

Deuteronomy 32

May 15, 2024

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 complacency, 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