

Psalms 119:57

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

Thou art my portion, O LORD: I have said that I would keep thy words. This begins the נ (Cheth) section. The word **portion** (קֶלֶק, cheleq) originally meant the land allotment each Israelite tribe received—except Levites, whose portion was Yahweh Himself (Numbers 18:20). The psalmist claims this priestly inheritance: God is his supreme treasure and inheritance.

I have said that I would keep thy words—the public declaration (אָמַרְתִּי, amarti) represents covenant commitment, like wedding vows. This echoes Joshua's 'as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD' (Joshua 24:15). When God is your portion, obedience becomes privilege, not burden. This foreshadows Jesus's teaching that the kingdom is the 'pearl of great price' worth everything (Matthew 13:45-46).

Historical Context

The Levitical portion was controversial—lacking land inheritance made Levites economically vulnerable yet spiritually privileged. Their dependence on God's provision through tithes pictured faith's essence: trusting God rather than tangible security. The psalmist claims this privileged position, suggesting that all believers are spiritual Levites whose inheritance transcends earthly wealth.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. In what practical ways do you demonstrate that God Himself—not merely His blessings—is your supreme treasure and portion?
2. How would your life change if you truly believed God is better than any earthly inheritance or security?
3. What idols compete with God as your 'portion,' and how can you dethrone them through repentance and faith?

Interlinear Text

תַּלְكָן	אַם	רְתָאִי	יְהִי	הַלְשָׁמָן	דְּבָרִים
CHETH Thou art my portion	O LORD	I have said	that I would keep	thy words	
H2506	H3068	H559	H8104		H1697

Additional Cross-References

Lamentations 3:24 (References Lord): The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.

Psalms 16:5 (References Lord): The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot.

Psalms 142:5 (References Lord): I cried unto thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.

Jeremiah 10:16 (References Lord): The portion of Jacob is not like them: for he is the former of all things; and Israel is the rod of his inheritance: The LORD of hosts is his name.

Psalms 73:26 (Parallel theme): My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

Psalms 119:115 (Word): Depart from me, ye evildoers: for I will keep the commandments of my God.

Joshua 24:15 (References Lord): And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Joshua 24:18 (References Lord): And the LORD drove out from before us all the people, even the Amorites which dwelt in the land: therefore will we also serve the LORD; for he is our God.

Joshua 24:21 (References Lord): And the people said unto Joshua, Nay; but we will serve the LORD.

Psalms 66:14 (Parallel theme): Which my lips have uttered, and my mouth hath spoken, when I was in trouble.