

## Sermon Outlines

### Three Blessings

*“Upon mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness:  
and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions.”  
Obadiah 17*

The promises made to Israel concerning temporal blessings may be applied spiritually to the Church. Here is a prophecy of restoration and glory for Zion after bondage to the enemy Edom. It contains three promises; rescue from captivity, re-consecration to God, and recovery of former possessions; or, deliverance, holiness and enjoyment. These three sum up the blessings of Christianity and include all that God has for us.

#### *I. Safety* - “Upon Mount Zion be deliverance”

1. From sin’s condemnation (Rom. 8:1).
2. From sin’s power - in Satan (Acts 26:18; Heb. 2:14), in circumstances (Gal. 1:4), in self (Rom. 8:2) - or, “the world, the flesh and the devil.”
3. From sin’s presence (Rev. 21:27).

#### *II. Sanctity* - “There shall be holiness”

1. Set apart for God - Consecration (Rom. 12:1).
2. Filled with the Spirit of God - transformation (Rom. 12:2).  
This also is a free gift, not an attainment; it is not “justification by faith” and “sanctification by fighting.”

#### *III. Sufficiency* - “The house of Jacob shall possess their possessions.”

The sons of the transformed “supplanter” shall now own and enjoy. We are Jacob’s children in a spiritual sense.

1. All things come freely with the gift of Christ (Rom. 8:32; 1 Cor. 3:21, 22; 1 Tim. 6:17; 2 Pet. 1:3). Therefore, possessing Christ is like owning an estate with infinite possibilities: e.g., wealth to be explored, soil to be cultivated, beauties to be enjoyed, and produce to be used. Cf. continent of Africa where settlements first hugged coast, leaving interior with all its wealth untapped.
2. After we are accepted in Christ, we are endowed in Him.
3. Our threefold title:
  - a. God’s purpose - “all your need” (Phil. 4:19).
  - b. Christ’s purchase - “purchased possession” (Eph. 1:14).
  - c. The Spirit’s power - “strengthened with might” (Eph. 3:16).

#### **Conclusion**

1. *The Possibility* - to have and yet not enjoy, because of ignorance, slothfulness, timidity, or contentment with less than best. We often have pailful when we might have ocean. Cf. Joshua 1:3, “every place,” with 1 Kings 22:3, “take it not.”
2. *The Purpose* - God’s purpose for us is enjoyment through:
  - a. Knowledge, which develops and increases (1 Cor. 2:12).
  - b. Faith, which accepts and claims (Mk. 11:23, 24).
  - c. Faithfulness, which appropriates and uses (1 Tim. 6:17-19).Examples of our possessions often unpossessed: inward peace, upward communication, outward victory. Let us follow a good example and “return unto the land of ‘our’ possession, and enjoy it” (Josh. 1:15), and even when, like Joshua, we are “old and stricken in years,” there will remain “yet very much land to be possessed, ‘for’ all things” are ours and we “are Christ’s and Christ is God’s” (1 Cor. 3:21-23).

. . . . *W.H. Griffith Thomas, D.D.*