

Exodus 19:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:

Analysis

Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:

The conditional 'if' establishes covenant structure—God's promises are sure, but Israel's enjoyment depends on faithfulness. 'Obey my voice' (שְׁמַע בְּקוֹלִי, shamaa bekoli) literally means 'hear-obey my voice'—the Hebrew concept where hearing and doing are inseparable. 'Peculiar treasure' (סְגֻלָּה, segullah) denotes a king's personal possession, something precious chosen from among many. Though 'all the earth is mine,' God sovereignly selects Israel as His special treasure. This particularity doesn't negate God's universal ownership but demonstrates His elective love—choosing the few to bless the many.

Historical Context

The segullah concept appears in ancient Near Eastern vassal treaties, where a king might designate certain territories or peoples as his personal domain. God adopts this familiar political language but fills it with covenantal meaning.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God's universal ownership ('all the earth is mine') relate to His particular choice of Israel?
2. What does it mean to be God's 'peculiar treasure' in the New Covenant era (1 Peter 2:9)?

Interlinear Text

בָּלָי תִּשְׁמַע אָם וְעַת הֵן

H6258

H518

Now therefore if ye will obey

H8085

תִּשְׁמַע אָם וְעַת הֵן בָּלָי

my voice

H6963

לֵב אֶת שְׁמַרְתָּם בְּרִית וְעַת יְמֵינֶךָ

and keep

H853

my covenant

H1961

H0

H1285

כָּל לֵב כִּי עַמְּךָ מִכָּל

then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people

H5459

H3605

unto me above all people

H3588

H0

H3605

H5971

בְּאָרֶץ:

for all the earth

H776

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 14:2 (Parallel theme): For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth.

Deuteronomy 7:6 (Parallel theme): For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.

Deuteronomy 26:18 (Covenant): And the LORD hath avouched thee this day to be his peculiar people, as he hath promised thee, and that thou shouldest keep all his commandments;

Malachi 3:17 (Parallel theme): And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

Exodus 15:26 (Parallel theme): And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.

Psalms 135:4 (Parallel theme): For the LORD hath chosen Jacob unto himself, and Israel for his peculiar treasure.

Deuteronomy 4:20 (Parallel theme): But the LORD hath taken you, and brought you forth out of the iron furnace, even out of Egypt, to be unto him a people of inheritance, as ye are this day.

Titus 2:14 (Parallel theme): Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Deuteronomy 10:14 (Parallel theme): Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the LORD'S thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is.

Exodus 9:29 (Parallel theme): And Moses said unto him, As soon as I am gone out of the city, I will spread abroad my hands unto the LORD; and the thunder shall cease, neither shall there be any more hail; that thou mayest know how that the earth is the LORD'S.