

Fr. Glenn's Pen

We hear from the book of Baruch in the first reading. Baruch is one of the Deutero-Canonical books, that literally means "second-canon". This is one of the five books and parts of two others that is found in the Greek translation of the Old Testament and not in the Hebrew versions that are available today. The focus is Jerusalem. We believe that Jesus has inaugurated a New Jerusalem, a Jerusalem that is not so much a geographical place, but rather a place that is found in every Christian's heart.

It is hard for us to conceive how difficult it was to travel for the ancient peoples, especially for us from the flat lands of Indiana. To even go short distances meant usually descending into a valley or climbing over some mountain, that is just plain and simple... very hard work. In one sense in our modern world, many hills have been made low and valleys made level. We can even go through mountains! Jerusalem was believed to be the spiritual center for the world. God Himself dwelt in Jerusalem. Using a Hebrew idiom, God "tented" with His people. He pitched His tent and dwelt among them! Now He dwells every where the Tabernacle lamp glows. His real presence is truly manifest in every corner of the globe.

Jesus came to fulfill the prophecies of old. Jesus paved the way for all humanity to be saved. All can see the glory of God, but many fail to recognize what they are seeing! Many young people are given such skewed views of where true happiness can be found. It is no wonder that many in our world seem to hate the United States, imagine how difficult it would be to draw accurate perceptions from today's movies and the media?

God gives us the ability to truly encounter Him in the sacraments, and yet it seems the majority of Catholics fail to grasp the power and beauty of the Sacraments. My friends let us pray that we may be able to see the Truth as it really is and not be blinded and confused by the conflicting and destructive forces that are bent on the destruction of goodness. Prepare the way of the Lord! May Jesus help us to see His real and abiding presence in our world and in one another!