

Journey through Jeremiah Part 37

A sermon series by Pastor Byron Chesney, Th.D. – Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2017

† **Jeremiah 32:1-44**

Tonight we begin by reading the 21st prophecy that was given to Jeremiah the prophet.

1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar.

[*In the tenth year of Zedekiah*] The siege of Jerusalem had actually started in the ninth year of Zedekiah's reign, however, when the Chaldeans, heard that an Egyptian army was approaching, they left the city for a time. Jeremiah took advantage of this to leave Jerusalem, in order to visit his property at Anathoth. When he did this, he was charged with falling away to the Chaldeans, and in spite of his denial was imprisoned.

We read about this in

Jeremiah 37:11-15

11 And it came to pass, that when the army of the Chaldeans was broken up from Jerusalem for fear of Pharaoh's army,

12 Then Jeremiah went forth out of Jerusalem to go into the land of Benjamin, to separate himself thence in the midst of the people.

13 And when he was in the gate of Benjamin, a captain of the ward was there, whose name was Irijah, the son of Shelemiah, the son of Hananiah; and he took Jeremiah the prophet, saying, Thou fallest away to the Chaldeans.

14 Then said Jeremiah, *It is false*; I fall not away to the Chaldeans. But he hearkened not to him: so Irijah took Jeremiah, and brought him to the princes.

15 Wherefore the princes were wroth with Jeremiah, and smote him, and put him in prison in the house of Jonathan the scribe: for they had made that the prison.

2 For then the king of Babylon's army besieged Jerusalem: and Jeremiah the prophet was shut up in the court of the prison, which was in the king of Judah's house.

3 For Zedekiah king of Judah had shut him up, saying, Wherefore dost thou prophesy, and say, Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall take it;

4 And Zedekiah king of Judah shall not escape out of the hand of the Chaldeans, but shall surely be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon, and shall speak with him mouth to mouth, and his eyes shall behold his eyes;

5 And he shall lead Zedekiah to Babylon, and there shall he be until I visit him, saith the LORD: though ye fight with the Chaldeans, ye shall not prosper.

We see from this that the real reason Zedekiah had locked up Jeremiah was because he was angry that Jeremiah had prophesied and said that he was going to be taken prisoner and Jerusalem was going to be taken by Nebuchadnezzar.

I have to mention again that the chapters in the Book of Jeremiah are not in chronological order. We don't read about this prophecy that Jeremiah gave concerning the taking of Jerusalem and the imprisonment of Zedekiah until we get to

Jeremiah 34:1-3

1 The word which came unto Jeremiah from the LORD, when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and all his army, and all the kingdoms of the earth of his dominion, and all the people, fought against Jerusalem, and against all the cities thereof, saying,

2 Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel; Go and speak to Zedekiah king of Judah, and tell him, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire:

3 And thou shalt not escape out of his hand, but shalt surely be taken, and delivered into his hand; and thine eyes shall behold the eyes of the king of Babylon, and he shall speak with thee mouth to mouth, and thou shalt go to Babylon.

6 And Jeremiah said, The word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Verse 6 continues Jeremiah's prophecy that we began reading about in verse 1.

7 Behold, Hanameel the son of Shallum thine uncle shall come unto thee, saying, Buy thee my field that *is* in Anathoth: for the right of redemption *is* thine to buy *it*.

8 So Hanameel mine uncle's son came to me in the court of the prison according to the word of the LORD, and said unto me, Buy my field, I pray thee, that *is* in Anathoth, which *is* in the country of Benjamin: for the right of inheritance *is* thine, and the redemption *is* thine; buy *it* for thyself. Then I knew that this *was* the word of the LORD.

Hanameel was Jeremiah's first cousin. What has happened, apparently, is that Hanameel had fallen on hard times and needed money, or he was wanting to get out of town since the Chaldeans were invading, so he chose to use the right of kinsman to sell the land to Jeremiah. There were laws concerning the land, we read about that in **Leviticus 25:23-28**

23 The land shall not be sold for ever: for the land *is* mine; for ye *are* strangers and sojourners with me.

24 And in all the land of your possession ye shall grant a redemption for the land.

25 If thy brother be waxen poor, and hath sold away *some* of his possession, and if any of his kin come to redeem it, then shall he redeem that which his brother sold.

26 And if the man have none to redeem it, and himself be able to redeem it;

27 Then let him count the years of the sale thereof, and restore the overplus unto the man to whom he sold it; that he may return unto his possession.

28 But if he be not able to restore *it* to him, then that which is sold shall remain in the hand of him that hath bought it until the year of jubile: and in the jubile it shall go out, and he shall return unto his possession.

One thing you have to realize is that it was God's plan that Jeremiah fill the role of Kinsman Redeemer. Jeremiah is doing Hanameel a favor by doing this. Jeremiah wouldn't even get to use the land. He wasn't married and didn't have any children so he wouldn't even be using the land. The land was also under Chaldean control. So, he would never be able to go there and plant or live on that land. He is more or less just losing money on this deal, nevertheless, he states: "Then I knew that this *was* the word of the LORD."

9 And I bought the field of Hanameel my uncle's son, that *was* in Anathoth, and weighed him the money, *even* seventeen shekels of silver.

10 And I subscribed the evidence, and sealed *it*, and took witnesses, and weighed *him* the money in the balances.

11 So I took the evidence of the purchase, *both* that which was sealed *according* to the law and custom, and that which was open:

12 And I gave the evidence of the purchase unto Baruch the son of Neriah, the son of Maaseiah, in the sight of Hanameel mine uncle's *son*, and in the presence of the witnesses that subscribed the book of the purchase, before all the Jews that sat in the court of the prison.

13 And I charged Baruch before them, saying,
14 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Take these evidences, this evidence of the purchase, both which is sealed, and this evidence which is open; and put them in an earthen vessel, that they may continue many days.
15 For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Houses and fields and vineyards shall be possessed again in this land.

Jeremiah made sure everything was done fair and legal. He followed the letter of the law concerning this purchase. He was after all the man of God. There's nothing that gripes me more than hearing about a preacher that does shady deals. If you can't trust the man of God, who can you trust?

16 Now when I had delivered the evidence of the purchase unto Baruch the son of Neriah, I prayed unto the LORD, saying,

Let's pause for a second here. Now, we just read while ago that Jeremiah knew it was God's will that he purchase the land, and since Jeremiah is faithful and obedient to God then he did exactly what God asked. However, that doesn't mean that he understood WHY God would ask him to do such a thing. I mean, in our mind it was a crazy thing to do and I'm sure to Jeremiah he is also wondering why on earth the LORD would want him to make such a strange purchase. So, Jeremiah sits down and begins praying about it.

17 Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, *and* there is nothing too hard for thee:
18 Thou shewest lovingkindness unto thousands, and recompensest the iniquity of the fathers into the bosom of their children after them: the Great, the Mighty God, the LORD of hosts, *is* his name,
19 Great in counsel, and mighty in work: for thine eyes *are* open upon all the ways of the sons of men: to give every one according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings:
20 Which hast set signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, *even* unto this day, and in Israel, and among *other* men; and hast made thee a name, as at this day;
21 And hast brought forth thy people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs, and with wonders, and with a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with great terror;
22 And hast given them this land, which thou didst swear to their fathers to give them, a land flowing with milk and honey;

Jeremiah starts his prayer out by recognizing how great God is and all of his love toward his people and all of the things that He blessed them with. How He had brought them out of Egypt's bondage and had given them a land to live in.

23 And they came in, and possessed it; but they obeyed not thy voice, neither walked in thy law; they have done nothing of all that thou commandedst them to do: therefore thou hast caused all this evil to come upon them:
24 Behold the mounts, they are come unto the city to take it; and the city is given into the hand of the Chaldeans, that fight against it, because of the sword, and of the famine, and of the pestilence: and what thou hast spoken is come to pass; and, behold, thou seest *it*.

Then Jeremiah's prayer turns to how the Children of Israel disobeyed God and that He had caused the Chaldeans to invade and take their land. He's building up his case to ask the LORD a question.

25 And thou hast said unto me, O Lord GOD, Buy thee the field for money, and take witnesses; for the city is given into the hand of the Chaldeans.

Jeremiah is confused at why the LORD would ask him to make such a deal. It just doesn't make sense to him and he is just being open and honest with the LORD and asking him about it. Perhaps Jeremiah is thinking since the LORD directed him to buy this land that maybe he had changed His mind about the 70-years of captivity?

26 Then came the word of the LORD unto Jeremiah, saying,

Now, the LORD answers Jeremiah's prayer. It's not going to be the answer Jeremiah was hoping for. It is bad news and some good news.

27 Behold, I *am* the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?
28 Therefore thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the Chaldeans, and into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and he shall take it:

29 And the Chaldeans, that fight against this city, shall come and set fire on this city, and burn it with the houses, upon whose roofs they have offered incense unto Baal, and poured out drink offerings unto other gods, to provoke me to anger.
30 For the children of Israel and the children of Judah have only done evil before me from their youth: for the children of Israel have only provoked me to anger with the work of their hands, saith the LORD.

31 For this city hath been to me as a provocation of mine anger and of my fury from the day that they built it even unto this day; that I should remove it from before my face,
32 Because of all the evil of the children of Israel and of the children of Judah, which they have done to provoke me to anger, they, their kings, their princes, their priests, and their prophets, and the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.
33 And they have turned unto me the back, and not the face: though I taught them, rising up early and teaching *them*, yet they have not hearkened to receive instruction.
34 But they set their abominations in the house, which is called by my name, to defile it.

The LORD is definitely going to carry out His plan to allow the Chaldeans to destroy Jerusalem and take the land. He describes how the Children of Israel had provoked him to anger and was the cause for his wrath.

35 And they built the high places of Baal, which *are* in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through *the fire* unto Molech; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.

We have already studied this very in-depth back in Chapter 7 when we studied about Baal, Molech, Ashtoreth, Chemosh, Milcom, and the Queen of Heaven, so we are not going to expound upon this again tonight.

36 And now therefore thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning this city, whereof ye say, It shall be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence; 37 Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely: So, some good news mixed in with the bad. Although God is going to allow the enemy to invade, destroy and carry them off into captivity, He is also going to return them back to their land and protect them.

38 And they shall be my people, and I will be their God:

39 And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them:

40 And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.

41 Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul.

What wonderful words of love, grace, and compassion we find from the LORD. We know that the Jehovah of the Old Testament is the Jesus of the New Testament and these words that He is speaking here sound just like something that the LORD Jesus would say.

While this Scripture no doubt refers to the LORD restoring them back to their land after the 70-years of captivity, it is also speaking of a time in the future when the LORD will do this for all that belong to Him. When he defeats Satan and lifts the curse of sin and delivers us from all of the iniquity here on this earth.

42 For thus saith the LORD; Like as I have brought all this great evil upon this people, so will I bring upon them all the good that I have promised them.

43 And fields shall be bought in this land, whereof ye say, It is desolate without man or beast; it is given into the hand of the Chaldeans.

44 Men shall buy fields for money, and subscribe evidences, and seal *them*, and take witnesses in the land of Benjamin, and in the places about Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, and in the cities of the mountains, and in the cities of the valley, and in the cities of the south: for I will cause their captivity to return, saith the LORD.

So, now Jeremiah has his answer. His purchase of the field and assuming the role of the Kinsmen Redeemer is a type of what the LORD will do for His people. It is an assurance that things will return to the way they were, they would not lose their inheritance.

It was also a way for the Prophet to show to the people that Jeremiah wasn't just prophesying empty words but that he believed every word that proceedeth from the mouth of God and therefore was willing to obey him despite the circumstances they were in. People have much more faith in you actions than they do your words. It is a sermon being put into action.

I could stand up here and preach words all day long but unless I believe those words and practice those words then it is not doing you any good.

† All Scripture from the Authorized King James Version of the Bible