

DIFFICULT OLD TESTAMENT PASSAGES

LESSON 2: Does God Play Favorites?

ANCHOR STATEMENT: God blesses people according to His will and His plan. Any favor that I receive from Him is not of my own merit but simply out of His love for me (and is intended to be a blessing to the whole world.)

MAIN PASSAGE: Deuteronomy 7:6-13

6 For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. 7 The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. 8 But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. 9 Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments. 10 But those who hate him he will repay to their face by destruction; he will not be slow to repay to their face those who hate him. 11 Therefore, take care to follow the commands, decrees and laws I give you today. 12 If you pay attention to these laws and are careful to follow them, then the Lord your God will keep his covenant of love with you, as he swore to your ancestors. 13 He will love you and bless you and increase your numbers. He will bless the fruit of your womb, the crops of your land—your grain, new wine and olive oil—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks in the land he swore to your ancestors to give you.

WHAT WE WANT STUDENTS TO KNOW: That God's favor is not given based on our merit but rather by His love for us.

WHAT WE WANT STUDENTS TO DO WITH WHAT THEY'VE LEARNED:

Develop a deeper understanding of how God's favor in the life of a believer looks different today than it did in the Old Testament while also seeing that the goal is still the same: That believers would be a blessing to the rest of the world.