

7 Remember the days of long ago;
think about the generations past.
Ask your father, and he will inform you.
Inquire of your elders, and they will tell you.
8 When the Most High assigned lands to the nations,
when he divided up the human race,
he established the boundaries of the peoples
according to the number in his heavenly court.
9 “For the people of Israel belong to the Lord;
Jacob is his special possession.

15 “But Israel soon became fat and unruly;
the people grew heavy, plump, and stuffed!
Then they abandoned the God who had made them;
they made light of the Rock of their salvation.
16 They stirred up his jealousy by worshiping foreign gods;
they provoked his fury with detestable deeds.
17 They offered sacrifices to demons, which are not God,
to gods they had not known before,
to new gods only recently arrived,
to gods their ancestors had never feared.
18 You neglected the Rock who had fathered you;
you forgot the God who had given you birth.

Deuteronomy 32:7-9, 15-18

Discussion/Journal Questions

What is your favorite memory or experience associated with the month of October?

Have two or three people read Deuteronomy 32:7-9, 15-18 out loud slowly. After some time of reflection, ask each other what words, phrases, or ideas stand out to everyone. What questions come to mind as you meditate on this scripture?

Deuteronomy 32:8 refers to the dividing up of humanity. Read Genesis 11:1-9. Do you think Deuteronomy is referring to Genesis 11? Why or why not?

Some Bibles translate Deuteronomy 32:8 differently. If your group uses different translations, share those. What is the key difference?

Older copies of the Hebrew scriptures found by archaeology support the version used by the New Living Translation. If this version is correct, what does it mean that God divided humanity according to the number of His heavenly court?

Read Romans 1:18-32. How does this passage relate to what we see in Genesis 11 and Deuteronomy 32?

According to Deuteronomy 32:9, which portion did God keep for Himself?

The nations were handed over to members of the heavenly court while God took Israel as His special possession. But Israel rebelled. According to Deuteronomy 32:15-18, what did Israel do?

Who were the gods and demons Israel worshiped? How does this connect back to Deuteronomy 32:8?

In the sermon, Pastor John left us with two important takeaways. The first is that this spiritual war runs deeper than we realize. What has surprised you so far? What questions do you still have?

The second takeaway is that God's loving plan for salvation cannot be stopped. How does it feel knowing that against all this opposition, God still pursued you?

How can you pray for one another in the spiritual battles you are facing this week?