

Deuteronomy 10:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Only the LORD had a delight in thy fathers to love them, and he chose their seed after them, even you above all people, as it is this day.

Analysis

Only the LORD had a delight in thy fathers to love them—The Hebrew chashaq (had delight) connotes passionate attachment or desire, used elsewhere of romantic love (Genesis 34:8). Combined with ahav (to love), this verse describes God's electing love as both sovereign choice and affectionate desire. **He chose their seed after them, even you** employs bachar (chose), the technical term for divine election throughout Scripture.

Above all people (מְלֹא־כָּל־עַמִּים, mikol-ha'amim) emphasizes particularity—God's choice wasn't based on Israel's greatness (Deuteronomy 7:7) but His sovereign love. This verse demolishes works-righteousness: election precedes and grounds obedience, not vice versa. Paul quotes this theology in Romans 9:10-13 (Jacob and Esau) to establish that salvation flows from God's unconditional choice, not human merit or effort.

Historical Context

Moses referenced the patriarchal election (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob) that occurred 500-600 years earlier. God's covenantal love for the fathers extended to the generation standing on Moab's plains, demonstrating the continuity of the Abrahamic promise.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does understanding election as God's 'delight' and 'love' (not mere foreknowledge) affect your assurance of salvation?
2. If God's choice preceded Israel's obedience, what does this teach about the relationship between faith and works?

Interlinear Text

אוֹת מִלְאָכָל הָיָה בְּאָבֹתֶיךָ בְּקָשָׁה קָשָׁה בְּאָבֹתֶיךָ בְּקָשָׁה יְהָה הָיָה בְּאָבֹתֶיךָ בְּקָשָׁה אֶלְאָהָב הָיָה בְּאָבֹתֶיךָ בְּקָשָׁה

H7535 in thy fathers H2836 had a delight H3068 Only the LORD H157 to love H853

H1 H2836 H3068 H157 H853

מִקְלָל בְּכָךְ מִאָמְרִיקָה מִבְּזִרְעָה מִבְּצָבָעָה רַבְבָּתָה

them and he chose their seed after H0 H3605

H977 H2233 H310 H0 H3605

בְּזַהֲהָבָה יְמִינָה בְּעַמְּךָ יְמִינָה

them even you above all people as it is this day H2088

H5971 H3117 H2088

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 4:37 (Love): And because he loved thy fathers, therefore he chose their seed after them, and brought thee out in his sight with his mighty power out of Egypt;