



Lenten

Reflections

The Divine Intervention

April 8, 2017

Scripture

Ezekiel 37: 21-28

Thus says the Lord GOD:

I will take the children of Israel from among the nations
to which they have come,
and gather them from all sides to bring them back to their land.

I will make them one nation upon the land,
in the mountains of Israel,
and there shall be one prince for them all.

Never again shall they be two nations,
and never again shall they be divided into two kingdoms.

No longer shall they defile themselves with their idols,
their abominations, and all their transgressions.

I will deliver them from all their sins of apostasy,
and cleanse them so that they may be my people
and I may be their God.

My servant David shall be prince over them,
and there shall be one shepherd for them all;
they shall live by my statutes and carefully observe my decrees.
They shall live on the land that I gave to my servant Jacob,
the land where their fathers lived;

they shall live on it forever,
they, and their children, and their children's children,
with my servant David their prince forever.
I will make with them a covenant of peace;
it shall be an everlasting covenant with them,
and I will multiply them, and put my sanctuary among them forever.
My dwelling shall be with them;
I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
Thus the nations shall know that it is I, the LORD,
who make Israel holy,
when my sanctuary shall be set up among them forever.

Our Scripture Reflection

The people of Israel had experienced a great divide in their kingdom due to the sinfulness of their kings. In addition, foreign armies had conquered the kingdom generation after generation. As the result, the people were scattered all over the Palestinian region. This was not what God wanted. He wanted unity and peace for His people. He sent His Prophet Ezekiel to announce to His people that a new day is coming. On that day, God's people will live as He desires and there will be peace because God will dwell in their midst.

Food for your Journey

God did not set the bow in the cloud so that Noah would see it, but primarily so that God himself would see it. It was a sign to him. Thank God today that the gospel hope depends not on what we see, on our senses and on our feelings, on subjective emotions that change with the seasons, but on firm, unshakable and unmovable realities: God in Christ has reconciled the world to himself. We believe today in a covenant-making and covenant-keeping God.

Better than a silver lining over our cloud is a bow in it — the knowledge that whatever darkness covers our sky, God is able to deliver us and to keep us safe within the embrace of his eternal purposes of grace.

—“Genesis 9: better than a silver lining,” The Free Church of Scotland Web site, freechurch.org.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You are ever faithful to Your people. Bless our country, Lord, with unity and peace. May all people come to know You as our Lord and Savior and worship You with love and devotion. Amen.