

Friday 1st October 2021

*Jer.31,8: "See, I will bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the ends of the earth. Among them will be the blind and the lame, expectant mothers and women in labour; a great throng will return."*

*Lk.14,16-17: Jesus said: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'"*

Here is described what through Jesus has become reality and is accessed and owned by faith in him. The gathering is into the body of Christ, the people of God, and the return is from the exile that is alienation from God in sin and death, to life with God in righteousness and justice, even life everlasting.

The 'lame and blind' of the promise show that this is not by merit or one's own strength, but by grace and the will of God; the 'expectant mothers and women in labour' shows that those who are so gathered (= believers in Christ!) shall be "in hope" and will bring fruit, their weakness will not bring them to fall but will serve the glory of the grace of Christ.