

The word *Jeshurun* in verse 15 means “upright people.” It is a poetic name for the people of Israel, much as *Zion* is a poetic name for Jerusalem. The word appears in four verses altogether:

“But Jeshurun grew fat, and kicked; you grew fat, stout, and sleek; then he forsook God who made him and scoffed at the Rock of his salvation” (Deuteronomy 32:15).

“Thus the Lord became king in Jeshurun, when the heads of the people were gathered, all the tribes of Israel together” (Deuteronomy 33:5).

“There is none like God, O Jeshurun, who rides through the heavens to your help, through the skies in his majesty” (Deuteronomy 33:26).

“Thus says the Lord who made you, who formed you from the womb and will help you: Fear not, O Jacob my servant, Jeshurun whom I have chosen” (Isaiah 44:2).

The last verse reminds us that the Israelites were an “upright people” only through God’s election, not by their own righteousness. And Jeshurun is used ironically in this chapter. God’s people have grown fat and complacent, forsaking God and His holiness.

1 Peter 2:9 tells believers that *“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession.”* We are the Jeshurun today. We should always ask ourselves, how did we become a holy nation? And how should we walk as one?

Questions:

1. Why do you think Moses gives a song to the people on the eve of his departure?

2. Summarize the message in each of these sections of Moses’ song:

Verses 1-4

Verses 5-6

Verses 7-14

Verses 15-18

Verses 19-27

Verses 28-38

Verses 39-43