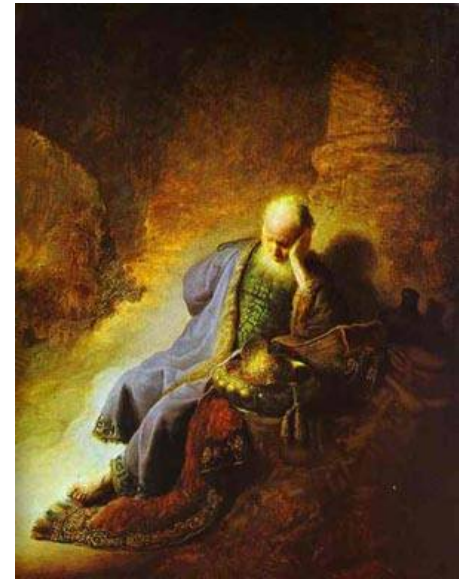


5. All nations will acknowledge Christ as King and the Jew as God's people (17).
 - a. The world capital will be Jerusalem, and the city will be known as the "Throne of Jehovah."
 - b. All nations will acknowledge the "name of the Lord." (Sorry, no multi-culturalism here!)
 - b. All nations will gather to Jerusalem—just as representatives of states gather at Washington.
 - c. Nations will no longer be self-willed. Rather, they will exist under the rule of Christ to do His will.
6. Israel and Judah will be reunited into one kingdom again (18).
 - a. The kingdom was divided soon after Solomon's reign, around 931 BC.
 - b. Such reuniting of the tribes has not yet taken place in history.
 - c. The reuniting will take place in the "land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers." Only the ancient land of Israel fits this description!
 - d. The reuniting will come as a result of regathering of Jews from the "land of the north." Many Scriptures promise the gathering of Jews from every part of the earth, but particular emphasis is given to their escaping northern countries—the countries that have been most vehement in their persecution of the Jew!

B i b l e S t u d y

Great Prophecies of the Bible

The Weeping Prophet Predicts a
Happy Future for Israel—Jer. 3



Introduction: Jeremiah prophesied to Judah on the eve of their being carried away captive to Babylon (586 BC). He lived through that event, possibly dying as late as 561 BC (age 85-90). Jeremiah's message is a condemnation of Judah's sin, prediction of judgment, and promise of restoration to God's favor. Woven within the prophecy are predictions of Judah's glorious future during the coming Millennial Kingdom.

I. Premillennialism and the Prophecies of Jeremiah

- A. Simply stated, *premillennialism* is the Scriptural idea that Christ will return prior to establishing His literal kingdom.
- B. *Amillennialism* teaches that there will be no literal kingdom, with all the kingdom promises relegated to the church and somehow fulfilled in this present age.
- C. *Postmillennialism* teaches that the church will usher in Christ's return by Christianizing the world. Once the kingdom is in place by the effort of the church, Christ will return.
- D. 3 Advantages of Premillennialism
 1. Philosophy of History—God is able to complete what He began in history, fulfilling literally promises made to the patriarchs and to David. God's activities do involve geography and politics.
 2. System of Interpretation—literal as opposed to spiritual fulfillment. Also, premillennialism rightly treats the Abrahamic and Davidic covenants as *unconditional* or *unilateral*, not conditional and bilateral. The unconditional, unilateral nature of these covenants is unquestionably clear, as God only obligated Himself in their fulfillment—not dependent on obedience.
 3. Theology of Salvation-history—God's word of judgment to Judah is not His final word. In fact, He promises in grace to gather His scattered people and to save them *in spite of* their actions. God's dealings of grace with Israel mirror His dealings of grace with His church. God does not cast off His people—he always has a remnant according to grace (Rom. 11:5).

II. Jeremiah's Promises of Restoration and Blessing (3:14-

- A. In the first 29 chapters of his book, Jeremiah condemns Israel and Judah for their sin. However, he repeatedly calls them to repentance—promising that God would stay His judging hand.
- B. Though both Judah and Israel refused repentance, the Prophet predicted their eventual return to the Lord and national restoration. These promises have never been fulfilled in history:
 1. The Lord will not forget the smallest Jewish remnant exiled in any foreign city (14). Not all of the exiles in Babylon returned, but “in those days” all Jews will return to their promised homeland (Ezek. 34:11-16).
 2. The rulers (“shepherds”) will rule after God's heart (15).
 - a. A direct reference to David, a man after God's own heart (I Sam. 13:14).
 - b. Christ will reign in Jerusalem and David will act as a prince (Ezek. 34:23, 24).
 3. The nation will multiply and increase rapidly in their land (16)—(Jer. 23:3, Rom. 11:12—*their increase*).
 - a. During the Millennial Kingdom, Israel's population will experience exponential growth.
 - b. Note the population increase will be “in the land,” a technical term denoting Israel's ancient geographical borders.
 4. The Ark of the Covenant will no longer be regarded as the seat of God's presence (16).
 - a. The Ark of the Covenant served as the seat of God Himself for national Israel (I. Sam. 4:4).
 - b. Apparently, the Ark of the Covenant will be part of the furnishings of the tribulation temple.
 - c. The importance of the Ark will no longer impress the minds of God's people, because the throne of God will be in Jerusalem, and God will be seated upon the throne in the person of Christ.