

Ephesians Series

Lesson #214

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Inheritance in the Old Testament

Ephesians 5:3–5; cf., Deuteronomy 18:1–2; Numbers 18:20



EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK
& WARFARE
OF THE BELIEVER

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**Isaiah 64:6, “For all of us
have become like one
who is unclean,
And all our righteous
deeds are like a filthy
garment;”**

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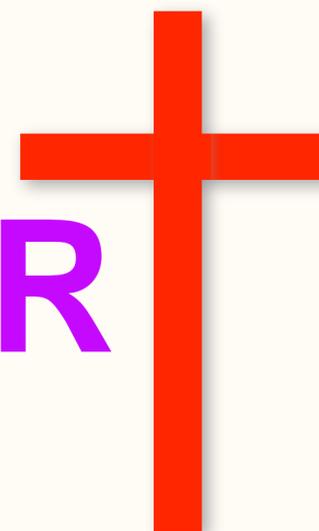


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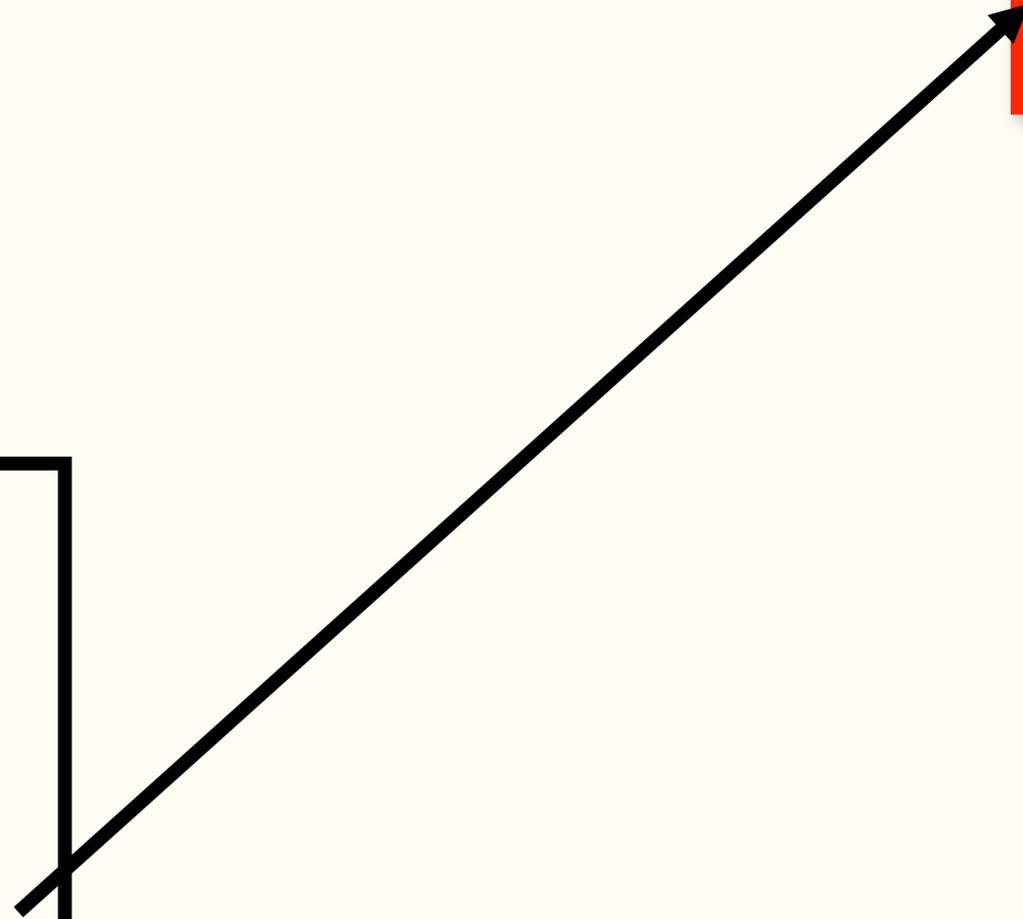


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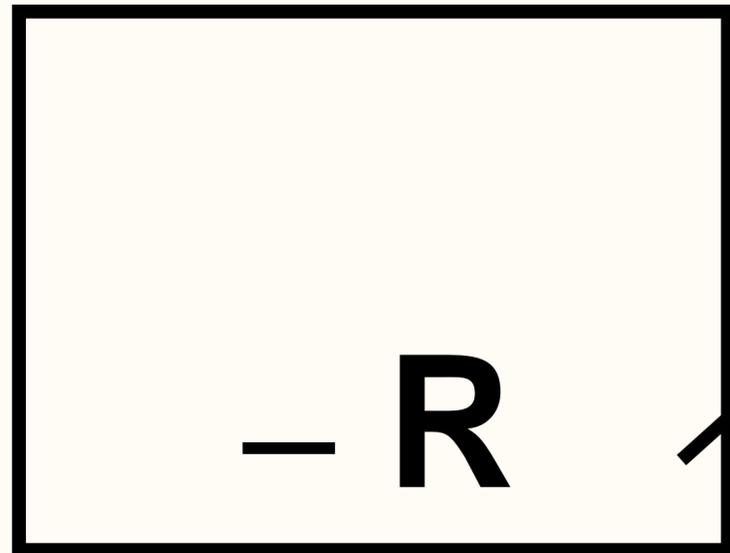
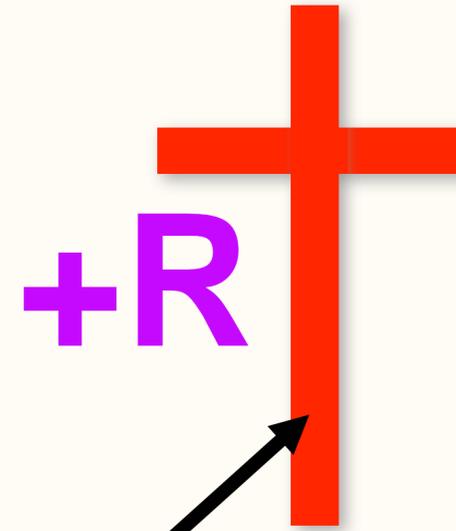
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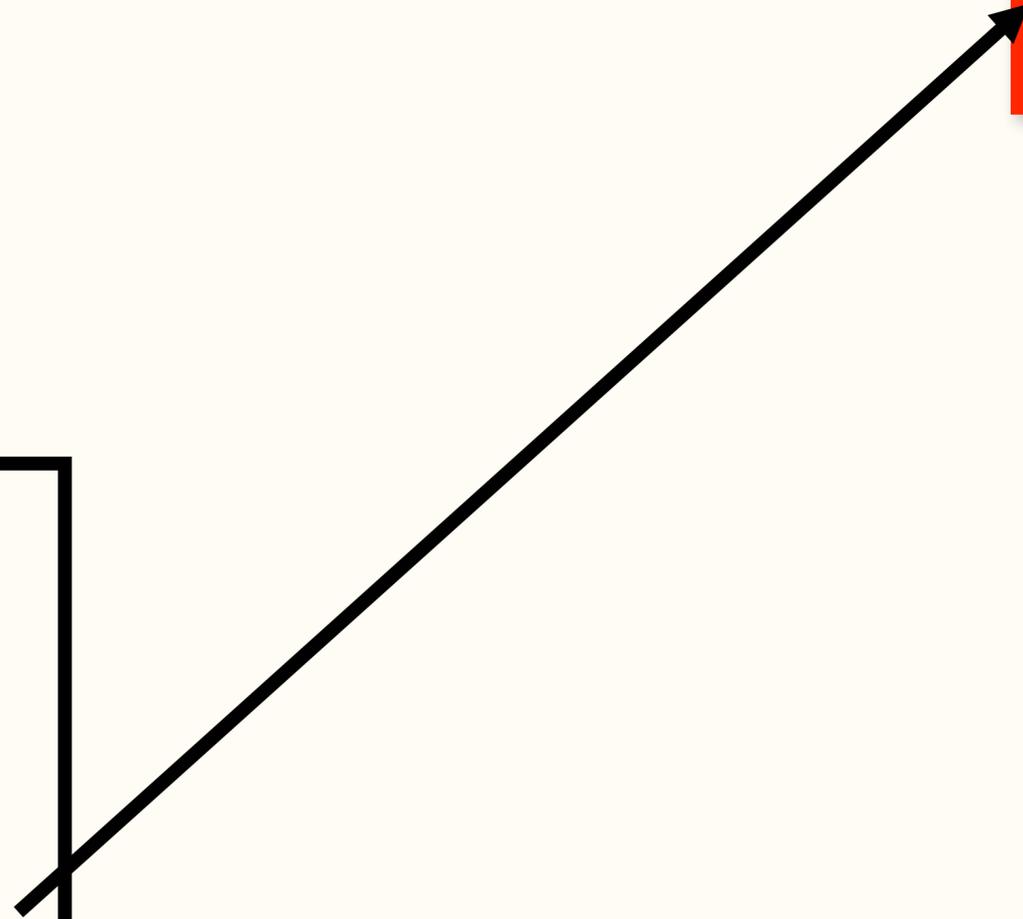


2 Corinthians 5:21, "He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

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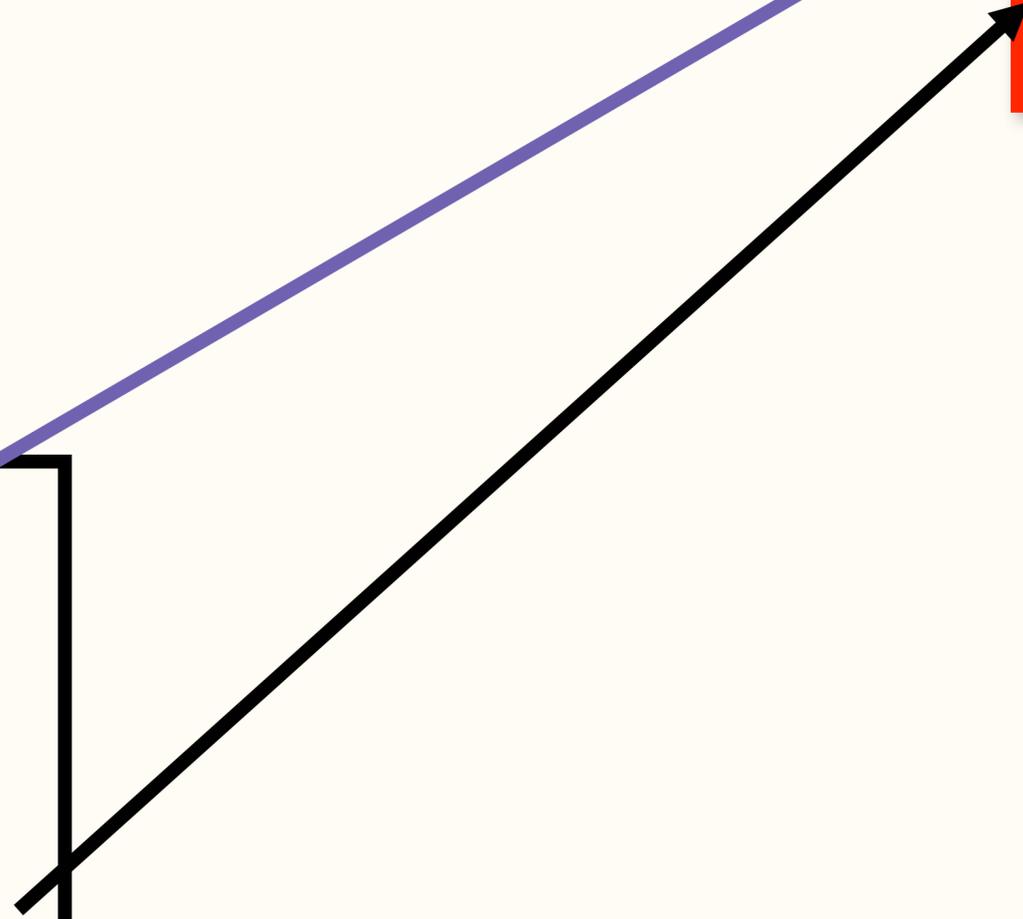
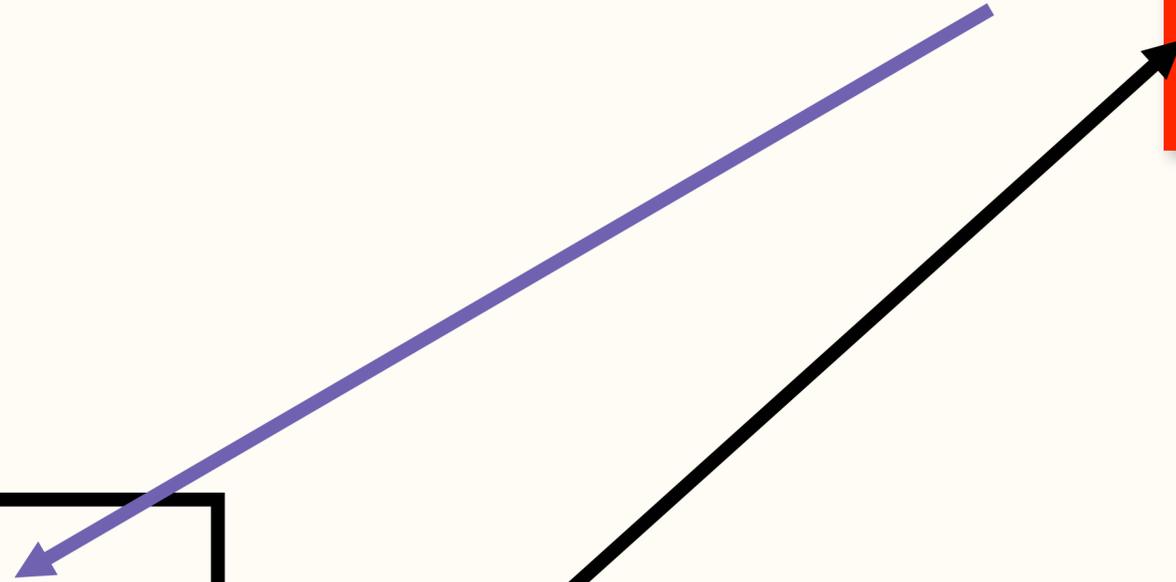
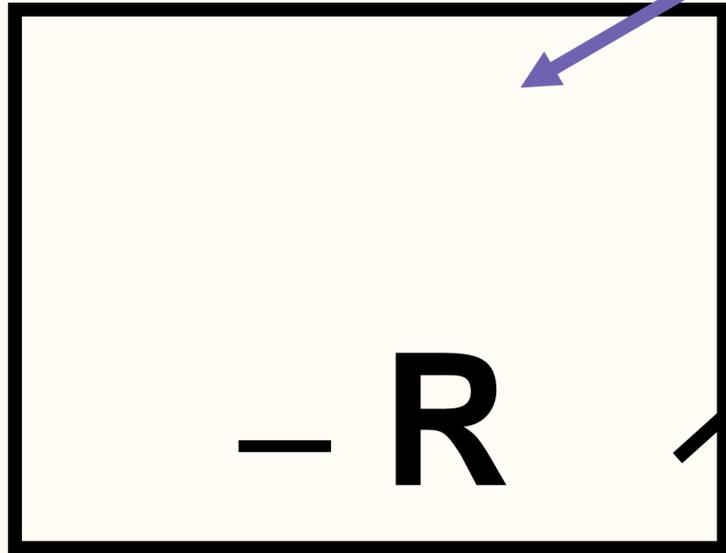
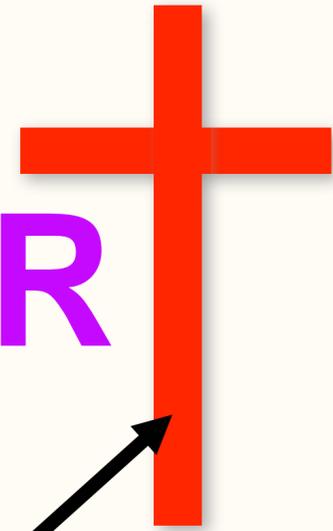
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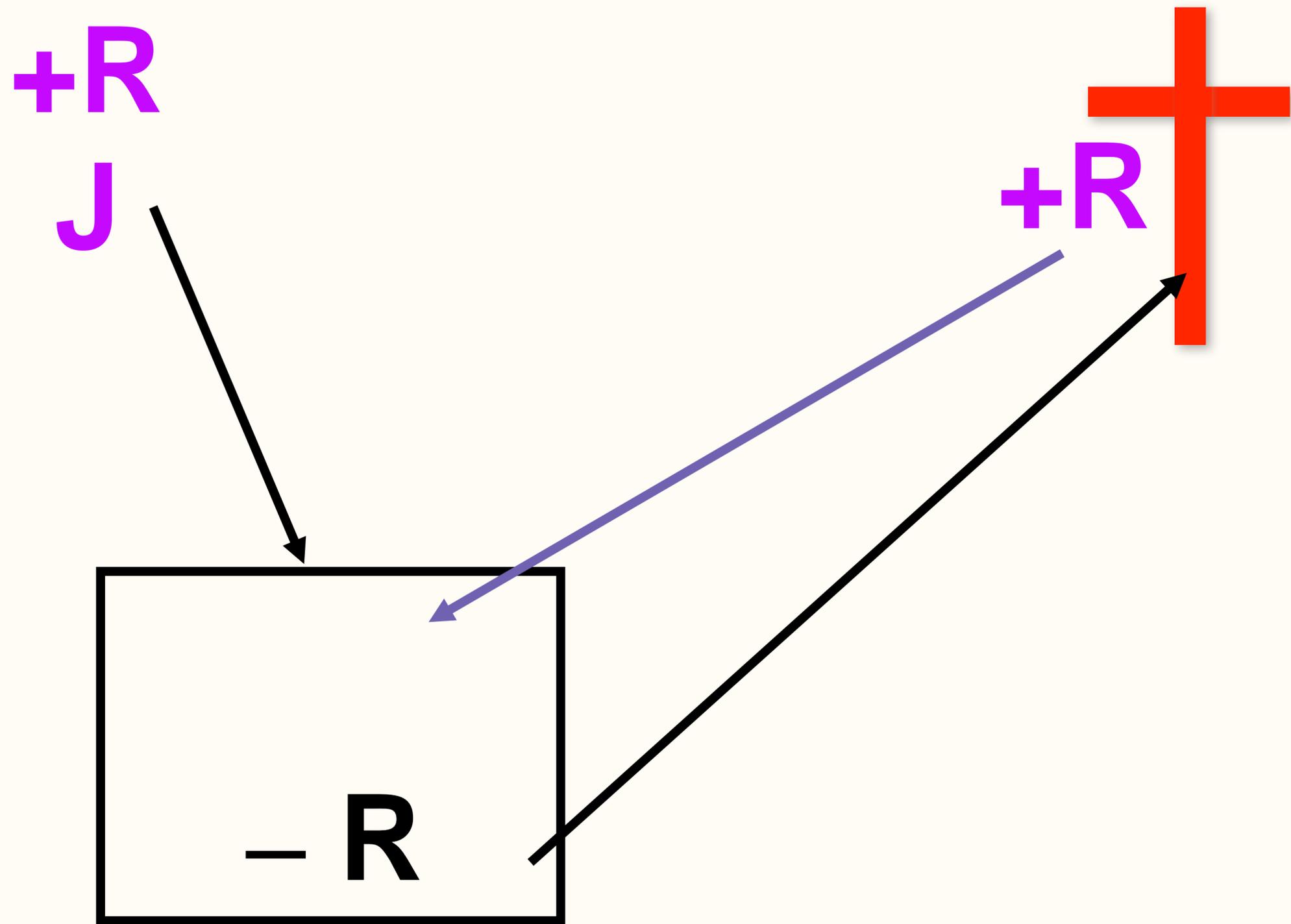
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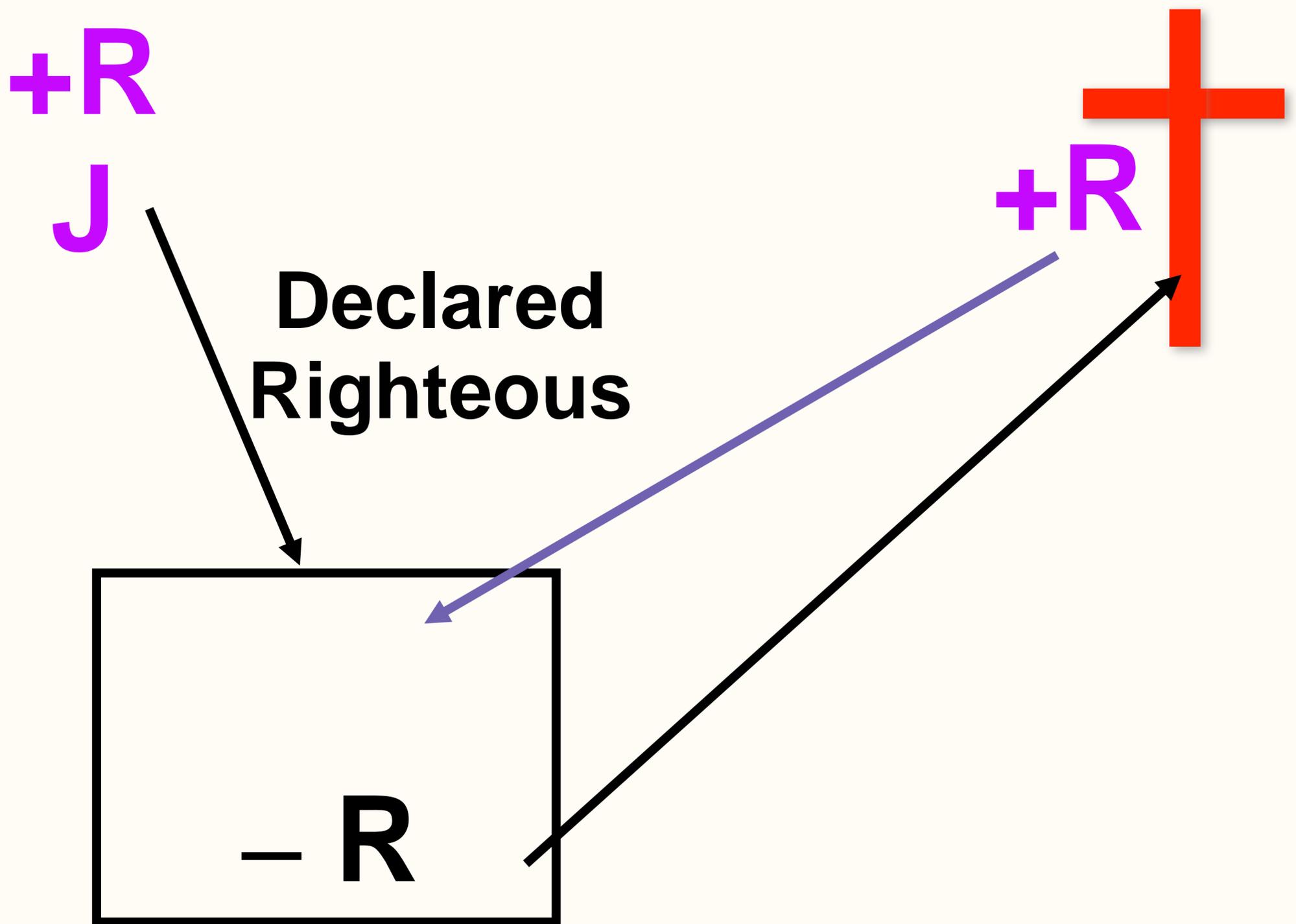


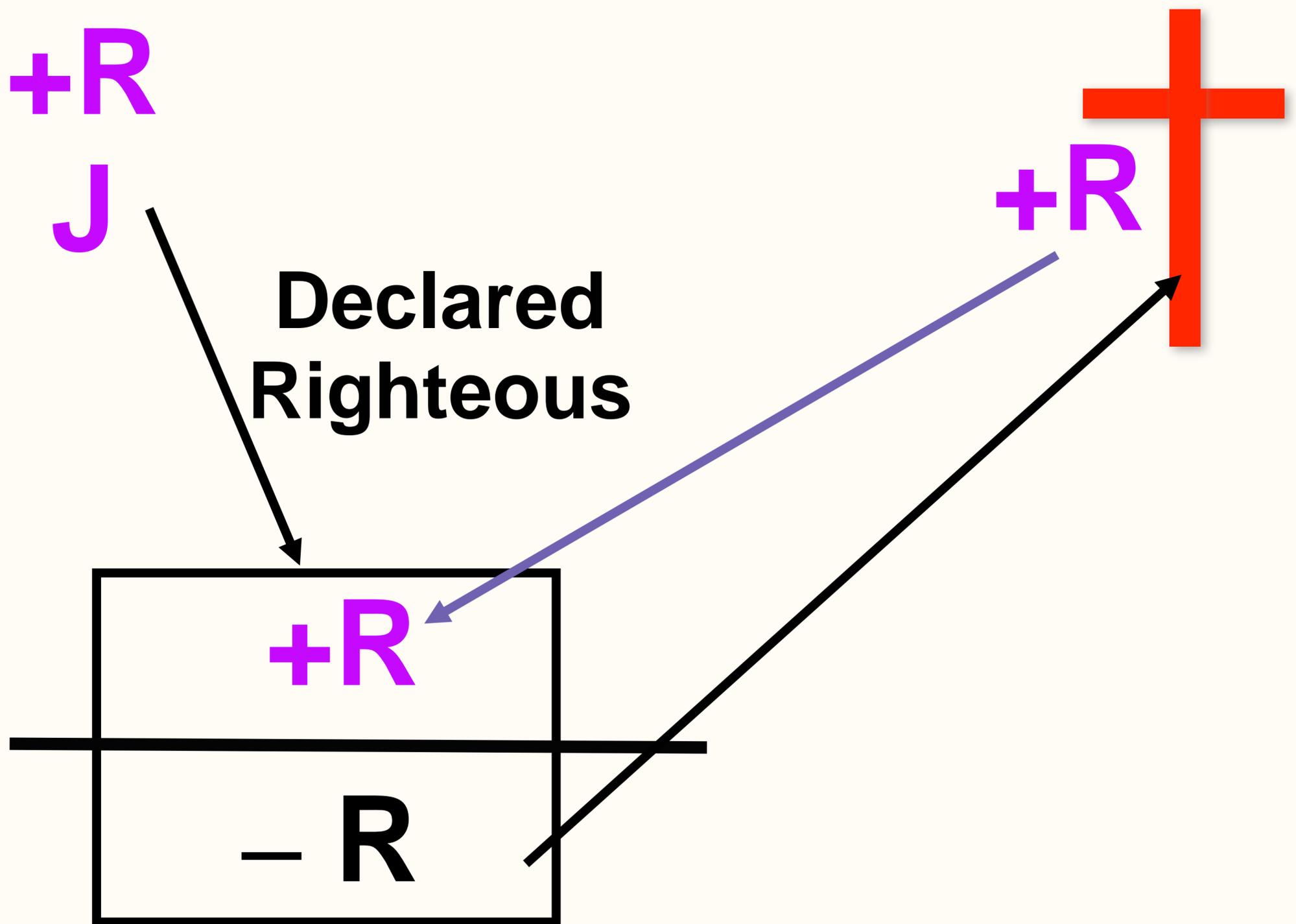
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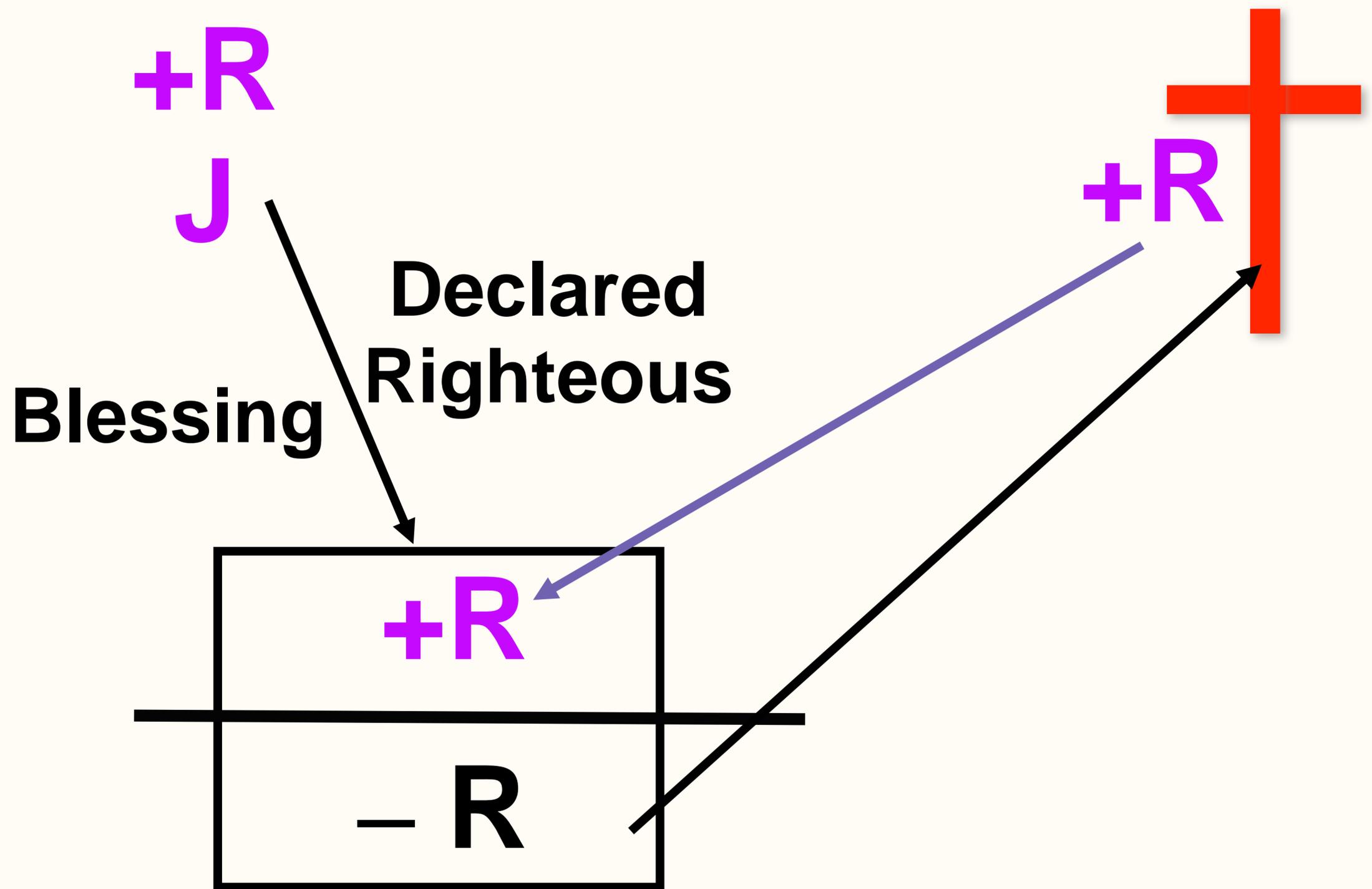
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John 10:28, “And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

John 10:29, “My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand.”

Rom. 8:38, “For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,

Rom. 8:39, “nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.””

1 Pet. 1:3, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Pet. 1:4, “to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

1 Pet. 1:5, “who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

Eph. 5:3, “But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;

Eph. 5:4, “neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

Eph. 5:5, “For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.”

Key Questions:

- 1. Why are these particular sins mentioned? How do they relate to those mentioned in Eph. 4:25 and following?**
- 2. Further, how does this relate to the following sections down to Eph. 5:18? Notice a continued contrast between one way of life and conduct (darkness, light; foolish, wise; spirituality by drunkenness, spirituality through the filling by the Spirit).**
- 3. What does it mean to not have an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God?**

3. What does it mean to not have an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God?

Gal. 5:19, “Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,

Gal. 5:20, “idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,

Gal. 5:21, “envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.” [NKJV]

1 Cor. 6:9, “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

1 Cor. 6:10, “nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners **will inherit the kingdom of God.**”

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[NKJV]

**What the Bible Teaches
About**

Inheriting the Kingdom



Ephesians speaks of two kinds of “inheritance.”

- 1. Eternal, guaranteed by the sealing by the Holy Spirit for all believers equally. Includes at least: a resurrection body, life without end in the Millennial Kingdom and eternity with God.**

Eph. 1:13, “In Him **you also trusted, after **you** heard the word of truth, the gospel of **your** salvation; in whom also, having believed, **you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,****

Eph. 1:14, “who is the guarantee of **our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”**

Ephesians speaks of two kinds of “inheritance.”

- 1. Eternal, for all believers equally. Includes at least: a resurrection body, life without end in the Millennial Kingdom and eternity with God.**
- 2. Special reward inheritance to those who grow spiritually in their faithfulness, obedience, and service (1 Cor. 3:10–15).**

2. Salvation inheritance is not earned, but is given by grace as a free gift; rewards are earned.

**Eph. 2:8, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,
Eph. 2:9, “not of works, lest anyone should boast.**

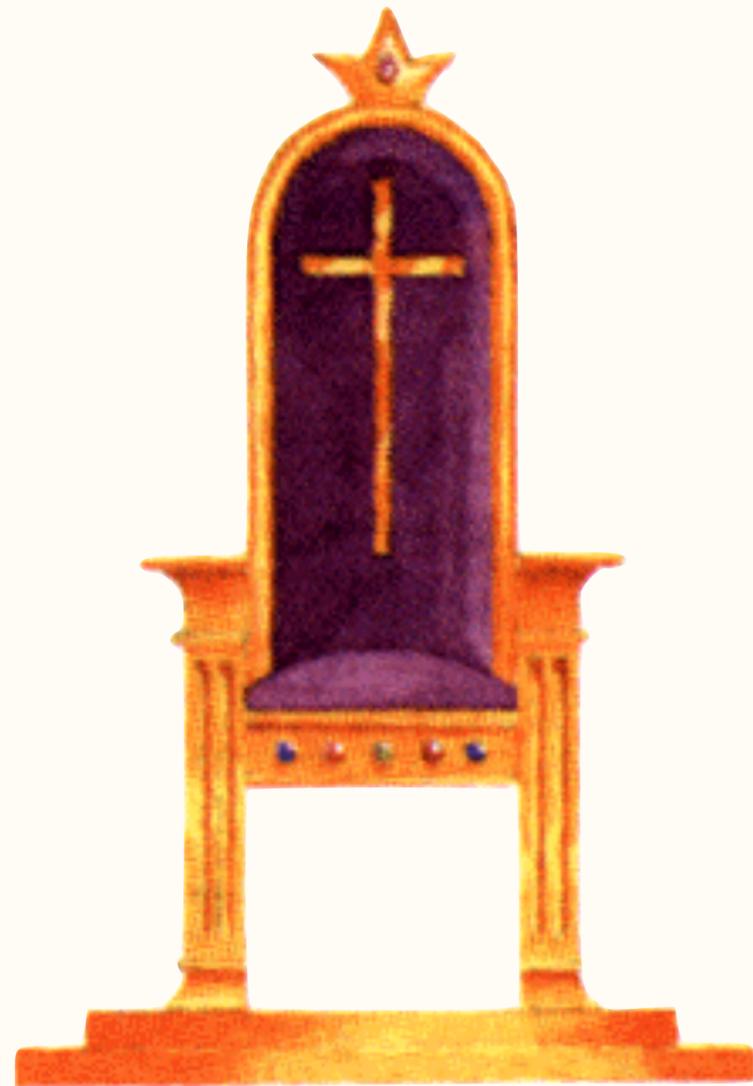
Eph. 2:10, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Revelation 22:12

“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.”

2 John 1:8, “Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward.”

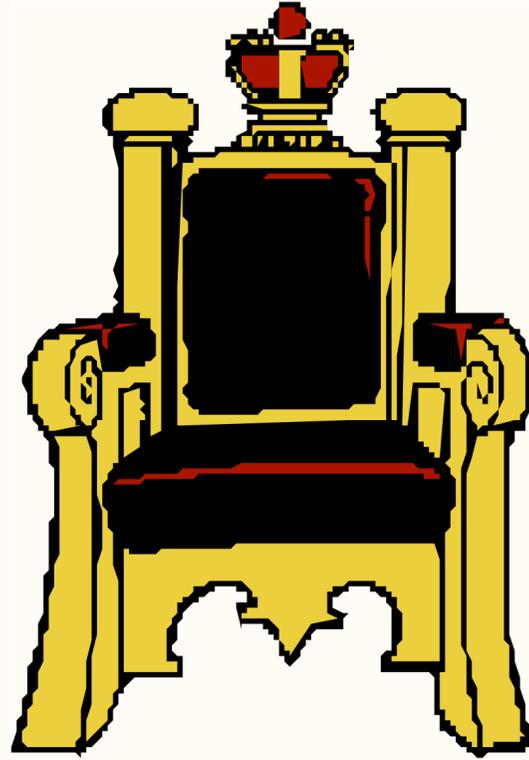
Col. 3:24, “knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.”



2 Corinthians 5:10,

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

βῆμα,



Bema

The raised or elevated seat where the magistrate, tribunal, athletic judge would sit.



Corinth bema and Acrocorinth



ΒΗΜΑ
ΒΕΜΑ

2 Cor. 5:10, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

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it is necessary**

1 Peter 1:17, “And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear;”

ἀναστρέφω
anastrephō
2 plur aor pass impera
to live, conduct
oneself; to return,
overturn

ἔργον *ergon*
neut sing acc
work

Revelation 22:12, “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.”

**ἔργον *ergon*
neut sing acc
work**

2 Cor. 5:10, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

πράσσω *prassō*

3 sing aor act

indic

to do, to

accomplish

1 Cor. 3:11, “For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1 Cor. 3:12, “Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,”

1 Cor. 3:13, “each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test [*dokimazo*] each one’s work, of what sort it is.

1 Cor. 3:14, “If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.

1 Cor. 3:15, “If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”

3. For some there will be rewards. For others there will be a loss of reward, but not a loss of salvation, the eternal, guaranteed inheritance. The difference is that which is done when walking by the Spirit.

Morality, even reading the Bible, witnessing, giving, worshipping, when it is “according to the flesh” is dead works.

4. What did inheritance mean in the Old Testament?

***Meriam Webster* online dated at 2023 states:**

- 1 a: to receive from an ancestor as a right or title descendible by law at the ancestor's death**
b: to receive as a devise or legacy
- 2 : to receive from a parent or ancestor by genetic transmission; inherit a defective enzyme**
- 3 : to have in turn or receive as if from an ancestor; inherited the problem from his predecessor**
- 4 : to come into possession of or receive especially as a right or divine portion “and every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters ... for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life—Matthew 19:29 [Revised Standard Version]**

Gen. 15:7, “Then He said to him, ‘I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it.’”

Gen. 15:8, “And he said, ‘Lord God, how shall I know that I will inherit it?’ ” [NKJV]

The answer is the Abrahamic Covenant:

The context explains the background:

- 1. The heir will come from Abraham's own body. (Gen. 15:4)**
- 2. The number of descendants would be innumerable. (Gen. 15:5)**
- 3. The promise is guaranteed by the character of God and will be fulfilled because the omnipotent God has the ability to do what He promised. (Gen. 15:7)**

ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

Genesis 12:1–13

“land”

“seed”

“blessing”

ISRAEL LAND COVENANT

Deuteronomy 30

“land”

DAVIDIC COVENANT

2 Samuel 7

“seed”

NEW COVENANT

Jeremiah 31

“blessing”

Gen. 15:18, “On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: ‘To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates—’ ”

Exploring the Promised Land Boundaries

-  Israel's tribal allotments in the time of Joshua
-  Approximate boundaries of the land of Canaan (Numbers 34:1–12)
-  Approximate area of the land from the River of Egypt to the Euphrates (Genesis 15:18)



In the Old Testament, there were two types of inheritance. First the idea of an inheritance of every believer's relationship to God, they were God's possession.

Deut. 18:2, “Therefore they shall have no inheritance among their brethren; the Lord is their inheritance, as He said to them.” [NKJV]

Psa. 73:26, “My flesh and my heart fail; But God is the strength of my heart and my portion [meris LXX (Septuagint)] forever.”

Psa. 16:5, “O LORD, You are the portion [meris LXX] of my inheritance and my cup; You maintain my lot.”

Psa. 119:57, “You are my portion [meris LXX], O LORD; I have said that I would keep Your words.”

In the Old Testament, there were two types of inheritance. Second, the idea of an inheritance which included property possession, but not all had property possession.

Deut. 14:27, “You shall not forsake the Levite who is within your gates, for he has no part nor inheritance with you.”

Deut. 18:1, “The priests, the Levites—all the tribe of Levi—shall have no part [meris LXX] nor inheritance with Israel; they shall eat the offerings of the Lord made by fire, and His portion.

Deut. 18:2, “Therefore they shall have no inheritance among their brethren; the Lord is their inheritance, as He said to them.” [NKJV]

Num. 18:20, “Then the LORD said to Aaron: ‘You shall have no inheritance in their land, nor shall you have any portion among them; I am your portion and your inheritance among the children of Israel.’ ”

Conclusion:

There was a general inheritance of a relationship to God unrelated to the possession of land promised to Israel.

Some would be “in the land” with no possession in the land.

5. In the New Testament we have a similar distinction made. There are two categories of inheritance. We have a specific guarantee of an inheritance (Eph. 1:14).

1 Pet. 1:3, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Pet. 1:4, “to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, kept in heaven for you,

1 Pet. 1:5, “who are guarded by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

The concept of inheriting the kingdom is understood in two radically different ways, to “enter the kingdom,” and “to have a share in the privileges and possessions in the kingdom.”

