

A Song of Worship, Warning, and Promise

Deuteronomy 32:1-47



Deuteronomy 31:30

Then Moses spoke in the hearing of all the assembly of Israel the words of this song, until they were complete:

Deuteronomy 32:1-4

Give ear, O heavens, and let me speak;
And let the earth hear the words of my mouth.
Let my teaching drop as the rain,
My speech distill as the dew,
As the droplets on the fresh grass
And as the showers on the herb.
For I proclaim the name of the LORD;
Ascribe greatness to our God!
The Rock! His work is perfect,
For all His ways are just;
A God of faithfulness and without injustice,
Righteous and upright is He.

Deuteronomy 32:5-7

They have acted corruptly toward Him,
They are not His children, because of their defect;
But are a perverse and crooked generation.
Do you thus repay the LORD, O foolish and unwise people?
Is not He your Father who has bought you?
He has made you and established you.
Remember the days of old,
Consider the years of all generations.
Ask your father, and he will inform you,
Your elders, and they will tell you.

Deuteronomy 32:8-10

When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance,
When He separated the sons of man,
He set the boundaries of the peoples
According to the number of the sons of Israel.
For the LORD'S portion is His people;
Jacob is the allotment of His inheritance.
He found him in a desert land,
And in the howling waste of a wilderness;
He encircled him, He cared for him,
He guarded him as the pupil of His eye.

Deuteronomy 32:11-12

Like an eagle that stirs up its nest,
That hovers over its young,
He spread His wings and caught them,
He carried them on His pinions.
The LORD alone guided him,
And there was no foreign god with him.

Deuteronomy 32:13-14

He made him ride on the high places of the earth,
And he ate the produce of the field;
And He made him suck honey from the rock,
And oil from the flinty rock,
Curds of cows, and milk of the flock,
With fat of lambs,
And rams, the breed of Bashan, and goats,
With the finest of the wheat —
And of the blood of grapes you drank wine.

Deuteronomy 32:15-18

But Jeshurun grew fat and kicked —
You are grown fat, thick, and sleek —
Then he forsook God who made him,
And scorned the Rock of his salvation.
They made Him jealous with strange gods;
With abominations they provoked Him to anger.
They sacrificed to demons who were not God,
To gods whom they have not known,
New gods who came lately,
Whom your fathers did not dread.
You neglected the Rock who begot you,
And forgot the God who gave you birth.

Deuteronomy 32:19-20

The LORD saw this, and spurned them
Because of the provocation of His sons and daughters.
Then He said, 'I will hide My face from them,
I will see what their end shall be;
For they are a perverse generation,
Sons in whom is no faithfulness.

Deuteronomy 32:21-22

They have made Me jealous with what is not God;
They have provoked Me to anger with their idols.
So I will make them jealous with those who are not a people;
I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation,
For a fire is kindled in My anger,
And burns to the lowest part of Sheol,
And consumes the earth with its yield,
And sets on fire the foundations of the mountains.

Deuteronomy 32:23-25

I will heap misfortunes on them;
I will use My arrows on them.

They will be wasted by famine, and consumed by plague
And bitter destruction;

And the teeth of beasts I will send upon them,
With the venom of crawling things of the dust.

Outside the sword will bereave,
And inside terror — Both young man and virgin,
The nursling with the man of gray hair.

Deuteronomy 32:26-27

I would have said, “I will cut them to pieces,
I will remove the memory of them from men,”
Had I not feared the provocation by the enemy,
That their adversaries would misjudge,
That they would say, “Our hand is triumphant,
And the LORD has not done all this.”

Deuteronomy 32:28-30

For they are a nation lacking in counsel,
And there is no understanding in them.

Would that they were wise, that they understood this,
That they would discern their future!

How could one chase a thousand,
And two put ten thousand to flight,
Unless their Rock had sold them,
And the LORD had given them up?

Deuteronomy 32:31-33

Indeed their rock is not like our Rock,
Even our enemies themselves judge this.
For their vine is from the vine of Sodom,
And from the fields of Gomorrah;
Their grapes are grapes of poison,
Their clusters, bitter.
Their wine is the venom of serpents,
And the deadly poison of cobras.

Deuteronomy 32:34-36

Is it not laid up in store with Me,
Sealed up in My treasuries?
Vengeance is Mine, and retribution,
In due time their foot will slip;
For the day of their calamity is near,
And the impending things are hastening upon them.
For the LORD will vindicate His people,
And will have compassion on His servants,
When He sees that their strength is gone,
And there is none remaining, bond or free.

Deuteronomy 32:37-39

And He will say, 'Where are their gods,
The rock in which they sought refuge?

Who ate the fat of their sacrifices,
And drank the wine of their drink offering?

Let them rise up and help you,
Let them be your hiding place!

See now that I, I am He,

And there is no god besides Me;

It is I who put to death and give life.

I have wounded and it is I who heal,

And there is no one who can deliver from My hand.

Deuteronomy 32:40-42

Indeed, I lift up My hand to heaven,
And say, as I live forever,
If I sharpen My flashing sword,
And My hand takes hold on justice,
I will render vengeance on My adversaries,
And I will repay those who hate Me.
I will make My arrows drunk with blood,
And My sword will devour flesh,
With the blood of the slain and the captives,
From the long-haired leaders of the enemy.

Deuteronomy 32:43

Rejoice, O nations, with His people;
For He will avenge the blood of His servants,
And will render vengeance on His adversaries,
And will atone for His land and His people.

Deuteronomy 32:44-47

Then Moses came and spoke all the words of this song in the hearing of the people, he, with Joshua the son of Nun.

When Moses had finished speaking all these words to all Israel, he said to them,

“Take to your heart all the words with which I am warning you today, which you shall command your sons to observe carefully, even all the words of this law.

For it is not an idle word for you; indeed it is your life. And by this word you will prolong your days in the land, which you are about to cross the Jordan to possess.”

Main Point

The LORD mercifully provided His people with a song of worship, warning, and promise designed to help them remember His goodness and justice and to stir them to repentance and faith.



Worship, Warning, and Promise

A song of worship



The Song begins with a call to worship.

Deuteronomy 32:3

For I proclaim the name of the LORD;
Ascribe greatness to our God!

As a song of worship...

It is a reflection on His goodness



Reflecting on the goodness of His words

Deuteronomy 32:1-4

Give ear, O heavens, and let me speak;
And let the earth hear the words of my mouth.
Let my teaching drop as the rain,
My speech distill as the dew,
As the droplets on the fresh grass
And as the showers on the herb.

Isaiah 55:10-11

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
And do not return there without watering the earth
And making it bear and sprout,
And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater;
So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth;
It will not return to Me empty,
Without accomplishing what I desire,
And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

Are you regularly reflecting on the good gift of God's words – that they are drops of water upon the earth with power to refresh and make grow?



Reflecting on the goodness of His care

Verse 6

Is not He **your Father** who has bought you?
He has made you and established you.

Verse 10

He found *Jacob* in a desert land,
And in the howling waste of a wilderness;
He encircled him, **He cared for him**,
He guarded him as the pupil of His eye.

Reflecting on the goodness of His care

Verse 13-14

He made him ride on the high places of the earth,
And he ate the produce of the field;
And He made him suck honey from the rock,
And oil from the flinty rock,
Curds of cows, and milk of the flock,
With fat of lambs,
And rams, the breed of Bashan, and goats,
With the finest of the wheat —
And of the blood of grapes you drank wine.

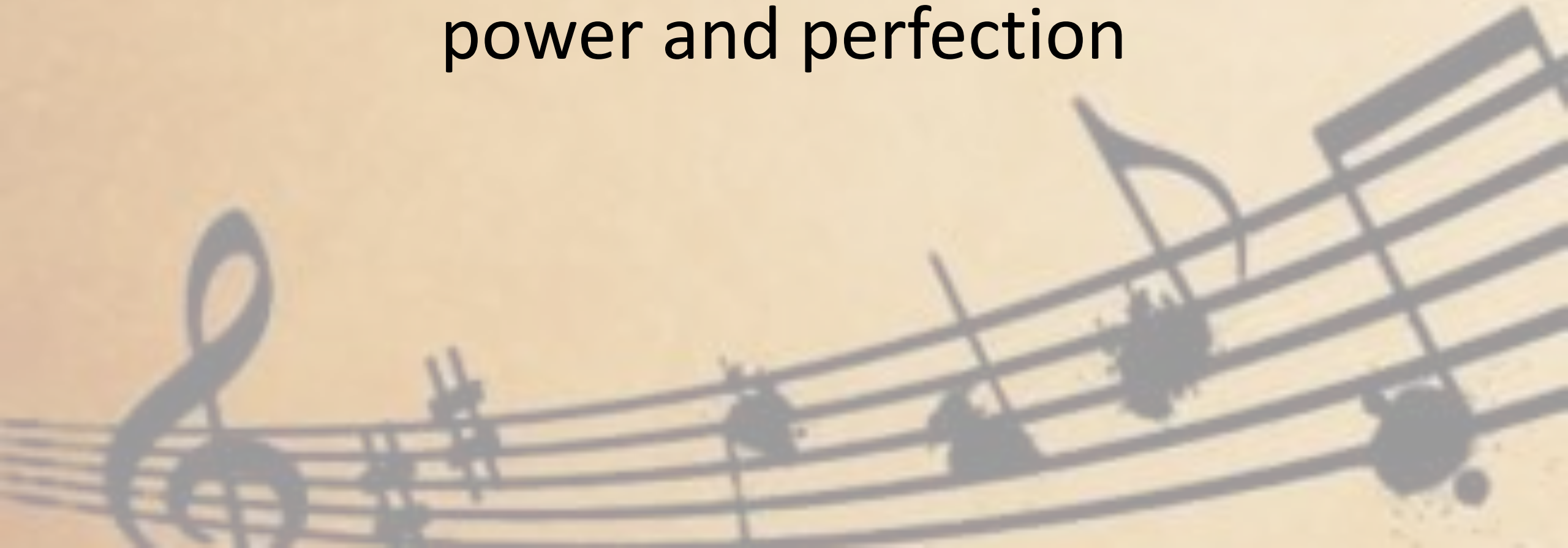
Are you regularly reflecting
on the goodness of God's loving
care for His people?



As a song of worship...

It is a reflection on His goodness

It is a reminder of His
power and perfection



Deuteronomy 32:3-4

For I proclaim the name of the LORD;
Ascribe greatness to our God!
The Rock! His work is perfect,
For all His ways are just;
A God of faithfulness and without injustice,
Righteous and upright is He.

Deuteronomy 32:3-4

For I proclaim the name of the LORD;

Ascribe greatness to our God!

The Rock! His work is perfect,
For all His ways are just;
A God of faithfulness and without injustice,
Righteous and upright is He.

Power and Strength

Deuteronomy 32:3-4

For I proclaim the name of the LORD;
Ascribe greatness to our God!

The Rock! His work is perfect,

For all His ways are just;
A God of faithfulness and without injustice,
Righteous and upright is He.

Deuteronomy 32:30

How could one chase a thousand,
And two put ten thousand to flight,
Unless their Rock had sold them,
And the LORD had given them up?

Deuteronomy 32:3-4

For I proclaim the name of the LORD;

Ascribe greatness to our God!

The Rock! His work is perfect,
For all His ways are just;
A God of faithfulness and without injustice,
Righteous and upright is He.

Perfection

Deuteronomy 32:3-4

For I proclaim the name of the LORD;
Ascribe greatness to our God!

The Rock! **His work is perfect,**

For all His ways are just;
A God of faithfulness and without injustice,
Righteous and upright is He.

Perfection

Deuteronomy 32:3-4

For I proclaim the name of the LORD;
Ascribe greatness to our God!

The Rock! **His work is perfect,**

For **all His ways are just;**

A God of faithfulness and without injustice,
Righteous and upright is He.

Do you regularly remember
the power and perfection of God and
use that remembrance
to intentionally worship Him?

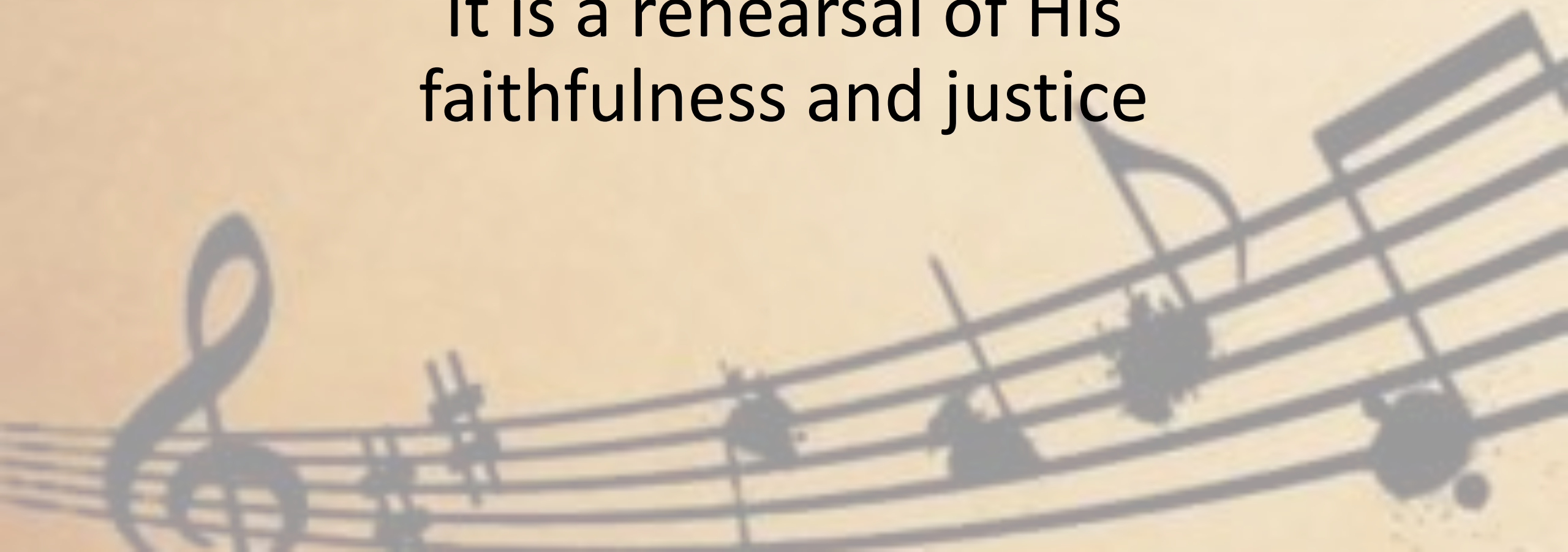


As a song of worship...

It is a reflection on the goodness of His revelation

It is a reminder of His power and perfection

It is a rehearsal of His
faithfulness and justice



Deuteronomy 32:3-4

For I proclaim the name of the LORD;

Ascribe greatness to our God!

The Rock! His work is perfect,
For all His ways are just;
A God of faithfulness and without injustice,
Righteous and upright is He.

Deuteronomy 32:3-4

For I proclaim the name of the LORD;
Ascribe greatness to our God!
The Rock! His work is perfect,
For all His ways are just;

A God of faithfulness and without injustice,
Righteous and upright is He.

Deuteronomy 7:9

Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God,
the faithful God, who keeps His covenant
and His lovingkindness...

Deuteronomy 32:36

For the LORD will vindicate His people,
And will have compassion on His servants,
When He sees that their strength is gone,
And there is none remaining, bond or free.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely;
and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete,
without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

Do you regularly rehearse God's
faithfulness so that you might grow
in your faith and active trust in Him?



Deuteronomy 32:3-4

For I proclaim the name of the LORD;
Ascribe greatness to our God!
The Rock! His work is perfect,
For all His ways are just;

A God of faithfulness and without injustice,
Righteous and upright is He.

A God of justice

Deuteronomy 32:3-4

For I proclaim the name of the LORD;
Ascribe greatness to our God!
The Rock! His work is perfect,

For all His ways are just;

A God of faithfulness and without injustice,
Righteous and upright is He.

A God of justice

Deuteronomy 32:3-4

For I proclaim the name of the LORD;
Ascribe greatness to our God!
The Rock! His work is perfect,

For all His ways are just;
A God of faithfulness and **without injustice,**
Righteous and upright is He.

A God of justice

Deuteronomy 32:3-4

For I proclaim the name of the LORD;
Ascribe greatness to our God!
The Rock! His work is perfect,

For all His ways are just;

A God of faithfulness and **without injustice,**

Righteous and upright is He.

Do you regularly rehearse God's justice so that you might stand firm against the world's accusations?



Do these and the other glories
and perfections of God form the
foundations of your thinking?

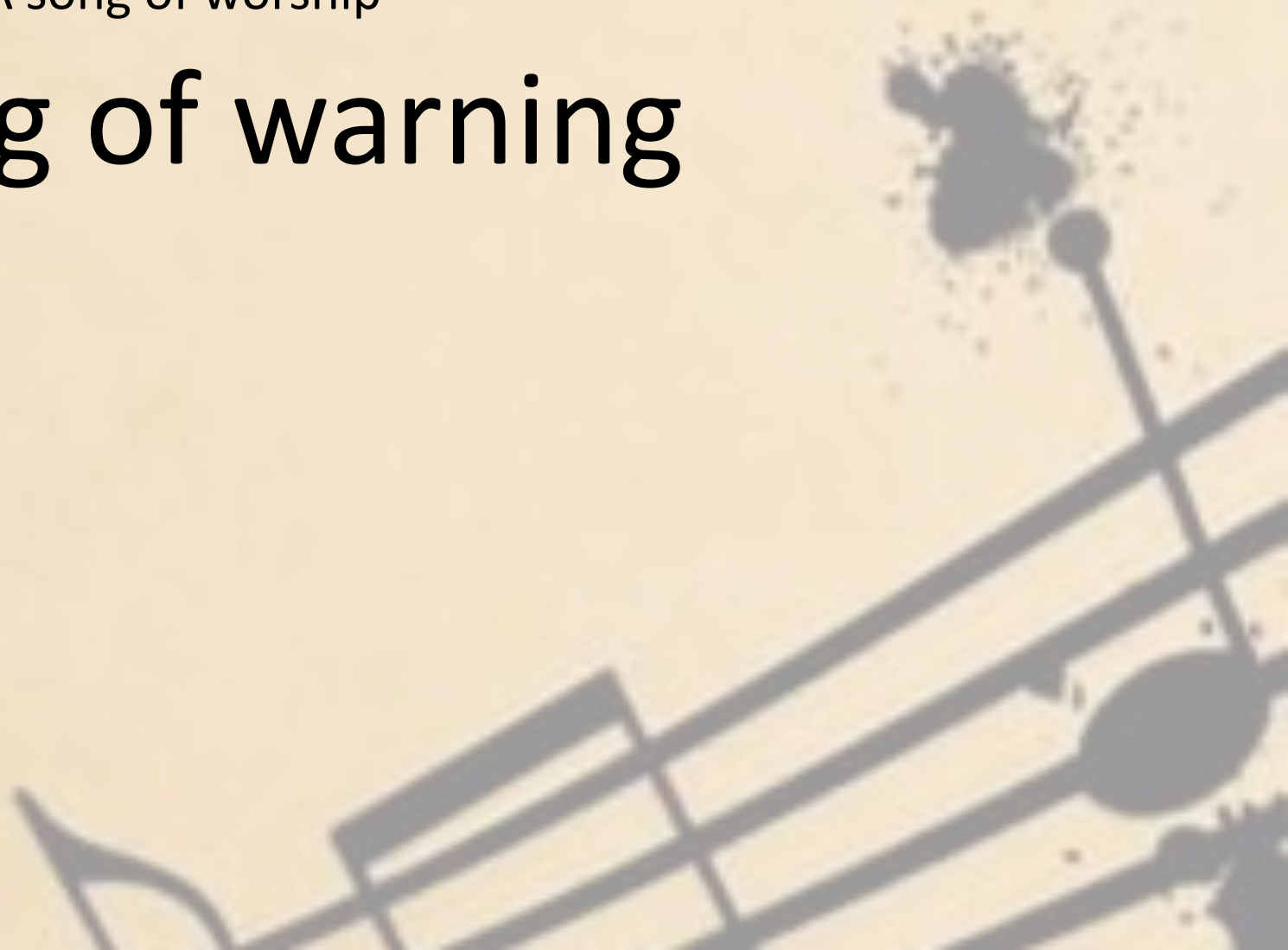
Is this leading you in a
lifestyle of worship?



Worship, Warning, and Promise

A song of worship

A song of warning



Deuteronomy 32:46

Take to your heart all the words
with which **I am warning you** today...

As a song of warning...

It is a recounting of their
perversion and unbelief



They should have ascribed greatness to God!

Deuteronomy 32:5-6

*But...*they have acted corruptly toward Him,
They are not His children, because of their defect;
But are a perverse and crooked generation.
Do you thus repay the LORD, O foolish and unwise people?
Is not He your Father who has bought you?
He has made you and established you.

He prospered them!

Deuteronomy 32:15-18

But Jeshurun grew fat and kicked —
You are grown fat, thick, and sleek —
Then he forsook God who made him,
And scorned the Rock of his salvation.
They made Him jealous with strange gods;
With abominations they provoked Him to anger.
They sacrificed to demons who were not God,
To gods whom they have not known,
New gods who came lately,
Whom your fathers did not dread.
You neglected the Rock who begot you,
And forgot the God who gave you birth.

Deuteronomy 32:5-6

They have acted corruptly toward Him,
They are not His children, because of their defect;
But are a perverse and crooked generation.

Do you thus repay the LORD,
O foolish and unwise people?

Deuteronomy 32:5-6

They have acted corruptly toward Him,

They are not His children, because of their defect;

But **are a perverse** and crooked **generation.**

Do you thus repay the LORD,
O foolish and unwise people?

They were a persistently obstinate people, stubborn in their refusal to give themselves over to God despite His goodness.

Has this changed?



Luke 9:41

And Jesus answered and said,
“You unbelieving and perverted generation,
how long shall I be with you and put up with you?”

“You obstinate people”

Luke 9:41

And Jesus answered and said,

“You unbelieving and **perverted generation,**
how long shall I be with you and put up with you?

Luke 9:41

And Jesus answered and said,

“**You unbelieving and perverted **generation,****
how long shall I be with you and put up with you?”

Deuteronomy 32:19-20

The LORD saw this, and spurned them
Because of the provocation of His sons and daughters.
Then He said, 'I will hide My face from them,
I will see what their end shall be;
For **they are a perverse generation,**
Sons in whom is no faithfulness.

An unbelieving people!

Deuteronomy 32:19-20

The LORD saw this, and spurned them
Because of the provocation of His sons and daughters.
Then He said, 'I will hide My face from them,
I will see what their end shall be;
For they are a perverse generation,

Sons in whom is no faithfulness.

Faith in God is revealed by
obedience to God!

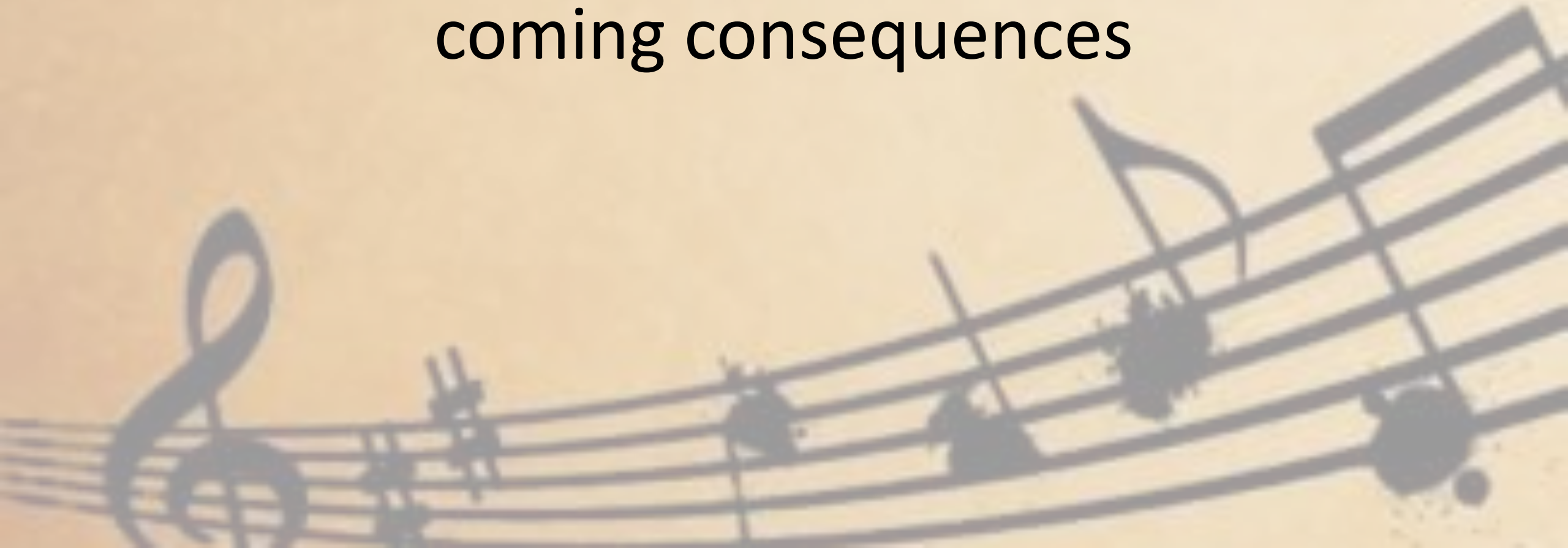
This should warn us that claims of
faith are empty if not accompanied
by an active desire to obey.



As a song of worship...

It is a recounting of their perversion and rebellion

**It is a restatement of the
coming consequences**



Deuteronomy 32:19-20

The LORD saw this, and spurned them
Because of the provocation of His sons and daughters.
Then He said, “I will hide My face from them,
I will see what their end shall be;
For they are a perverse generation,
Sons in whom is no faithfulness.”

A terrifying consequence!

Deuteronomy 32:19-20

The LORD saw this, and spurned them
Because of the provocation of His sons and daughters.

Then He said, “**I will hide My face from them,**

I will see what their end shall be;
For they are a perverse generation,
Sons in whom is no faithfulness.”

What will their end be?

Deuteronomy 32:19-20

The LORD saw this, and spurned them
Because of the provocation of His sons and daughters.
Then He said, “I will hide My face from them,

I will see what their end shall be;

For they are a perverse generation,
Sons in whom is no faithfulness.”

He had told them...

Deuteronomy 7:4

For they will turn your sons away
from following Me to serve other gods;
then the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you
and **He will quickly destroy you.**

This song restates it...

Deuteronomy 32:21-22

They have made Me jealous with what is not God;
They have provoked Me to anger with their idols.
So I will make them jealous with those who are not a people;
I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation,
For a fire is kindled in My anger,
And burns to the lowest part of Sheol,
And consumes the earth with its yield,
And sets on fire the foundations of the mountains.

This song restates it...

Deuteronomy 32:23-25

I will heap misfortunes on them;
I will use My arrows on them.

They will be wasted by famine, and consumed by plague

And bitter destruction;

And the teeth of beasts I will send upon them,
With the venom of crawling things of the dust.

Outside the sword will bereave,
And inside terror — Both young man and virgin,
The nursling with the man of gray hair.

Because people are disinclined to believe God will act in judgment, they need His warnings restated in ways that help them see it.



What warning does He give us?

Hebrews 10:26-31

For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the *fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries.*

Choosing to continue in sin after learning the gospel reveals contempt for Christ's sacrifice.

This should terrify the sinner.



A Word of Grace to Us!

Deuteronomy 32:21-22

They have made Me jealous with what is not God;
They have provoked Me to anger with their idols.
So I will make them jealous with those who are not a people;
I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation,
For a fire is kindled in My anger,
And burns to the lowest part of Sheol,
And consumes the earth with its yield,
And sets on fire the foundations of the mountains.

A Word of Grace to Us!

Deuteronomy 32:21-22

They have made Me jealous with what is not God;
They have provoked Me to anger with their idols.

**So I will make them jealous with those who are not a people;
I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation,**

For a fire is kindled in My anger,
And burns to the lowest part of Sheol,
And consumes the earth with its yield,
And sets on fire the foundations of the mountains.

Paul's Application

Romans 10:19

But I say, surely Israel did not know, did they?

First Moses says,

*"I will make you jealous by that which is not a nation,
by a nation without understanding will I anger you."*

Romans 11:11

I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they?

May it never be! But by their transgression

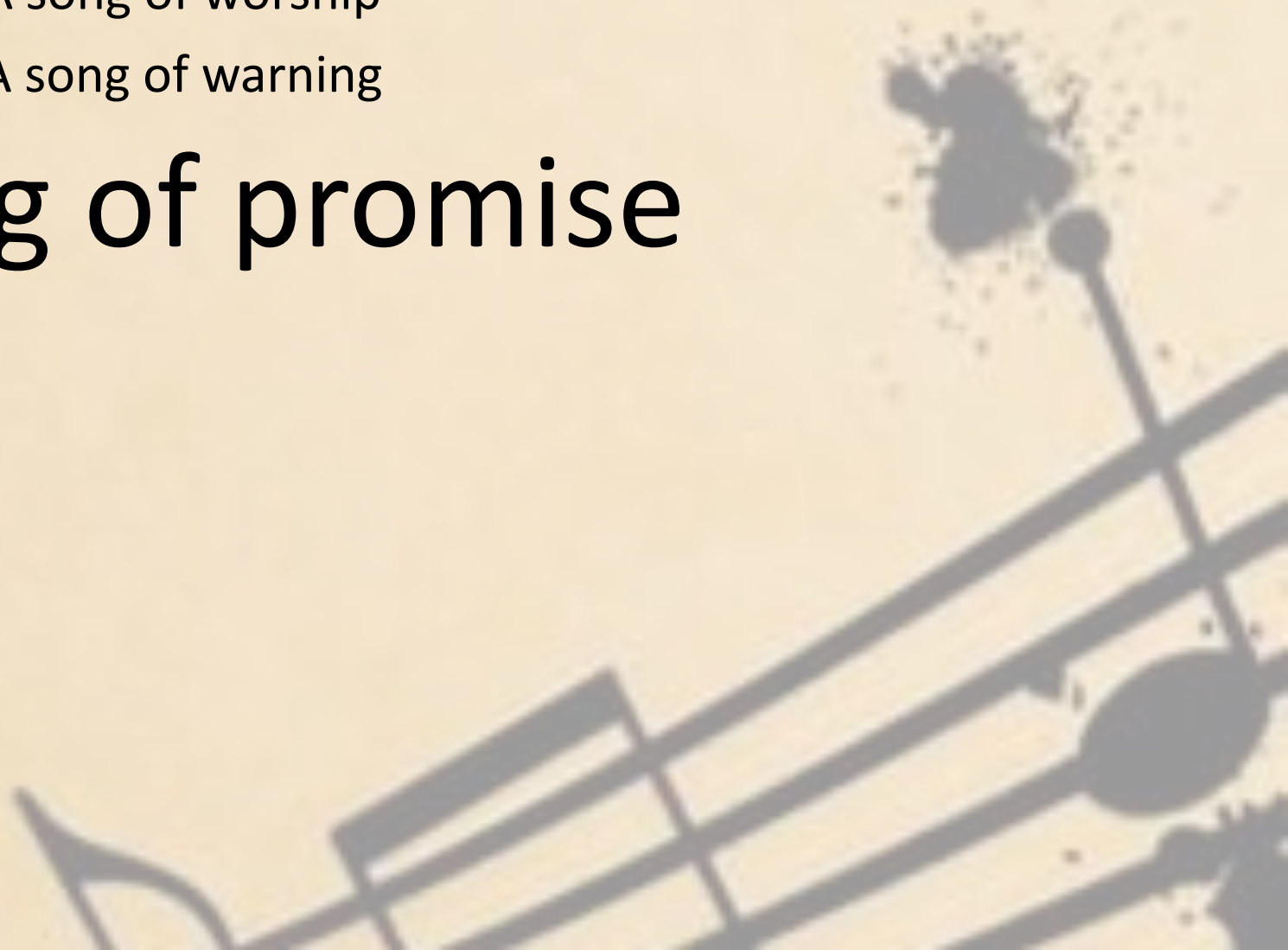
**salvation has come to the Gentiles,
to make them jealous.**

Worship, Warning, and Promise

A song of worship

A song of warning

A song of promise



As a song of promise...

It is a renewal of *covenant* promise



Their singing of this song would
be the LORD's voice renewing
the promises of His covenant and
calling them to do the same.



Deuteronomy 32:43

Rejoice, O nations, with His people;
For He will avenge the blood of His servants,
And will render vengeance on His adversaries,
And will atone for His land and His people.

Notice the promise that is implicit
to the nations and that ought
to move **us** to rejoice.

As a song of promise...

It is a renewal of covenant promises

It is a reiteration of *the LORD's*
promised redemption



Deuteronomy 32:43

Rejoice, O nations, with His people;
For He will avenge the blood of His servants,
And will render vengeance on His adversaries,
And will atone for His land and His people.

Deuteronomy 32:43

Rejoice, O nations, with His people;

For **He** will avenge the blood of His servants,

And will render vengeance on His adversaries,

And **will atone for His land and His people.**

Deuteronomy 32:43

Rejoice, O nations, with His people;

For **He** will avenge the blood of His servants,

And will render vengeance on His adversaries,

And **will atone** for His land and His people.

This was fulfilled in Christ!

But Jesus did more than *cover* sin.
He ***removed*** it once for all!



1 Peter 3:18

For Christ also died for sins **once for all**,
the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God,
having been put to death in the flesh,
but made alive in the spirit.

What is the right response
to these things?

Mark 1:15

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand;
repent and believe in the gospel.”

Conclusions

Proper worship is grounded in proper understanding.

Are you actively growing in your knowledge of God?

God's warnings are means of grace to you.

**Are you taking them seriously
or have they become too familiar to you?**

The gospel of God and the promises of His covenant
are held out to you in Christ.

Are you repenting and believing the gospel?

