

Wednesday 22 April 2020

Ez.16, 8: *"I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the LORD God, and you became mine."*

Gal.3, 26: *"In Christ you are all sons of God, through faith."*

Ez.16, 8 does not describe an event which happened because of the happy collusion of two compatibles – God's gracious care and turning to Jerusalem to make her his on the one hand, and Jerusalem's joyous and loving response to him on the other hand. there really would be an analogy in the popular idea that God's covenant with us in Christ (God saying we are all *his sons*) is the result of two positively related things acting in combination (like in a handshake!). God offering grace in Christ and man by his own free will accepting it.

But not only was God's gracious care in which he chose and blessed Jerusalem unilateral (it really was grace!), it found Jerusalem incompatible and responding to his faithfulness with blatant and sustained unfaithfulness.

God's choosing is not of those who choose him (there would be none for him to choose) but of such as reject him and give what is due to him to idols.

If we all through faith in Christ are *sons of the living God* (are what Christ is!), it is not because we were free to choose Christ but because Christ died for us to make us free while we were yet incompatible.