



Sermon Guide

Sermon: A New Exodus

Text: Isaiah 51:9-52:12

Announcements:

-Did you upload a family photo yet for us to see you on Easter Sunday? Be creative in showing your family AND the 5 colors: Purple, brown, red, black and gold. (You can find the link in the Ridge notes Brittany posted. After clicking her link and signing in, just click on “New” and select “Upload file” to then submit your photo.)

-For those who desire it, Blue Ridge will provide daily devotionals starting on Wednesday to prepare our hearts for what we’ll be celebrating and examining on Easter Sunday.

Prayer:

-Our elders and deacons

-Our town mayors, state governor, state representatives and senators

Sermon Questions and Application:

I. What is one thing that stood out to you from either the passage or the sermon?

There are some things in which Israel and the Church are almost like twins:

Both...find all of their blessings as a result of the grace of God...are chosen by God...are called to live differently from the world...are to worship God alone...look to the example of Abraham to find salvation by faith in God’s provision...need a Messiah to rescue them, etc.

Yet, both are very different and distinct.

-Israel was under the covenant of the law, and the church is under the *perfectly completed* law as fulfilled in Jesus—due entirely by God’s great grace.

-Israel was called to live in righteousness, and the Church possesses the perfect righteousness of God through Jesus.

-Israel looks to live in her land, but the Church looks to live for the coming kingdom.

-The Holy Spirit *visited* the old Testament saints, but *permanently abides* in the Christian.

-The true Jew was born into the tribe/race of the Hebrews, but the Christian is a multitude of races that are adopted into God’s family.

-The Jew lives to honor the Sabbath, but the Church abides in a constant state of “Sabbath” from our works—resting in Jesus’ finished work!



In 51:17-23, Israel was to “rouse herself” out of the effects of her past (judgment and exile) and to begin moving forward in faith. In the same way, anyone in the Church has been delivered from judgments against past sins because Jesus has taken that upon himself. But...sometimes we *don't* walk by faith.

2. What kinds of things from your past (sins against you, sins you did, past problems, etc.) do you allow to impede your walk by faith? How can a Christian get “roused” from our past unto faith?

3. Like Christian in *Pilgrim's Progress*, what promises from God's word have helped you to walk in freedom?

In 52:1-10, Israel was to shake off her prisoner's clothes and the dust of defeat and to start looking like what they actually were—newly freed people under God's care!

3. What are some of the “beautiful garments” that God wants to clothe you with spiritually?

4. Do you live like a person who has been clothed in the beautiful garment of Jesus' cloak—or do you live like someone who's still imprisoned? How can you begin to awake to live in the way that God desires for you?

In Isaiah 52:11-12, Israel was called to depart from the safety and predictability of living in Babylon, to walk by faith and enter into the land of promise. For Christians, we are called to let go of the things of this world that we trust in to instead walk fearlessly into a full obedience of God.

5. What things has the current pandemic revealed to you that you are tempted to trust in because they feel safe and predictable?

6. In those things, how will you be led by faith and obedience to God's Word instead of safety and security in this world?