

Trinity Home Teams

Sermon Notes / 9-7-25

Yahweh's Portion

KEY PASSAGE: **Acts 7:2-7**

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why did God place Israel (described as "the apple of God's eye") into slavery? And similarly, why does he leave us in very difficult circumstances?
2. What is God's ultimate aim in the cosmic conflict that we see unfolding in scripture – and in our own lives?
3. When have your greatest doubts caused you to distrust God and make decisions that cost you?
4. How serious is *idolatry* in this generation?
5. Read **Col. 1:12-14** – What is *your* inheritance?

In this Acts passage, Stephen is telling the familiar (repeated) story: *Yahweh's portion and faithfulness*.

Yahweh declares war – It was GOD who put enmity between the woman and the serpent and "their seed." The One who curses the serpent is the same One who will crush his head.

In the NT, Jesus is confronted by the Pharisees. Jesus says, "*Before Abraham was, I am.*" They religious leaders picked up stones to kill him. Jesus claims to be Yahweh. Jesus is Yahweh declaring war on His enemies.

Yahweh gives the nations their inheritance – At the Tower of Babel, open rebellion against Yahweh breaks out, and God diffuses it. They spurned Yahweh and turned to other Gods. He let them.

Yahweh takes his allotted portion. – Calls Abram out of worship of pagan gods. Promises to bless all nations through him. Yahweh makes a covenant with Abraham. Abraham is a "good guy" because God calls him. God did not call Abraham because he was a "good guy."

Gen. 15:1-21 – God discloses his plans to Abram, who was struggling to believe: "I'm childless." Yet God: V1: "*Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.*" God draws his attention to the stars, promising offspring as numerous. Abram's response is vital for our understanding, v6: "*And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.*"

God confirms His promise with sacrifices. Abraham cuts all animal sacrifices in half but one species, lays them on the ground, separated. The person assuming the covenant curses would walk through the space between the cut animals, saying symbolically: "*If I*

fail to uphold my end of the covenant, may the same thing happen to me as happened to these animals."

Abraham's only job was to trust that God would be faithful to keep His promise. From Abraham ... through Isaac, Jacob, Joseph ... God keeps His covenant promises.

Yahweh delivers his people – Although Yahweh used Joseph to preserve and prosper his people in Egypt, after Joseph died, "*there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph*" (**Exodus 1:8**). They were oppressed and enslaved for over 400 years, just as God had told Abraham. Eventually, God raises up Moses to lead his people out of Egypt.

From the fall in **Genesis 3**, the human heart is set against Yahweh and his purposes. We will continue to resist his work and his will unless and until he removes our heart of stone and gives us a heart of flesh (**Ezekiel 11:19; 36:26**).

Yahweh distinguishes his people -- As Yahweh's portion, the people of Israel were to be unlike the other nations. Yahweh had given the nations their inheritance and had allotted to them "*the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven*" (**Deut. 4:19**). These words represented more than mere lights in the sky; in the Jewish mindset, all the heavenly bodies were representations of, or were synonymous with, heavenly beings. '*The host of heaven*' was certainly a reference to all that was visible in the sky (note **Luke 2:13**: "*suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host*").

Deuteronomy 4:19-20 "*And beware lest you raise your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, you be drawn away and bow down to them and serve them ... ²⁰ But the Lord has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be a people of his own inheritance, as you are this day.*"

Exodus 20:2-6 "*I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ³ You shall have no other gods before me... ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to... those who love me and keep my commandments.*"

Yahweh was the sovereign God, the Creator to whom all things belong. He has no rival or equal, and he will not share his glory with another. His jealousy is a holy and righteous jealousy, for he alone is truly worthy of worship.

Deuteronomy 12:29-32 – God commands worship and warns against idolatry.