

## “RUIN, REDEMPTION, AND RESTORATION”

Studies in the Book of Jeremiah

### Jeremiah 31:1-26

#### “The Day of Restoration Part Two: Sweet Dreams of Everlasting Love”

**Introduction:** The Bible is sometimes described as “God’s love letter to humanity.” God demonstrated sacrificial unconditional love by sending the Lord Jesus Christ to die for undeserving sinners (Romans 5:8). Jeremiah Chapter 31 continues the wonderful promises of redemption and restoration specific to the people of Israel. The Abrahamic covenant included unconditional promises of land, descendants, and blessing. It is God’s unconditional love that drives His unconditional covenant with Israel.

#### I. The Proclamation of Redemption (Jeremiah 31:1-14)

- A. Verse 1 describes the reuniting of the 12 tribes. The release from Babylonian captivity is a type of Exodus. Practical application: We have to suffer through this fallen sin-sick world on the journey to glory. God has initiated a rescue mission to seek and save the lost.
- B. Only God has the capacity, the patience, and the long suffering to love with an everlasting unconditional love. The Hebrew word *hesed* is translated lovingkindness but in this context, it is used in the sense of loyal love or compassion (Hosea 2:14-23). General principle: God is love. God demonstrates His love through action (1 Corinthians 2:9; Romans 2:4). God is faithful. Practical application: Rest in the confidence of God’s faithfulness.
- C. The first king of the Northern Kingdom kept the tribes divided by discouraging worship in Jerusalem. This prophetic word indicates that watchmen will call the people to go to Jerusalem to worship.
- D. Sometimes the people of Israel are referred to as God’s son. Sonship and firstborn status are assigned by God. Christ Jesus is the firstborn over all creation (Colossians 1:15). The Father/son relationship between God and Israel is categorically different than the Father/Son relationship with Christ. Christ is the perfect fulfillment of firstborn sonship.
- E. God takes the responsibility for regathering the people. The Lord is the Good Shepherd, the Great Shepherd, the Chief Shepherd. His flock will be safe and well taken care of. Redemption refers to buying something back or purchasing freedom.
- F. The people will radiate emotion of well being and joy because of the goodness of the Lord. Wheat, new wine, oil, and flocks of cattle represent abundance of provisions. God will turn their mourning into joy and comfort them. Even the soul of the priest will be refreshed with abundance, and the people will be satisfied with God’s goodness.

## II. The Lament of Rachael and Ephraim (Jeremiah 31:15-20)

A. Rachel was one of the matriarchs of Israel. Ramah was a strategic site in the geography of ancient Israel and monument marking the tomb of Rachael was there. This is a prophetic lament expressed the pain and grief associated with the killing and captivity of the people. Matthew applies this lament typologically to the slaughter of children ordered by King Herod after the birth of Christ (Matthew 2:16-18). The Lord calls for an end to mourning and lament. God declares hope in their future. God is faithful to His promise.

B. Verses 18-20 is a prophetic oracle with Ephraim representing the people of Israel under corrective discipline. The chastisement of the Lord will provoke repentance (2 Corinthians 7:8-11). The Lord chastised His people yet remained faithful to His love and promises to His people.

## III. The Preparation for Redemption (Jeremiah 31:21-26)

A. This is a call to return to the promised land which is also symbolic of returning to God. Backsliding is a reference to idolatry often prophetically illustrated as adultery. This message is best understood not as a reversal of gender roles but as a reversal of the pursuits of a formerly idolatrous people. This is a prophetic word about the turning from idolatry and turning to the only true and living God. Another result of the restoration of the people will be the language of blessing. The land will be known as a place of justice and holiness. The weary soul will be satiated, and the sorrowful soul will be replenished.

B. General principle: Consequences produce godly sorrow and godly sorrow produces repentance. There are a future and a hope for those who trust in God. God's promises will be ultimately fulfilled at the consummation of all things. Practical application. Are you in relationship with God because you surrendered your life to Christ Jesus? If no, you will not experience the wonderful blessings promised for the future. If you are a believer - Are you suffering consequences for sinful choices? There is no condemnation in Christ – confess, repent, and continue to trust in God – He saves us and keeps us until the end.

**“In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.” (1 John 4:9).**

Dr. Erin Daniel Bell

Sunday, April 26, 2026