

THE GATHERING



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SENIOR PASTOR



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The Gathering

Does God Play Favorites?

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Deuteronomy 7:7-9

Discussion:

Who are your
favorite people
and why?

A favorite is a person or thing regarded with special favor or preference, which usually means unfair treatment of anyone who is not our favorite.

Favor is defined as
“excessive kindness or
unfair partiality or
preferential treatment”.

God is impartial.

Job 34:19

Matthew 5:45

Acts 10:34-35

I now realize how true it is
that God does not show
favoritism but accepts
women and men from every
nation who fear him and
do what is right.

**Different doesn't mean
Deficient!**

**Different means that
God loves variety!**

God is always just!

**To be just is to act in
conformity with what is
morally upright or good.**

Deuteronomy 32:4

He is the Rock, his works are perfect and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright, and just is he.

**What we find in scripture is
that God does favor
or choose some and
not others.**

The word **“choose”** in the Hebrew denotes an act of comparison of two or more objects or persons; the preference and selection of one or of a few out of a larger group for a certain purpose, function, position, or privilege.

**God's favor
or choice
is not arbitrary.**

**God's favor or choice
often comes with great
responsibility and
challenges.**

Favor ain't fair.

**God's favor is not just
about privilege, it is also
about responsibility.**

God's favorite son is Jesus.

“My chosen one”.

Isaiah 42:1

Matthew 3:17

**Jesus was the embodiment
of all that God favors.**

**God chose prophets and kings for
the purpose of leading
his people.**

Moses – Exodus 33:12-17

Numbers 23:19

God is not human, that he should lie,
not a human being, that he should
change his mind. Does he speak and
then not act? Does he promise and not
fulfill?

Discussion:

**Are you one who
trips or trusts
when a crisis
arises, or difficult
times come?**

Daniel 10:11

Daniel, you who are highly
esteemed...

I Samuel 2:26

And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the Lord and with humans.

I Chronicles 28:5-6

Sometimes, God chooses those who he has gifted with special abilities for the assigned task. As they fulfill the call he has on their lives, they find favor with him.

Exodus 31:1-4, 6

Luke 1:28

God's favor or choosing has
nothing to do with the chosen.

Roman 9:14-16

The fundamental idea of God's choosing which governs all the others is that of God choosing Israel to be his "peculiar" people.

God's choice of Israel began with Abram who later became Abraham.

Genesis 12:1-3

Genesis 15:7,18

**God promised him the land
of Canaan.**

Deuteronomy 7:6-8

God chose Israel.

Why did God choose Israel?

He called her
his “peculiar” people.

The word “peculiar” applies to qualities possessed only by a particular individual or class or kind and stresses rarity or uniqueness.

1. God's choice of Israel was by an act of free choice and sovereign grace on God's part.

The prophet Amos made it clear in chapter 1, 2, that Israel was no better than her pagan sinful neighbors.

Amos 3:2

**You only have I chosen of
all the families of the earth.**

He chose her because he
2. loved her and for no other
reason.

Deuteronomy 7:7-9

**That God called her into
covenant relationship was
what made her distinctive.**

Exodus 19:5-6

Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all the nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine.

**3. God's choice of Israel was
for the sake of humankind.**

Isaiah 43:10,12

Isaiah 49:1-6, 52:13-53:12

1 Peter 2:9-10

As members of the Christian church, we are the new Israel, God's chosen people in the world.

I Corinthians 1:26-31

It was all an act of God's sovereign grace. Grace is God's unmerited favor through Christ. Christ is the mediator and agent of God's sovereign grace.

Favor ain't fair.

Ephesians 1:3

God has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

1. He chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

**We want the favor,
but we don't want to be
seen as God's favorite.**

Romans 12:1-2

2. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons and daughters in Christ, according to the pleasure of his will.

3. In Christ, we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sin, in accordance with God's grace that he has lavished upon us.

**The cost of Christ's blood
is the measure of the
wealth of God's unmerited
favor to every believer.**

4. With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure which he purposed in Christ, to put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment – to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

The Greeks felt that if a person had both wisdom and understanding, they were equipped for life.

**Wisdom is the knowledge
of things both human and divine.**

When you believed, you were marked
in him with a seal, the promised
Holy Spirit, who is a deposit
guaranteeing our inheritance until
the redemption of those who are God's
possession – to the praise of his glory.

The seal is a sign of authenticity.

**The seal is a sign that we are
covered and protected by God!**

The Holy Spirit is also given to us as a deposit, a down payment, the first installment, a part given in advance guaranteeing our inheritance in Christ.

John 15:16

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last.

Discussion:

What difference
does knowing you
are chosen by God
make in your life?