

The Circumcision of Christ

The Old Testament is written in the 30th chapter of the Book of Moses called Deuteronomy, beginning at the first verse.

This passage may be found in the pew Bible on page 237.

(Pause to allow parishioners to find the page.)

“Now it shall come to pass, when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the Lord your God drives you, and you return to the Lord your God and obey His voice, according to all that I command you today, you and your children, with all your heart and with all your soul, that the Lord your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the Lord your God has scattered you. If any of you are driven out to the farthest parts under heaven, from there the Lord your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you.

“Then the Lord your God will bring you to the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it. He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers. And the Lord your

God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

“Also the Lord your God will put all these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you. And you will again obey the voice of the Lord and do all His commandments which I command you today. The Lord your God will make you abound in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your land for good. For the Lord will again rejoice over you for good as He rejoiced over your fathers, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this Book of the Law, and if you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.”

(Pause for a count of 5)

This is the word of the Lord.

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Psalm 103

1 PRAISE the Lord, O my soul; * and all that is within me, praise his holy Name.

2 Praise the Lord, O my soul, * and forget not all his benefits:

3 Who forgiveth all thy sin, * and healeth all thine infirmities;

4 Who saveth thy life from destruction, * and crowneth thee with mercy and loving-kindness;

5 Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things, * making thee young and lusty as an eagle.

6 The Lord executeth righteousness and judgment * for all them that are oppressed with wrong.

7 He showed his ways unto Moses, * his works unto the children of Israel.

8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, * long-suffering, and of great goodness.

9 He will not always be chiding; * neither keepeth he his anger for ever.

10 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; * nor rewarded us according to our wickednesses.

11 For look how high the heaven is in comparison of the earth; * so great is his mercy also toward them that fear him.

12 Look how wide also the east is from the west; * so far hath he set our sins from us.

13 Yea, like as a father pitieth his own children; * even so is the Lord merciful unto them that fear him.

14 For he knoweth whereof we are made; * he remembereth that we are but dust.

15 The days of man are but as grass; * for he flourisheth as a flower of the field.

16 For as soon as the wind goeth over it, it is gone; * and the place thereof shall know it no more.

17 But the merciful goodness of the Lord endureth for ever and ever upon them that fear him; * and his righteousness upon children's children;

18 Even upon such as keep his covenant, * and think upon his commandments to do them.

19 The Lord hath prepared his seat in heaven, * and his kingdom ruleth over all.

20 O praise the Lord, ye angels of his, ye that excel in strength; * ye that fulfil his commandment, and hearken unto the voice of his word.

21 O praise the Lord, all ye his hosts; * ye servants of his that do his pleasure.

22 O speak good of the Lord, all ye works of his, in all places of his dominion: * praise thou the Lord, O my soul.

Glory be...

The Circumcision of Christ

The New Testament is written in the second chapter of St. Paul's epistle to the Philippians, beginning at the ninth verse.

This passage may be found in the Book of Common Prayer on page 105.

(Pause to allow parishioners to find the page.)

GOD also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the

glory of God the Father. Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

(Pause for a count of 5)

This is the word of the Lord.