

Study 79: Isaiah, Part 35

Isaiah 44

“But now listen, Jacob, my servant,

Israel, **whom I have chosen.**

2 This is what the Lord says—

he who made you, who formed you in the womb,
and who will help you:

Do not be afraid, Jacob, my servant,

Jeshurun, *[the upright one]* **whom I have chosen.**

What does it mean to be “chosen” by God?

Jn 6:39 ...[T]his is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me....

Jn 17:9, 24 “I pray for them [Jesus' disciples]. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. [v 24] Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am....”

Eph 1:3-5 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship [The Greek word for adoption to sonship is a legal term referring to the full legal standing of an adopted male heir in Roman culture.] through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will....

3 For I will pour water on the thirsty land,
and streams on the dry ground;

I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring,
and my blessing on your descendants.

4 They will spring up like grass in a meadow,
like poplar trees by flowing streams.

5 Some will say, ‘I belong to the Lord’;
others will call themselves by the name of Jacob;
still others will write on their hand, ‘The Lord’s,’
and **will take the name Israel.**

Who is “Israel”?

Rom 9 2 I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. 3 For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race

[των αδελφων μου των συγγενων μου κατα σαρκα – kinsmen according to the flesh], 4 the people of Israel.6 It is not as though God’s word had failed. For **not all who are descended from Israel are Israel.** 7 Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham’s children. On the contrary, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.”[Gen 21:12] 8 In other words, **it is not the children by physical descent who are God’s children,** but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham’s offspring.

Eph 2:1-22 As for you [Gentiles, see v. 11], you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. 4 But **because of his great love for us,** God, who is rich in mercy, 5 **made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions**—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms **in Christ Jesus,** 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—**and this [grace and faith] is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God**— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

11 Therefore, remember that formerly you **who are Gentiles by birth** and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)— 12 remember that at that time **you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise**, without hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

14 For he himself is our peace, who has **made the two groups one** and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, 15 by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself **one new humanity out of the two**, thus making peace, 16 and in **one body** to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. 17 He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

19 Consequently, **you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household**, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. 21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.