

RUIN, REBELLION, AND RESTORATION
STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH
Jeremiah 33:1-26

“HOW TO FIND OUT WHAT RESEARCH WILL NOT REVEAL”

INTRODUCTION: Many of us remember the days when information was primarily accessed by using books. Encyclopedias, Yellow Pages, and the local library were the best places to do research. If you were told to “google it”, no one would have known what you meant! Thankfully, we now live in an age where the database of information increases rapidly, and there is no excuse for not finding out some things you need to know. Websites have put the Yellow Pages out of business! However, there are some important things that can only be discovered by one method. Do you know what that is??

BACKGROUND: Jeremiah was still in prison and was seeking clarity from the Lord after his act of obedience in buying the land in Anathoth. Jerusalem was under attack and death by starvation would soon become a reality as the Chaldeans (Babylonians) continued to cut off the food supplies of the people of Judah. Jeremiah sought clarity from the Lord about the future, just as we often want to know what is going to happen next.

I. HAVE YOU LEARNED THE SECRET OF HOW TO DISCOVER WHAT NO HUMAN BEING CAN TEACH YOU? (Jeremiah 33:1-3)

- A. The LORD, Creator and Sustainer of all things, spoke to Jeremiah again as he sought to understand more the predicament of his people and the promises of God for the future. Take note of how often the LORD mentions His own name and what that means! (Jeremiah 33:1-2)
- B. The invitation given to Jeremiah is available to believers today. (Jeremiah 33:3) The Lord says to:
 - 1. PETITION Call to Me. (Matthew 7:7)
 - 2. PROMISE I will answer you. (1st John 5:14-15)
 - 3. PROVISION I will show you inaccessible truths (Isaiah 55:8-9) (1st Corinthians 2:9-12)

II. THE SAME LORD THAT PUNISHES THOSE WHO DESERVE IT, GIVES GRACE TO THOSE WHO DO NOT DESERVE IT. (Jeremiah 33:4-11)

- A. The same people who refused to tear down places of idolatry had no problem tearing down their own homes in a futile effort to hinder the invaders from Babylon. The Lord said their fight would result in piles of dead bodies because He was furiously angry with them. (Jeremiah 33:4-5)
- B. In the same place that would produce multiple deaths, the Lord would bring health and healing. He does the same thing in our hearts and bodies because He has resurrection power. An abundance of peace and truth is available to us, yet most of us do not have enough! (Jeremiah 33:6-7)
- C. Many are unaware of the layers of sin that have governed our lives before we were saved. Sin means to miss the mark even when we try to reach it. Iniquity refers to the bent or twistedness of our fallen human nature that keeps moving us further from God. Transgression occurs when we deliberately violate a known command. Guile refers to our ability to deceive. (Jeremiah 33:8)
- D. Joy, praise, and prosperity would again come to the places the Lord had to destroy, because He will always keep His promises. The Lord delights in hearing voices that praise Him and celebrate the relationships He ordained for us to enjoy. He is good, His mercy endures forever, (Psalm 136) and He wants to hear the sacrifice of praise in places of worship. **WHY IS PRAISE A SACRIFICE?** (Jeremiah 33:9-11) (Hebrews 11:10-16)

III. THE WICKEDNESS OF GOD’S PEOPLE WILL ONE DAY BE REPLACED BY THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE LORD. HAVE YOU RECEIVED THAT GIFT? (Jeremiah 33:12-18)

A. Jeremiah heard promises about a land that would be devastated and desolate, that would one day be fertile enough for shepherds to safely feed their flocks. That will happen when the Righteous One comes, physically a descendant of David while also being David's Lord and Master. (Jeremiah 33:12-18) (Psalm 110:1)

B. Righteousness is the state of being "right with God because you have received that status as a gift from Him. It is a judicial declaration that the LORD gives to those who turn from sin and receive Jesus Christ as Lord by faith. (Romans 3:23-26) He also makes us righteous as He covers us with the righteousness of Christ, who is our righteousness. (1st Corinthians 1:30) One day Jerusalem and all believing Jews will also be the righteousness of the Lord on display.

C. The Lord promised King David he would always have a descendant who would serve as Israel's king (2nd Samuel 7). Jesus Christ fulfills that prophecy, and is a priest forever (after the order of Melchizedek. (Psalm 110:1). We are a royal priesthood, and the Levitical priesthood continued until Jerusalem was overrun in AD 70.

IV. WE SERVE THE LORD WHO KEEPS HIS COVENANTS, SO WE CAN HAVE CONFIDENCE IN HIS PROMISES TO US. (Jeremiah 33:19-26)

A. The consistency of day and night are evidences of the fact that God never will, break his covenant with the people and land of Israel, or the promise of King David having a descendant (son) to be Israel's king. The hosts (stars) of heaven and grains of sand on the seashore are symbolic of the descendants promised to Abraham and David, (Genesis 13:6; 15:5) (Jeremiah 33:19-22)

B. The nations were looking upon the judgments against Israel and Judah and mocking them, believing that their God had cast them away forever. God used the same covenant reminder of night and day to prove that He would never cast His people away. Judgment was temporary but His mercy is everlasting. (Jeremiah 33: 23-26)

CONCLUSION

CALL UPON THE LORD IN FAITHFUL PRAYER. HE LOVES TO HEAR FROM US AND COMMUNE WITH US. HE WANTS TO SHOW US THINGS ABOUT HIMSELF, HIS PLANS, AND OUR GLORIOUS FUTURE THAT WE WOULD NEVER HAVE IMAGINED.

JUST AS A SCROLL CANNOT BE READ ALL AT ONCE, BUT MORE IS REVEALED AS YOU OPEN IT TO READ, IN LIKE MANNER THE LORD WILL REVEAL MORE TO US AS WE OPEN HIS WORD AND COMMUNE WITH HIM.

CALL ON HIM, LEARN WHAT IS ON HIS HEART, AND DISCOVER THAT YOU HAVE BEEN THERE ALL THE TIME. (Psalm 8:3-4)

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