

Jeremiah Lesson 7

Jeremiah 30:1 – 33:26

Jeremiah Buys A Field

- Jeremiah 32, 37, and 38 Tell the Full Story
- Jeremiah 37:3-5, A Pause in the Siege of Jerusalem
- In 589 BC, Pharaoh Apries Made a Treaty With Zedekiah; Egypt Would Aid Judah if Babylon Attacked
- Sometime Between 588-586 BC, During the Siege, Egypt Entered Judah, Getting as Far as Lachish
- Babylon Had to Stop Its Siege to Deal With Egypt
- Did Zedekiah Think God Had Answered His Prayers When the Siege Stopped? (Jeremiah 21:1-2; 37:6-10)

Jeremiah Is Arrested

- Jeremiah 37:11-17, 20-21
- He Was on His Way Out of Jerusalem Via the Benjamin Gate “To Receive His Portion”
- Accused of Deserting to the Chaldeans by Irijah (Jeremiah 21:9)
- Officials Beat Him and Imprison Him in a Dungeon Cell
- Zedekiah Sends For Him; Jeremiah Pleads Not to be Sent Back to the Dungeon; Sent to the Court of the Guard Instead



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The Transaction With Hanamel

- Jeremiah 32: 1-3, 6-12
- Why Did Hanamel Want to Sell His Land?
- Right of Redemption (Leviticus 25:25)
- Jeremiah Completes the Purchase And Instructs Baruch to Bury the Sealed Deed and Its Copy in an Earthen Pot
- Was This Crazy?
- Remember the Dead Sea Scrolls Buried For Over 1900 Years



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BEHOLD THE
DAYS ARE HERE
JEREMIAH 31:31-34

³¹ “BEHOLD, DAYS ARE
COMING,” DECLARES THE LORD,
“WHEN I WILL MAKE A NEW
COVENANT WITH THE HOUSE
OF ISRAEL AND WITH THE
HOUSE OF JUDAH...”

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The New Covenant Promises

Restore Israel and Judah to the Promised Land and Restore Their Fortunes (Jeremiah 30:3; 32:41)

Plant Them in This Land With Faithfulness, Heart, and Soul (Jeremiah 32:41)

538 BC: Decree of Cyrus of Persia (Ezra 1:1-4)

Ezra 1:5 Records the Heads of the Clans Who Began the Migration and Building Process

Some From the Northern Kingdom Returned (Ezra 2:28); But the Northern Kingdom Full Restoration Will Not Be Realized Until Jesus Returns (Revelation 7:4-8)

Gold and Silver Bullion and Vessels Taken Back to Jerusalem; Includes Those Taken Out of the Temple By Nebuchadnezzar (Ezra 1:6-10; Ezra 8:24-31; 2 Chronicles 36:7)

The New Covenant Promises

A Full End of All the Nations Among Whom I Scattered You (Jeremiah 30:11)

All Who Devour You Shall Be Devoured, Go Into Captivity, Be Plundered (Jeremiah 30:16)

612 BC: Babylon Destroys Assyria

539 BC: Cyrus of Persia Conquers Babylon (Isaiah 21: Daniel 5)

330 BC: The Greeks Conquer Persia; The Mediterranean World and The Middle East in Turmoil Until the Rise of The Roman Empire Circa 200 BC

Israel and Judah's Neighbors Subjugated by Babylon and Then Rome

414 AD: Fall of the Western Roman Empire (Visigoths)

When Jesus Returns, All Nations Will Meet in Final Battle (Joel 3:1-3; Revelation 16:13-16)

The New Covenant Promises

Judah's Cities, Jerusalem, and the Palace Rebuilt (Jeremiah 30:18)

After the Edict of Cyrus in 538 BC, Jerusalem and the Temple Slowly Rebuilt (Ezra 3 and 5)

516 BC: Zerubbabel's Temple Completed (Ezra 6; Haggai 1)

445 BC: Jerusalem City Walls Rebuilt (Nehemiah 3)

Between 142 and 37 BC, the Hasmoneans Built a New Palace in Jerusalem

The New Holy City of Jerusalem But No Temple There "For Its Temple is the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb" (Revelation 21:9-27)

No Need For a Palace for Jesus the King!

The New Covenant Promises

<p>I Will Multiply Them and Make Them Honored (Jeremiah 30:19)</p>	<p>Nebuchadnezzar Took Over 10,000 Males Into Captivity (2 Kings 24)</p> <p>Over 24,000 Males Returned From Captivity (Ezra 2)</p> <p>Jews Were Honored Under the Babylonians Because They Were Allowed to Live and Flourish in Babylon (Jeremiah 29:7)</p> <p>1948: Founding of Israel Honors the Jews With a Homeland</p>
<p>A New Covenant With Israel and Judah Unlike the Covenant Which They Broke (Jeremiah 31:31-32)</p>	<p>Inaugurated by Jesus at the Last Supper (Luke 22:20)</p>

The New Covenant Promises

<p>I Will Be Their God and They Shall Be My People (Jeremiah 31:33)</p>	<p>Jesus Fulfilled This Promise (See Zechariah's Prophecy in Luke 1: 67-79)</p>
<p>I Will Put My Law Within Them and Write It On Their Hearts (Jeremiah 31:33)</p>	<p>The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit After Jesus' Death Makes This Possible (John 14: 16-17, 26; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 2:3)</p>
<p>No Longer Shall Each One Teach Others; They Shall All Know Me (Jeremiah 31:34)</p>	<p>In the Old Covenant, Priests Taught the Law and the High Priest Mediated With God</p> <p>The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit Teaches Us All Things (John 14:26)</p> <p>Paul: We Are God's Temple (1 Corinthians 3:16)</p> <p>Peter: Believers Are a Royal Priesthood (1 Peter 2:9-10)</p> <p>Jesus is Our High Priest (Hebrews 4:14)</p>

The New Covenant Promises

I Will Forgive Their Iniquity And Remember Their Sin No More (Jeremiah 31:34)	Jesus' Saving Death on the Cross Enables Us to Be Forgiven of Our Sins (Acts 10:43; Colossians 2:13-14; 1 John 2:12)
I Will Make Them Dwell in Safety (Jeremiah 32:37)	Full Safety Will Exist With the Creation of the New Heavens and the New Earth (1 Peter 5:10; Revelation 21)
I Will Give Them One Heart and One Way (Jeremiah 32:39)	Jesus: "I Am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No One Comes to the Father Except Through Me." (John 14:6)
I Will Put the Fear of Me in Their Hearts (Jeremiah 32:40)	The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit After Jesus' Death Makes This Possible (John 14: 16-17, 26; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 2:3)
I Will Rejoice in Doing Them Good..So I Will Bring Upon Them All the Good I Promise Them (Jeremiah 32:41-42)	God Begins a Good Work in Believers at Their Conversion. The Good Work is Completed When Christ Returns (Philippians 1:6)

Jeremiah

Lesson 7: Jeremiah 30:1 – 33:26

- Jeremiah 32 talks about Jeremiah's purchase of a field in Anathoth during the siege of Jerusalem.
- Understanding the context of this event requires a further reading of Jeremiah 37 and 38 to understand the full sequence of events.
- From Jeremiah 37:3-5 we learn the following:
 - King Zedekiah sent Jehucal the son of Shelemiah, and Zephaniah the priest, the son of Maaseiah, to Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "Please pray for us to the LORD our God."⁴ Now Jeremiah was still going in and out among the people, for he had not yet been put in prison.⁵ The army of Pharaoh had come out of Egypt. And when the Chaldeans who were besieging Jerusalem heard news about them, they withdrew from Jerusalem.
- In 589 BC, Pharaoh Apries (Biblical Hophra) came to power. He made a treaty with Zedekiah. Zedekiah agreed to revolt against Nebuchadnezzar with the agreement that Egypt would come to Judah's aid when the Babylonians attacked. The Babylonian attack was a given since Zedekiah had been placed on the throne by Nebuchadnezzar and was his vassal.
- We can date the Babylonian siege of Jerusalem to 588-586 BC.
- At some point during the siege, the Egyptian army had entered the Southern Kingdom, getting as far as Lachish, which they captured. The Babylonian army had to stop its siege of Jerusalem to deal with the Egyptians. They did so and the Egyptian army returned to Egypt in defeat. Zedekiah was left on his own to deal with the Babylonians who restarted their siege.
- Also recall these words from Jeremiah 21:1-2:
 - This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, when King Zedekiah sent to him Pashhur the son of Malchiah and Zephaniah the priest, the son of Maaseiah, saying,² "Inquire of the LORD for us, for Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon is making war against us. Perhaps the LORD will deal with us according to all his wonderful deeds and will make him withdraw from us."

- Zedekiah may have thought his wishes and prayers had been answered when the Babylonians withdrew from Jerusalem to deal with the Egyptian army. His relief was short-lived.
- The story picks back up in Jeremiah 37:6-10:
 - Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet: ⁷ “Thus says the LORD, God of Israel: Thus shall you say to the king of Judah who sent you to me to inquire of me, ‘Behold, Pharaoh’s army that came to help you is about to return to Egypt, to its own land. ⁸ And the Chaldeans shall come back and fight against this city. They shall capture it and burn it with fire. ⁹ Thus says the LORD, Do not deceive yourselves, saying, “The Chaldeans will surely go away from us,” for they will not go away. ¹⁰ For even if you should defeat the whole army of Chaldeans who are fighting against you, and there remained of them only wounded men, every man in his tent, they would rise up and burn this city with fire.”
- Jeremiah 37:11-17, 20-21 explain what happens next to Jeremiah:
 - Now when the Chaldean army had withdrawn from Jerusalem at the approach of Pharaoh’s army, ¹² Jeremiah set out from Jerusalem to go to the land of Benjamin to receive his portion there among the people. ¹³ When he was at the Benjamin Gate, a sentry there named Irijah the son of Shelemiah, son of Hananiah, seized Jeremiah the prophet, saying, “You are deserting to the Chaldeans.” ¹⁴ And Jeremiah said, “It is a lie; I am not deserting to the Chaldeans.” But Irijah would not listen to him, and seized Jeremiah and brought him to the officials. ¹⁵ And the officials were enraged at Jeremiah, and they beat him and imprisoned him in the house of Jonathan the secretary, for it had been made a prison. ¹⁶ When Jeremiah had come to the dungeon cells and remained there many days, King Zedekiah sent for him and received him....Now hear, please, O my lord the king: let my humble plea come before you and do not send me back to the house of Jonathan the secretary, lest I die there.” ²¹ So King Zedekiah gave orders, and they committed Jeremiah to the court of the guard. And a loaf of bread was given him daily from the bakers’ street, until all the bread of the city was gone. So Jeremiah remained in the court of the guard.
- Let’s pull out a few facts from these verses and what we studied in Lesson 2:
 - Jeremiah was from Anathoth which was part of the tribe of Benjamin.
 - The Benjamin Gate was a northern exit from the city of Jerusalem which led to the Benjaminite territory where Anathoth was located.

- Jeremiah is challenged by the gate sentry Irijah, who is the grandson of the false prophet Hananiah. Jeremiah is accused of deserting to the Babylonians. While Scripture tells us this was not the case, Irijah had reason to challenge Jeremiah because of Jeremiah's earlier words from God to the people in Jeremiah 21:9:
 - He who stays in this city shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence, but he who goes out and surrenders to the Chaldeans who are besieging you shall live and shall have his life as a prize of war.
- Irijah takes Jeremiah to "the officials" who put him in a dungeon in the house of Jonathan, who was the state secretary. Zedekiah was not responsible for this imprisonment, but he certainly learned of it when he summoned Jeremiah to the meeting. Apparently, this dungeon was some kind of cistern, and it was obviously a very miserable, dank, dark place. Note that this is not the same cistern that we will study in Jeremiah 38.
- After Jeremiah pleaded with Zedekiah, he was placed within the court of the guard. This was next door to the palace and was a type of prison for those who did not need strict confinement.
- What was Jeremiah's business in Anathoth? Jeremiah 37:12 says it was to receive his portion in the land of Benjamin.
- We turn back to Jeremiah 32 for further information.
 - 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. ² At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and Jeremiah the prophet was shut up in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah. ³ For Zedekiah king of Judah had imprisoned him Jeremiah 32:1-3
 - Jeremiah said, "The word of the LORD came to me: ⁷ Behold, Hanamel the son of Shallum your uncle will come to you and say, Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours.' ⁸ Then Hanamel my cousin came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the LORD, and said to me, 'Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself.' Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD. Jeremiah 32:6-8

- ⁹ “And I bought the field at Anathoth from Hanamel my cousin, and weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver. ¹⁰ I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the money on scales. ¹¹ Then I took the sealed deed of purchase, containing the terms and conditions and the open copy. ¹² And I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch the son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of Hanamel my cousin, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard. Jeremiah 32:9-12
- So, we learn that Jeremiah’s cousin Hanamel wanted to sell his property in Anathoth. We do not know why Hanamel wanted to sell his property. He could have wanted to pack up and leave Judah, perhaps for Egypt. Or perhaps he was in debt. Regardless of the reason, Hanamel had Jewish law at his disposal. Leviticus 25: 25 tells us:
 - If your brother becomes poor and sells part of his property, then his nearest redeemer shall come and redeem what his brother has sold.
- God had already instructed Jeremiah to buy the field in Anathoth when he is approached by his cousin. It is that transaction he had in mind when he attempted to leave Jerusalem by the Benjamin Gate, according to Jeremiah 37. If Hanamel had just approached Jeremiah and asked him to buy the field, Jeremiah would have likely refused. What was the point? Babylon was going to destroy Judah. Everyone would either be taken into exile or die.
- It is during his time of imprisonment in the court of the guard that Jeremiah completed his transaction with his cousin and instructed his scribe Baruch to bury both the sealed deed and the copy of the deed in an earthen pot which he hoped would survive the siege. If someone from the family of Benjamin found the documents later, he would be able to prove family ownership of the plot of land.
- We might think that Jeremiah’s instructions to Baruch were a little crazy given the fact that the exile would last 70 years, and Jeremiah did not yet know what his fate would be. Yet, think about the Dead Sea Scrolls, buried in clay pots for over 1900 years.
- Your workbook questions give you a full view of God’s promises in the new covenant. I thought it might be helpful to lay these out in a chart which explains when the promises were or will be realized.

Promise	Timeframe
<p data-bbox="298 268 842 485">For behold, days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will restore the fortunes of my people, Israel and Judah, says the LORD, and I will bring them back to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall take possession of it. Jeremiah 30:3</p> <p data-bbox="298 527 824 632">I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, with all my heart and all my soul. Jeremiah 32:41</p>	<p data-bbox="865 268 1419 415">In 538 BC, King Cyrus of Persia issued his decree which permitted the Babylonian exiles to return to their land and rebuild their Temple. (Ezra 1:1-4).</p> <p data-bbox="865 457 1419 562">Ezra 1:5 records that the heads of the clans of Judah and Benjamin were those who began the migration and building process.</p> <p data-bbox="865 604 1419 1035">Warren Wiersbe states that some from the tribes of the Northern Kingdom returned at this time as well. (See Ezra 2:28, as an example, which lists the return of men from Bethel and Ai. These may have been people who left the Northern Kingdom during the Assyrian invasion and settled in Judah.) Other scholars say that this promise is not fully realized until Jesus returns and the 144,000 sealed from every tribe except Dan are numbered (Revelation 7:4-8).</p> <p data-bbox="865 1077 1419 1402">Ezra 1: 6-10 and 8:24-31 note all the gold and silver bullion and vessels that the people took back to Jerusalem for the Temple. These were a free will offering of the people which indicated they had prospered in exile. The vessels included those which had been taken out of the Temple by Nebuchadnezzar (2 Chronicles 36:7)</p>

<p>I will make a full end of all the nations among whom I scattered you, but of you I will not make a full end. Jeremiah 30:11</p> <p>Therefore all who devour you shall be devoured, and all your foes, every one of them, shall go into captivity; those who plunder you shall be plundered, and all who prey on you I will make a prey. Jeremiah 30:16</p>	<p>Assyria had been destroyed by the Babylonians in 612 BC.</p> <p>Cyrus of Persia conquered Babylon in 539 BC. (Isaiah 21; Daniel 5)</p> <p>Persia is conquered by the Greeks (Alexander the Great) in 330 BC. After Alexander's death in 323 BC, his empire was fragmented and ruled by his various generals. The Mediterranean world and the Middle East were in turmoil until the rise of the Roman Empire circa 200 BC.</p> <p>Israel and Judah's neighboring nations are subjugated by Babylon and then the Romans.</p> <p>The western Roman Empire falls to the Visigoths in 414 AD.</p> <p>The Bible records that all the nations will meet in final battle when Jesus returns. (Joel 3:1-3; Revelation 16:13-16)</p>
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<p>Thus says the LORD: Behold, I will restore the fortunes of the tents of Jacob and have compassion on his dwellings; the city shall be rebuilt on its mound, and the palace shall stand where it used to be. Jeremiah 30:18</p>	<p>After the Edict of Cyrus in 538 BC, Jerusalem and the Temple were slowly rebuilt. (Ezra 3 and 5)</p> <p>Zerubbabel’s rebuilt Temple was completed in 516 BC. (Ezra 6; Haggai 1)</p> <p>The city walls of Jerusalem were not rebuilt until 445 BC. (Nehemiah 3)</p> <p>Between 142 and 37 BC, the Hasmoneans built a new palace in Jerusalem</p> <p>Revelation 21: 9-27 records the new holy city of Jerusalem. This passage also states that there is no temple in the new Jerusalem “for its temple is the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb.”</p> <p>No palace for Jesus the King</p>
<p>I will multiply them, and they shall not be few; I will make them honored, and they shall not be small. Jeremiah 30:19</p>	<p>2 Kings 24 records that Nebuchadnezzar took over 10,000 males into captivity.</p> <p>Ezra 2 records over 24,000 males who returned from captivity.</p> <p>The Jews were honored in a sense under the Babylonians in that they were allowed to live and flourish in Babylon. (Jeremiah 29:7)</p> <p>However, they were never honored as a people until the foundation of the nation of Israel in 1948 as their homeland.</p>
<p>I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah,³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke Jeremiah 31:31-32</p>	<p>This new covenant was inaugurated by Jesus at the Last Supper (Luke 22:20).</p>

And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Jeremiah 31:33	Jesus fulfilled this promise. (See Zechariah's prophecy in Luke 1:67-79).
I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. Jeremiah 31:33	The indwelling of the Holy Spirit after Jesus' death makes this possible. (John 14: 16-17, 26; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 2:3)
And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. Jeremiah 31:34	In the old covenant, priests were needed to teach the law. A High Priest was needed to mediate with God on behalf of the people. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit teaches us all things. (John 14:26). Paul says that we are God's temple. (1 Corinthians 3:16) Peter calls believers a royal priesthood. (1 Peter 2:9-10). The writer of Hebrews declares that Jesus is our great high priest. (Hebrews 4:14)
For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. Jeremiah 31:34	Jesus' saving death on the cross, where he bore all our sins, enables us to be forgiven of our sins. (Acts 10:43; Colossians 2:13-14; 1 John 2:12)
I will make them dwell in safety. Jeremiah 32:37	Full safety will exist with the creation of the new heavens and the new earth. (1 Peter 5:10; Revelation 21)
I will give them one heart and one way Jeremiah 32:39	Jesus inaugurated this. ("I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6)
And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me. Jeremiah 32:40	The indwelling of the Holy Spirit after Jesus' death makes this possible. (John 14: 16-17, 26; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 2:3)
I will rejoice in doing them good Jeremiah 32:41 so I will bring upon them all the good that I promise them. Jeremiah 32:42	God begins a good work in believers when they are converted. The good work is completed when Christ returns. (Philippians 1:6)

Jeremiah

Lesson 7: Jeremiah 30:1 – 33:26

God Will Restore the Nation (30:1-24)

1. This chapter serves as an introduction to the entire section (Jere 30:1-33:26). In the opening passage (30:1-11), what does God promise to do for his people?
 - For behold, days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will restore the fortunes of my people, Israel and Judah, says the LORD, and I will bring them back to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall take possession of it.” Jeremiah 30:3
 - And it shall come to pass in that day, declares the LORD of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off your neck, and I will burst your bonds, and foreigners shall no more make a servant of him.⁹ But they shall serve the LORD their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them. Jeremiah 30:8-9
 - I will save you from far away, and your offspring from the land of their captivity. Jacob shall return and have quiet and ease, and none shall make him afraid. Jeremiah 30:10
 - For I am with you to save you, declares the LORD; I will make a full end of all the nations among whom I scattered you, but of you I will not make a full end. I will discipline you in just measure, and I will by no means leave you unpunished. Jeremiah 30:11
2. Yahweh promises his people that “all who devour you shall be devoured...those who plunder you shall be plundered, and all who prey on you I will make a prey” (Jer 30:16; “I will multiply them, and they shall not be few; I will make them honored, and they shall not be small” (v. 19). Compare this with the language of his promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3. What do these similarities tell us about what God promises to do here in Jeremiah 30?
 - Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. Genesis 12:1-3

- Therefore all who devour you shall be devoured, and all your foes, every one of them, shall go into captivity; those who plunder you shall be plundered, and all who prey on you I will make a prey. Jeremiah 30:16
- For I will restore health to you, and your wounds I will heal, declares the LORD, Jeremiah 30:17
- I will restore the fortunes of the tents of Jacob and have compassion on his dwellings; the city shall be rebuilt on its mound, and the palace shall stand where it used to be. Jeremiah 30:18
- I will multiply them, and they shall not be few; I will make them honored, and they shall not be small. Jeremiah 30:19

Genesis	Jeremiah
Multiply his people	Multiply his people
Curse those who dishonor his people	Devour, plunder, make prey of the nations who did the same to his people
Bless his people	Restore their fortunes and rebuild Jerusalem
Make a great nation	Be honored

God Will Make a New Covenant with Israel (31:1-40)

3. Yahweh promises to restore his people (Jer 31:1-6) and calls them to rejoice at the news (vv. 7-9). He warns the nations of what he is about to do for his people (vv. 10-14). Exiled Judah is personified as Rachel (Jacob’s favorite wife; Gen. 29:30) weeping at the exile of God’s people (Jer 31:15), but Yahweh reassures her that the promise of comfort is real and the people will return to the land (vv. 16-26). God will “sow” his people in the land, “build” them, and “plant” them there (vv. 27-28). What does the proverb in verse 29 mean? What is its significance?
 - In those days they shall no longer say: “The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge.”³⁰ But everyone shall die for his own iniquity. Each man who eats sour grapes, his teeth shall be set on edge. Jeremiah 31:29-30
 - This proverb is also quoted in Ezekiel 18:1-4 and God explains it to Ezekiel there:

- The word of the LORD came to me: ² “What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge”? ³ As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. Ezekiel 18:1-4
- God is saying that individual responsibility will replace collective responsibility. The current generation is not condemned for the sins of previous generations. God judges each man’s sin individually.
4. Jeremiah 31:31-34 describes the new covenant God promises to make with his people. What are the various elements of this new covenant?
- a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, Jeremiah 31:31
 - not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, Jeremiah 31:32
 - I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. Jeremiah 31:33
 - And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Jeremiah 31:33
 - And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, Jeremiah 31:34
 - I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. Jeremiah 31:34
5. In what ways will the new covenant be different from the old one?
- The old covenant was a law written on stone tablets; it was external. The new covenant was written on each person’s heart; it was internal.
 - People would not need to be taught to know the Lord; they would already know him because they knew him in their hearts.
 - God will forgive and forget their sins.
 - The old covenant law made people aware of their sins. The people broke the old covenant.
 - The old covenant required continual acknowledgement of Yahweh as Lord. In the new covenant, that would not be needed because everyone would know and acknowledge him as Lord.
 - In the old covenant, a mediator (teacher; High Priest) was required. In the new covenant, the mediator would not be needed.
 - The old covenant was national. The new covenant is personal.
 - The new covenant gives people a heart for God so that they want to love him and keep his laws. Jesus’ saving death and the Holy Spirit make that possible.

6. Celebrating Passover on the night before his crucifixion, Jesus said, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood” (Luke 22:20). What light does Luke 22:14-23 shed on the new covenant promised in Jeremiah 31:34? What additional insight does 2 Corinthians 3:1-18 add to our understanding of this new covenant?

- And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵ And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” ¹⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, “Take this, and divide it among yourselves. ¹⁸ For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” ¹⁹ And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁰ And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “**This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.**” ²¹ But behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. ²² For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!” ²³ And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this. Luke 22:14-23
- Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you, or from you? ² You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. ³ **And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.** ⁴ Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. ⁵ Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, ⁶ who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. ⁷ **Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end,** ⁸ **will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory?** ⁹ **For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory.** ¹⁰ Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory that surpasses it. ¹¹ For if what was being brought to an end came with glory, much more will what is permanent have glory. ¹² Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, ¹³ not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. ¹⁴ **But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away.** ¹⁵ **Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts.** ¹⁶ **But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed.** ¹⁷ **Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.** ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are

being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3

- The Luke passage shows Jesus inaugurating the new covenant.
- The 2 Corinthians 3 passage indicates that the old covenant (written law) did not have the power to change people's lives and actions (take away their sin). People need an internal power to have transformed lives. The old covenant brought condemnation. The law could not save people; it points to the need for a Savior, Jesus Christ. The new covenant brings freedom through Christ and the Holy Spirit.
- Legalism brings death, for no one can fully keep the law. Christ brings life.
 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

God Will Bring Israel Back to the Promised Land (32:1-44)

7. By 588-587 BC, Nebuchadnezzar had laid siege to Jerusalem (32:1-2). While Jeremiah is under arrest by order of King Zedekiah, God commands the prophet to buy a field as a sign that "houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land" (vv. 2-15). What is Jeremiah's response to God's command (vv. 16-25)?
 - Jeremiah prayed to God. He acknowledged God's power, saying "nothing is too hard for you." He acknowledged that everything God had spoken about the Babylonian invasion and destruction had come to pass. Then, he ponders why God would want him to buy the field in Anathoth even though the city of Jerusalem is in the hand of the Babylonians. Jeremiah is praying for understanding.
8. Yahweh assures Jeremiah that nothing is too difficult for him (32:26-35). Although the expression "new covenant" is not used, it is described in verses 36-44. What else do we learn in these verses about this new covenant, beyond what we learned in 31:31-34?
 - I will make them **dwelt in safety** Jeremiah 32:37
 - I will give them **one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever**, for their own good and the good of their children after them. Jeremiah 32:39
 - **And I will put the fear of me in their hearts**, that they may not turn from me. ⁴¹ Jeremiah 32:40-41

- I will rejoice in doing them good Jeremiah 32:41
 - I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, with all my heart and all my soul. Jeremiah 32:41
 - Just as I have brought all this great disaster upon this people, so I will bring upon them all the good that I promise them Jeremiah 32:42
9. God promises to “give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them” (32:39). What does this mean in light of passages like Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Psalm 86:8-13, Ezekiel 11:19-20, and Matthew 22:34-40?
- Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. Deut 6:4-9
 - There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours. ⁹ All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name. ¹⁰ For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God. ¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name. ¹² I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever. ¹³ For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol. Psalms 86:8-13
 - And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, ²⁰ that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. Ezekiel 11:19-20
 - But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. Matthew 22:34-40

- In the new, eternal covenant, everyone will love and serve only one Lord: Yahweh. They will serve him with fear, which means with awe and reverence. In this way, God will fulfill his promise of Jeremiah 32:42 to bring them good.
- Because this new covenant is written on the heart, it will not be necessary to teach it to subsequent generations, as was the case with the old covenant.
- The old covenant used the term “shall” when referring to loving the Lord with heart, soul, and mind. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we “will” do this in the new covenant.

God Will Honor the Davidic Covenant (33:1-26)

10. Although judgment will indeed come (Jer 33:1-5), restoration is also certain (vv. 6-13). This restoration will be in fulfillment of God’s covenant promises to David (vv. 14-26). In 2 Samuel 7:12-16 God had promised that David’s descendant would rule over an eternal kingdom. In Jeremiah 23:5-6 this descendant of David is called a “righteous Branch,” whose name will be “The Lord is our righteousness.” Here in 33:15—16, the righteous Branch is mentioned, but this time it is the redeemed people of God who are called “The Lord is our righteousness.” What does this tell us about the relationship between the promised king and his redeemed people? (Hint: see 2 Cor. 5:21).

- In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: The LORD is our righteousness.’ Jeremiah 33:15-16
- For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21
- The passage from Jeremiah 33:15-16 points to Judah and Jerusalem being called “The Lord is our righteousness.”. The passage from Jeremiah 23:5-6 called the descendant of David “The Lord is our righteousness.”. The implication is that, in the future, the righteousness of the redeemed people of God and of the descendant of David would become one. This is fulfilled with Jesus. With his saving death on the cross, believers are able to have the righteousness of Christ imputed to themselves.

11. What does it mean that David and the priests will never lack a man to fill their roles (Jer 33:17-26)? Look at Romans 1:1-5; 12:1-2; and 1 Peter 2:9-10 for help if necessary.

- “For thus says the LORD: David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel, ¹⁸ and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man in my presence to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to make sacrifices forever.”
Jeremiah 33:17-18
- Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³ concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations Romans 1:1-5
- I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:1-2
- But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 1 Peter 2:9-10
- Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God Hebrews 4:14
- Jesus is of the line of David and is the eternal king.
- Jesus is also the great high priest in heaven. Believers are the royal priesthood.

Personal Implications

12. Gospel Glimpses

Forgiveness of Sin

- To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. Acts 10:43
- In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace Ephesians 1:7
- And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. Colossians 2:13-14
- I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake. 1 John 2:12

God's Law Written on Our Hearts

- But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code. Romans 7:6
- For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Romans 8:3-4
- In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. Colossians 2:11-14

13. Whole-Bible Connections

God's Covenant With David

- The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples. Genesis 49:10
- And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever. 2 Samuel 7:16
- And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. Ezekiel 34:23
- Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals. Revelation 5:5

Rachel Weeping For Her Children (Restoration; Gentiles)

- Just a few comments on Jeremiah 31:15:
 - Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.
 - Matthew uses the same words in Matthew 2: 16-18 to describe the great sorrow after Herod killed all the male children 2 years and younger in Bethlehem. An entire generation is lost forever.
 - In Jeremiah, the context refers to Rachel weeping for her child of the Northern Kingdom (Joseph) and her child of the Southern Kingdom (Benjamin). The Jews of the Northern Kingdom had been taken into exile in various places in the Assyrian Empire. They became "lost" in time and did not return en masse to the Promised Land, except for a few who were a part of the those in Babylon who returned after the Babylonian exile. (see Ezra 2:28 for an example). God knows where these exiles are and they are restored when Jesus returns (see Revelation 4). The Jews of the Northern Kingdom comprise many lost generations. The Jews of the Southern Kingdom comprise at least 2 generations "lost" to Babylon for 70 years.
 - The passages after Jeremiah 31:15 talk about restoration of God's people and God instructs the people not to weep any longer.

- As Matthew Harmon points out in his comments, God will restore his chosen people and adopt the Gentiles into his family.
- “Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, ‘The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of all his people, may the LORD his God be with him. Let him go up.’” 2 Chronicles 36:23
- Now these were the people of the province who came up out of the captivity of those exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried captive to Babylonia. They returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his own town. Ezra 2:1
- Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, ²⁹ “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² **a light for revelation to the Gentiles**, and for glory to your people Israel.” Luke 2:25-32
- This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Ephesians 3:6

14. Theological Soundings

Imputation

- Warren Wiersbe: Another key idea in this section is imputation. This is a word borrowed from banking; it simply means “to put to one’s account.” When you deposit money in the bank, the computer (or the clerk) puts that amount to your account, or to your credit. When Jesus died on the cross, all of our sins were imputed to Him—put to His account. He was treated by God as though He had actually committed those sins.

The result? All of those sins have been paid for, and God no longer holds them against us, because we have trusted Christ as our Savior. But even more: God has put to our account the very righteousness of Christ! “For he hath made him [Christ] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor 5:21).

Yahweh as Creator (promise-keeper)

- For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. 2 Corinthians 1:20

15. Jeremiah 30:1-33:26 in total

- These chapters provide the full description of the new covenant inaugurated by Jesus. Not everything in these chapters has happened; the people of the Northern Kingdom of Israel have not been restored yet. This does not happen until Jesus returns. (Revelation 7: 4-8)