切爬物。  
啓 20:4 我又看見幾個寶座和坐在上面的，有審判的權柄賜給他們。我又看見那些為耶穌的見證、並為神的話被斬者，以及那些沒有拜過獸與獸像，額上和手上也沒有受過牠印記之人的魂，他們都活了，與基督一同作王一千年。  
啓 20:6 在頭一次復活有分的有福了，聖別了，第二次的死在他們身上沒有權柄；他們還要作神和基督的祭司，並要與基督一同作王一千年。

## 二 在以掃輕看長子名分以及雅各買得這名分的事上，神運用了祂的主宰，完成祂揀選的定旨——創二五 22 ~ 26、29 ~ 34。

創 25:22 孩子們在她裏面彼此相爭，她就說，若是這樣，我為甚麼活著呢？她就去求問耶和華。  
創 25:23 耶和華對她說，兩國在你腹中，兩族要從你身內分出。這族必強於那族，將來大的要服事小的。  
創 25:24 她生產的日子到了，腹中果然是雙子。  
創 25:25 先出來的身體發紅，渾身有毛，如同毛皮衣；他們就給他起名叫以掃。  
創 25:26 隨後以掃的弟弟也出來了，他的手抓住以掃的腳跟，因此給他起名叫雅各。利百加生下兩個兒子的時候，以撒年六十歲。  
創 25:29 有一天，雅各熬湯，以掃從田野回來累昏了。  
創 25:30 以掃對雅各說，我累昏了，求你給我一些紅湯喝。因此以掃又叫以東。  
創 25:31 雅各說，你先把長子的名分賣給我吧。  
創 25:32 以掃說，我現在快死了，這長子的名分對我有甚麼用？

Rom 9:10 And not only so, but Rebecca also, having conceived by one, Isaac our father,

Rom 9:11 Though the children had not yet been born nor had done anything good or bad (that the purpose of God according to selection might remain, not of works but of Him who calls),

Rom 9:12 It was said to her, "The greater shall serve the less";

Rom 9:13 As it is written, "Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated."

## A. This birthright, which God intends to give to His chosen people, includes expressing God, representing God, and participating in the kingdom of God—Gen. 1:26; Rev. 20:4, 6.

Gen 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and of those who had not worshipped the beast nor his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no authority, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

## B. In Esau's despising the birthright and in Jacob's buying it, God exercised His sovereignty to fulfill the purpose of His selection—Gen. 25:22-26, 29-34.

Gen 25:22 And the children struggled with each other within her. And she said, If it is so, why am I like this? And she went to inquire of Jehovah.

Gen 25:23 And Jehovah said to her, Two nations are in your womb, / And two peoples shall be separated from your bowels. / And the one people shall be stronger than the other people. / And the older shall serve the younger.

Gen 25:24 And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb.

Gen 25:25 And the first came forth red, all over like a hairy garment; and they called his name Esau.

Gen 25:26 And after that his brother came forth, and his hand was holding on to Esau's heel, so his name was called Jacob. And Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

Gen 25:29 And Jacob cooked a stew. And Esau came in from the field, and he was faint.

Gen 25:30 And Esau said to Jacob, Let me swallow down some of the red stew, that red stew there, for I am faint. Therefore his name was called Edom.

Gen 25:31 And Jacob said, First sell me your birthright.

Gen 25:32 And Esau said, I am now about to die. Of what use then is this birthright to me?

創 25:33 雅各說，你先對我起誓吧。以掃就對他起誓，把長子的名分賣給雅各。

創 25:34 於是雅各將餅和紅豆湯給了以掃，以掃喫了喝了，便起身走了。以掃就這樣輕看了他長子的名分。

三 長子名分從以掃轉移給雅各，這啓示領受長子名分乃在於神的豫定和主宰，不在於我們的出生或努力——羅九 10～13。

羅 9:10 不但如此，還有利百加，既從一個人，就是從我們的祖宗以撒懷了孕，

羅 9:11 雙子還沒有生下來，善惡也沒有作出來（只因要堅定神揀選人的旨意，不是本於行爲，乃是本於那呼召人的），

羅 9:12 神就對利百加說，『將來大的要服事小的。』

羅 9:13 正如經上所記：『雅各是我所愛的，以掃是我所恨的。』

四 雅各得著長子的名分，但直到他從抓奪者變化爲神的王子而成熟時，才得享這長子的名分；因此，雅各是在成熟時享受長子名分的例子——創三二 28，三五 10。

創 32:28 那人說，你的名不要再叫雅各，要叫以色列；因爲你與神與人較力，都得了勝。

創 35:10 並且對他說，你的名原是雅各，從今以後不要再叫雅各，要叫以色列。這樣，神就給他起名叫以色列。

肆 神原有意將長子名分賜給長子流便，但流便因著污穢失去了長子名分；約瑟逃避了那種污穢，長子名分就從流便轉移給他，他就得著雙分地土——三九 7～12，四九 3～4，代上五 1。

創 39:7 這事以後，約瑟主人的妻子以目送情給約瑟，說，你與我同寢吧。

創 39:8 約瑟不肯，對他主人的妻子說，看哪，有我在，家裏一切事務我主人都不管；他把所有的都交在我手裏。

創 39:9 在這家裏沒有比我大的；並且他沒有留下一樣不交給我，只留下了你，因爲你是他的妻子。我怎能作這大惡，得罪神呢？

創 39:10 後來她天天對約瑟說話，約瑟卻不聽從，不與她同寢，也不和她在一處。

Gen 25:33 And Jacob said, First swear to me. And he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob.

Gen 25:34 And Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose up and went away. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

C. The shifting of the birthright from Esau to Jacob reveals that receiving the birthright is a matter of God's predestination and sovereignty, not of our natural birth or endeavoring—Rom. 9:10-13.

Rom 9:10 And not only so, but Rebecca also, having conceived by one, Isaac our father,

Rom 9:11 Though the children had not yet been born nor had done anything good or bad (that the purpose of God according to selection might remain, not of works but of Him who calls),

Rom 9:12 It was said to her, "The greater shall serve the less";

Rom 9:13 As it is written, "Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated."

D. Although Jacob had gained the birthright, he did not enjoy it until he was transformed from a supplanter into a prince of God and became mature; thus, Jacob is an example of enjoying the birthright in his maturity—Gen. 32:28; 35:10.

Gen 32:28 And He said, Your name will no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.

Gen 35:10 And God said to him, Your name is Jacob; / Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, / But Israel shall be your name. Thus He called his name Israel.

IV. God had intended to give the birthright to Reuben, the firstborn, but Reuben lost it because of his defilement; the birthright was shifted from Reuben to Joseph, who fled from that kind of defilement and received a double portion of the land—39:7-12; 49:3-4; 1 Chron. 5:1.

Gen 39:7 Now after these things his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph and said, Lie with me.

Gen 39:8 But he refused and said to his master's wife, Behold, with me here, my master is not concerned about anything in the house, and he has put everything he has in my charge.

Gen 39:9 There is no one greater in this house than I, and he has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great evil, and sin against God?

Gen 39:10 And although she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her to lie beside her or be with her.

創 39:11 有一天，約瑟進屋裏去辦事，家中的人沒有一個在屋裏，

創 39:12 婦人就拉住他的衣裳，說，你與我同寢吧。約瑟把衣裳撇在婦人手裏，跑到外面去了。

創 49:3 流便哪，你是我的長子，是我的能力，我強壯時首生的，本當尊榮居首，權力也居首。

創 49:4 但你的情慾沸溢如水，你必不得居首；因為你上了你父親的牀，污穢了我的榻。

代上 5:1 以色列長子流便的子孫記在下面。（流便是長子，但因他污穢了父親的牀，他長子的名分就歸了以色列兒子約瑟的兩個兒子。他沒有按長子名分載入家譜；

Gen 39:11 And one such day he went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house were there in the house.

Gen 39:12 And she grabbed him by his garment, saying, Lie with me! But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and went outside.

Gen 49:3 Reuben, you are my firstborn, / My might and the firstfruits of my vigor, / Preeminent in dignity and preeminent in power.

Gen 49:4 Ebullient as water, you will not have the preeminence, / Because you went up to your father's bed; / Then you defiled it-he went up to my couch.

1 Chron 5:1 And the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel (for he was the firstborn; but because he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph the son of Israel; but he was not to be enrolled in the genealogy according to the birthright,

伍 按照申命記二十章一至二十節與二十一章十五至十七節，就屬靈一面說，爭戰與長子名分有關，因為我們只有藉著爭戰才能保守長子名分：

**V. According to Deuteronomy 20:1-20 and 21:15-17, spiritually speaking, fighting and the birthright are related, for only by fighting can we preserve our birthright:**

申 20:1 你出去與仇敵爭戰的時候，看見馬匹、戰車、和比你多的人民，不要怕他們，因為領你從埃及地上來的耶和華你神與你同在。

申 20:2 你們將要上陣的時候，祭司要近前來，告訴百姓，

申 20:3 說，以色列人哪，你們當聽！你們今日將要與仇敵爭戰，不要膽怯，不要懼怕，不要恐慌，也不要因他們驚恐；

申 20:4 因為耶和華你們的神與你們同去，要為你們與仇敵爭戰，拯救你們。

申 20:5 官長也要告訴百姓，說，有誰建造新房屋，尚未奉獻呢？他可以回家去，免得他陣亡，別人去奉獻。

申 20:6 有誰種葡萄園，尚未享用呢？他可以回家去，免得他陣亡，別人去享用。

申 20:7 有誰聘定了妻子，尚未迎娶呢？他可以回家去，免得他陣亡，別人去娶。

申 20:8 官長又要告訴百姓，說，有誰懼怕膽怯呢？他可以回家去，免得他弟兄的心融化，和他一樣。

申 20:9 官長對百姓講完了話，就當派軍長率領他們。

申 20:10 你臨近一座城，要攻打的時候，先要對城裏的民宣告和平的話。

申 20:11 他們若以和平的話回答你，給你開了城門，城裏所有的人就都要給你作苦工，服事你；

申 20:12 若不肯與你和好，反要與你打仗，你就要圍困那城。

申 20:13 耶和華你的神把城交付你的手，你就要用刀殺盡這城的男丁。

Deut 20:1 When you go forth into battle against your enemies, and you see horse and chariot, a people more numerous than you, you shall not fear them; for Jehovah your God is with you, He who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.

Deut 20:2 And when you draw near to the battle, the priest shall approach and speak to the people,

Deut 20:3 And he shall say to them, Hear, O Israel! You are drawing near to the battle against your enemies today. Do not let your heart fail; do not be afraid or alarmed or terrified of them.

Deut 20:4 For it is Jehovah your God who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.

Deut 20:5 And the officers shall speak to the people, saying, Is there any man who has built a new house and has not dedicated it? Let him go and return to his house, lest he die in the battle and another man dedicate it.

Deut 20:6 Is there any man who has planted a vineyard and has not partaken of it? Let him go and return to his house, lest he die in the battle and another man partake of it.

Deut 20:7 Is there any man who has gotten engaged to a woman and has not taken her to himself? Let him go and return to his house, lest he die in the battle and another man take her to himself.

Deut 20:8 And the officers shall speak further to the people and say, Is there any man who is afraid and whose heart fails? Let him go and return to his house, so that the heart of his brothers does not melt like his heart.

Deut 20:9 And when the officers have finished speaking to the people, they shall appoint commanders of the armies at the head of the people.

Deut 20:10 When you draw near to a city to fight against it, you shall proclaim peace to it.

Deut 20:11 And if it responds with peace to you and opens its gates to you, all the people found within it shall become your forced labor; and they shall serve you.

Deut 20:12 But if it does not make peace with you, but rather engages in battle with you, you shall besiege it.

Deut 20:13 And when Jehovah your God delivers it into your hand, you shall slay every male in it with the edge of the sword.

申 20:14 惟有婦女、孩子、牲畜、和城內的一切，就是所有的掠物，你可以奪為己有；你可以享用從仇敵所取的掠物，那是耶和華你神所賜給你的。

申 20:15 離你甚遠的各城，不是這些國民的城，你都要這樣對待。

申 20:16 但這些國民的城，耶和華你神既賜你為業，其中凡有氣息的，一個也不可讓他存活；

申 20:17 只要照耶和華你神所吩咐的，將赫人、亞摩利人、迦南人、比利洗人、希未人、耶布斯人，都滅絕淨盡，

申 20:18 免得他們教導你們照著他們去行一切可憎惡的事，就是他們向自己神所行的，以致你們得罪耶和華你們的神。

申 20:19 你若許久圍困要攻打奪取一座城，就不可舉斧砍壞那裏的樹木；你可以喫樹上的果子，不可砍伐。田間的樹木豈是人，叫你圍困麼？

申 20:20 惟獨你所知道不是結果子的樹木，你可以毀壞、砍伐，用以建造圍城的設備，攻擊那與你打仗的城，直到攻陷了。

申 21:15 人若有兩個妻子，一個是所愛的，一個是所惡的；所愛的和所惡的都給他生了兒子，但長子是所惡之妻生的。

申 21:16 到了把他所有的分給兒子承受的日子，他不可將所愛之妻生的兒子立為長子，在所惡之妻生的兒子上，

申 21:17 卻要認所惡之妻生的兒子為長子，將自己一切所有的，分給他雙分；因這兒子是他力量強壯的時候首生的，長子的名分本是他的。

一 我們既藉著爭戰保守長子名分，我們若不爭戰，就會失去長子名分，就像以掃失去長子名分一樣——來十二 16～17。

來 12:16 免得有淫亂的、或貪戀世俗如以掃的，他因一口食物把自己長子的名分賣了。

來 12:17 後來他也想要承受祝福，竟被拒絕；雖然帶著淚苦求，還是沒有反悔的餘地，這是你們知道的。

二 我們在為長子名分爭戰時，必須學習信靠主，不信靠自己，並看見我們是為著祂所給我們的而戰——書一 2～9。

書 1:2 我的僕人摩西死了；現在你要起來，和眾百姓過這約但河，往我所要賜給以色列人的地去。

書 1:3 凡你們腳掌所踏之地，我都照著我所應許摩西的話賜給你們了。

書 1:4 從曠野和這利巴嫩，直到大河，就是伯拉河，赫人的全地，又到大海日落之處，都要作你們的境界。

Deut 20:14 But the women and the little ones and the beasts and all that is in the city, that is, all its spoil, you shall take as your plunder; and you shall enjoy the spoil of your enemies, which Jehovah your God has given you.

Deut 20:15 Thus shall you do to all the cities that are very far from you, which are not among the cities of these nations.

Deut 20:16 But of the cities of these peoples which Jehovah your God is giving you as an inheritance, you shall not allow anything that breathes to live;

Deut 20:17 But you must utterly destroy them: the Hittites and the Amorites, the Canaanites and the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, just as Jehovah your God has commanded you,

Deut 20:18 So that they do not teach you to do according to all their abominations which they do for their gods and you sin against Jehovah your God.

Deut 20:19 When you besiege a city for many days, battling against it to capture it, you shall not destroy its trees by putting an axe to them; for you may eat of them, and you shall not cut them down. For is the tree of the field a man, that it should be besieged by you?

Deut 20:20 However, a tree that you know is not a tree for food, you shall destroy and cut down, so that you may build a siege-work against the city, which engages you in battle, until it falls.

Deut 21:15 If a man has two wives, one beloved and the other despised, and both the beloved and the despised have borne him sons; and if the firstborn son is of the despised woman;

Deut 21:16 Then in the day when he gives what he has to his sons as his inheritance, he may not make the son of the beloved woman the firstborn instead of the son of the despised one, who is the firstborn.

Deut 21:17 But he shall acknowledge the firstborn, the son of the despised woman, giving him a double portion of all that he has, for he is the firstfruits of his vigor; the right of the firstborn is his.

A. Since we preserve our birthright by fighting, if we do not fight, we will lose our birthright, even as Esau lost his birthright——Heb. 12:16-17.

Heb 12:16 Lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one meal gave up his own birthright.

Heb 12:17 For you know that also afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected; for he found no place for repentance, even though he sought it with tears.

B. As we are fighting for our birthright, we must learn to trust in the Lord, not in ourselves, and realize that we are fighting for what He has given us——Josh. 1:2-9.

Josh 1:2 Moses My servant is dead; now then arise, and cross over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land which I am giving to them, to the children of Israel.

Josh 1:3 Every place on which the sole of your foot treads I have given to you, as I promised Moses.

Josh 1:4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon even to the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun will be your territory.

書 1:5 你一生的日子，必無一人能在你面前站立得住。我怎樣與摩西同在，也必照樣與你同在；我必不撇下你，也不丟棄你。

書 1:6 你當剛強壯膽，因為你必使這百姓承受那地為業，就是我向他們列祖起誓要賜給他們的。

書 1:7 只要剛強，大大壯膽，照我僕人摩西所吩咐你的一切律法，謹守遵行，不偏離左右，使你無論往那裏去，都可以順利。

書 1:8 這律法書不可離開你的口，總要晝夜默想，好使你照這書上所寫的一切，謹守遵行。如此，你的道路就可以亨通，你也必凡事順利。

書 1:9 我豈沒有吩咐你麼？你當剛強壯膽，不要懼怕，也不要驚惶；因為你無論往那裏去，耶和華你的神必與你同在。

三 爭戰是我們的責任，但我們只有憑著相信主，才能履行這責任；我們相信主已命定我們去爭戰，並且祂要為我們爭戰——二三 3、10，弗六 10～11。

書 23:3 耶和華你們的神，因你們的緣故，向那些國所行的一切事，你們都看見了，因那為你們爭戰的是耶和華你們的神。

書 23:10 你們一人必追趕千人，因耶和華你們的神照祂對你們所說的，為你們爭戰。

弗 6:10 末了的話，你們要在主裏，靠著祂力量的權能，得著加力。

弗 6:11 要穿戴神全副的軍裝，使你們能以站住，抵擋魔鬼的詭計，

陸路得記給我們看見，波阿斯（豫表基督）如何贖回了路得（豫表蒙救贖的召會）和她的長子名分——一 16～18，二 1，三 2、9～11，四 1～17：

得 1:16 路得說，不要催我離開你回去不跟隨你。你往那裏去，我也往那裏去；你在那裏住宿，我也在那裏住宿；你的民就是我的民，你的神就是我的神。

得 1:17 你在那裏死，我也在那裏死，也葬在那裏。除非死能使我我相離，不然，願耶和華重重的降罰與我。

得 1:18 拿俄米見路得定意要跟隨自己去，就不再對她說甚麼了。

得 2:1 拿俄米在她丈夫以利米勒的家族中，有一個相識的人，是個大財主，名叫波阿斯。

得 3:2 你與波阿斯的使女常在一處，波阿斯不是我們相識的人麼？看哪，他今夜在禾場上簸大麥。

Josh 1:5 No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you nor forsake you.

Josh 1:6 Be strong and take courage, for you will cause this people to inherit the land which I swore to their fathers to give to them.

Josh 1:7 Only be strong and very courageous, being certain to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you. Do not turn away from it to the right or to the left, that you may have success wherever you go.

Josh 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall muse upon it day and night so that you may be certain to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous and then you will have success.

Josh 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and take courage; do not be afraid or dismayed. For Jehovah your God is with you wherever you go.

C. It is our duty to fight, but we can fulfill this duty only by faith in the Lord, believing that He has ordained us to fight and that He will fight for us——23:3, 10; Eph. 6:10-11.

Josh 23:3 And you have seen all that Jehovah your God has done to all these nations because of you, for it was Jehovah your God who fought for you.

Josh 23:10 One man of you chases a thousand, for it is Jehovah your God who fights for you, as He has spoken to you.

Eph 6:10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.

Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,

VI. The book of Ruth shows us how Boaz (a type of Christ) redeemed both Ruth (a type of the church in redemption) and her birthright——1:16-18; 2:1; 3:2, 9-11; 4:1-17:

Ruth 1:16 But Ruth said, Do not entreat me to leave you and turn away from following after you. For wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you dwell, I will dwell; and your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.

Ruth 1:17 Where you die, I will die; and there will I be buried. Jehovah do so to me, and more as well, if anything but death parts me from you.

Ruth 1:18 And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she ceased speaking to her about it.

Ruth 2:1 Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a man of great wealth, from Elimelech's family; and his name was Boaz.

Ruth 3:2 And now is not Boaz our relative, with whose young women you have been? Behold, he is winnowing the barley tonight at the threshing floor.

得 3:9 他就說，你是誰？她回答說，我是你的婢女路得。請你展開你的衣邊遮蓋你的婢女，因為你是我的親人。

得 3:10 波阿斯說，女兒啊，願你蒙耶和華賜福。你末後所顯出的恩慈比先前的更美；因為少年人無論貧富，你都沒有跟從。

得 3:11 女兒啊，現在不要懼怕；凡你所說的，我必為你行，因我本城的人都知道你是個賢德的女子。

得 4:1 波阿斯上城門去，坐在那裏，恰巧波阿斯所說的那親人經過。波阿斯說，某人哪，你轉過來坐在這裏。他就轉過來坐下。

得 4:2 波阿斯又從本城的長老中選取了十個人，對他們說，請你們坐在這裏。他們就都坐下。

得 4:3 波阿斯對那親人說，從摩押鄉間回來的拿俄米，現在要賣我們弟兄以利米勒的那塊田地；

得 4:4 我想我應當向你表明，說，你可以在這裏坐著的人面前和我族人的長老面前買這塊田地。你若肯贖就贖，若不肯贖就告訴我，讓我知道；因為只有你可以贖，其次就是我。那人回答說，我肯贖。

得 4:5 波阿斯說，你從拿俄米手中買這田地的時候，也當娶死人的妻摩押女子路得，叫死人的名得以在他的產業上存立。

得 4:6 那親人說，這樣我自己就不能贖了，恐怕於我的產業有損。你自己可以贖我所當贖的，因我不能贖了。

得 4:7 從前，在以色列中要確立甚麼事，或贖回，或交易，這人就脫鞋給那人。以色列中乃是以此為證據。

得 4:8 那親人對波阿斯說，你自己買吧；於是將鞋脫下來了。

得 4:9 波阿斯對長老和眾民說，你們今日作見證，凡屬以利米勒和基連、瑪倫的，我都從拿俄米手中置買了；

得 4:10 我又娶了瑪倫的妻摩押女子路得為妻，好叫死人的名得以在他的產業上存立，免得死人的名從他的弟兄中，並從他本鄉滅沒。你們今日可以作見證。

得 4:11 在城門坐著的眾民和長老都說，我們作見證。願耶和華使進你家的這女子，像建立以色列家的拉結、利亞二人一樣。又願你在以法他得財富，在伯利恆得名聲。

得 4:12 願耶和華從這少年女子賜你後裔，使你的家像他瑪從猶大所生法勒斯的家一般。

得 4:13 於是，波阿斯娶了路得為妻，與她同房。耶和華使她懷孕，她就生了一個兒子。

得 4:14 婦人們對拿俄米說，耶和華是當受頌讚的，祂今日沒有撇下你使你無親人；願這孩子在以色列中得名聲。

得 4:15 他必使你的精神復甦，並且奉養你的老，因為他是那愛你的兒媳所生的；有這兒媳比有七個兒子還好。

得 4:16 拿俄米就把孩子抱在懷中，作他的養母。

得 4:17 鄰舍的婦人給孩子起名，說，拿俄米得兒子了；就給他起名叫俄備得。這俄備得是耶西的父，耶西是大衛的父。

Ruth 3:9 And he said, Who are you? And she said, I am Ruth, your female servant. Spread your cloak over your female servant, for you are a kinsman.

Ruth 3:10 And he said, Blessed be you of Jehovah, my daughter. You have shown your latter kindness to be better than your first by not going after the choice young men, whether poor or rich.

Ruth 3:11 And now, my daughter, do not fear. All that you say, I will do for you; for all the assembly of my people know that you are a worthy woman.

Ruth 4:1 Then Boaz went up to the gate and sat there. And just then the kinsman of whom Boaz had spoken came by. And Boaz said, Turn aside and sit here, friend. And he turned aside and sat down.

Ruth 4:2 And he took ten men from among the elders of the city and said, Sit here. And they sat down.

Ruth 4:3 And he said to the kinsman, Naomi, who has returned from the country of Moab, has put up for sale the portion of the field that belonged to our brother Elimelech.

Ruth 4:4 So I thought that I should disclose this to you and say, Buy it in the presence of those sitting here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you can redeem it, redeem it; but if you cannot redeem it, tell me so that I will know; for there is no one to redeem it ahead of you, and I am after you. And he said, I will redeem it.

Ruth 4:5 Then Boaz said, On the day you buy the field from Naomi's hand, you must also acquire Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead man, in order to raise up the dead man's name upon his inheritance.

Ruth 4:6 And the kinsman said, I cannot redeem it for myself, or else I will mar my own inheritance. You redeem for yourself what I should redeem, for I cannot redeem it.

Ruth 4:7 Now such was the custom formerly in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging that to establish any matter a man would draw off his sandal and give it to his neighbor; this was the way of attesting it in Israel.

Ruth 4:8 So when the kinsman said to Boaz, Buy it for yourself, he drew off his sandal.

Ruth 4:9 And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, You are witnesses today, that I buy from Naomi's hand all that was Elimelech's and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's.

Ruth 4:10 Furthermore Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, I acquire as my own wife so that I may raise up the dead man's name upon his inheritance and the dead man's name may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his place. You are witnesses today.

Ruth 4:11 And all the people who were in the gate and the elders said, We are witnesses. May Jehovah make the woman who has come into your house like Rachel and like Leah, the two who built the house of Israel. And prosper in Ephrathah, and gain a name in Bethlehem.

Ruth 4:12 And may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, through the seed that Jehovah gives you by this young woman.

Ruth 4:13 So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife; and he went in unto her, and Jehovah made her conceive; and she bore a son.

Ruth 4:14 And the women said to Naomi, Blessed be Jehovah, who has not left you today without a kinsman; and may his name be famous in Israel.

Ruth 4:15 And he will be to you as a restorer of life and a sustainer in your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you and is better to you than seven sons, has borne him.

Ruth 4:16 And Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom, and she became his nurse.

Ruth 4:17 And the women neighbors gave him a name, saying, A son has been born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

一 長子名分包括有權利和地位享受基督；並且有權利作祭司，把人帶到神面前，也作君王，把神帶給人——弗三 8，彼前二 5、9，啓五 10。

弗 3:8 這恩典賜給了我這比眾聖徒中最小者還小的，叫我將基督那追測不盡的豐富，當作福音傳給外邦人，

彼前 2:5 也就像活石，被建造成為屬靈的殿，成為聖別的祭司體系，藉著耶穌基督獻上神所悅納的屬靈祭物。

彼前 2:9 惟有你們是蒙揀選的族類，是君尊的祭司體系，是聖別的國度，是買來作產業的子民，要叫你們宣揚那召你們出黑暗、入祂奇妙之光者的美德；

啓 5:10 又叫他們成為國度，作祭司，歸與我們的神；他們要在地上執掌王權。

二 波阿斯重看神所賜的長子名分，而且他不單顧到自己身上的長子名分，還顧到別人身上的長子名分；他付出代價，贖回他親屬的產業，並且娶了他親屬的寡婦——得四 1～17。

得 4:1～17 (從畧。)

三 因著波阿斯顧念體恤貧窮軟弱的路得，並為她贖回長子名分，結果就帶進建國的君王——大衛——17 節。

得 4:17 鄰舍的婦人給孩子起名，說，拿俄米得兒子了；就給他起名俄備得。這俄備得是耶西的父，耶西是大衛的父。

柒 在馬太二十一章二十八至三十一節，我們看見長子名分從以色列轉移給召會：

太 21:28 你們怎麼看？一個人有兩個孩子，他來對大的說，孩子，你今天到葡萄園裏去作工。

太 21:29 他回答說，我不去；後來懊悔，就去了。

太 21:30 又來對另一個也這樣說，他回答說，主啊，我去；卻沒有去。

太 21:31 兩個當中，那一個完成了父親的心意？他們說，大的。耶穌對他們說，我實在告訴你們，稅吏和娼妓要在你們以前進神的國。

A. The birthright includes the right and position to enjoy Christ with the privileges to be a priest to bring man to God and to be a king to bring God to man—Eph. 3:8; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9; Rev. 5:10.

Eph 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel

1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Rev 5:10 And have made them a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign on the earth.

B. Boaz treasured the God-given birthright and was concerned not only for his own birthright but also for that of others; he paid the price to redeem his kinsman's inheritance and married his kinsman's widow—Ruth 4:1-17.

Ruth 4:1-17 (be omitted.)

C. It was due to Boaz's compassion on the poor and weak Ruth and his redemption of her birthright that David, the king who established the kingdom, was brought in—v. 17.

Ruth 4:17 And the women neighbors gave him a name, saying, A son has been born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

**VII. In Matthew 21:28-31 we see the shifting of the birthright from Israel to the church:**

Matt 21:28 But what do you think? A man had two children. And he came to his first son and said, Child, go today and work in the vineyard.

Matt 21:29 And he answered and said, I do not want to; yet later he regretted and went.

Matt 21:30 And he came to the other and said likewise. And he answered and said, I will, sir; yet he did not go.

Matt 21:31 Which of the two did the will of the father? They said, The first. Jesus said to them, Truly I say to you that the tax collectors and the harlots are going into the kingdom of God before you.

一 在路加十五章一至二節和十一至三十二節，主將猶太教的首領比喻為大兒子，將稅吏和罪人比喻為小兒子；但在馬太二十一章二十八至三十一節，主以相反的次序比喻他們。

路 15:1 眾稅吏和罪人都挨近耶穌，要聽祂。

路 15:2 法利賽人和經學家紛紛的唧咕議論說，這個人接待罪人，又同他們喫飯。

路 15:11 耶穌又說，一個人有兩個兒子。

路 15:12 小的對父親說，父親，請把歸我的那一分家產給我。他父親就把產業分給他們。

路 15:13 過了不多幾日，小兒子就收拾一切，起身往遠方去了，在那裏生活放蕩，揮霍家產。

路 15:14 既耗盡了一切，又遇著那地方大遭饑荒，就窮乏起來。

路 15:15 於是去投靠那地方的一個居民，那人打發他到自己的田裏去放豬。

路 15:16 他恨不得拿豬所喫的豆莢充飢，也沒有人給他。

路 15:17 他醒悟過來，就說，我父親有多少的雇工，口糧有餘，我倒在這裏餓死麼？

路 15:18 我要起來，到我父親那裏去，向他說，父親，我犯罪得罪了天，並得罪了你。

路 15:19 我不配再稱為你的兒子，把我當作一個雇工吧。

路 15:20 於是起來往他父親那裏去。相離還遠，他父親看見，就動了慈心，跑去抱著他的頸項，熱切的與他親嘴。

路 15:21 兒子說，父親，我犯罪得罪了天，並得罪了你。我不配再稱為你的兒子。

路 15:22 父親卻吩咐奴僕說，快把那上好的袍子拿出來給他穿，把戒指戴在他手上，把鞋穿在他腳上，

路 15:23 把那肥牛犢牽來宰了，讓我們喫喝快樂。

路 15:24 因為我這個兒子是死而復活，失而又得的。他們就快樂起來。

路 15:25 那時，大兒子正在田裏。他回來，離家不遠，聽見作樂跳舞的聲音，

路 15:26 便叫過一個僕人來，查問是甚麼事。

路 15:27 僕人說，你兄弟來了，你父親因為得他無災無病的回來，把肥牛犢宰了。

路 15:28 大兒子就生氣，不肯進去，他父親就出來勸他。

路 15:29 他對父親說，看哪，我像奴僕服事你這麼多年，從來沒有違背過你的命令，你並沒有給我一隻山羊羔，叫我和朋友一同快樂。

A. In Luke 15:1-2 and 11-32 the Lord likened the leaders of Judaism to the firstborn son and likened the tax collectors and sinners to the second son, but in Matthew 21:28-31 the Lord likened them in the opposite order.

Luke 15:1 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were drawing near to Him to hear Him.

Luke 15:2 And both the Pharisees and the scribes murmured among themselves, saying, This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.

Luke 15:11 And He said, A certain man had two sons.

Luke 15:12 And the younger of them said to the father, Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me. And he distributed to them his living.

Luke 15:13 And not many days after, the younger son, having gathered everything together, went abroad to a distant country and there squandered his estate by living dissolutely.

Luke 15:14 And when he had spent all, a severe famine occurred throughout that country, and he began to be in want.

Luke 15:15 And he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed hogs.

Luke 15:16 And he longed to be satisfied with the carob pods which the hogs were eating, and no one gave him anything.

Luke 15:17 But when he came to himself, he said, How many of my father's hired servants abound in bread, but I am perishing here in famine!

Luke 15:18 I will rise up and go to my father, and I will say to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.

Luke 15:19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.

Luke 15:20 And he rose up and came to his own father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion, and he ran and fell on his neck and kissed him affectionately.

Luke 15:21 And the son said to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.

Luke 15:22 But the father said to his slaves, Bring out quickly the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.

Luke 15:23 And bring the fattened calf; slaughter it, and let us eat and be merry,

Luke 15:24 Because this son of mine was dead and lives again; he was lost and has been found. And they began to be merry.

Luke 15:25 Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing,

Luke 15:26 And calling to him one of the servants, he inquired what these things might be.

Luke 15:27 And he said to him, Your brother has come, and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has received him back healthy.

Luke 15:28 But he became angry and was not willing to enter. And his father came out and entreated him.

Luke 15:29 But he answered and said to his father, Behold, so many years I have been slaving for you and have never neglected a command of yours, and you have never given me a goat that I might be merry with my friends;

路 15:30 但你這個兒子，和娼妓吞盡了你的產業，他一來了，你倒為他宰了肥牛犢。

路 15:31 父親對他說，孩子，你始終和我同在，我一切所有的都是你的。

路 15:32 只是你這個兄弟是死而復活，失而又得的，所以我們理當歡喜快樂。

太 21:28 你們怎麼看？一個人有兩個孩子，他來對大的說，孩子，你今天到葡萄園裏去作工。

太 21:29 他回答說，我不去；後來懊悔，就去了。

太 21:30 又來對另一個也這樣說，他回答說，主啊，我去，卻沒有去。

太 21:31 兩個當中，那一個完成了父親的心意？他們說，大的。耶穌對他們說，我實在告訴你們，稅吏和娼妓要在你們以前進神的國。

二 這指明猶太人是神的長子（出四 22），有長子的名分；但因著他們不信，長子名分就轉移給成了神長子的召會（來十二 23）。

出 4:22 你要對法老說，耶和華這樣說，以色列是我的兒子，我的長子。

來 12:23 來到名字記錄在諸天之上眾長子的召會，來到審判眾人的神這裏，來到被成全之義人的靈這裏，

捌 對於在基督裏的信徒，失去的長子名分已經在新約的禧年裏得著恢復——路四 16～19：

路 4:16 耶穌來到拿撒勒，就是祂長大的地方，在安息日，祂照例進了會堂，站起來要念聖經。

路 4:17 有人把申言者以賽亞的書卷遞給祂，祂展開書卷，找到一處上面寫著：

路 4:18 『主的靈在我身上，因為祂膏了我，叫我傳福音給貧窮的人，差遣我去宣揚被擄的得釋放，瞎眼的得復明，叫那受壓制的得自由，

路 4:19 宣揚主悅納人的禧年。』

一 禧年乃是『主悅納人的禧年』，是利未記二十五章禧年的應驗。

利 25:1 耶和華在西乃山對摩西說，

利 25:2 你要對以色列人說，你們進了我所賜你們那地的時候，地就要向耶和華守安息。

利 25:3 六年你要耕種田地，也要修理葡萄園，收藏地的出產。

Luke 15:30 But when this son of yours came, who devoured your living with harlots, you slaughtered for him the fattened calf.

Luke 15:31 And he said to him, Child, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.

Luke 15:32 But we had to be merry and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life, and he was lost and has been found.

Matt 21:28 But what do you think? A man had two children. And he came to his first son and said, Child, go today and work in the vineyard.

Matt 21:29 And he answered and said, I do not want to; yet later he regretted and went.

Matt 21:30 And he came to the other and said likewise. And he answered and said, I will, sir; yet he did not go.

Matt 21:31 Which of the two did the will of the father? They said, The first. Jesus said to them, Truly I say to you that the tax collectors and the harlots are going into the kingdom of God before you.

B. This indicates that the Jews were the firstborn of God (Exo. 4:22) and had the birthright; however, because of their unbelief the birthright was shifted to the church, which has become God's firstborn (Heb. 12:23).

Exo 4:22 Then you shall say to Pharaoh, Thus says Jehovah, Israel is My son, My firstborn.

Heb 12:23 And to the church of the firstborn, who have been enrolled in the heavens; and to God, the Judge of all; and to the spirits of righteous men who have been made perfect;

VIII. For the believers in Christ, the lost birthright has been recovered in the New Testament jubilee—Luke 4:16-19:

Luke 4:16 And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, and according to His custom He entered on the Sabbath day into the synagogue and stood up to read.

Luke 4:17 And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

Luke 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to announce the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to send away in release those who are oppressed,

Luke 4:19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, the year of jubilee."

A. The jubilee is "the acceptable year of the Lord," the fulfillment of the jubilee in Leviticus 25.

Lev 25:1 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying,

Lev 25:2 Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them, When you come into the land which I am giving you, the land shall observe a Sabbath to Jehovah.

Lev 25:3 Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in its produce;

- 利 25:4 但在第七年，地要有完全安息的安息，就是向著耶和華的安息；你不可耕種田地，也不可修理葡萄園。
- 利 25:5 莊稼遺落自長的不可收割，沒有修剪的葡萄樹也不可摘取葡萄。這一年，地要有完全的安息。
- 利 25:6 地在安息年出產的，要給你和你的僕人、婢女、雇工、並寄居的外人當食物，
- 利 25:7 也要給你的牲畜和你地上的走獸當食物。
- 利 25:8 你要計算七個安息年，就是七個七年；這就使你有了七個安息年的時期，共四十九年。
- 利 25:9 當年七月初十日，你要大發角聲；這是遮罪日，要在徧地發出角聲。
- 利 25:10 你們要將第五十年分別為聖，在徧地向一切的居民宣告自由。這年必為你們的禧年，各人要歸回自己的產業，歸回本家。
- 利 25:11 第五十年要作為你們的禧年；這年不可耕種，地中自長的不可收割，沒有修剪的葡萄樹也不可摘取葡萄。
- 利 25:12 因為這是禧年，對你們是聖別的；你們可以喫田地的出產。
- 利 25:13 在這禧年，你們各人要歸回自己的地業。
- 利 25:14 你若賣甚麼給鄰舍，或是從鄰舍的手中買甚麼，彼此不可虧負。
- 利 25:15 你要按禧年以後的年數向鄰舍買；他也要按餘下收成的年數賣給你。
- 利 25:16 年數若多，要照數加添買價；年數若少，要照數減去買價；因為他是照收成的年數賣給你。
- 利 25:17 你們彼此不可虧負，只要敬畏你們的神；因為我是耶和華你們的神。
- 利 25:18 你們要遵行我的律例，謹守遵行我的典章，就可以在那地安然居住。
- 利 25:19 地必結果實，你們就要喫飽，在那地安然居住。
- 利 25:20 你們若說，這第七年我們不耕種，也不收藏出產，喫甚麼呢？
- 利 25:21 我必在第六年命令我的福臨到你們，地便生三年的出產。
- 利 25:22 第八年，你們要耕種，也要喫陳糧；直等到第九年出產收進來的時候，你們還喫陳糧。
- 利 25:23 地不可永遠賣斷，因為地是我的；你們在我面前是客旅，是寄居的。
- 利 25:24 在你們所得為業的全地，要准人將地贖回。
- 利 25:25 你的弟兄若漸漸窮乏，賣了幾分地業，他至近的親屬就要作代贖的人，來把弟兄所賣的贖回。
- 利 25:26 若沒有人能為他贖回，他自己漸漸富足，能贖回，
- 利 25:27 就要算出賣地的年數，把餘剩年數的價值付還那買主，自己便歸回自己的地業。
- Lev 25:4 But in the seventh year the land shall have a Sabbath of complete rest, a Sabbath to Jehovah; you shall not sow your field nor prune your vineyard.
- Lev 25:5 The aftergrowth of your harvest you shall not reap, and the grapes of your unpruned vine you shall not gather; the land shall have a year of complete rest.
- Lev 25:6 And the Sabbath produce of the land shall be for food for you; for you and for your male slaves and for your female slaves, and for your hired servant and for your stranger, who sojourns with you,
- Lev 25:7 And for your cattle and for the animals that are in your land, shall all its produce be for food.
- Lev 25:8 And you shall count off seven Sabbaths of years to yourself, seven times seven years, so that you have the time of seven Sabbaths of years, that is, forty-nine years.
- Lev 25:9 Then you shall sound aloud the ram's horn in the seventh month on the tenth day of the month; on the Day of Expiation you shall sound the trumpet throughout all your land.
- Lev 25:10 And you shall sanctify the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; and each of you shall return to his possession, and each of you shall return to his family.
- Lev 25:11 The fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; you shall not sow nor reap its aftergrowth nor gather from its unpruned vines.
- Lev 25:12 For it is a jubilee; it shall be holy to you. You shall eat its produce out of the field.
- Lev 25:13 In this year of jubilee each one of you shall return to his possession.
- Lev 25:14 And if you sell anything to your fellow countryman or buy from the hand of your fellow countryman, you shall not wrong one another.
- Lev 25:15 According to the number of years after the jubilee you shall buy from your fellow countryman; according to the number of crop years remaining he shall sell to you.
- Lev 25:16 According to the extent of the years you shall increase its price, and according to the fewness of the years you shall diminish its price; for it is the number of crop years that he sells to you.
- Lev 25:17 And you shall not wrong one another, but you shall fear your God; for I am Jehovah your God.
- Lev 25:18 Thus you shall observe My statutes, and you shall keep My ordinances and observe them, so that you dwell securely in the land.
- Lev 25:19 Then the land will yield its fruit, and you will eat to be satisfied and dwell securely in it.
- Lev 25:20 And if you should say, What shall we eat the seventh year if we do not sow or gather in our produce?
- Lev 25:21 Then I will command My blessing for you in the sixth year, and it shall bring forth produce for three years.
- Lev 25:22 When you sow in the eighth year you will eat of the old produce until the ninth year; until its produce comes in, you shall eat the old produce.
- Lev 25:23 And the land shall not be sold in perpetuity, because the land is Mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with Me.
- Lev 25:24 And in all the land of your possession you shall provide for the redemption of the land.
- Lev 25:25 If your brother becomes poor and sells some of his possession, then his redeemer, the nearest relative, shall come and redeem what his brother has sold.
- Lev 25:26 But if a man does not have anyone to redeem it, but he obtains the means and finds it sufficient to redeem it,
- Lev 25:27 Then let him calculate the years since its sale and restore the excess to the man to whom he sold it, and return to his possession.

- 利 25:28 倘若他沒有力量，不能為自己得回，所賣的就仍要存在買主的手裏，直到禧年；到了禧年，地業要出買主的手，他要歸回自己的地業。
- 利 25:29 人若賣城內的住宅，賣了以後，一年之內可以贖回；他一整年有贖回權。
- 利 25:30 若在一整年之內不贖回，這城內的房屋就定準永歸買主，世世代代為業；在禧年也不得出買主的手。
- 利 25:31 但房屋在四圍無城牆的村莊裏，要看如鄉下的田地一樣，可以贖回；到了禧年，要出買主的手。
- 利 25:32 至於利未人所得為業的城邑，其中的房屋，利未人有永久的贖回權。
- 利 25:33 那可以從利未人贖回的，就是在利未人得為業之城內所賣的房屋，到了禧年要出買主的手，因為利未人城邑的房屋是他們在以色列人中的產業。
- 利 25:34 只是他們各城郊野的田地不可賣，因為是他們永遠的產業。
- 利 25:35 你的弟兄在你那裏若漸漸貧窮，手中缺乏，你就要幫補他，像對外人和寄居的一樣，使他可以在你那裏生活。
- 利 25:36 不可向他取利息或要他多還；只要敬畏你的神，使你的弟兄可以在你那裏生活。
- 利 25:37 你藉銀錢給他，不可向他取利息；藉糧食給他，也不可要他多還。
- 利 25:38 我是耶和華你們的神，曾領你們從埃及地出來，為要把迦南地賜給你們，要作你們的神。
- 利 25:39 你的弟兄若在你那裏漸漸窮乏，將自己賣給你，不可叫他作奴僕服事你。
- 利 25:40 他在你那裏要像雇工和寄居的一樣，服事你直到禧年。
- 利 25:41 那時他和他兒女要離開你，一同出去歸回本家，到他祖宗的地業那裏去。
- 利 25:42 因為他們是我的僕人，是我從埃及地領出來的，不可賣為奴僕。
- 利 25:43 不可嚴嚴的轄管他，只要敬畏你的神。
- 利 25:44 至於你的奴僕、婢女，要從你四圍的國中買。
- 利 25:45 那寄居在你們中間的外人和他們的家屬，在你們地上所生的，你們也可以從其中買人；他們要作你們的產業。
- 利 25:46 你們要將他們遺留給你們的子孫為產業，使他們永遠作奴僕；只是你們的弟兄以色列人，你們不可嚴嚴的轄管。
- 利 25:47 在你那裏的外人或寄居的，若漸漸富足，你的弟兄在他那裏卻漸漸窮乏，將自己賣給那外人，或是寄居的，或是外人的家族，
- 利 25:48 賣了以後，可以將他贖回；無論是他的兄弟、
- 利 25:49 或伯叔、伯叔的兒子、本家的近親，都可以贖他；他自己若漸漸富足，也可以自贖。
- Lev 25:28 But if he has not found sufficient means to restore it for himself, then what he has sold shall remain in the hand of the one who has purchased it until the year of jubilee; and in the jubilee it shall go out, and he shall return to his possession.
- Lev 25:29 And if anyone sells a dwelling house in a walled city, then he may redeem it until the end of a year from its sale; for a full year he shall have the right of redemption.
- Lev 25:30 But if it is not redeemed within the space of a full year, then the house that is in the walled city shall pass in perpetuity to the one who purchased it throughout his generations; it shall not go out in the jubilee.
- Lev 25:31 But the houses of the villages which have no wall all around them shall be reckoned with the fields of the country; they may be redeemed, and they shall go out in the jubilee.
- Lev 25:32 As for the cities of the Levites, that is, the houses of the cities of their possession, the Levites shall have the permanent right of redemption.
- Lev 25:33 And what can be redeemed from the Levites, that is, a house that was sold in a city of his possession, shall go out in the jubilee, for the houses of the cities of the Levites are their possession among the children of Israel.
- Lev 25:34 But the field of the suburbs of their cities may not be sold, for it is their perpetual possession.
- Lev 25:35 And if your brother becomes poor, and he is unable to support himself as he lives beside you, then you shall support him, like a stranger and a sojourner, so that he may live beside you.
- Lev 25:36 Do not take any interest or gain from him, but fear your God, so that your brother may live beside you.
- Lev 25:37 You shall not give him your money at interest nor give him your food for gain.
- Lev 25:38 I am Jehovah your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to give you the land of Canaan, to be your God.
- Lev 25:39 And if your brother beside you becomes poor, and he sells himself to you, you shall not make him serve as a slave.
- Lev 25:40 He shall be beside you as a hired servant, as a sojourner; he shall serve beside you until the year of jubilee.
- Lev 25:41 Then he shall go out from you, he and his children with him, and return to his own family, and he shall return to the possession of his forefathers.
- Lev 25:42 For they are My servants, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt; they shall not be sold as slaves are sold.
- Lev 25:43 You shall not rule over him with severity, but you shall fear your God.
- Lev 25:44 And as for your male slaves and female slaves whom you may have, they shall come from the nations that are around you; from them you may buy male slaves and female slaves.
- Lev 25:45 Moreover from the children of the strangers who sojourn among you, from them you may buy, and from their families who are with you, which they have begotten in your land; they also may be your possession.
- Lev 25:46 And you shall make them an inheritance for your children after you, to receive as a possession; you may use them as permanent slaves. But you shall not rule over your brothers the children of Israel, one over another, with severity.
- Lev 25:47 And if a stranger or sojourner with you can afford it, and your brother beside him becomes poor and sells himself to the stranger or sojourner with you, or to the descendants of the stranger's family;
- Lev 25:48 After he has sold himself, he may be redeemed; one of his brothers may redeem him,
- Lev 25:49 Or his uncle or his uncle's son may redeem him, or any of his close relatives of his family may redeem him; or if he can afford it, he may redeem himself.

利 25:50 他要和買主計算，從賣自己的那年起，算到禧年；所賣的價值要照著年數的多少計算。他在買主那裏的年日，要像雇工的年日一樣計算。

利 25:51 若還有許多年，就要按著年數從買價中償還他的贖價。

利 25:52 若到禧年只餘下幾年，就要和買主計算，按著年數償還他的贖價。

利 25:53 他和買主同住，要像每年雇的工人，買主不可在你眼前嚴嚴的轄管他。

利 25:54 若不這樣被贖，到了禧年，他就要和他的兒女一同出去。

利 25:55 因為以色列人是我從埃及地領出來的；我是耶和華你們的神。

Lev 25:50 And he shall reckon with the one who bought him from the year that he sold himself to him until the year of jubilee, and the price of his sale shall be according to the number of years. The time he shall be with him shall be calculated like the time of a hired servant.

Lev 25:51 If there are still many years, in proportion to them he shall give back the amount for his redemption out of the money that he was bought for.

Lev 25:52 And if there are only a few years remaining until the year of jubilee, so he shall reckon with him. In proportion to his years he shall give back the amount for his redemption.

Lev 25:53 Like a servant hired year by year he shall be with him; he shall not rule with severity over him in your sight.

Lev 25:54 And if he is not redeemed by these means, then he shall go out in the year of jubilee, he and his children with him.

Lev 25:55 For the children of Israel are My servants; they are My servants whom I brought out of the land of Egypt; I am Jehovah your God.

二 我們在墮落的一生中，失去了一切，包括我們的長子名分和身分，並且成了被擄的奴僕；我們失去享受基督作美地的那一分權利——申八7～9，西一12。

申 8:7 因為耶和華你神領你進入美地，那地有川，有泉，有源，從谷中和山上流出水來；

申 8:8 那地有小麥、大麥、葡萄樹、無花果樹、石榴樹；那地有出油的橄欖樹，有蜜。

申 8:9 你在那地不缺食物，你必一無所缺；那地的石頭是鐵，山內可以挖銅。

西 1:12 感謝父，叫你們得資格在光中同得所分給眾聖徒的分；

B. In our fallen life we lost everything, including our birthright and status, and we became slaves in captivity; we lost the right to enjoy our portion of Christ as the good land—Deut. 8:7-9; Col. 1:12.

Deut 8:7 For Jehovah your God is bringing you to a good land, a land of waterbrooks, of springs and of fountains, flowing forth in valleys and in mountains;

Deut 8:8 A land of wheat and barley and vines and fig trees and pomegranates; a land of olive trees with oil and of honey;

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;

三 禧年的宣揚是真正且完全的福音，乃是宣揚從奴役中得釋放，並宣揚我們屬靈的長子名分得恢復；我們失去的長子名分已經贖回、恢復並歸回——路四16～19。

路 4:16 耶穌來到拿撒勒，就是祂長大的地方，在安息日，祂照例進了會堂，站起來要念聖經。

路 4:17 有人把申言者以賽亞的書卷遞給祂，祂展開書卷，找到一處上面寫著：

路 4:18 『主的靈在我身上，因為祂膏了我，叫我傳福音給貧窮的人，差遣我去宣揚被擄的得釋放，瞎眼的得復明，叫那受壓制的得自由，

路 4:19 宣揚主悅納人的禧年。』

C. The proclamation of the jubilee, the real and whole gospel, is a proclamation of release from slavery and of the recovery of our spiritual birthright; our lost birthright has been redeemed, recovered, and restored—Luke 4:16-19.

Luke 4:16 And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, and according to His custom He entered on the Sabbath day into the synagogue and stood up to read.

Luke 4:17 And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

Luke 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to announce the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to send away in release those who are oppressed,

Luke 4:19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, the year of jubilee."

#### 四 我們需要廣傳禧年—新約的福音，宣揚被擄的得釋放，失去的長子名分得恢復—九 1 ~ 6，二四 47，徒二六 18：

路 9:1 耶穌叫齊了十二個門徒，給他們能力、權柄，制伏一切的鬼，並醫治疾病。

路 9:2 又差遣他們去宣揚神的國，醫治病弱的。

路 9:3 對他們說，行路的時候，不要帶手杖和口袋，不要帶食物和銀子，各人也不要帶兩件裏衣。

路 9:4 無論進那一家，就住在那裏，也從那裏起行。

路 9:5 凡不接待你們的，你們離開那城的時候，就把腳上的塵土跺下去，作反對他們的見證。

路 9:6 門徒就出去，走遍各鄉，傳揚福音，到處治病。

路 24:47 並且人要靠著祂的名，傳悔改以得赦罪之道，從耶路撒冷起，直到萬邦。

徒 26:18 我差你到他們那裏去，叫他們的眼睛得開，從黑暗轉入光中，從撒但權下轉向神，又因信入我，得蒙赦罪，並在一切聖別的人中得著基業。

- 1 如路加福音所啓示的，神聖的性情同其屬性以及屬人的性情同其美德的調和，所產生最高標準的道德，乃是為著新約的禧年——1:35。

路 1:35 天使回答說，聖靈要臨到你身上，至高者的能力要覆庇你，因此所要生的聖者，必稱為神的兒子。

- 2 在這禧年裏，我們得著自由，脫離一切的轄制—罪、撒但、世界和己的轄制，我們也得著自由，完滿的享受我們所失去的長子名分，就是在基督裏享受三一神的權利—林後十三 14，弗三 16 ~ 17。

林後 13:14 願主耶穌基督的恩，神的愛，聖靈的交通，與你們眾人同在。

弗 3:16 願祂照著祂榮耀的豐富，藉著祂的靈，用大能使你們得以加強到裏面的人裏，

弗 3:17 使基督藉著信，安家在你們心裏，叫你們在愛裏生根立基，

玖 希伯來十二章十六節警告信徒不要像『以掃…因一口食物把自己長子的名分賣了』：

#### D. We need to spread the jubilee—the gospel of the New Testament, the proclamation of the release of the captives and of the recovery of the lost birthright—9:1-6; 24:47; Acts 26:18:

Luke 9:1 And He called together the twelve and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases.

Luke 9:2 And He sent them to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

Luke 9:3 And He said to them, Take nothing for the journey, neither a staff nor a bag nor bread nor money, nor have two tunics apiece.

Luke 9:4 And into whatever house you enter, remain there and from there go out.

Luke 9:5 And as many as do not receive you, as you go out from that city, shake off the dust from your feet for a testimony against them.

Luke 9:6 And they went out and passed through village after village, announcing the gospel and healing everywhere.

Luke 24:47 And that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.

1. As revealed in the Gospel of Luke, the mingling of the divine nature with its attributes and the human nature with its virtues to produce the highest standard of morality is for the New Testament jubilee—1:35.

Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said to her, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore also the holy thing which is born will be called the Son of God.

2. In this jubilee we are freed from all bondage—the bondage of sin, Satan, the world, and the self—and we are freed into the full enjoyment of our lost birthright, the right to enjoy the Triune God in Christ—2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 3:16-17.

2 Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,

Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

**IX. Hebrews 12:16 warns the believers not to be like “Esau, who for one meal gave up his own birthright”:**

來 12:16 免得有淫亂的、或貪戀世俗如以掃的，他因一口食物把自己長子的名分賣了。

Heb 12:16 Lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one meal gave up his own birthright.

一 以掃是以撒的長子，他的長子名分是雙分土地、祭司職分和君王職分。

A. Esau's birthright as the firstborn son of Isaac was the double portion of the land, the priesthood, and the kingship.

二 以掃因貪戀世俗，放棄了長子名分，雙分土地就歸給約瑟（代上五 1～2），祭司職分歸給利未（申三三 8～11），君王職分歸給猶大（創四九 10，代上五 2）。

B. Because of Esau's profaneness in giving up his birthright, the double portion of the land was given to Joseph (1 Chron. 5:1-2), the priesthood was passed to Levi (Deut. 33:8-11), and the kingship was assigned to Judah (Gen. 49:10; 1 Chron. 5:2).

代上 5:1 以色列長子流便的子孫記在下面。（流便是長子，但因他污穢了父親的牀，他長子的名分就歸了以色列兒子約瑟的兩個兒子。他沒有按長子名分載入家譜；

1 Chron 5:1 And the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel (for he was the firstborn; but because he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph the son of Israel; but he was not to be enrolled in the genealogy according to the birthright,

代上 5:2 猶大勝過他的弟兄，君王也是從他而出，長子的名分卻歸約瑟。）

1 Chron 5:2 For Judah prevailed among his brothers, and from him was the leader, but the birthright was Joseph's)

申 33:8 論利未說，耶和華啊，願你的土明和烏陵都在你的虔誠人那裏；你在瑪撒曾試驗他，在米利巴水曾與他爭論。

Deut 33:8 And concerning Levi he said, May Your Thummim and Urim be with Your faithful man, / Whom You tested at Massah, / With whom You contended at the waters of Meribah,

申 33:9 他論自己的父母說，我沒有看見；他不承認自己的弟兄，也不認識自己的兒女；這是因利未人謹守你的話，護衛你的約。

Deut 33:9 He who said of his father and mother, / I do not regard him; / And his brothers he did not acknowledge, / And his children he did not recognize; / For they have kept Your speaking / And have guarded Your covenant.

申 33:10 他們要將你的典章指教雅各，將你的律法指教以色列；他們要把香焚在你面前，把全牲的燔祭獻在你的壇上。

Deut 33:10 They shall show Jacob Your ordinances, / And Israel Your law; / They shall put incense before Your nostrils / And whole burnt offerings upon Your altar.

申 33:11 耶和華啊，求你賜福給他的能力，悅納他手中的工作；那些起來攻擊他和恨惡他的人，願你刺透他們的腰，使他們不得再起來。

Deut 33:11 Bless, O Jehovah, his might, / And the work of his hands accept; / Wound thoroughly the loins of those who rise up against him / And of those who hate him, that they may not rise up again.

創 49:10 權杖必不離猶大，王杖必不離他兩腳之間，直到細羅來到，萬民都必歸順。

Gen 49:10 The scepter will not depart from Judah, / Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, / Until Shiloh comes, / And to Him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

三 希伯來十二章二十三節說到『眾長子的召會』：

C. Hebrews 12:23 speaks of “the church of the firstborn”:

來 12:23 來到名字記錄在諸天之上眾長子的召會，來到審判眾人的神這裏，來到被成全之義人的靈這裏，

Heb 12:23 And to the church of the firstborn, who have been enrolled in the heavens; and to God, the Judge of all; and to the spirits of righteous men who have been made perfect;

1 我們基督徒由神而生，是祂所造萬物中的初熟果子，是神在祂的造物中所收割的——雅一 18。

1. We Christians, born of God, are the firstfruits of His creatures that He has reaped in His creation——James 1:18.

雅 1:18 祂照自己的定意，用真理的話生了我們，叫我們在祂所造的萬物中，成為初熟的果子。

James 1:18 He brought us forth by the word of truth, purposing that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

2 就這意義說，我們乃是神的眾長子；因此，由我們所組成的召會，稱為眾長子的召會——來十二 23。

2. In this sense, we are the firstborn sons of God; hence, the church, composed of us, is called the church of the firstborn——Heb. 12:23.

來 12:23 來到名字記錄在諸天之上眾長子的召會，來到審判眾人的神這裏，來到被成全之義人的靈這裏，

3 我們既是神的眾長子，就有長子的名分，包括承受世界（二5～6），祭司職分（啓二十6）和君王職分（4）；這些是在要來的國度裏主要的福分，是那些貪戀世俗，愛世界並追求世界的基督徒，在主回來時所要失去的。

來 2:5 我們所說要來的世界，神原沒有交給天使管轄。

來 2:6 但有人在經上某處鄭重見證說，『人算甚麼，你竟顧念他？世人算甚麼，你竟眷顧他？』

啓 20:6 在頭一次復活有分的有福了，聖別了，第二次的死在他們身上沒有權柄；他們還要作神和基督的祭司，並要與基督一同作王一千年。

啓 20:4 我又看見幾個寶座和坐在上面的，有審判的權柄賜給他們。我又看見那些為耶穌的見證、並為神的話被斬者，以及那些沒有拜過獸與獸像，額上和手上也沒有受過牠印記之人的魂，他們都活了，與基督一同作王一千年。

4 至終，在千年國裏，這長子的名分要成為得勝基督徒的賞賜——二二 12，十一 18。

啓 22:12 看哪，我必快來！賞罰在我，我要照各人所行的報應他。

啓 11:18 外邦發怒，你的忿怒也臨到了，審判死人，和賞賜你的奴僕眾申言者、和眾聖徒、並敬畏你名的人，大的小的，以及敗壞那些敗壞地者的時候也到了。

四 今天我們在基督裏有特權享受的一切，就是要來國度裏福分的豫嘗——弗三 8，羅五 17，彼前二 5、9：

弗 3:8 這恩典賜給了我這比眾聖徒中最小者還小的，叫我將基督那追測不盡的豐富，當作福音傳給外邦人，

羅 5:17 若因一人的過犯，死就藉著這一人作了王，那些受洋溢之恩，並洋溢之義恩賜的，就更要藉著耶穌基督一人，在生命中作了王。

彼前 2:5 也就像活石，被建造成為屬靈的殿，成為聖別的祭司體系，藉著耶穌基督獻上神所悅納的屬靈祭物。

彼前 2:9 惟有你們是蒙揀選的族類，是君尊的祭司體系，是聖別的國度，是買來作產業的子民，要叫你們宣揚那召你們出黑暗、入祂奇妙之光者的美德；

1 我們今天若不享受基督作美地，就不能在國度裏進入祂的安息，與祂一同承受地土——來四 9。

Heb 12:23 And to the church of the firstborn, who have been enrolled in the heavens; and to God, the Judge of all; and to the spirits of righteous men who have been made perfect;

3. As the firstborn sons of God, we have the birthright; this includes the inheritance of the earth (2:5-6), the priesthood (Rev. 20:6), and the kingship (v. 4), which will be the main blessings in the coming kingdom and which the profane, world-loving-and-seeking Christians will lose at the Lord's coming back.

Heb 2:5 For it was not to angels that He subjected the coming inhabited earth, concerning which we speak.

Heb 2:6 But one has solemnly testified somewhere, saying, "What is man, that You bring him to mind? Or the son of man, that You care for him?"

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no authority, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and of those who had not worshipped the beast nor his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

4. Eventually, this birthright will be a reward given to the overcoming Christians in the millennial kingdom——22:12; 11:18.

Rev 22:12 Behold, I come quickly, and My reward is with Me to render to each one as his work is.

Rev 11:18 And the nations became angry, and Your wrath came, and the time came for the dead to be judged, and the time to give the reward to Your slaves the prophets and to the saints and to those who fear Your name, to the small and to the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth.

D. Today what we are privileged to enjoy in Christ is the foretaste of the blessings in the coming kingdom——Eph. 3:8; Rom. 5:17; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9:

Eph 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel

Rom 5:17 For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

1. If we do not enjoy Christ today as our good land, we cannot enter into His rest in the kingdom and inherit the earth with Him——Heb. 4:9.

來 4:9 這樣，必有一安息日的安息，為神的子民存留。

2 我們今天若不操練作祭司接觸主，用禱告服事祂，就不能在國度裏盡我們祭司的本分——彼前二 5、9。

彼前 2:5 也就像活石，被建造成為屬靈的殿，成為聖別的祭司體系，藉著耶穌基督獻上神所悅納的屬靈祭物。

彼前 2:9 惟有你們是蒙揀選的族類，是君尊的祭司體系，是聖別的國度，是買來作產業的子民，要叫你們宣揚那召你們出黑暗、入祂奇妙之光者的美德；

3 我們今天若不運用靈，用神所賜的權柄管治己、肉體、全人、並仇敵及其一切黑暗的權勢，就不能在國度裏與基督一同作王，與祂一同轄管列國——羅五 17、21，啓二 26～27。

羅 5:17 若因一人的過犯，死就藉著這一人作了王，那些受洋溢之恩，並洋溢之義恩賜的，就更要藉著耶穌基督一人，在生命中作了王。

羅 5:21 使罪怎樣在死中作王，恩典也照樣藉著義作王，叫人藉著我們的主耶穌基督得永遠的生命。

啓 2:26 得勝的，又守住我的工作到底的，我要賜給他權柄制伏列國；

啓 2:27 他必用鐵杖轄管他們，將他們如同窯戶的瓦器打得粉碎，像我從我父領受的權柄一樣；

4 我們今天對基督的享受，以及對祭司職任和君王職任的實行，都是豫備我們，使我們在來世穀資格有分於基督的國——彼前二 5、9，啓五 10，二十 4、6。

彼前 2:5 也就像活石，被建造成為屬靈的殿，成為聖別的祭司體系，藉著耶穌基督獻上神所悅納的屬靈祭物。

彼前 2:9 惟有你們是蒙揀選的族類，是君尊的祭司體系，是聖別的國度，是買來作產業的子民，要叫你們宣揚那召你們出黑暗、入祂奇妙之光者的美德；

啓 5:10 又叫他們成為國度，作祭司，歸與我們的神；他們要在地上執掌王權。

啓 20:4 我又看見幾個寶座和坐在上面的，有審判的權柄賜給他們。我又看見那些為耶穌的見證、並為神的話被斬者，以及那些沒有拜過獸與獸像，額上和手上也沒有受過牠印記之人的魂，他們都活了，與基督一同作王一千年。

啓 20:6 在頭一次復活有分的有福了，聖別了，第二次的死在他們身上沒有權柄；他們還要作神和基督的祭司，並要與基督一同作王一千年。

Heb 4:9 So then there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God.

2. If we do not exercise our priesthood today to contact the Lord and prayerfully minister to Him, we cannot fulfill our priestly duty in the kingdom—1 Pet. 2:5, 9.

1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

3. If we do not exercise our spirit with the God-given authority to rule our self, our flesh, our entire being, and the enemy with all his power of darkness today, we cannot be Christ's co-kings and rule the nations with Him in His kingdom—Rom. 5:17, 21; Rev. 2:26-27.

Rom 5:17 For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Rom 5:21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rev 2:26 And he who overcomes and he who keeps My works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations;

Rev 2:27 And he will shepherd them with an iron rod, as vessels of pottery are broken in pieces, as I also have received from My Father;

4. Our enjoyment of Christ and the practice of the priesthood and kingship today are the preparation and qualification for our participating in Christ's kingdom in the coming age—1 Pet. 2:5, 9; Rev. 5:10; 20:4, 6.

1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Rev 5:10 And have made them a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign on the earth.

Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and of those who had not worshipped the beast nor his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no authority, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.