

Saint Timothy Lutheran – Edmonds, WA

October 4, 2009 – LWML Sunday

Rev. Craig A. Patterson

“Your God Reigns!”

(Text: Isaiah 52:7-10)

Context: The fall of Babylon is foreseen by the prophet along with the release of those who had been captured and taken to Babylon. The Persian capital would fall into the hands of Cyrus and Cyrus would release all captive ones. The Jews would be freed to return to Jerusalem. Thus, in front of all peoples, God would deliver His people. Isaiah foretold this in his prophecy and it did happen. Similarly, this good news of the children of Israel’s release from bondage pointed toward God’s plan of salvation for all mankind in the Christ who would come and deliver those captive to sin. The enemies of God’s people have been defeated, first through the fall of Babylon, then through the fall of the prince of this earth, the devil, sin, and even death. The One True God has won! The One who, from the beginning, planned to save sinners, has won! Your God reigns!

I. Just As The Chosen People Were Enslaved By A Foreign Power, So Has Sin Enslaved All People.

- A. God’s chosen people wandered from God and His ways and fell to a foreign power that placed them into bondage.
 - 1. In 701 B.C. Sennacharib, Assyrian king, mounted a siege of Jerusalem and took the city.
 - 2. Later, in 605 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar was victorious over the Assyrians at Carchemish and took the Assyrians and the peoples that they had conquered into its possession. Thus, the captive children of Israel went to Babylon.
 - 3. In 540 B.C. Cyrus the Great incorporated Babylon into the Persian Empire and allowed the children of Israel to return home.
- B. Today, people continue to wander away from God and fall into bondages of all sorts (all because of our bondage to sin).
 - 1. God’s command, “Thou shalt have no other gods before Me” shines a light on our various sins of idolatry.
 - 2. We seek after so many things other than God that we think shall bring us happiness, security, and peace.
- C. Many of the things that people seek after, i.e., money, power, fame, etc. lead to further enslavement.
- D.

II. God Has Planned And, Now, Carried Out His Plan Of Salvation For Sinners!

- A. God did not forget His people in their captivity in Babylon, but in His time, did deliver them through King Cyrus who captured Babylon and freed the Jews.
 - 1. Babylon fell. The Jews were released, and Cyrus the Great allowed them to return home to Jerusalem.
- B. God has not forgotten His “chosen ones” (ekklesia) who were enslaved to sin by the devil, but has planned, and now carried out, their salvation through Christ.
- C. God has not forgotten you, but sees your predicament.
- D. God sent Isaiah to announce salvation and proclaim to Zion, Your God reigns!
 - 1. God sends proclaimers to you, also, who bring good news of happiness and peace – “How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news,”...who announces salvation.” (Isaiah 52;7)
- E. The One True God is the One who sent His Son, Jesus, to deliver sinners & He reigns!