

PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE

Jeremiah 30-33

Talk about a crisis! Judah's headed for destruction

Even in the midst of the crisis,

God gives His wayward people a promise of restoration.

God isn't finished with His people.

There's still hope for the future.

He still has a plan for their good.

"I know the plans I have for you; plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.... You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart."

And when will THAT be?!!

[Trace the development of Jeremiah's message up to Jer. 29.]

ACCUSATION AND EXHORTATION 2-20

Eight Messages of Warning 2:1-19:13

Accusation of sin and idolatry

Israel's Response to the warnings 19:14-20:18

They're "stiff-necked"

PREDICTION OF CAPTIVITY 21-39

2nd set of prophecies directed to Judah deals specifically with the captivity.

Eight messages of judgment 21-29

Because of sin and rebellion, God's going to judge Judah.

Jerusalem will be destroyed.

In spite of false assurances by false prophets,
captives will remain in Babylon 70 yrs.

Settle in Babylon. Wait for restoration God promised—AFTER 70 years!

Future restoration 30-33

Theological backdrop—World importance of Israel.

Small country, about 240 miles long by 70 miles wide.

Yet 2 superpowers have been ready to go to war over her.

Other nations threaten to destroy her.

Israel exists after 4000 years of history.

She's suffered opposition, wars, dispersion, and death.

Yet she continues to exist. WHY??!!

God's plan for Israel

Many Christians don't understand the importance of this passage,
because they don't understand God's plan for Israel.

Jeremiah reminds them of significance of God's continuing plan for them.

Jeremiah 30-33 is based on God's plan.

Significance of covenants:

Covenants explain events and messages described in Jer.

Abrahamic—God's unconditional promise

=> Palestinian (land), Davidic (seed, throne), New (blessing)

Mosaic–conditional–requirements for blessing <= Deut. 28-30

Jeremiah 30-33

Strong prediction of judgment requires reconfirmation of promise of restoration.

God has not abandoned nor forgotten His people.

He will fulfill His promise to them.

His covenants which promise land, seed and blessing WILL be fulfilled.

His covenant with David will be fulfilled.

Before Israel can experience blessings God promised, they must return to Him.

God's plan to bless His people is reconfirmed and explained.

Jeremiah uses background of coming judgment (2-29; 30:1-16)

so the people might realize the significance of what is happening.

Israel's restoration is explained against backdrop of suffering.

Immediate application is related to the Babylonian invasion.

It goes further, however, to describe Israel's experience in the tribulation.

Ultimate promised restoration won't take place until sometime in the future.

The purpose of the tribulation 30:1-16

30:1-16 describes the tribulation Israel is going to suffer.

Notice repetition of "I" –referring to what God will do.

What will God do? Why is He going to do this?

Purpose of tribulation is to prepare God's people for restoration.

God wants them to realize that both present suffering

and their future restoration are from Him.

Pagan nations are not in control; God is in control.

What is God's purpose? 30:3 "The days are coming," declares the Lord, 'when I will bring my people Israel and Judah back from captivity and restore them to the land I gave their forefathers to possess.'"

God wants to bless His people.

What's the reason for her suffering? 30:15

"Why do you cry out over your wound, your pain that has no cure?

Because of your great guilt and many sins I have done these things to you."

The reason for her suffering is SIN.

Does God want to destroy her?

What does He want to do? Why? 30:11

'I am with you and will save you,' declares the Lord. 'Though I completely destroy all the nations among which I scatter you, I will not completely destroy you. I will discipline you but only with justice; I will not let you go entirely unpunished.'

Discipline is the means of bringing her to turn back to God.

When they repent, God will judge nations that mistreated them.

God wants to show her His love by blessing them.
 Before God can bless His people,
 He must discipline them, so they will return to Him.
 When they turn back to Him, He will bless them.

Discipline => Repentance => Blessing *Any lessons for us?*

Restoration of the people 30:17-33:26

After time of corrective suffering, God begins restoration of His people.

Promises of the Palestinian Covenant 30:17-31:26

God promises to restore them to the land.
 He will send blessings He promised in Palestinian covenant.
What specific blessings does God promise them?

God promises all blessings in the Abrahamic Covenant.

Specifically, He will restore the land He promised them.

The land will produce fruit in abundance.

As a result, people will rejoice in the blessings of the Lord.

In the light of these promises what should Israel expect God to do for them?

How do these promises relate to what's happening in Israel today?

How should we/our country treat Israel today?

Promises of the New Covenant 31:27-40

God also promises to fulfill that part of His covenant.

Confession of sin 29-30

How have the people interpreted what's happened to them?

²⁷ "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will plant the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the offspring of men and of animals. ²⁸ Just as I watched over them to uproot and tear down, and to overthrow, destroy and bring disaster, so I will watch over them to build and to plant," declares the Lord. ²⁹ "In those days people will no longer say, 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge.' ³⁰ Instead, everyone will die for his own sin; whoever eats sour grapes—his own teeth will be set on edge.

What is the significance of *their* saying?

What is the *true* significance of what's happened?

What change takes place "in those days?"

They will recognize their own sin and repent.

Reception of blessing 31-34 What benefits will they receive?

³¹ "The time is coming," declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because **they broke my covenant**, though I was a husband to them," declares the Lord. ³³ "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. **"I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.** I will be their God, and they will be my people. ³⁴ No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from

the least of them to the greatest,” declares the Lord. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

These verses summarize the New Covenant.

What characteristics do you observe in this covenant?

Focus is on *spiritual* blessings.

God is going to give them a new attitude—they’ll seek Him.

Why a NEW covenant? What’s wrong with the old?

How will this change the relationship between God and Israel?

How does this relate to the covenant promises?

What should Israel DO about this promise?

How should this promise affect US?

Certainty of fulfillment 35-37

How sure is this promise to change their heart and bless them?

³⁵ *This is what the Lord says, he who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—the Lord Almighty is his name.*³⁶ *“Only if these decrees vanish from my sight,” declares the Lord, “will the descendants of Israel ever cease to be a nation before me.”*³⁷ *This is what the Lord says: “Only if the heavens above can be measured and the foundations of the earth below be searched out will I reject all the descendants of Israel because of all they have done,” declares the Lord.*

God’s going to give them a new attitude so they’ll seek Him.

Promise is as sure as the stars in the sky.

As long as stars stay in place, Israel can be sure God will fulfill His promise!

What is the significance of these illustrations?

How does promise relate to people who say God’s finished with Israel?

How should we act on the basis of this promise?

Illustration of Hanamel’s field 32:1-44

Background

About 587-586 Nebuchadnezzar attacks Jerusalem (2nd time)

Jeremiah’s in jail for preaching that the city is going to be taken.

The act – What happens? 32:6-9 “Jeremiah said, “The word of the Lord came to me:

⁷ *‘Hanamel son of Shallum your uncle is going to come to you and say, ‘Buy my field at Anathoth, because as nearest relative it is your right and duty to buy it.’*⁸ *“Then, just as the Lord said, my cousin Hanamel came to me in the courtyard of the guard and said, ‘Buy my field at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. Since it is your right to redeem it and possess it, buy it for yourself.’* *“I knew that this was the word of the Lord;”⁹ so I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel ...*

What would everyone think?

He has the legal right to buy it. Why would he buy property now?

Wouldn’t this cause people to doubt his message?

Perhaps he’s preaching this so everyone will sell him their land.

The significance

Troubled times Jeremiah lives in are not likely to convince Israel that God will fulfill His promises to Judah.

Nebuchadnezzar is attacking Jerusalem.

Jeremiah's in jail for preaching that the city is going to be taken.

Suddenly Jeremiah invests in real estate.

Either he's crazy; or, he knows something others don't know!

Significance demonstrated by **what he does with the deed** (32:14).

What does he do with the deed? **32:13-15**

13 "In their presence I gave Baruch these instructions: 14 'This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Take these documents, both the sealed and unsealed copies of the deed of purchase, and put them in a clay jar **so they will last a long time**. 15 For this is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Houses, fields and vineyards will again be bought in this land.'

He puts it in a clay jar to store for a long time.

The lesson shows certainty that God will restore them to the land.

That deed will be valuable again. But not yet!

It will be seventy years before it will be useful; but, it will be useful!

They'll be restored. They'll have use for the land again.

But the deed won't do him any good for a while.

The explanation **32:26ff** Even Jeremiah needs an explanation!

24-25 -notice his doubts

"See how the siege ramps are built up to take the city. Because of the sword, famine and plague, the city will be handed over to the Babylonians who are attacking it. What you said has happened, as you now see. 25 And though the city will be handed over to the Babylonians, you, O Sovereign Lord, say to me, 'Buy the field with silver and have the transaction witnessed.' "

26-29 -judgment will come

26 Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: 27 "I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me? 28 Therefore, this is what the Lord says: I am about to hand this city over to the Babylonians and to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, who will capture it. 29 The Babylonians who are attacking this city will come in and set it on fire; they will burn it down, along with the houses where the people provoked me to anger by burning incense on the roofs to Baal and by pouring out drink offerings to other gods.

36-44 -your purchase is a sign

36 "You are saying about this city, 'By the sword, famine and plague it will be handed over to the king of Babylon'; but this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 37 I will surely gather them from all the lands where I banish them in my furious anger and great wrath; I will bring them back to this place and let them live in safety. 38 They will be my people, and I will be their God... **44** Fields will be bought for silver, and deeds will be signed, sealed and witnessed in the territory of Benjamin, in the villages around Jerusalem, in the towns of Judah and in the towns

of the hill country, of the western foothills and of the Negev, because I will restore their fortunes, declares the Lord.”

I'm going to restore Israel

That deed WILL be a good investment (some day)

But not yet! It's 70 years away.

Promises of the Davidic Covenant 33:1-26

Restoration of the King upon the throne of David.

Summary statement of restoration of the land is repeated. 1-13

1-9 *While Jeremiah was still confined in the courtyard of the guard, the word of the Lord came to him a second time: 2 “This is what the Lord says, he who made the earth, the Lord who formed it and established it—the Lord is his name: 3 ‘**Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.**’ ... 7 I will bring Judah and Israel back from captivity and will rebuild them as they were before. 8 I will cleanse them from all the sin they have committed against me and will forgive all their sins of rebellion against me. 9 Then this city will bring me renown, joy, praise and honor before all nations on earth that hear of all the good things I do for it; and they will be in awe and will tremble at the abundant prosperity and peace I provide for it.’*

God promises to place a descendant of David on throne again. 14-26

What illustrations does he use to teach them what God will do?

20-26 *“This is what the Lord says: ‘If you can break my covenant with the day and my covenant with the night, so that **day and night** no longer come at their appointed time,²¹ then my covenant with David my servant—and my covenant with the Levites who are priests ministering before me—can be broken and David will no longer have a descendant to reign on his throne.²² I will make the descendants of David my servant and the Levites who minister before me as countless as **the stars of the sky** and as measureless as the **sand on the seashore.**’ ”*

24 *“Have you not noticed that these people are saying, ‘The Lord has rejected the two kingdoms he chose’? So they despise my people and no longer regard them as a nation. 25 This is what the Lord says: ‘If I have not established my covenant with **day and night** and the **fixed laws of heaven and earth**, 26 then I will reject the descendants of Jacob and David my servant and will not choose one of his sons to rule over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. For **I will restore their fortunes and have compassion on them.**’ ”*

What do these illustrations demonstrate?

Object lessons from day and night, from the stars, and from the quantity of the sand are presented as **guarantees that God will finally restore His people and fulfill the Davidic covenant.**

The promise of restoration emphasizes that God will fulfill each of His unconditional covenants with Israel.

He will restore their land.

He will restore their blessing.

**He will put His Spirit within them.
Also, He will restore His king upon the throne.**

APPLICATION—What do we learn from ...

What lessons should we learn concerning God's plan in the 21st Century?

What should WE do in the light of these messages?

What should our country do in the light of these messages?

What does this passage tell us about God's plan for *OUR* life?