

Journey through Jeremiah Part 38, Promises of God

A sermon series by Pastor Byron Chesney, Th.D. – Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2017

† Jeremiah 33:1-26

1 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah the second time, while he was yet shut up in the court of the prison, saying,

This marks the 24th prophesy given to Jeremiah the Prophet by the LORD. We find the prophet still imprisoned in the court of the King of Judah's house. Jeremiah had been accused of being a traitor when he tried to go to Anathoth to see a piece of land that he had purchased, however, King Zedekiah is keeping him locked up because he is angry that Jeremiah has been prophesying against him and the Land of Judah.

2 Thus saith the LORD the maker thereof, the LORD that formed it, to establish it; the LORD *is* his name; 3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

Wow, can you imagine the LORD telling you things that no other person on earth would know about. These are things that only the LORD could reveal. Jeremiah had no way of knowing them or understanding them except the LORD show him.

4 For thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the houses of this city, and concerning the houses of the kings of Judah, which are thrown down by the mounts, and by the sword; 5 They come to fight with the Chaldeans, but *it is* to fill them with the dead bodies of men, whom I have slain in mine anger and in my fury, and for all whose wickedness I have hid my face from this city.

When the Chaldeans invaded they used battering rams to break down the walls of the city and the houses. Death and destruction was everywhere. The houses that once were homes to the inhabitants of Judah became graves filled with dead bodies. The LORD said that he hid his face from the city. That means that he allowed the enemy to invade and cause all of this to happen.

6 Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth. 7 And I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return, and will build them, as at the first.

But now the LORD promises he will restore their city and give them peace and truth. He will end their captivity and they will rebuild their city and dwell once again.

8 And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against me; and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me.

This verse of course is a double prophecy, as is much of the Book of Jeremiah. The language used here is the same language used by the LORD Jesus concerning Israel and the Church as well. It is a promise to cleanse from all our sins.

9 And it shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honour before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them: and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it.

More promises from the LORD to his people. He will make them a great nation once again and instead of people wagging their heads, clicking their tongues, and hissing at them, they will be in reverent fear when they see how mighty and powerful that God is and how he blesses and protects His people.

10 Thus saith the LORD; Again there shall be heard in this place, which ye say *shall be* desolate without man and without beast, *even* in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, that are desolate, without man, and without inhabitant, and without beast, 11 The voice of joy, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the voice of them that shall say, Praise the LORD of hosts: for the LORD *is* good; for his mercy *endureth* for ever: *and* of them that shall bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the LORD. For I will cause to return the captivity of the land, as at the first, saith the LORD.

The promises continue of the blessings. This is much like we have already studied. He gives the same examples of the voice of joy, gladness, bridegroom, and bride. All of these are sounds of celebration and happiness. That is what the Jews live for, their feasts and celebrations.

12 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Again in this place, which is desolate without man and without beast, and in all the cities thereof, shall be an habitation of shepherds causing *their* flocks to lie down. 13 In the cities of the mountains, in the cities of the vale, and in the cities of the south, and in the land of Benjamin, and in the places about Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, shall the flocks pass again under the hands of him that telleth *them*, saith the LORD.

If there was one thing they were known for it was the Shepherds, sheep, and flocks that they kept. Have you ever stopped to consider how many great men of God were shepherds? Abraham, Moses, David, and of course the LORD Jesus is called the Good Shepherd.

When the war, famine, and pestilence came it wiped out all of the sheep. The pastures were barren, all the animals that weren't taken by the Chaldeans were destroyed. The LORD promises that things will get back to normal and seeing the sheep being led by their Shepherds will be a common thing again. It's a symbol of abundant blessings.

This next section deals with the LORD's promises concerning his covenant with King David.

14 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. 15 In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land. 16 In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this *is the name* wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness.

These words are an echo of what He promised in **Jeremiah 23:5-6** Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. 6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this *is* his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

The promise to David was first given by the LORD through Nathan the Prophet: **2 Samuel 7:4-17:** And it came to pass that night, that the word of the LORD came unto Nathan, saying,

5 Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the LORD, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in?

6 Whereas I have not dwelt in *any* house since the time that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle.

7 In all *the places* wherein I have walked with all the children of Israel spake I a word with any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people Israel, saying, Why build ye not me an house of cedar?

8 Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheeppcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel:

9 And I was with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great *men* that are in the earth.

10 Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime,

11 And as since the time that I commanded judges *to be* over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the LORD telleth thee that he will make thee an house.

12 And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom.

13 He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.

14 I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:

15 But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took *it* from Saul, whom I put away before thee.

16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.

17 According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

While David's son Solomon certainly did take the throne after him and he did build the house of the LORD, this prophecy is concerning the Messianic prophecy of the coming of the Messiah, the King, the Lord Jesus. We know that from reading in the New Testament when Peter said this: **Acts 2:29-32: Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. 30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; 31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. 32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.**

And, of course in our opening text in **Jeremiah 33:15** the LORD said that he would cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land.

Jesus is the "righteous Branch" of David, meaning that Jesus' lineage can be traced back to the royal bloodline of David. He is the one that the throne will be established forever in. The word "Branch," comes from a Hebrew word which means "to sprout, bud, or spring up." The thought behind it is of a new sprout coming up from a dead or dying tree. The household of David had all but died away but God's promise was that the Messiah would branch out from the household of David.

That name, or description, "Branch," given to Jesus here, is used throughout the Bible and it is in reference to the Messiah.

We see it also in **Isaiah 4:2-3: In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel. (3) And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem:**

Isaiah 11:1: And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

Zechariah 3:8: Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH.

Of course, Jesse is the father of King David. The branch is Jesus. It is very important to realize that in order for Jesus to be the Messiah, he had to come from the Davidic line. If you look at the first Chapter of Matthew you will find the Royal lineage of Jesus coming from David to Joseph which was Jesus' earthly father by adoption. This gave Jesus lawful claim to the throne of David. Not only that if you look at Luke chapter 3 you will find the bloodline of Jesus traced back through his mother Mary, who also was a descendant of David. No one else in history can lay claim to the throne of David except for Jesus. He is the seed of David through his mother Mary and he is rightful heir to the throne through his legal father, Joseph. So, while the house of David may have appeared to be dead and in the ground, suddenly a new branch springs forth from it, in the form of Jesus Christ the Messiah, the Savior.

17 For thus saith the LORD; David shall never want a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel; 18 Neither shall the priests the Levites want a man before me to offer burnt offerings, and to kindle meat offerings, and to do sacrifice continually.

David's Kingdom and the Levitical Priesthood were but mere shadows of Christ's Spiritual Kingdom and the Messianic reign of the LORD Jesus Christ. That is why the Angel told Mary this: **Luke 1:31-33: And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. 32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.**

19 And the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah, saying, 20 Thus saith the LORD; If ye can break my covenant of the day, and my covenant of the night, and that there should not be day and night in their season; 21 Then may also my covenant be broken with David my servant, that he should not have a son to reign upon his throne; and with the Levites the priests, my ministers. 22 As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the seed of David my servant, and the Levites that minister unto me.

Here the LORD is getting it settled deep into the mind of Jeremiah just how binding and sure his promises are. He tells Jeremiah if it were humanly possible to stop the world from turning day and night the way that he created them, and if it were possible for a man to count the number of angels in heaven or the sands of the sea, then it would be possible to break the covenant with David. But, we know and Jeremiah knew that it was not humanly possible to prevent the day and night from happening. No man can number the angelic host, or count the sands of the sea. Only God can do that. So, if that covenant can't be broken then neither will his covenant with David. It is that sure.

23 Moreover the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying,
24 Considerest thou not what this people have spoken, saying, The two families
which the LORD hath chosen, he hath even cast them off? thus they have despised
my people, that they should be no more a nation before them.

Here the LORD is either speaking about the Chaldeans or the unbelieving Jews. It could be applied to either one because they both claimed that God had forever cast Israel off. He had abandoned them never to be their God again. They claim that the Israelites would never be a nation again.

25 Thus saith the LORD; If my covenant *be* not with day and night, *and if* I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth; 26 Then will I cast away the seed of Jacob, and David my servant, so that I will not take *any* of his seed *to be* rulers over the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: for I will cause their captivity to return, and have mercy on them.

Again the LORD proclaims if he did not keep his covenant of causing it to be day and night. If he forsook the natural order of nature and seasons. If he forsook the heavens and earth then his covenant with Jacob and David would be for nothing.

But that is not the case. God would never do that. Therefore Jeremiah could rest upon the assurance of the promises that God had made and that he would establish his kingdom forever and he would save Israel and Judah and have mercy upon them.

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