

Jer. 31:23-25 “Satisfaction and Satisfaction”

For the Children: My parents used to leave a large pile of Christmas presents on my bed on Christmas Eve. I looked forward to opening them when the sun came up in the morning (or sometimes before it came up!). Sometimes, I was disappointed. There were many presents given, but I did not always get what I wanted, or appreciate what was given. That feeling of missing out on what you want usually comes because we think we *deserve* more. It usually means we do not value what we have enough. It shows up our ingratitude. The Lord has given us far more than we can imagine. He has promised to keep on doing so. He fully satisfies our needs – as He sees them, not always as we do. We do not value this as much as we should. We are not as grateful or trusting as we should be. **Questions:** Make a list of the ways God has blessed you. What more do you think you should have? How can you learn to be more satisfied with the Lord's giving?

Introduction:

First Point: A Promise of Blessing

- 1) The One Who Promises: These promises are from the “Lord of Hosts.” “Hosts” implies that He is able to control armies of angels and men where He wishes. “Lord” (Yahweh) identifies Him as the eternal, unchanging, independent God of the covenant. “God” implies His sovereign, universal power. “Of Israel” implies that He has set His love on Israel in particular. Such a God can surely deliver what He promises!
- 2) A Promise of Restoration for All of Judah: The Lord promises that His people will return from exile and be restored. The result will return to their place all of His people, from city-folk to farmers and shepherds. The Lord is still the God who restores. He does so for us through His Son. See Acts 15:16. Jesus’ work will eventually restore the whole of Creation.
- 3) A Promise of Blessing: We can also expect God’s blessing in the future. Judah would again pronounce the Aaronic blessing (Num. 6:24-26). We, too, pronounce this and other NT benedictions in our services. For the Lord is the God who blesses His people.
- 4) A Promise of Grace: This blessing is, however, undeserved – it is by grace. Judah was a “prodigal daughter, wandering to and fro (v. 22). By grace, she was allowed “home” again. Her mourning was turned into joy. We need the same grace in order to be blessed.

Second Point: A Promise of Satisfaction

- 1) To the Weary and Languishing: The promise of satisfaction comes to those who are “weary and languishing.” God’s people were exhausted from exile, anxious, distressed, hungry, thirsty and poor. They cried to the Lord when they realized only He could deliver them. This is the language of the Beatitudes – the Gospel-promise of help for the spiritually needy.
- 2) A Promise of Super-Abundance: . The blessings promised in the Beatitudes are super-abundant. That super-abundance is indicated in our text by the term, “satisfaction” – for the Lord gives all we need and more, an “objective” satisfaction.
- 3) But Are We Satisfied?: Our subjective response to the Lord’s generous giving may be termed “subjective satisfaction,” or “contentment.” See 1 Tim. 6:6. Living as we do in an affluent society, where many have a sense of entitlement, we easily forget the magnitude and certainty of God’s giving. We are easily infected with the world’s restlessness and fear of changing circumstances. We should ask the Lord to enable us to be satisfied with the way He satisfied us!

Conclusion:

