

# **The Lord Is My Portion**

**Psalm 119:57**

**Thou art my portion, O Lord: I have said  
that I would keep thy words.**

**A Teaching Outline**

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## **God Is My Portion**

### **Psalm 73:26**

**My flesh and my heart may fail, But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.**

Asaph declares his confidence in God's presence and guidance. From birth to death, we are continually in God's grip. But far more, we have the hope of the resurrection. Though our courage and strength may fail, we know that one day we will be raised to life to serve him forever. He is our security, and we must cling to him.

### **My portion in the land of the living**

### **Psalm 142:5**

**I cried out to You, O LORD; I said, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.**

Have you ever felt that no one cared what happened to you? David had good reason to feel that way, and he wrote, "Hear my cry, for I am very low." Through prayer we can pull out of our tailspin and be reminded that God cares for us deeply.

**I will keep God's word.**

### **Psalm 119:57**

**The LORD is my portion; I have promised to keep your words.**

Have you ever felt that no one cared what happened to you? David had good reason to feel that way, and he wrote, "Hear my cry, for I am very low." Through prayer we can pull out of our tailspin and be reminded that God cares for us deeply.

**I will hope in God, my portion.**

**Lamentations 3:24**

**"The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I have hope in Him."**

Jeremiah knew from personal experience about God's faithfulness. God had promised that punishment would follow disobedience, and it did. But God also had promised future restoration and blessing, and Jeremiah knew that God would keep that promise also. Trusting in God's faithfulness day by day makes us confident in his great promises for the future.

**The Lord is my portion, my inheritance and my cup.**

**Psalms 16:5**

**The LORD is the portion of my inheritance and my cup; you support my lot.**

It is human nature to make our own plans and *then* ask God to bless them. Instead, we should seek God's will first. By constantly thinking about the Lord and his way of living, we will gain insights that will help us make right decisions and live the way God desires. Communicating with God allows him to counsel us and give us wisdom.

## **The Lord is Levi's portion.**

### **Deuteronomy 10:9**

**Therefore, Levi does not have a portion or inheritance with his brothers; the LORD is his inheritance, just as the LORD your God spoke to him.**

Often we ask, what does God expect of me? Here Moses gives a summary that is simple in form and easy to remember. Here are the essentials:

- (1) Fear God (have reverence for him).
- (2) Live in a way that pleases him.
- (3) Love him.
- (4) Serve him with all your heart and soul.
- (5) Obey his commands.

How often we complicate faith with man-made rules, regulations, and requirements. Are you frustrated and burned out from trying hard to please God? Concentrate on his real requirements and find peace. Respect, follow, love, serve, and obey.

## **The Lord's promise of portion**

### **Deuteronomy 18:2**

**"They shall have no inheritance among their countrymen; the LORD is their inheritance, as He promised them.**

The priests and Levites served much the same function as our ministers today. Their duties included:

- (1) Teaching the people about God,
- (2) Setting an example of godly living,
- (3) Caring for the sanctuary and its workers, and
- (4) Distributing the offerings.

Because priests and Levites could not own property or pursue outside business interests, God made special arrangements so that people would not take advantage of them. Often churches take advantage of the men and women God has brought to lead them. For example, ministers may not be paid in accordance with their skills or the time they put in. Or pastors may be expected to attend every evening meeting, even if this continual absence is harmful to their families.

As you look at your own church in light of God's Word, what ways do you see to honor the leaders God has given you?

### **The Lord is the possession of Levi.**

#### **Ezekiel 44:28**

**"And it shall be with regard to an inheritance for them that I am their inheritance; and you shall give them no possession in Israel--I am their possession.**

These laws were originally given to God's people in the wilderness. They are recorded in the books of Exodus and Leviticus. They reveal the importance of approaching God respectfully, and they give guidelines for the priests to live above reproach so they could carry out their responsibility to teach the people "the difference between what is holy and what is common, what is ceremonially clean and unclean" 44:23.

## The Lord gives his promise to the tribe of Levi.

### Joshua 13:33

**But to the tribe of Levi, Moses did not give an inheritance; the LORD, the God of Israel, is their inheritance, as He had promised to them.**

The tribe of Levi was dedicated to serving God. The Levites needed more time and mobility than a landowner could possibly have. Giving them land would mean saddling them with responsibilities and loyalties that would hinder their service to God. Instead, God arranged for the other tribes to meet the Levites' needs through donations. (See Numbers 35:2-4 for how the Levites were to receive cities within each tribal territory.)

## I will put My Spirit within you

### Ezekiel 36:22-38 -

**<sup>22</sup> "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went. <sup>23</sup> "I will vindicate the holiness of my great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst Then the nations will know that I am the LORD," declares the Lord GOD, "when I prove myself holy among you in their sight.**

Why did God want to protect his holy name—his reputation—among the nations of the world? God was concerned about the salvation of not only his people but also the whole world.

To allow his people to remain in sin and be permanently destroyed by their enemies would lead other nations to conclude that their pagan gods were more powerful than Israel's God (Isaiah 48:11).

Thus, to protect his holy name, God would return a remnant of his people to their land. God will not share his glory with false gods—he alone is the one true God.

The people had the responsibility to represent God to the rest of the world. Believers today have that same responsibility. How do you represent God to your world?

**<sup>24</sup> "For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land. <sup>25</sup> "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. <sup>26</sup>"Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes, and you will be careful to observe my ordinances.**

God promised to restore Israel not only physically but spiritually. To accomplish this, God would give them a new heart for following him and put his Spirit within them (see 11:19, 20; Psalm 51:7-11) to transform them and empower them to do his will. Again the new covenant was promised (16:61-63; 34:23-25), ultimately to be fulfilled in Christ.

No matter how impure your life is right now, God offers you a fresh start. You can have your sins washed away, receive a new heart for God, and have his Spirit within you—if you accept God's promise. Why try to patch up your old life when you can have a new one?

Life Application Study Bible.

**<sup>28</sup> "You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be my people, and I will be your God. <sup>29</sup> "Moreover, I will save you from all your uncleanness; and I will call for the grain and multiply it, and I will not bring a famine on you.**

**<sup>30</sup> "I will multiply the fruit of the tree and the produce of the field, so that you will not receive again the disgrace of famine among the nations.**

**<sup>31</sup> "Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and your abominations. <sup>32</sup> "I am not doing this for your sake," declares the Lord GOD, "let it be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your ways, O house of Israel!"**

God said his people should be ashamed of their sins. The people had become so callous that they had lost all sensitivity to sin. First they had to "remember" their sins, be ashamed of them, and finally repent of them (see James 4:8, 9). As we examine our life, we may find that we, too, have lost our sensitivity to certain sins.

But as we measure ourselves against God's standards of right living, we will be ashamed. To regain sensitivity we must recognize our sin for what it is, be sorry for displeasing God, and ask his forgiveness. The Holy Spirit will guide us, making us responsive and receptive to God's truth (John 14:26; 16:8, 13).

**<sup>33</sup> 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will cause the cities to be inhabited, and the waste places will be rebuilt. <sup>34</sup> "The desolate land will be cultivated instead of being a desolation in the sight of everyone who passes by. <sup>35</sup> "They will say, 'This desolate land has become like the Garden of Eden; and the waste, desolate and ruined cities are fortified and inhabited.'**

**<sup>36</sup> "Then the nations that are left round about you will know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted that which was desolate; I, the LORD, have spoken and will do it."**

**<sup>37</sup> 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "This also I will let the house of Israel ask me to do for them: I will increase their men like a flock. <sup>38</sup> "Like the flock for sacrifices, like the flock at Jerusalem during her appointed feasts, so will the waste cities be filled with flocks of men. Then they will know that I am the LORD."**

God said that he was ready to answer Israel's prayers. We cannot expect God to answer our prayers, however, until we have received a new heart from him (36:26).

**An invitation is given to open your heart's door to Jesus**

Rev. 3:20

**Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.**

To ask Jesus to come into your heart please pray this Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

References:

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Additional comments and charts are taken from: *Life Application Study Bible*. Illinois:  
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