

In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

God, in His great mercy, made a Covenant with His chosen people. He, the only True God, would be their God. He would provide for them, protect them, and save them from the perils and tribulations of the world. He would make them a great nation, strong to defeat their enemies. But most importantly, those who believed in Him He would receive into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Israel took the good things that God gave, and then broke the Covenant with God. The Lord was a faithful Husband, Israel an unfaithful bride. So through the Prophet God makes a horrible promise to Israel— He will send Babylon, a nation of pagans and idol-worshippers, to destroy Israel and take the people God chose into bondage.

Because they would not follow His ways, because they did not obey His Laws, He poured out upon them his burning anger. He handed them over as loot to the plunderer.

In that all sinners have been a lot like Israel. God is faithful. Men are not. God is just. Men are devious. God is true. All men are liars. God richly provides, men take from that provision and turn their backs on God.

It is as God declares through Isaiah, “your first father sinned, your mediators have transgressed against Me.” But is not only the Israelites of 2700 years ago that have sinned. Every impure thought, every covetous impulse, every proud moment, every “white” lie, every angry word, every doubt of who God is or

what He has promised, has broken God’s Law as surely as Israel broke it.

The revelation God gave Isaiah to speak to Israel was fearful and terrible, as was His declaration to the first man “You shall surely die.” And that fearful and terrible curse is visited on all men with Adam’s flesh, upon all men that fall short of perfect righteousness, of perfect uprightness.

So it is in mercy that God, in the midst of the horrible proclamation against Israel, Promises a Savior. His Words to Israel, Words of comfort and consolation, Words of redemption and restoration, are Words for you this day: “Fear not, O Jacob My servant; and you, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen. For I will pour water on him who is thirsty... I will pour My Spirit on your descendants and My blessing on your offspring.”

This salutary Promise, this saving Promise, this Gospel Promise, comes in the midst of one of the Servant Songs of Isaiah, Promises of the Suffering Servant that will take on the flesh of a Virgin to redeem sinful men by the shedding of His own Blood.

In justice, God’s wrath is rightly poured out upon all who sin. In mercy and grace, Christ, who was Himself without sin, bore that wrath for you. The Blood of the Messiah was shed for you. His Name is Jesus, for He saves His people from their sins.

And God through the Prophet Isaiah promises “I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.”

The Holy One of Israel, Jesus Christ, is the Upright One, the Suffering Servant that paid the price for your sins. Believing in Him, your transgressions are blotted out, your sins are forgotten by God. And as He has promised, He is with you in times of trouble and distress.

He pours out upon you the life-giving waters of Holy Baptism, where He pours out upon you His Spirit, as He has promised. There He forgives your sins, and He adds you to His Kingdom, the Kingdom of everlasting life.

So you are the descendants counted as the true Israel of God, Jeshurun, the upright by faith in Jesus Christ. You are the people He has chosen. It is you that He formed in the womb, you that He helps, and you that He blesses. It is you that He declares to be the upright one, to be Jeshurun, His beloved, declared righteous by His grace through faith in His Son.

Assyria came. They plundered and destroyed Israel. Babylon too came, just as prophesied, and conquered Judah. The people were taken captive. But God, in His mercy, freed them. He mercifully returned them to the land of milk and honey, the land He promised them.

But to you, His chosen, you who He made and formed in the womb of the font, He promises comfort and help. He pours His blessings out upon you as God's Son gives you His Body and Blood to eat and drink this day. So fear not, redeemed of Christ, O Jeshurun, whom God has chosen. Your God is with you until He takes you to be with Himself.

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