

Saint Timothy Lutheran – Edmonds, WA
November 29, 2009 – Rev. Craig A. Patterson

“I Will Cause A Righteous Branch Of David To Spring Forth.”

(Text: Jeremiah 33:14-16)

Context: “Jeremiah the prophet appears on the scene about 100 years after Isaiah. He was born into a priestly family at Anathoth (Anata), a few miles north of Jerusalem, about 640 B.C., and was called to be God’s prophet in 627...Jeremiah warned of coming disaster and appealed in vain to the nation to turn back to God...With the death of godly King Josiah in 609 religious and political affairs worsened” (Eerdman’s Handbook To The Bible, p. 396). Babylon to the north and Egypt to the south were the two vying powers of the day with Israel caught in the middle. Babylon emerged the more powerful and in 587 destroyed Jerusalem and took possession of the city and the nation. Jeremiah left for Egypt with other exiles. Many Hebrews were taken to Babylon. To a defeated and dispersed Hebrew nation God spoke through His prophet Jeremiah.

- I. **Defeated, Dispersed, And Disheartened The Children Of Israel Were Tempted To Feel Overcome With Their Own Guilt, Powerlessness, And Hopelessness.**
 - A. Many voices were calling out to the people, “I told you so!”
 1. Such voices did not help matters, but only deepened the people’s misery.
 2. When your sins are ever present before you, do you benefit from being told how much you have sinned?
 - a. When the sinner is troubled over his/her sins, then is not the time to keep telling them how they made errors. It is not the time for the Law. (As C.F.W. Walther suggests in thesis VIII of his lecture series on the Proper Distinction Between Law And Gospel as summarized in “God’s No And God’s Yes,” p. 35.)
 - b. This is a time for Good News, thus God commanded Jeremiah to preach the “Good Word” (33:14) to the demolished Hebrews.
 - B. Made aware, daily, of their own total inability to better their circumstances, the Hebrews knew that mere methods and strategies to better their lot would not suffice. (Self-help methods cannot lead a soul to repentance and reconciliation with God.)
 1. They had been brought to their knees in every way. (Even as David, himself, had confessed, “...I know my transgressions and my sin is ever before me,” Psalm 51:3.)
 2. Truly, we, too, have placed our trust in things and people rather than in the one true God who has made us and sent His Son to rescue us.
 - 3.
- II. **God Promised And Then Caused A Righteous Branch Of David, Jesus The Christ, To Come And Be Our Righteousness.**
 - A. God kept His promise to redeem His people.
 1. “God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons” (Galatians 4:4-5).
 - B. God did what sinful people could not do, He became our righteousness for us.
 1. Just as He promised, the Branch of David was called by the name “the LORD is our righteousness” (Jer. 33:16).
 2. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Romans centuries later about this same Lord and same righteousness, “But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested...even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; for all have sinned...being justified as a gift by His grace...” (Romans 3:21-24).