

# GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## The Lord is My Portion

Caleb Westbrook

In the midst of the prophet Jeremiah’s woe for the destruction of Jerusalem in the book of Lamentations, we find an interesting and rather abrupt change of tone in chapter 3. Jeremiah writes “The Lord is my portion, says my soul...” This assurance of one’s portion resting on God is a common theme throughout the Old Testament. It illustrates an important truth that has significant application for us.

From the beginning of Israel’s history as a nation we see that the tribes were given different allotments of land and blessings. However, it is noteworthy to see what was said to the tribe of Levi. “Therefore, Levi does not have a portion or inheritance with his brothers; the LORD is his inheritance, just as the LORD your God spoke to him” (Duet. 10:9, cf. Num. 18:20)

A “portion” is defined as “an allotment, inheritance, part, or partaking.” What God had allotted Levi was not land or physical territory, but something greater: a closer and more intimate relationship with Him. The Levites were granted the blessing of the priest-

hood and of serving God in the tabernacle.

We understand the nature of an allotment or inheritance, namely it is what is promised to be given to us by a benefactor. Yet, from Joshua 22:27 we see that it was possible for people to deny the portion of the LORD. Also in Psalm 17:14 David cries out for God to grant deliverance “...From men of the world, whose portion is in this life...” It is possible for us to choose to place our allotment or inheritance in this life.

Our portion is what we hope for and earnestly desire. Some people decide to place their careers, hobbies, and goals above anything spiritual while at the same time forgetting God and His authority over their lives. By having such a materialistic, secular, and worldly focus they deny God as their portion and place their inheritance in this life. While their desires and hopes are set in this present world they do not see the inevitable destruction that will consume their worldly inheritance (2 Pet. 3:7).

Although the worldly inheritance will be consumed, we take

hope in the portion of the Lord enduring forever. Asaph notes this in Psalm 73:26, “My flesh and my heart may fail, But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.” Only by faithfulness to God will you choose a portion that is lasting.

Understanding the superiority of the portion that rests on God, we return to the words of Jeremiah, “Great is thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, says my soul, Therefore I have hope in Him” (Lam. 3:23-34) Through such an understanding of God’s faithful and enduring inheritance for us we can then follow the conclusion Jeremiah speaks of. We must have hope in Jehovah!

Realizing that God’s inheritance for us is far greater than comparison to anything on this earth we should be apt to constantly place our hope, desires, and aim upon Him (Rom. 8:18). When our knowledgeable hope is placed on God we then turn our lives to live in preparation for that inheritance. May we choose God as our portion by being faithful to Him and rejecting vain worldliness!