

## Jeremiah 31:1 – 32: 44

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~ Many people believe the church is the “*new Israel*” — or an extension thereof — and that God will never deal with Israel again as a nation, as He has in the past. Of course, the sincere student of Scripture understands that Israel has been set aside by God today as His witness to the world, according to the prophecy of Daniel, because they reject the True and Living God — the Lord Jesus Christ — as Messiah; but the day is coming when God will restore Israel and bring them back into the everlasting covenant He made with Abraham. Today, the church body of Christ is His witness in the world; but the Word of God is abundantly clear concerning His time frame, plan, and purpose for the future of Israel as a nation. This leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Bible will deal with that subject directly from Scripture.

King Zedekiah is on the throne at the time in which we are studying; and the reign of Zedekiah in the southern kingdom of Judah would correspond, in practice and debauchery, to the previous reign of Ahab and Jezebel in the northern kingdom so long ago: as in, wicked, evil and awful. At the time in which we are studying, the Babylonian army has surrounded Judah and is poised to destroy Jerusalem and burn Solomon’s temple to the ground. The false prophets have been exposed as liars and proven to be in error in literally everything they have said. Remember, the false prophet Hananiah had said that, within seven years, Nebuchadnezzar would be broken and defeated; and that the vessels of the temple would be returned to Jerusalem. Well, that was seven years before this time, and Nebuchadnezzar was preparing to break and defeat Judah. Hananiah died a long time ago — just as Jeremiah had prophesied.

In our last report, we examined chapter thirty; which opened with “*the Day of the Lord*” — the time period designated by all the prophets that begins with the Great Tribulation period — and is also referred to as “*the time of Jacob’s trouble*.” Israel is in direct danger of this happening at the time in which we are studying. Well, a day of restoration is coming in the future; when Israel will finally be returned in fulfillment of prophecy to the land.

The present-day return of Israel to the physical real estate can in *NO WAY* be considered a Biblical fulfillment of prophecy – mainly because they continue to refuse to acknowledge and worship the Lord Jesus Christ as the Messiah.

There is a real persecution of Christians in Israel today. The current Israeli government touts religious freedom; but they don't have religious freedom in Israel. Until they return to the Lord, according to the Word of God, they'll never have religious freedom. The only people that worship freely in Jerusalem today are Muslims who bow to Satan – a.k.a. "allah!" The Jews don't even have a temple; because the Mosque of Omar stands on the Temple Mount. The Jews have an awful, dreadful Wailing Wall — where they beat their heads against crushed rock of prior destruction and wail and howl in sorrow and despair. So, with that background, our safari can move forward in the prophecy of Jeremiah....

## **XXXI**

***1 At the same time, saith the LORD, will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.***

***2 Thus saith the LORD, The people which were left of the sword found grace in the wilderness; even Israel, when I went to cause him to rest.***

***3 The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.***

***4 Again I will build thee, and thou shalt be built, O virgin of Israel: thou shalt again be adorned with thy tabrets, and shalt go forth in the dances of them that make merry.***

***5 Thou shalt yet plant vines upon the mountains of Samaria: the planters shall plant, and shall eat them as common things.***

***6 For there shall be a day, that the watchmen upon the mount Ephraim shall cry, Arise ye, and let us go up to Zion unto the LORD our God.***

***7 For thus saith the LORD; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O LORD, save thy people, the remnant of Israel.***

~ We have seen nothing but judgment during the darkest era of Israel's history in this prophecy of Jeremiah thus far; but we now have a section of bright, hopeful, encouraging contrasts of love. I trust you dear readers have prayed for wisdom, judgment, and discernment, and have read these chapters in your own Bible. This collection constitutes one song; or, as someone has put it, "... *this is the triumphal hymn of Israel's future salvation.*" The *future* is given hope because God says "*I will*" fifteen times through His prophet in chapter thirty-one.

Verse three begins God's explanation of their atonement in that day, as He gives the reason He is going to restore them to their land; and it is for one reason and one reason only: because He has loved them with an everlasting love. There are many favorite statements grabbed by Christians from the Word of God – and that is certainly one of them – for obvious reasons. Interestingly, I don't see this verse quoted nearly as much today as I do verse eleven of chapter twenty-nine. God is going to bring them back to Himself and into the land in His own time and in His own way – because He loves them.

Now, many people wonder how God can love these people who have rejected Him for so long. Why would God love a people who have abandoned Him wholesale and worship science and education? Frankly, those are good questions. And I get the most satisfactory answer when I widen it out and ask, "... *how can God love ME and YOU?*" The Bible says, "*God so LOVED the world...*" So, obviously, God loves them, just as He loves you and me. If you find satisfaction in and of yourself as to why God loved you, while you were yet dead in your trespasses and sins, then you are not saved; because that would be impossible. It's very easy to point our finger at the Jews and criticize them today – but God says, "*I have LOVED thee with an everlasting love.*"

See, in God's estimation, and in His sight, you are as great a sinner as anyone ever has been. Many people today claim, "... *I'm not a sinner*

*because I have been saved.*” Well, if you’re not a sinner saved by grace, then you have never been saved. The apostle said, “... *herein is love: not that we love God, but that God has LOVED us.*” That’s true love. God hasn’t loved us because He sees anything of merit in us, either – but only because of Who He is. God finds the explanation for having LOVED us in Himself. When God talks about loving us, He always uses the past-tense word “LOVED.” That’s because the only place we are ever going to realize the love of God is back at the cross of Christ. Without the death, burial and resurrection of Christ, there would be no redemption for anyone. So, when God says He LOVED us – frankly, I’m not convinced my understanding is complete. What I do know is that God’s love for us is His nature; and has no other cause above or beside itself – it is simply within Himself and His character. Further, love always remains in God, and in Christ Jesus His Son as the centerpiece. That brings God’s love up to date – and He loves us now. Why? I can’t tell you why. Those who deign tell me why God loves us don’t know, either; they only think they do.

~ How Thou canst think so well of us  
Yet be the God Thou art ~  
~ Is darkness to my intellect  
But brings sunshine to my heart! ~  
~ Yet Thou dost think so well of us  
Because of what Thou art ~  
~ Thy love lights our intellect  
Yet fills with fear our heart ~

Moreover, I’m sorry to have to admit I know very little about the word “*everlasting.*” When someone says “*everlasting*” or “*forevermore,*” I’m not sure any real message has been conveyed; because it is actually beyond my comprehension. What I do know is: everlasting is a really long time. Forevermore sounds even longer. So, when God says, “*I have loved you with an everlasting love*” – my mind is, frankly, overwhelmed attempting to process such a basic eleven syllable sentence. Honestly, because I always am honest with you dear readers, God’s love is so overwhelming and wonderful I’m afraid God might change His mind about loving me at any moment. Naturally, *YOU* probably think God couldn’t possibly live without you, and couldn’t manage this universe without you; but, not me – this all

scares the living daylights out of me — just to think about it! His promise in His Word to love me forevermore is all I have; and it's all you have too, my friends.

I have many amillennialist acquaintances who believe God is finished dealing with the nation Israel as His witness in the world. Well, I try to tell them that if God is finished with Israel, then God is finished with you and me. I cannot classify the amillennialist as a "friend" because, when I tell them these things, I discover they don't really love me very much; in fact, I have found they don't even like me. That is a *WHOLE* bunch of information for any reasonable, thinking Christian to think about; and it will be very important to any serious student of Scripture. It also prepares us to hear what God *REALLY* wants to say to us in this passage....

***8 Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, and with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither.***

***9 They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.***

~ God says He is the Father of the nation Israel – but not of any individual Israelite's. God always correlates His relationship with them on a national basis. When God spoke of Moses, He called Moses His servant. When God spoke of Joshua, He called Joshua a servant. When God spoke of Samuel, David, Ezra, Nehemiah – anyone in the Old Testament – *servants* were they. Verse eight says God is going to bring every one of them back home; sick, blind, lame and weak – all of them. Some people today believe God is only saving the finest specimens; God says, "ALL are coming home." God says He is the One Who scattered Israel; and He is the One Who will be bringing them back in that day. This is what God says He is going to do, and Jeremiah says, ".... *this is the Word of God....*"

**10 Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock.**

**11 For the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of him that was stronger than he.**

**12 Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the LORD, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all.**

**13 Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together: for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow.**

**14 And I will satiate the soul of the priests with fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, saith the LORD.**

**15 Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not.**

**16 Thus saith the LORD; Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears: for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the LORD; and they shall come again from the land of the enemy.**

**17 And there is hope in thine end, saith the LORD, that thy children shall come again to their own border.**

**18 I have surely heard Ephraim bemoaning himself thus; Thou hast chastised me, and I was chastised, as a bullock unaccustomed to the yoke: turn thou me, and I shall be turned; for thou art the LORD my God.**

**19 Surely after that I was turned, I repented; and after that I was instructed, I smote upon my thigh: I was ashamed, yea, even confounded, because I did bear the reproach of my youth.**

***20 Is Ephraim my dear son? is he a pleasant child? for since I spake against him, I do earnestly remember him still: therefore my bowels are troubled for him; I will surely have mercy upon him, saith the LORD.***

***21 Set thee up waymarks, make thee high heaps: set thine heart toward the highway, even the way which thou wentest: turn again, O virgin of Israel, turn again to these thy cities.***

***22 How long wilt thou go about, O thou backsliding daughter? for the LORD hath created a new thing in the earth, A woman shall compass a man.***

***23 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; As yet they shall use this speech in the land of Judah and in the cities thereof, when I shall bring again their captivity; The LORD bless thee, O habitation of justice, and mountain of holiness.***

***24 And there shall dwell in Judah itself, and in all the cities thereof together, husbandmen, and they that go forth with flocks.***

***25 For I have satiated the weary soul, and I have replenished every sorrowful soul.***

***26 Upon this I awaked, and beheld; and my sleep was sweet unto me.***

***27 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of man, and with the seed of beast.***

***28 And it shall come to pass, that like as I have watched over them, to pluck up, and to break down, and to throw down, and to destroy, and to afflict; so will I watch over them, to build, and to plant, saith the LORD.***

***29 In those days they shall say no more, The fathers have eaten a sour grape, and the children's teeth are set on edge.***

***30 But every one shall die for his own iniquity: every man that eateth the sour grape, his teeth shall be set on edge.***

***31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:***

***32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:***

~ The condition of the nation Israel today is tragic. Everything about their existence in that land is marred with hate, fear and danger. Their capital is Tel Aviv - not Jerusalem; the Arab's control Jerusalem today. So, God is saying He intends to make an entirely new covenant with them. God has a plan and purpose for all twelve tribes. Those today who say ten tribes are lost just don't happen to understand that God knows exactly where they are. This new covenant is going to be engraved upon their hearts — not upon cold tablets of stone, as previously done. Their sins and rejection of Christ will be forgiven, and remembered no more. This new covenant will never be changed or abrogated, either. What a marvelous day that will be....

***33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.***

***34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.***

***35 Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name:***

***36 If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever.***

***37 Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD.***

***38 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the city shall be built to the LORD from the tower of Hananeel unto the gate of the corner.***

***39 And the measuring line shall yet go forth over against it upon the hill Gareb, and shall compass about to Goath.***

***40 And the whole valley of the dead bodies, and of the ashes, and all the fields unto the brook of Kidron, unto the corner of the horse gate toward the east, shall be holy unto the LORD; it shall not be plucked up, nor thrown down any more for ever.***

## **XXXII**

***1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar.***

***2 For then the king of Babylon's army besieged Jerusalem: and Jeremiah the prophet was shut up in the court of the prison, which was in the king of Judah's house.***

***3 For Zedekiah king of Judah had shut him up, saying, Wherefore dost thou prophesy, and say, Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall take it;***

***4 And Zedekiah king of Judah shall not escape out of the hand of the Chaldeans, but shall surely be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon, and shall speak with him mouth to mouth, and his eyes shall behold his eyes;***

***5 And he shall lead Zedekiah to Babylon, and there shall he be until I visit him, saith the LORD: though ye fight with the Chaldeans, ye shall not prosper.***

***6 And Jeremiah said, The word of the LORD came unto me, saying,***

***7 Behold, Hanameel the son of Shallum thine uncle shall come unto thee, saying, Buy thee my field that is in Anathoth: for the right of redemption is thine to buy it.***

***8 So Hanameel mine uncle's son came to me in the court of the prison according to the word of the LORD, and said unto me, Buy my field, I pray thee, that is in Anathoth, which is in the country of Benjamin: for the right of inheritance is thine, and the redemption is thine; buy it for thyself. Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD.***

***9 And I bought the field of Hanameel my uncle's son, that was in Anathoth, and weighed him the money, even seventeen shekels of silver.***

~ Our Spiritual Safari ends this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God with Jeremiah still in prison; but, even in prison, he buys some real estate. Jeremiah is careful to pinpoint the timeframe in verse one. That means this is the year Nebuchadnezzar tore down the walls of Jerusalem. Jeremiah's life is at its absolute worst point so far; and that is when he gives the most hopeful message he has ever given. That doesn't mean Jeremiah is compromising because, as you should have noticed, the preceding message was sweet, but still contained a note of sorrow.

Well, this was the time in Israel to *SELL* real estate – not buy it. I have a feeling the real estate agents were dumping everything at bargain basement prices. Otherwise, I doubt Jeremiah would have been able to afford his uncles land over in Anathoth. Either way, Jeremiah is demonstrating to his people by purchasing land that he believed what he was saying; that Israel would return to the land in seventy years. This is truly a remarkable passage of Scripture when we understand what it means. That brings up the prayer of Jeremiah that begins in verse sixteen.

Jeremiah had a problem that was too much for him – but he knew it wasn't too difficult for the Lord.

Jeremiah was no hypocrite, friends. Many Christians today begin to experience trouble and they so piously say, "... *Oh, I'm just trusting the Lord, because He has allowed this thing to happen, and I just accept it*" – when they are *NOT* trusting the Lord – and they sure aren't accepting it. They're rank, sometimes bitter hypocrites in that state. Their complaint degenerates into profound cynicism. Now, there's nothing wrong with asking God "*why?*" The problem, however, comes when we try to cover up or twist the Scriptural answer with some pious platitudes or Christian clichés. If we have a doubt or question, we have a privilege of talking to the Lord in prayer about it! Tell Him how you really feel about things. God wants us to be honest with Him. Frankly, I have questions for the Lord that are bigger than the continent of Asia. Putting up a holier-than-thou front is not helpful. Jeremiah didn't do that and, as a result, God answers Jeremiah beginning in verse twenty-six, and God says, "*you can trust Me, Jeremiah*"....

***10 And I subscribed the evidence, and sealed it, and took witnesses, and weighed him the money in the balances.***

***11 So I took the evidence of the purchase, both that which was sealed according to the law and custom, and that which was open:***

***12 And I gave the evidence of the purchase unto Baruch the son of Neriah, the son of Maaseiah, in the sight of Hanameel mine uncle's son, and in the presence of the witnesses that subscribed the book of the purchase, before all the Jews that sat in the court of the prison.***

***13 And I charged Baruch before them, saying,***

***14 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Take these evidences, this evidence of the purchase, both which is sealed, and this evidence which is open; and put them in an earthen vessel, that they may continue many days.***

**15 For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Houses and fields and vineyards shall be possessed again in this land.**

**16 Now when I had delivered the evidence of the purchase unto Baruch the son of Neriah, I prayed unto the LORD, saying,**

**17 Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:**

**18 Thou shewest lovingkindness unto thousands, and recompensest the iniquity of the fathers into the bosom of their children after them: the Great, the Mighty God, the LORD of hosts, is his name,**

**19 Great in counsel, and mighty in work: for thine eyes are open upon all the ways of the sons of men: to give every one according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings:**

**20 Which hast set signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, even unto this day, and in Israel, and among other men; and hast made thee a name, as at this day;**

**21 And hast brought forth thy people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs, and with wonders, and with a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with great terror;**

**22 And hast given them this land, which thou didst swear to their fathers to give them, a land flowing with milk and honey;**

**23 And they came in, and possessed it; but they obeyed not thy voice, neither walked in thy law; they have done nothing of all that thou commandedst them to do: therefore thou hast caused all this evil to come upon them:**

**24 Behold the mounts, they are come unto the city to take it; and the city is given into the hand of the Chaldeans, that fight against it, because of**

***the sword, and of the famine, and of the pestilence: and what thou hast spoken is come to pass; and, behold, thou seest it.***

***25 And thou hast said unto me, O Lord GOD, Buy thee the field for money, and take witnesses; for the city is given into the hand of the Chaldeans.***

***26 Then came the word of the LORD unto Jeremiah, saying,***

***27 Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?***

***28 Therefore thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the Chaldeans, and into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and he shall take it:***

***29 And the Chaldeans, that fight against this city, shall come and set fire on this city, and burn it with the houses, upon whose roofs they have offered incense unto Baal, and poured out drink offerings unto other gods, to provoke me to anger.***

***30 For the children of Israel and the children of Judah have only done evil before me from their youth: for the children of Israel have only provoked me to anger with the work of their hands, saith the LORD.***

***31 For this city hath been to me as a provocation of mine anger and of my fury from the day that they built it even unto this day; that I should remove it from before my face,***

***32 Because of all the evil of the children of Israel and of the children of Judah, which they have done to provoke me to anger, they, their kings, their princes, their priests, and their prophets, and the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.***

***33 And they have turned unto me the back, and not the face: though I taught them, rising up early and teaching them, yet they have not hearkened to receive instruction.***

**34 But they set their abominations in the house, which is called by my name, to defile it.**

**35 And they built the high places of Baal, which are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire unto Molech; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.**

**36 And now therefore thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning this city, whereof ye say, It shall be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence;**

**37 Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely:**

**38 And they shall be my people, and I will be their God:**

**39 And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them:**

**40 And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.**

**41 Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul.**

**42 For thus saith the LORD; Like as I have brought all this great evil upon this people, so will I bring upon them all the good that I have promised them.**

**43 And fields shall be bought in this land, whereof ye say, It is desolate without man or beast; it is given into the hand of the Chaldeans.**

**44 Men shall buy fields for money, and subscribe evidences, and seal them, and take witnesses in the land of Benjamin, and in the places**

***about Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, and in the cities of the mountains, and in the cities of the valley, and in the cities of the south: for I will cause their captivity to return, saith the LORD ~***

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