

The Prophets & Kings

From Rehoboam To Zedekiah

Book 1

A Daily Devotional Study Guide

Week 38

“*Mercy in Disguise*”

Study: Isaiah 57:1-10

Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:1-9

Memory: Romans 8:19

When my dad died suddenly just before his 52nd birthday, one of the thoughts that the Lord put in my mind was that this was an act of mercy by God towards my father. He had dealt with health issues on several fronts and had conditions that could have left him blind or with other disabilities. I know my dad would have struggled immensely if something like that happened to him. Though his death was difficult, I found great comfort in the fact that his death at that age could have actually been an act of mercy by God.

Today, we are going to see how God takes godly men early to spare them from earthly problems, while the lives of the wicked are sometimes prolonged and they experience the misery that results from sin.

What Does the Bible Say?

When a righteous person dies, it is not a bad thing. Whether they die at a younger age than we may think they should or they live well into their 90's and beyond, the death of a godly person is a benefit to them, no matter where they are in life. Sadly many people don't stop and think about this. They try to avoid thoughts about eternal existence, but Isaiah declares that those who die in righteousness are far better off. This passage also infers that sometimes God takes a righteous man early to help spare him from problems and difficulties that would come his way. By being taken away early, they experience eternal peace much sooner than they would in this wicked world. In 2 Corinthians 5:8, the apostle Paul says, “we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.” Not only is the righteous person who passes free from the troubles of this life, they are enjoying the benefits of being with the Lord (vs 1-2).

In contrast to this, Isaiah pictured those who lived in wickedness. These are those who sought after the wicked pleasures of the world and openly committed ungodly sexual acts. They would mock God with their words and train their children up in great ungodliness. Some had even reached the point where they would sacrifice their children to fulfill their

own lustful desires and selfish pleasures. They would pour out their sacrifices to the things of this world that could not and did not bring satisfaction. Though there was short term pleasure, all these things they did were not fulfilling. They would try more and more, only to find more emptiness. They would move from one sexual pleasure to another, changing from idol to idol, but never finding what they were looking for (vs 3-8).

These ungodly people would seek the favor of men by sending away their resources and money to foreign kings and rulers. They would do all they could to find fulfillment and peace, sacrificing many things along the way, while all the time rejecting God and His offer of peace. They grew more and more tired of the things of the world, yet instead of turning to God and realizing it was all hopeless without Him, they would find something new to take their minds off their state only to find the emptiness again (vs 9-10).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you see the world's system in today's reading? The world today may not follow idols the exact same way they did in those days, but the attitude is still the same. Parents are willing to sacrifice children, having them murdered in the womb for the sake of financial success or convenience. People sleep around with others seeking the fulfillment and pleasure they desire only to find it become quite empty and filled with emotional heartache and physical disease. Others buy toy after toy and seek hobby after hobby in order to fill their lives, only to feel that something is missing. Instead of turning to God, they try to fill it with many things. Yet they don't find what they are looking for. This does not mean that all unbelievers are always miserable. Many do find happiness and contentment, but often have a longing for more because of a vacuum inside them that is empty without God. This same attitude of the world can easily creep into the life of a believer. No it is not advertised by the enemy as "seek after me and I will create more emptiness." It is advertised as pleasure and satisfaction. Choose today to live how God wants and not follow after the way the world lives.

Another thing to observe is the concept found in verse 1-2. That sometimes God takes a life early to spare someone from trouble ahead. In our finite minds, we can't fully understand this, but this reveals that there are many times where what we call an "untimely death" takes place that is actually part of the grace and mercy of God.

What happens to righteous men (vs 1)?

What happens when a righteous man dies (vs 1-2)?

What does this emphasize about the importance of being a righteous person?

Who is the righteous man contrasted with (vs 3)?

What sins were the people of Israel going after (vs 3)?

How do you see those sins existing in our world today?

What question was asked at the beginning of verse 4?

What do you think was meant by this question?

How are wicked people described (vs 4)?

What are things the sinful Israelites were doing (vs 5)?

What are ways we can be tempted to act the same way in our society today?

What did people worship (vs 6)?

****Not only did people worship false gods, but they also worshiped much of the nature around them. They would use things of nature to set up altars and idols and pour out their offerings unto these false gods.*

What would happen on the mountains (vs 7)?

What would they put on their doorposts (vs 8)?

****They would display symbols of idol worship or place types of "good luck charms" on the door posts of their homes.*

What would happen to their riches (vs 9)?

What would they keep doing instead of realizing their hopeless state (vs 10)?

“Angry Waves”

Study: Isaiah 57:11-21

Reading: James 1:5-18, Proverbs 4:10-19

Memory: Romans 8:19

When our family visited Florida while my children were elementary age, we took opportunity to play in the waves of the ocean. The first day we played in the waves, there were big rolling waves that would pick you up and it felt like they would gently let you back down, almost like they were playing with you. We went back out a few days later, but that time there were what I call “angry waves.” These waves would pick you up, slam you to the sand and roll you around and the water seemed to come and go in all directions.

Today, we are going to see how God describes how those who choose not to follow Him will be like those angry waves, They will not be quiet or ever find peace. In contrast to this, those who seek after Him will be like those who experience the gentle love of God.

What Does the Bible Say?

God wanted to know why they feared the idols more than they feared Him. God had been patient with them, constantly revealing His love and power to them, yet they lied to God declaring that they feared Him while all the time being afraid of the gods of this world. The “righteous deeds” mentioned in verse 12 were really not righteous deeds at all. They were deeds the people did to attempt to appease God, but their hearts were not in it. These deeds, even if done in the name of God, were not profitable for the people. These idols which the people truly feared and worshiped would have no ability to help Israel when their enemies attacked. Instead the idols would be carried off along with the people. It was the people and the nation who chose to take refuge in God. Those were the ones that He would choose to protect and bless (vs 12-13).

The people of Judah would be crushed and humbled when Jerusalem was destroyed and they were taken captive by the Babylonians. After they were humbled and chose to turn back to God, He would restore them to the land. He would clear the obstacles from their path back to Israel and would not only restore the land, but restore their hearts. God’s anger

was not going to last forever. If God was not a forgiving God then all the inhabitants of the earth would be dead. God’s anger was a result of the sin of the people, but He is not just a God of anger and justice. He is also a God of mercy and grace. Even though God enacted judgment, God was also going to bring healing and comfort to His people. He would bring peace to their land and to their hearts once again. Those that return to Him would find great joy and satisfaction in obeying God and His Word (vs 14-19).

Even though many will return to God, there will be some Jews who choose not to follow. These wicked people are compared to waves crashing to the shore that simply can’t be quieted. They continually stir up dirt and sediment from the ocean floor, living without peace and tranquility (vs 20-21).

How Does this Apply to Me?

The great forgiveness of God was on display in this passage. Even though the Israelites rejected Him over and over again, forcing Him to crush them, He could not continually reject them. In His grace and mercy, He was willing to accept them back and offer them amazing forgiveness and restoration. God wants to do the same for you. There are many people who fail to accept the forgiveness of God because they fail to forgive themselves for past sins. They continue to be like those who are trapped in the tossing waves, reminding themselves of their sin over and over again. Yet, what all believers need to understand is that God chooses to forgive sin. There is no sin too great that He will not forgive. He chooses to forgive you and will welcome you back so you can experience the great inward peace and tranquility that He desires for you.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for choosing to forgive your sins,*
- * *Ask God to help you be like the submissive Israelites.*
- * *Praise God because He is above all gods.*

Thought for the day

How would the Israelites lie (vs 11)?

****This pictured the idea that the Israelite would claim to be followers of God and even perform their sacrifices and rituals, but would really fear and serve the false gods of the nations around them.*

How had God “held His peace” (vs 11 - ESV)?

What do you think it means to fear God?

How come the good deeds of the Israelites would not be profitable to them (vs 12)?

Who did God tell them to trust in when calamity came (vs 13)? Why?

What did God promise to those who trusted in Him (vs 13)?

What did God say should be removed from the paths of His people (vs 14)?

****He was planning to clear the way for the return of His people to Jerusalem.*

Where does God dwell (vs 15)?

- 1.
- 2..

What does God want to do (vs 15)?

What will God not always do (vs 16)?

Why was God angry (vs 17)?

What did God want to do for His people (vs 18-19)?

How are the wicked described (vs 20)?

Who will not experience peace (vs 20)? How have you seen this truth in your life and those around you?

“Not Acceptable”

Study: Isaiah 58:1-14

Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Psalm 51:1-17

Memory: Romans 8:19

Before you are allowed on a commercial airline, one of the first things you are required to do is send the bags you will be traveling with through a machine to determine if there is anything harmful in your bag. The security officers do not care what your bag looks like on the outside, because they know that what is on the inside is what has the power to cause harm.

Today, we are going to see how God looks at us with x-ray vision. He is not pleased with outward actions that come from a selfish heart.

What Does the Bible Say?

A great contrast is presented here in this chapter as verse one sends out a call to cry out and declare the transgressions of the people. This call went out even though many of the people acted as if they were righteous. Verse 2 gives the perspective of the people as they declared that they did what was right and didn't turn from God. They felt that God should reward them for their actions. They wanted to know what good it had been for them to fast and humble themselves if God did not accept their fasting and still condemned them. God responded by telling them why their outward actions had not been accepted. When they chose to fast, they did it for their own pleasure. They did not treat others with kindness and love, but oppressed their workers and those less fortunate. When they fasted, they would often become angry and it would lead to fights and quarrels. This type of fasting would do nothing to cause their pleas to be heard by God (vs 1-4).

The fasting that many of the people of Judah were performing did not involve humility. The whole idea of fasting was for a person to go without food for a period of time and express how much they needed God more than their daily food. It was to be a time of sadness and mourning over sin and the utter helplessness of man. This humility was missing from the type of fasting the people were participating in (vs 5).

What God desired was the fasting that was motivated by a heart of

love and humility, a heart that desired to remove wickedness and to show great compassion to those who were less fortunate. A fast that would inspire the people to share their food with the hungry and to help provide lodging and clothing for those who were without. God pointed out that many of them even failed to help those in their own family who were in need (vs 6-7).

When they chose to practice this type of fasting, they would find great healing and the glory of God would go before and behind them. They would find light in the darkness around them and their whole outlook on life would change. It is then that God would answer their prayer and give them what they desired. When they chose to feed the hungry and care for the needy, they would experience the light of God. God's blessings were based on their obedience, not their outward actions. He described how He would bless them like a well watered garden and how their cities would be restored and prosper (vs 9-12).

Instead of using the Sabbath day to fulfill their own selfish pleasures, they were challenged to use the day to worship and honor God. In doing so, they would open the door for God to bless them and provide for them. They would have more physically and spiritually than they ever could imagine, if they would simply choose to change their hearts and follow Him with their whole selves, rather than just with their words or outward actions (vs 13-14).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Is your religion more than just outward action? The Israelites were frustrated with God because they felt like they were doing everything that God wanted. God was not pleased because their acts of religion were done out of selfishness and not out of love. This is a constant theme in the Bible. Humility, obedience and a love for others are the core values that God has always desired from His people. These are always more important than outward acts of religion and should be the reason why outward acts are performed.

Thought for the day

Why did the call go out to cry aloud (vs 1)?

What did man of the Israelites seek on a daily basis (vs 1)?

What did they ask from God (vs 2)?

What did the Israelites want to know (vs 3)?

What did God say they were seeking after (vs 3)?

What was wrong with their fasting (vs 4)?

What did God desire from His people (vs 5)?

What actions did God want His people to perform (vs 6)?

What did some of the Israelites fail to share with their own flesh and blood (vs 7)?

What would happen if they chose to live in the right way (vs 8)?

What did God want to do for them (vs 9)?

How do you see this same type of religious hypocrisy in the world today?

How do you see it in your own life?

What did God say would happen if they served others in humility (vs 10)?

What did God want to do for His people (vs 11-12)?

What would they be called if they sought after God (vs 12)?

What conditional statement was issued in verse 13?

What promise was given in verse 14?

What challenge does this chapter present to you?

“A Wall”

Study: Isaiah 59:1-10

Reading: Romans 1:18-31

Memory: Romans 8:19

When I lived in the church parsonage in Wisconsin, I went down into a carpeted basement one day and was greeted by a nasty smell. I quickly discovered that there was sewage coming up from the drain in the floor and it was soaking into our carpet throughout the basement. I went outside to check the septic tank and discovered that the filter which was meant to keep solids from flowing into our septic field was completely clogged and wasn't allowing liquid to get through. I went about completing the nasty process of washing the filter out and before long our septic was working again.

Today, we are going to see how sin can block the flow of our prayers to God and His blessings for us. God still hears and wants to bless, but because of our sin, He can't continue to allow the blessing to flow. Once we remove the crud in our life that is keeping God's blessings from flowing, we can experience the fullness that He has planned for our lives.

What Does the Bible Say?

Isaiah made it completely clear that the reason that Israel wasn't being delivered was not because God could not do it. The reason He wasn't listening wasn't because He couldn't hear. The reason God was not acting on their behalf was because of their sin. Their sin was acting like a barrier between them and God causing Him not to act on their behalf. The Israelites were guilty of murder and their lips were constantly lying and declaring wicked things. They did not care about being fair and honest with each other, but every man was in it for himself. They would construct plans in their mind on how they could deceive and take advantage of others. Their actions were compared to that of snakes or spiders. These animals were used as illustrations of poisoning others or ensnaring others in order to get what they wanted. Though spiders weave webs, the webs are no good for clothing. The point was that what they made with their hands was set to trap others and take advantage of others rather than to provide for themselves through honest work. This

lack of honesty led to deceit and violence (vs 1-6).

They were compared to people who ran to every sort of evil, rather than from it. They didn't care about hurting the innocent because their thoughts were only about themselves and what they could gain. They didn't care about peace or justice. All the people they dwelt with would experience turmoil and heartache. Trouble would be with them everywhere they went and in all the work that they did (vs 7-8).

For these reasons, Judah was far from facing justice and experiencing the righteousness of God. They desired light and hope, but instead were greeted with darkness and gloom. They walked around like blind men trying to find their way through an unknown city. They walk around like they are in darkness, even in the middle of the day. They lost energy and strength. The joy of daily living was lost (vs 9-10).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you see our own society in much of the descriptions given of Judah? Though there is still some moral fiber that makes up our society today, it is on a steady decline. More and more people are unwilling to sacrifice for others and they desire to live for themselves. The result is darkness and peace. One of the evidences of this in our society today is the rising number of people with emotional and mental illnesses. Though there are many legit medical conditions, a great deal of the problems in our society today are a result of the selfish way that we are taught to live. You can easily fall into the world's philosophy and thinking if you are not careful. The core of the message that God delivered to His people in today's reading was that those who lived in selfishness would experience darkness and those who lived with love and sacrifice for others would experience much joy and blessing.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for the blessing which He gives you.*
- * *Ask God to reveal to you sins that are blocking His blessings.*

Thought for the day

What is not shortened (vs 1)?

Why did Isaiah want the people of Judah to know that God still had power and ears to hear (vs 1-2)?

What was interfering in the relationship between God and Israel (vs 2)?

What can you learn about sin from this?

What sins had the Israelites been involved in (vs 3)?

How do you see these sins prevalent in society today?

List some of the attitudes and sins mentioned in verse 4.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What illustrations did Isaiah use to describe the actions of the people of Judah (vs 5)? What did these mean?

What will not serve as clothing (vs 6)? What do you think this means?

How are their works and deeds described (vs 6)?

How bad were the actions of Israel (vs 7)?

How can you see these same types of actions in society today?

What did they not know (vs 8)?

Why is it so important to seek after peace when it comes to dealing with others (vs 8)?

What would they get instead of the light they hoped for (vs 9)?

How was Israel like blind men (vs 10)?

How does sin zap energy out of life (vs 10)?

“Snowball of Sin”

Study: Isaiah 59:11-21

Reading: James 1:12-17, Ephesians 6:10-20

Memory: Romans 8:19

You have probably heard of the “snowball effect.” That term pictures the idea of a snowball rolling down a hill. The more it rolls, the more it picks up snow and the bigger it gets. The bigger the snowball gets, the more snow it picks up. This continues until it reaches an obstacle which it normally destroys before it is broken apart.

Today, we are going to see that Israel was involved in the “snowball effect” of sin. We will be reminded of the importance of not allowing sin to grow, because when it does it causes greater and greater problems.

What Does the Bible Say?

Verse 11 describes making loud dangerous noises like a bear or continual howling like a dove, but pictures the idea that this is just a bunch of noise without action. Though people moaned with great noise for justice to take place and God to save them from their difficulties, this salvation was not taking place. The reason for this was because the sins of the people continued to multiply. God was not judging them for some random sin or some temptation they struggled with and occasionally gave into, He was going to judge them because the sin of the nation increased more and more. The more they sinned, the more they denied God. As their sin increased, so did their defiance and rejection of God. It was like a vicious cycle that created a stronger and stronger anger towards God a love of sin (vs 11-13).

Once again, God described how the people did not treat others in justice. They did not care about righteousness. This was because everyone did what they thought was right in their own eyes and no one knew or understood what truth was. Honesty had become a thing of the past and very few of them could be trusted. Those who did not do evil in attempt to protect himself made himself prey for others who attempted to do evil. All of this displeased the Lord (vs 14-15).

Though this was the current picture of Israel, verse 16 broadened up the understanding that this was the condition of all mankind. God looked

at all men and realize that there was no one who did what was right. Because of this He decided to intercede to mankind and bring salvation through Jesus Christ. Verse 17 pictures the Messiah putting on armor ready to do battle against the evil of the world (vs 116-17).

The deliverance of the righteous also meant the condemnation and judgement on those who were doing evil. God would repay those who lived in ungodliness no matter where they lived. There will come a day when all men will fear the name of the Lord. He will come in great power and produce a great victory over sin and evil. He will also deliver those who choose to turn to Him, specifically those of the nation of Israel. Even though they chose and continue to choose to live in great sin, God will one day restore the nation, along with those who trust in Jesus Christ, to Himself (vs 18-20).

God would keep the covenant He made with Israel and when He returns to rule and reign, they will be His people and He will be their God. They will speak the Words of God and do what He says for all eternity (vs 21).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you involved in a cycle of sin or a cycle of righteousness. The more you do what is right, the more you will experience the benefits of righteousness. The more you see the benefits, the more you will want to do what is right. If you continue in that cycle you will experience a small part of what it will be like for all eternity. On the other hand, if you do evil and don't learn from your mistakes, you will often allow your heart to be hardened. This then leads to more and worse evil which causes the heart to harden even more and reject the truths that God has given. Unless this cycle is broken, it will lead you down a path that you do not want to go.

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Ask God to help you keep sin from snowballing in your life.*

Thought for the day

What do bears and doves do (vs 11)?

How did this describe the moaning of Israel (vs 11)?

What does it mean that their sins were multiplied (vs 12)?

How have you seen sin multiply in your life and the lives of others?

How could their sin be a witness against them (vs 12)?

What ultimately happens when you allow sin to continue in your life (vs 13)?

How can you avoid this happening to you?

Why do you think justice and righteousness are continually talked about (vs 14)?

What was lacking (vs 15)?

How do you see a battle for truth raging in society today?

What was God's feeling towards this (vs 15)?

What did God recognize that no man could do (vs 16)?

What did He decide to do (vs 17)?

What did God put on (vs 18)?

What did this mean?

What will be the result of God's actions (vs 19)?

How is the Messiah described (vs 20)?

What had God made with His people (vs 21)?

What was this covenant (vs 21)?

“Future Hope”

Study: Isaiah 60:1-9

Reading: Revelation 22:1-17

Memory: Romans 8:19

I always thought it would be a great experience to go to Hawaii with my wife and several years ago we had the opportunity, though it was only for one night. We stopped in Honolulu for a day on our way to do some missions work in Kosrae, Micronesia. Though we didn't get to experience much of Hawaii, my wife and I actually found that we liked Kosrae more than Hawaii. Much of this was due to the fact that the areas we were in during our day in Honolulu were crowded with tourists and the island of Kosrae had very few tourists. We were able to see and experience what it was like living on a remote island in the Pacific and we enjoyed it immensely. Though we have traveled many places in the world and we often like to visit new places, Kosrae is a place that I would love to go back to and relive our experience.

Today, we are going to be reminded of the blessings we will have for all eternity. If you think of the amazing experiences you have had on this earth, picture experiencing things like that for all eternity, but getting to enjoy them even more than you ever could in this life.

What Does the Bible Say?

Chapter 60 appears to be a description of what will happen during the end times. The light will shine upon Jerusalem and Israel, while darkness will cover much of the rest of the earth. This is because the city and the nation will reflect the glory of God. It will be a place where all other people from around the world will come and worship God. The New Testament makes it clear that this is not for all Jews, nor all the inhabitants of the earth, but it is for those who believe in Jesus. Believing Jews and Gentiles will come from all over the known world bringing with them their children to fill the land. The wealth of all the nations around them will be given to them and the land will be filled with an abundance of food and possessions. People will come from all over bringing great gifts to God and singing praises to the Lord. Once again the temple of the Lord will be an amazing place and Jerusalem will be the

center of the world. There is some question on how much of this is literal and how much is a concept. The overall picture is a great restoration which will take place. Will the land actually be filled with camels? Probably not, though it could be. The camels in those days were a picture of people traveling with wealth. If you view it as 100% literal or more figurative, the conclusion is the same. God will bless Israel and it will be the center of the known world (vs 1-7).

Verse 8 pictures people flying to Israel like clouds filling the sky or birds coming back to their nests. I would like to think this is a prophecy of people flying on planes back, but the explanation in verse 9 reveals that verse 8 seemed to have the picture of the people coming back home in ships. They would come with gold and silver, from places as far away as Tarshish. From the story of Jonah it appears that Tarshish was probably a reference to one of the farthest places a person could travel to or return from. They will want to come back to the land because the Lord will make it a beautiful place to live (v 8-9).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize what is awaiting for you in the future? Though this is more of a promise to Israel, much of the understanding is the same for New Testament believers. I have heard people say that they don't really care about heaven because sitting around playing a harp and singing praises for eternity sounds boring. The Bible says much more about eternity than this. Much of the talk in the Old Testament is about the physical earth that followers of God will enjoy. The New Testament describes a new heaven and new earth that will be a massive, beautiful place to live. Through descriptions of the millennial kingdom and NT references, I like to summarize eternity by thinking about all the wonderful things we experience here on the earth and just making every one of them infinitely better.

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Thank God for the promises of future hope.*

Thought for the day

What was going to come to Israel (vs 1)?

What was going to happen to much of the earth (vs 2)?

What was going to come out of the darkness (vs 2)?

How will this make His glory even greater (vs 2)?

Who will come to the light (vs 3)?

Why would this give hope to the Israelites?

What were they told to look and see (v 4)?

Who was going to come back to Israel (vs 4)?

Why would this have been a great encouragement to the people?

What will happen in the hearts and attitudes of the people (vs 5)?

What will cause them to rejoice (vs 5)?

Why would they be thrilled to see a multitude of camels (vs 6)?

What would the people on the camels bring with them (vs 6)?

What will there be an abundance of (vs 7)?

What will happen to the temple (v 7)?

What does he compare the flow of people to Israel to (v 8)?

What will the ships bring to the land (vs 9)?

Who is the One who will cause all of this to happen (vs 9)?

What point do you think that God was trying to help the Israelites understand in these verses?

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you. 12 So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, In 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. 18 Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.