



A Fruitful Inheritance

“O Lord, my strength and my stronghold, And my refuge in the day of distress, To You the nations will come From the ends of the earth and say, 'Our fathers have inherited nothing but falsehood, Futility and things of no profit.'” (Jeremiah 16:19 NASB)

As we have seen in previous devotionals, all the nations of the earth come to be ruled by Jesus after He returns on the Day of the Lord to set up His Kingdom in Jerusalem. On that day, all the nations will concede that everything they have is utter falsehood and futility.

King Solomon, the wisest man of history, faced this reality and conceded that all life was a “*life time of futility*” (Ecclesiastes 7:15), “*For there is no lasting remembrance of the wise man as with the fool, inasmuch as in the coming days all will be forgotten. And how the wise man and the fool alike die! So I hated life, for the work which had been done under the sun was grievous to me; because everything is futility and striving after wind. Thus I hated all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored under the sun, for I must leave it to the man who will come after me*” (Ecclesiastes 2:16-18). This is true because “*the creation was subjected to futility*” (Romans 8:20a) by the Fall and the entrance of sin into the world.

And yet, the world strives against this futility with humanist efforts, for they believe that they will conquer the “futility” of the nature they have been subject to. Scientists, leaders, and dreamers believe that humanity will overcome through further outpourings of the “Human Spirit.” They refuse to acknowledge that sin is the unassailable cause of their futile existence. David saw this when he asked, “*Why are the nations in an uproar And the*

peoples devising a vain thing? The kings of the earth take their stand And the rulers take counsel together Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, 'Let us tear their fetters apart And cast away their cords from us!'" (Psalm 2:1-3) And so man seeks to get out from under his sin through his own means (magic, sorcery, science, technology) and the righteous judgment of a Holy God. They deny in themselves that “*the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now*” (Romans 8:19-22). This futility finds its end in Jesus Christ. He alone has become eternal and permanent and fruitful. When we believe on His name, we become Children of God and are given “*an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you*” (1 Peter 1:4). So, while we are still subject to the vain futility that is this earthly life, we have a fruitful inheritance to be bestowed on us when we are born into eternity in the Resurrection and Rapture through the power of Jesus’ blood that covers our sin, cleanses us, and makes us Holy before God. He, and only He, takes away the **cause** of our vain state of futility, so that we become “*fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us*” (Romans 8:18) - “*an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God*” (Ephesians 5:5b).