



Second Sunday of Advent

That's quite a migrant caravan, those tens of millions of people who, rejoicing that they have been "remembered by God," will return to Jerusalem "borne aloft in glory." Let's see. There would be the thousands deported out of Israel by the Assyrians (722 BC). Following them would be the hundreds of thousands "led on foot by their enemies" out of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar (597- 587 BC.). Next, the millions expelled from, and denied access to, Jerusalem by the Romans (132 AD).

And that's just the Hebrew people, in the short window of time between the Assyrian invasion and the final deportation by the Romans. Can we begin to imagine the numbers of human beings who have been driven off their land, robbed and naked, and forced to begin again in a foreign land among foreign peoples?

Such has been the way of the world throughout history. Misery begets misery. The Palestinian Christians, who have lived in the land of Jesus' birth for two thousand years, have been bullied and harassed by both of the larger ethnic groups—themselves the victims of unparalleled suffering— so much that, today, they make up less than 2% of the population.

All those refugees shall return one day, says the prophet Baruch. That's a lot of mountains that need lowering, a lot of ancient gorges that need to be lifted up. That's a huge workload for every believer, the gigantic and prophetic task of building lasting peace in the world. Come, Lord Jesus.

What losses of your own will be restored when Jesus comes again in glory?