

Write This Down! — 10/8/23

Scripture: Jeremiah 30

Big Idea: We can put our hope in God because he is faithful.

PRAY

INTRODUCTION:

How do you console/comfort someone?

Listen, be with, and speak words of encouragement (to put courage in).

O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

TRANSITION:

God knew that the exiles were going to need some comfort, so he had Jeremiah speak words to put courage in Judah and should put hope in us today.

HERE'S WHAT THE TEXT SAYS: Jeremiah 30

This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord. ² This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: "Write on a scroll all the words that I have spoken to you, ³ for look, the days are coming...when I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel and Judah," says the Lord. "I will restore them to the land I gave to their ancestors and they will possess it." {This is the Lord's declaration}

Write a book of consolation/comfort (Jer 30-33)

E. W. Hengstenberg identifies them as "the grand hymn of Israel's deliverance."

Why do we write things down?

In an oral culture to write something down is important. Write it down— it can't be changed.

External storage & encoding— article

External storage is easy to explain: you're storing information in an easy-to-access location (e.g. a piece of paper)—it's easy to review.

Encoding is the biological process by which the things we perceive travel to our brain's hippocampus where they're analyzed. From there, decisions are made about what gets stored in our long-term memory and what gets discarded. **Writing improves that encoding process...**When you write it down, it has a much greater chance of being remembered.

Neuropsychologists call this the "generation effect" which basically says people demonstrate better memory for material they've generated themselves than for material they've merely read.

Study after study shows you will remember things better when you write them down.

God tells Jeremiah: **Write this down— I will RESTORE.**

Have you stored this in your heart and encoded this in your brain?

Or have you written down your failures and shortcomings?

⁴ These are the words the Lord spoke to Israel and Judah. ⁵ This is what the Lord says:

We have heard a cry of terror, of dread—there is no peace. ⁶ Ask and see whether a male can give birth. Why then do I see every man with his hands on his stomach (loins—seat of strength) like a woman in labor and every face turned pale? ⁷ How awful that day will be! There will be no other like it! It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, **but he will be saved out of it.**

Terrified people—v5b.

Can a male give birth? The point is that things are not right or unnatural.

They are distressed b/c of the suffering to come—v6.

The image is that of soldiers acting like pregnant women in distress and deathly fear, not in living hope. It will be awful,

BUT he will be SAVED out of the terror and distress—v7.

⁸ **On that day—I will break his yoke from your neck and tear off your chains, and strangers will never again enslave him. {This is the declaration of the Lord of Armies}**

Who will break it?

God will break the iron yoke and tear the chains. They can't do it for themselves.

⁹ They will **serve** the Lord their God and David their king, whom **I will raise up** for them.

But David died years before; how can they serve him?

God will (according to his own word) raise up a king from the line of David.

Then a shoot will grow from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit. Is 11:1

Afterward, the people of Israel will return and seek the Lord their God and David their king. They will come with awe to the Lord and to his goodness in the last days. Ho 3:5.

Hosea, Isaiah & Jeremiah (here) **prophecy that the people will return to seek and serve the Lord.** ...points us to— Jesus, 'great David's greater Son'), and ultimately to —when 'the Root and the Offspring of David' comes). **Christopher J. H. Wright, *The Message of Jeremiah: Grace in the End*, 306.**

¹⁰ As for you, my servant Jacob, **do not be afraid—and do not be discouraged**, Israel, for **without fail I will save you** out of a distant place, your descendants, from the land of their captivity! Jacob will return and have calm and quiet with no one to frighten him. **{This is the Lord's declaration}**

¹¹ For **I will be with you—to save you!** I will bring destruction on all the nations where I have scattered you; however, I will not bring destruction on you. I will discipline you justly, and I will by no means leave you unpunished. **{This is the Lord's declaration}**

Remember God will save you(x2) v10,11. As I did before, I will do it again.

Be strong and courageous, for you will distribute the land I swore to their ancestors to give them as an inheritance. ⁷ Above all, **be strong and very courageous** to observe carefully the whole instruction my servant Moses commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right or the left, so that you will have success wherever you go. ⁸ This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to meditate on it day and night so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do. ⁹ Haven't I commanded you: **be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged**, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." **Jos 1:6–9.**

Be strong and courageous— these words were spoken before a great move of God. **Josh 1**

...I will discipline you justly, and I will by no means leave you unpunished. v11b

*Do not despise the Lord's instruction, my son, and do not loathe his discipline; ¹² for **the Lord disciplines the one he loves, just as a father disciplines the son in whom he delights.** Pr 3:11–12. (Quoted in Heb 12:5)*

Be strong and courageous— I will discipline you justly— I will save you.

¹² For **this is what the Lord says:**

Your injury is incurable; your wound most severe. ¹³ You have no defender for your case. There is no remedy for your sores, and no healing for you. ¹⁴ All **your lovers have forgotten you**; they no longer look for you, for I have struck you as an enemy would, with the discipline of someone cruel, because of your enormous guilt and your innumerable sins. ¹⁵ **Why do you cry out about your injury?** Your pain has no cure! I have done these things to you **because of your enormous guilt and your innumerable sins.**

Because of their enormous guilt—v15 (*avon—*iniquity/crookedness)

They are like a terminally sick patient— **incurable**

Like a defendant with no lawyer— **no defender**

Like an abandoned lover— **forgotten you**

v15— *Why do you cry ???* **Toughen up butter cup.**

All these problems are self-inflicted— they have done this to themselves.

What self-inflicted wounds are you suffering from?

Bondage to sin is the greatest of all captivities. Sin will not be satisfied until it achieves total domination. It seizes the mind to think sinful thoughts. It grabs the body to perform wicked deeds. It poisons the imagination to crave unholy fantasies. It bends the will to its own design. In the end it steals the heart, so that the sinner loves what is evil and hates what is good. **Philip Graham Ryken, *Jeremiah and Lamentations: From Sorrow to Hope*, 432.**

¹⁶ **Nevertheless (therefore),** all who devoured you will be devoured, and all your adversaries—all of them—will go off into exile. Those who plunder you will be plundered, and all who raid you will be raided. ¹⁷ But **I will bring you health and will heal you of your wounds**—for they call you Outcast, Zion whom no one cares about. **{This is the Lord's declaration}**

Do you know what a non sequitur is?

A non sequitur is something that does **not** logically follow from what has just been stated.

Give examples:

Mary bakes the best cakes in town. She should run for mayor.

Your dog is so cute. I have three little brothers.

It's really nice to meet you. What's your shoe size?

Nevertheless/Therefore—this is a non-sequitur. **You are guilty! I will punish your enemies.**

Despite all your self-inflicted wounds, God will punish your adversaries with the punishment that you yourself experienced—they'll be devoured, exiled, plundered, and raided.

Nevertheless...I will bring you health and will heal you of your wounds—

God heals Judah's incurable self-inflicted wounds and cares for them when no one else does.

18 This is what the Lord says:

I will certainly **restore** the fortunes of Jacob's tents and show compassion on his dwellings. Every city will be **rebuilt** on its mound; every citadel will stand on its proper site. **19 Thanksgiving** will come out of them, a sound of **rejoicing**. **I will multiply** them, and they will not decrease; **I will honor** them, and **they will not be insignificant**. **20** His children will be as in past days; his congregation will be established in my presence. **I will punish all his oppressors**.

This is God's plan for a hope and future.

It's **the great reversal**— **I (God) will: restore** your fortunes (the years the locusts have eaten {Joel 2:25}), **rebuild** the cities, thanksgiving and rejoicing will ring again, God will **multiply** the people and **honor** them, and punish his oppressors.

Do you remember what Jeremiah 29:13 said?

You will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart.

21 Jacob's leader will be one of them; his ruler will issue from him. I will invite him to me, and **he will approach me**, for who would otherwise risk his life to approach me? **22** You will be my people, and **I will be your God**. {**This is the Lord's declaration**}

Jacob's leader will be one of them— *you are to appoint over you the king the Lord your God chooses. Appoint a king from your brothers. You are not to set a foreigner over you, or one who is not of your people. Dt 17:15.*

The leader to come will be **like David**— **he is one you might not expect**.

23 Look, a storm from the Lord! Wrath has gone out, a churning storm. It will whirl about the heads of the wicked. **24** The Lord's burning anger will not turn back until he has completely fulfilled the purposes of his heart. **In time to come you will understand it.**

Hindsight is 20/20— one day, you'll understand.

This is Chapter 1 of The Book of Consolation!

What do we learn about God from this passage? On that day—I will break his yoke from your neck and tear off your chains, and strangers will never again enslave him.v8 the day of judgment of consolation.

We can put our hope in God because he is faithful.

Not only did his words through Jeremiah come to pass, but the future king from the line of David (he will be one of them) God spoke of came. He came to heal our incurable wounds of sin and breathe new life into us by his HS. comfort us with his Holy Spirit.

Jesus is the one who can approach God.

Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? ⁴ The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not appealed to what is false, and who has not sworn deceitfully. Ps 24:3–4. The king of Glory— Jesus Christ.

God heals self-inflicted wounds and cares for people no one else does.

How are we healed? The ultimate wound is bondage to sin that leads to exile.

*He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree; so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness. **By his wounds you have been healed.** ²⁵ For you **were like sheep going astray**, but you have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. 1 Pe 2:24–25.*

God brings life out of death and a glorious future out of a dismal past.

And when you were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, he made you alive with him and forgave us all our trespasses. ¹⁴ He erased the certificate of debt, with its obligations, that was against us and opposed to us, and has taken it away by nailing it to the cross. Col 2:13–14.

The God who willed exile now wills homecoming. The God who plucks up and tears down is the very God who will now plant and build (cf. 1:10; 31:28). Exile is not a defeat or failure for God, but the arena out of which God works a glorious newness for God's beloved people and for God's treasured city. **Walter B.**

What do we learn about faithful living?

Seek the king God raised up.

You will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart. Jer 29:13

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you. Matt 6:33

Serve the king God raised up by being strong and courageous in the new life he's given you.

...in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind... Rom 12:1-2

PRAY

BLESSING

May you and I, may we together, be people who trust in the faithfulness of God, and experience the broken yoke of sin and death. May we be people who seek and serve with all our hearts and who hear