

Psalms 135:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the LORD hath chosen Jacob unto himself, and Israel for his peculiar treasure.

Analysis

The doctrine of election emerges powerfully: 'the LORD hath chosen Jacob unto himself, and Israel for his peculiar treasure.' The Hebrew 'bachar' (chosen) indicates deliberate selection from among alternatives - God actively chose Israel, not because of their merit but according to His sovereign purpose (Deuteronomy 7:6-8). The term 'segullah' (peculiar treasure) denotes special, prized possession - like a king's personal treasury distinct from state funds. This same word appears in Exodus 19:5 and Malachi 3:17. The names 'Jacob' and 'Israel' recall the patriarch's transformation, emphasizing both the people's humble origins and their covenant identity. Election is grounded in grace, not human worthiness. Peter applies this same concept to the Church: 'a peculiar people' (1 Peter 2:9), showing the continuity of God's electing purpose.

Historical Context

The concept of Israel as God's 'segullah' dates to Sinai (Exodus 19:5) and was reiterated throughout Israel's history. This language distinguished Israel from surrounding nations who believed their gods were territorial rather than personally committed to a people. The dual naming 'Jacob/Israel' was common in Hebrew poetry, using synonymous parallelism.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does knowing you are God's "peculiar treasure" affect your identity and security?
2. What does it mean to live as one specially chosen by God?

Interlinear Text

פִּי	יַעֲקֹב	בָּחַר	לִי	יְהוָה	לְשֵׁנָא לְ
H3588	Jacob	hath chosen	H0	For the LORD	unto himself and Israel
	H3290	H977		H3050	H3478
לְסִגְלָתוֹ:					
for his peculiar treasure					
H5459					

Additional Cross-References

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:

Deuteronomy 10:15 (References Lord): 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.

Malachi 3:17 (References Lord): 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.

Isaiah 41:8 (References Israel): But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend.

Psalms 33:12 (References Lord): Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

Psalms 105:6 (Parallel theme): O ye seed of Abraham his servant, ye children of Jacob his chosen.

Deuteronomy 32:9 (References Lord): For the LORD'S portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance.

1 Samuel 12:22 (References Lord): For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people.

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.

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