

INCREASING BY PORTIONS

Deut 21:17 But he shall acknowledge the son of the hated *for* the firstborn, **by giving him a double portion** of all that he hath: for he *is* the beginning of his strength; **the right of the firstborn is** his.

The natural double portion or “firstborn double portion” was a monetary or material blessing. Any man (favoured or not) could receive this blessing as long as he was the first-born son. This blessing is still given to the first-born son in some eastern countries. The son is responsible to care for the family in emergencies.

2Kin 2:9 And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a **double portion of thy spirit** be upon me.

The spiritual double-portion is very different. It is a spiritual anointing or gifting. The most well-known passage of scripture that graphically described its transference and affect is found in 2 Kin 2:9-15. Elisha received the double portion because 1) He asked for it and, 2) He determined to be actively faithful to Elijah to the end of his earthly ministry.

2Ki 2:10 And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: *nevertheless*, **if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee**; but if not, it shall not be *so*.

Faithfulness to the ministry had a lot to do with his receiving.

Psa 16:5 The **LORD is the portion** of mine inheritance and of **my cup**: thou maintainest my lot.

Psa 23:5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; **my cup runneth over**.

The believer must recognize that it is God alone who is his portion and that such a faith portion is going to be his spiritual inheritance. God will maintain the portion of the believer’s cup.

Psa 16:6 The **lines** are fallen unto me in pleasant *places*; yea, **I have a goodly heritage**.

The “lines” spoken of in verse 6 are the boundaries, which are given by God. David was pleased with the heritage of God. (See Psa 23:5)

Luk 10:23 And he turned him unto *his* disciples, and said privately, "**Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see:** " ²⁴"For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen *them*; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard *them*.

The Disciples of Christ had the privilege of hearing such amazing heavenly truth. Prophetically speaking it was far beyond what any men had heard before. They witnessed daily countless miracles; it seems that Jesus needed to remind them of the wonders and miracles that they were witnessing in those days.

Gen 12:7 And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, **Unto thy seed will I give this land:** and there builded he **an altar unto the LORD**, who appeared unto him.

Gen 13:2-4 And Abram *was* very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold. ³**And he went on his journeys from the south even to Bethel**, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Hai; ⁴**Unto the place of the altar**, which he had made there at the first: and **there Abram called on the name of the LORD**.

Gen 13:18 Then Abram **removed his tent**, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which *is* in Hebron, and **built there an altar unto the LORD**.

Abram was moving his boundaries markers by prayer. The first thing that Abram built after erecting his tent was an altar. Abram knew how to get God's attention.

Num 18:20 And the LORD spake unto Aaron, Thou shalt have no inheritance in their land, neither shalt thou have any part among them: **I am thy part and thine inheritance** among the children of Israel.

Gen 14:22 And Abram said to the king of Sodom, **I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth,** ²³That I will not *take* from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that **I will not take any thing that is thine**, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich:

Abraham had a powerful testimony. He told the king of Sodom three things.

- 1) He had made a commitment to the Lord.
- 2) God was the possessor of heaven and earth. (Possessor of all things)
- 3) God was able to bless his life and take care of his house without any help or gifts from man.

The source of Abram's blessing was God alone. He was committed to strong faith. (Rom 4:19)

Eph 1:11 In whom also **we have obtained an inheritance**, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

Col 1:12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be **partakers of the inheritance** of the saints in light:

In Acts 2:25-28 Peter read the Psalms and extracted enough truth to make the Word of God relevant to his life.

v.25 “on my right side” This is a heavenly position.

v.26 “my flesh shall rest in hope”

v.28 “the ways of life” This was a lifestyle of joy.

Ex 33:13 “**Shew me now thy way, that I may know thee**”

Ex 33:19 And he said, **I will make all my goodness pass before thee**, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.

Thousands today are travelling all over the world. Some are business people, whilst others are just on vacation. There are some who are ministers of the Gospel seeking to please God. Some are like Moses who prayed, “Show me thy way”. (Ex 33:13) This was his primary aim in life; to walk in the goodness of God. If you know the way of God, you can know God and lead others to Him.

Paul also had a primary aim. He sought to know Christ and to conform or be identified with the cross of Christ. (Phil 3:10)

Phil 3:10 **That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection**, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.

This is one of Paul’s most powerful statements. These days not many Christians can honestly say it with such conviction. We don’t really know what it is to be “made conformable unto his death”. Our western comfortable lifestyle has taken over the possible increase of faith.