

Malachi 3:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

"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." God declares the faithful remnant His "jewels" (segullah)—treasured possession, special treasure. The phrase "in that day" points to judgment day when God separates wheat from chaff. "When I make up my jewels" (be-yom asher ani oseh segullah) describes God gathering His treasured ones. "I will spare them" (chamalti alav) means show compassion, have pity. The comparison to a father sparing his son who serves him illustrates covenant relationship—not arbitrary selection but loving response to faithful service.

Historical Context

The term "segullah" appears in Exodus 19:5 where God calls Israel His "peculiar treasure" (treasured possession). Here it narrows to the faithful remnant within Israel—those who feared the LORD (3:16) versus those who questioned His justice (3:13-15). This anticipates New Testament teaching that not all ethnic Israel is true Israel (Romans 9:6-8), but those who believe constitute God's treasured possession (Titus 2:14, 1 Peter 2:9). The "day" when God makes up His jewels is judgment day when He vindicates the faithful and judges the wicked.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to be God's "jewels" or treasured possession?
2. How does the father-son analogy illustrate God's relationship with faithful servants?
3. What assurance does this verse provide about God's ultimate vindication of His people?

Interlinear Text

לִי יְהוָה יוֹ	אֶמַר	יְהוָה ה	צָבָא וְת	לִי וּם	
H1961	H0				
	And they shall be mine saith	the LORD	of hosts	in that day	
	H559	H3068	H6635	H3117	
כְּאֶשֶׁר	עָלֶיהָ מ	יִחְמַל ל	סִגְלִי ה	אֶנִּי י	אֶשֶׁר ר
H834	H5921	H2550	H5459	H589	H834
		and I will spare	my jewels	when I make up	
			H5459	H6213	
אֲתָן:	הַעֲבִד ד	בְּנֵי ו	עַל	אֶיִשׁ	יִחְמַל ל
	that serveth	his own son		them as a man	and I will spare
	H5647	H1121	H5921	H376	H2550

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 19:5 (Parallel theme): 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:

Deuteronomy 7:6 (References Lord): 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.

2 Corinthians 6:18 (References Lord): And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

1 Peter 2:9 (Parallel theme): But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

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

Jeremiah 31:33 (References Lord): But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Romans 8:32 (Parallel theme): He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Deuteronomy 14:2 (References Lord): 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.

Malachi 1:6 (References Lord): A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?

1 Corinthians 6:20 (Parallel theme): For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.