

# Ezekiel 46:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus saith the Lord GOD; If the prince give a gift unto any of his sons, the inheritance thereof shall be his sons'; it shall be their possession by inheritance.

## Analysis

The inheritance law—"if the prince give a gift of his inheritance unto his sons, it shall be theirs by inheritance... But if he give a gift of his inheritance to one of his servants, then it shall be his to the year of liberty; after it shall return to the prince"—protects family patrimony while allowing temporary gifts. Sons receive permanent inheritance; servants receive temporary grants reverting at jubilee. The Hebrew **דֶּרֶר** (deror, 'liberty') refers to the jubilee year when debts canceled and property returned (Leviticus 25:10). This prevents permanent alienation of tribal inheritance. Reformed theology sees spiritual application: believers are sons (Galatians 4:4-7), not servants, receiving eternal inheritance (1 Peter 1:4). What Christ gives His children cannot be revoked—eternal security of the believer. Temporary earthly positions differ from permanent spiritual adoption.

## Historical Context

The jubilee year (every 50th year) featured comprehensive restoration—land returned to original families, Hebrew slaves freed, debts forgiven (Leviticus 25). This prevented permanent socioeconomic stratification and reminded Israel that God owned the land (Leviticus 25:23). Naboth's vineyard incident illustrates this principle—he refused to sell ancestral inheritance even to the king (1 Kings 21:3). The distinction between sons and servants parallels Paul's contrast between bondage and sonship (Galatians 4:1-7). Jesus distinguished servants who don't know the master's business from friends who receive full disclosure (John 15:15).

The inheritance law ensured no family permanently lost their portion in Israel—just as God's elect never lose their inheritance in Christ (Romans 8:38-39).

## Related Passages

## 1 Corinthians 13:4 – Characteristics of love

## 1 John 4:8 – God is love

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## **Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ**

## Study Questions

1. Do you live as a son (permanent heir) or servant (temporary employee) in your relationship with God?
2. How does understanding your eternal, irrevocable inheritance in Christ affect daily priorities and eternal perspective?
3. What temporary 'gifts' from God's hand do you cling to as permanent when they're meant to be released at His 'jubilee'?

## Interlinear Text

תְּהִרֵּה הַלְבָנָה יְלָא וְשָׁבַת בְּנֵי לְבָנָה יְלָא וְשָׁבַת  
unto any of his sons by inheritance H1931 of his sons H1961

בְּנָמָלֶה: הַ יְהוָה אֲחִזָּת מִ it shall be their possession H1931 by inheritance H272 H5159

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Chronicles 21:3** (Parallel theme): And their father gave them great gifts of silver, and of gold, and of precious things, with fenced cities in Judah: but the kingdom gave he to Jehoram; because he was the firstborn.

**Galatians 4:7** (References God): Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

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