**Scripture Reading:** Exodus 20:1-17 & Isaiah 44:1-23

**Singing:** 349:1-4 – 428:6 – 380:1-4 – 357:3-4 – 425:4-6

Opening observations

* Though Isaiah’s voice is silent, God’s voice speaks to us in His Word
* Note the great similarities between Israel and us: *we are in a similar spiritual* ***position*** *and* ***condition***
  + Both are chosen by God’s sovereign grace
  + Both are marked by God’s covenant sign
  + Both are transgressors from the womb

**The LORD’s Amazing Message to Us**

I. The LORD calls us to *hear Him despite His deserved judgment* (vs. 1-2)

A. “Yet now hear …” stands in contrast to what He just spoke(Is. 43:28)

1. God feels offended – dishonored and therefore is angry with us and

our children

B. What does the LORD call out: *Fear not, O Jacob and Jeshurun!*

1. Fear is to be expected in such put away in anger!

2. Yet how amazing that He calls us *not to fear*

II. The LORD promises to *remember us and our seed in grace* (3-4)

A. What reasons does the LORD give us not to fear?

1. Our days and our spiritual condition are fearsome and discouraging!

B. “Yet though in this condition, I am ready to bless and restore!” (vs. 3)

1. The LORD’s promise of His Spirit provides hope: fruit of this Spirit is

*new heart – new spirit – cleansing*

a. Be exercised in prayer and fasting with this promise: Ezek. 36:37

III. The LORD predicts the *extension of His Church* (5-6)

A. Such pouring out of Spirit is going to change our *community – nation*

1. God predicts that *His despised Israel* would become *desired*

IV. The LORD reminds us *of Who He is* (7-8)

A. All seems so unlikely in the condition then and now

B. Therefore God reminds us about Who He is and will be!

V. The LORD calls us remember His grace so we return to Him (21-22)

A. God concludes His amazing message to His people with more grace

1. He calls us to remember all He has spoken and done to us

2. He calls us to consider His forgiveness of sins (vs. 22))

a. He reveals that He is *not dwelling* on our sins but reaching out

His loving-kindness to us

b. the glory of God’s character of love and grace is set before us to

allure us to return to Him!

B. This closing call to return is the echo of His earlier call in 1:18.

**Finally:** *Will we join heaven and earth in singing like Isaiah 44:23?*