

I. Sin (vv 7-8).**A.** The two-fold sin of Israel (v 7; Jer 2:13)

- 1) *They forgot the LORD their God* (Dt 6:4-9)
- 2) *And they served the Baals and the Asheroth*
- 3) Warning from the Passage
 - a) God sees all sin, whether secret (*forgot the LORD*) or public (*served the Baals*) (Ezk 8:12)
 - b) Formalism and externalism will not hold (Amos 8:5; Psa 119:44-48)

B. The Judgement (v 8)

- 1) *Therefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel*
 - a) The wrath of God is not (i) Arbitrary; (ii) Inconsistent; (iii) Unmeasured; (iv) Passibility; (v) Always seen temporarily
 - b) Rather, the wrath of God is (i) Holy; (ii) Just; (iii) Good; (iv) Patient; (v) Sovereign (Pr 16:4)
- 2) *And he sold them into the hand of Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia. And the people of Israel served Cushan-rishathaim eight years.* (Jn 8:34)
- 3) Warning from the passage
 - a) Man is never neutral to serve just himself.
 - b) The tyranny of idols brings with it the tyranny of despots (2 Cor 3:17).
 - c) If we do not heed God's warnings found in the Scriptures, we shall befall the same judgments.

C. Uses from the Text

- 1) We are to fear God, not man (Pr 29:25)
- 2) We must know God's commandments (Psa 119:9-11)
- 3) Confess your sins freely and Repent from sin quickly (Pr 28:13)
- 4) Keep God's commandments. (Lk 14:26-27)

II. Salvation (vv 9-10).**A.** The people call out to the Lord (Heidelberg Catechism 2)

- 1) The mercy of God
- 2) The trustworthiness of God's mercy (Rom 10:9-11, 13)

- 3) The mercy of God to the chief of sinners. (1 Tim 1:15)

B. Deliverance given by the Lord

- 1) The giver of this salvation is the Lord (Eph 2:8-9)
- 2) The salvation given by God is not mere potential, but actually accomplished (Heb 10:11-14)
- 3) The means of our salvation (Isa 33:22; Mt 9:2)
- 4) The strength of this mediator (Isa 61:1-4)
- 5) The accomplishing of our salvation

C. Uses from the Text

- 1) The need for faith in Christ (Isa 55:1, 3, 6-7)
- 2) The assurance of salvation in Him (Col 2:13-15)

III. Sabbath (v 11).**A.** The rest for the land and God's people

- 1) Ceasing from war.
- 2) Ceasing from sin.

B. The endurance of this peace — *forty years*

- 1) The reign of Christ is far longer and greater than the tyranny of Antichrist (Rev 12:6, 12)
- 2) The death of Othniel shows that our trust is not to be in the princes of men.

C. Uses from the Text

- 1) Salvation causes us to cease from sin (Jn 8:34-36; *Larger Catechism* 69)
- 2) In meditating upon this text, we find at least two great benefits of the Lord's Day, this holy day of delight.
 - a) We are given a day of remembrance, lest we too forget the Lord (*Larger Catechism* 121)
 - b) We have proclaimed to us (i) in the day itself, as well as, (ii) in Word and Sacrament, the victory of the Lord Christ Jesus, our deliverer, in His righteous life, substitutionary death, and bodily resurrection.
- 3) As we labour in the Lord with faithfulness, let us look forward to the eternal Sabbath of heaven, which awaits those who are united to Christ (Job 3:17; Rev 14:13)