

THE PORTION

A Biblical Study at the Reformed Bible Church of Southern California

January 20, 2013

"The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him." - Lam. 3:24

1. DISCUSS: What first comes to mind when the word "portion" is mentioned in scripture? Compare answers with the definitions listed on the right.
 - A. The inheritance of the tribes of Israel - *"This is the land which ye shall divide by lot unto the tribes of Israel for inheritance, and these are their portions, saith the Lord God"* (Ezek. 48:29; 47:13-14; Num. 26:53-56). Who received double? Explain.
 - B. The inheritance of the Levites - *"Thou shalt have no inheritance in their land, neither shalt thou have any part among them: I am thy part and thine inheritance..."* (Num. 18:20; Ezek. 44:28). What is the spiritual significance? Rev. 1:5-6; 1 Pet. 2:5,9-10
 - C. The inheritance of the sojourning strangers - *"...in the tribe the stranger (H1616 "Ger" - guest; foreigner) sojourneth, there shall ye give him his inheritance..."* (Ezek. 47:21-23).
 - 1) Why did David call himself a "stranger (H1616) in the earth"? Ps. 119:19; Heb. 11:13
 - 2) Why is the word stranger(s) (G3581 "Xenos" - foreign; lit. alien; by imp. a guest) so appropriate? Eph. 2:11-12,19-20; Hosea 1:10
 - D. An inheritance that could not be removed - *"So shall not the inheritance of the children of Israel remove from tribe to tribe..."* (Num. 36:7-9; 1 Kin. 21:3-4). What is the spiritual connection? Prov. 10:30; Is. 54:10



"But the Lord hath taken you and brought you forth out of the iron furnace, even out of Egypt, to be unto him a people of inheritance, as ye are this day."
Deuteronomy 4:20

2. What other portions are mentioned in Scripture?
 - A. **The portion of the wicked** - What specifically is listed? Job 20:22-29; 24:18-19; Ps. 11:5-6
 - 1) Are there different portions appointed, indicating various levels of hell? Luke 12:42-48
 - 2) Which group is included in receiving this portion? Matt. 24:48-51 How are they defined? Matt. 15:7-9; Matt. 23:27-28
 - B. **The portion of this life** - Ecc. 3:22; 9:5-6, 9-10 Discuss: Do these texts indicate that the portion is found here on earth as well as in the life thereafter?
 - C. **The portion of the righteous** - *"The Lord is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup..."* (Ps. 16:5; 73:26; 119:57) Where is that portion found? Ps. 142:3-5; 116:9; 27;13 Why is there reason for hope? Lam. 3:22-24; Micah 7:5-7
 - D. **The portion of the Lord** - *"For the Lord's portion is His people..."* (Deut. 32:7-10; Ex. 19:5; Ps. 135:4) How does it work that the portion of God's people is the Lord and the portion of the Lord is His people?
3. How is the portion connected to the inheritance? - There are four possible definitions of inheritance in the NT (Strong's Expanded Dictionary of Bible Words).
 - A. The first is the usual understanding of the meaning of inheritance, upon the death of an ancestor: (Matt 21:38; Mark 12:7; Luke 20:12-14) Would this be considered "an inheritance under the law"?
 - B. The second is the substance of a gift: Acts 7:5; "If the inheritance is of the Law," the word "inheritance" stands for "the title to the inheritance." Gal. 3:18; Ro. 8:14-17
 - C. The third is the prospective conditions and possessions of the believer in the new order of things to be ushered in at the return of Christ: Acts 20:32; Eph. 1:11,14,18; 5:5; Col. 1:12; 3:24; Heb. 9:15 (The "called" in Hebrew is the same (H2564) as in Rom 8:30, those "effectually called;" it can't be resisted because the "called" are also justified): 1 Pet. 1:2-5 Would this be considered "the inheritance of promise"?
 - D. The fourth is what the believer will be to God in that age: *"...the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints..."* (Eph. 1:18) How can this be explained? II Thes. 1:10; Jn. 17:10; Matt. 24:31

DEFINITIONS

1. **PORTION** (H2506) *"Cheleq"* - (66x) Smoothness (of the tongue); allotment (44x); part (22x); portion or territory
2. **INHERITANCE** - (H5159) *"Nachalah"* - Something inherited; occupancy; an heirloom; an estate, patrimony or portion

INHERITANCE - (G2817) *"Kleronomia"* - heirship; a patrimony or possession
3. **DIVIDE** - (H2505) *"Chalaq"* - to be smooth(fig.); by impl. as smooth stones were used for lots; to apportion or separate; divide, share, plunder, assign, distribute; a legal sense of "sharing" an inheritance.

