

## The LORD's Eternal Covenant

The OT reading for this coming Sunday (First Sunday in Advent) is Jeremiah 33:14-16. In these verses Jeremiah is prophesying the birth of Jesus. This is the fulfillment of the promise made in the Garden of Eden after the Fall of Man. Jesus will be from King David's family tree. Jesus is called "The Lord Our Righteousness and makes us right in the sight of God by His life, death and resurrection. Restored, Israel shall be a place of joy and rejoicing.

In Jeremiah 29:10 we read: *Thus says the Lord "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back.* Now he is following up when he says: *the days are coming.* It is like getting a wake up call. It gets their attention. It is like a splash of cold water in the morning. This is like saying "stop what you are doing and pay attention to what I have to say." Many of the Jews in exile had gotten comfortable with their lot in life and were making the best of it. They had lost sight of the long view of their spiritual life. It is easy for us to do that too. That is why we celebrate Advent each year.

The promise here is not just the return of the Judean exiles; it includes much more. It includes the promise made in Genesis 3:15. It was to be carried out by the seed of Eve (Jesus). It is explained more fully as Abraham's seed (Genesis 12:1-3) and the Son of David (2 Samuel 7). It pointed to Jesus who came to save the world from sin by suffering, dying and rising. He got it done. He executed when it counted.

By virtue of His righteousness attributed to us, we bear his holy name. We have full access to the throne of God through Jesus as he serves as our mediator. These long-range promises are being fulfilled as certainly as God lets day and night follow each other.

During Advent many churches have blue paraments. The color means "hope." While we prepare our hearts for the coming Savior, we look to the hope of heaven.

Prayer: Remind us, Father, that we always have your promises and that you always keep each one. Amen.