

Jeremiah 33:1 – 36:32

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~ This report from our Spiritual Safari will be unusually personal and brutally honest. Fasten your seat belts because our safari-mobile is going to be driven furiously in this report. Answer two questions to yourself as we begin this leg of our expedition: do you selectively employ Bible verses that are meaningful to you or a particular situation? – Or do you treat it *ALL* as the revealed and revered Word of God? Now, most people will say, “... *I take the entire Bible*” – and that’s good – but, see, in order to actually make that claim, we have to actually know the entire Word of God. If we don’t understand it overall, at least on a fundamentally basic level, we cannot make the claim of belief. Saying, “... *I don’t pull out verses here and there*” immediately makes fools and hypocrites of most so-called Christians – more than almost anything else they could do or say. That’s the premise Jeremiah will set forth concerning God’s chosen people in this section of Scripture.

This report will require prayer for wisdom, judgment and spiritual discernment – and then reading all four long and extended chapters from Jeremiah that this report covers; because I am not going to publish every verse from them in my commentary. We entered a bright section of hope in this prophecy of darkness, doom and gloom in our last report. However, Jeremiah is still imprisoned at this time in which we are studying in the court of the temple by Judah, a people with a very evil spirit. King Zedekiah is on the throne; and he is an evil king. Nebuchadnezzar is now preparing to break the walls of Jerusalem down, enter the city, level it to rubble, crush and burn Solomon’s temple, and carry Zedekiah and almost every man, woman and child away into slavery down in Babylon. These are very, very dark days for Judah, indeed.

The false prophets are lying to the people saying, “... *it can’t happen the way Jeremiah is saying it will.*” Jeremiah says – and has been saying for years now, “... *it’s going to happen exactly this way unless you stop the Baal worship immediately and turn to God.*” Well, we know from history, confirmed by the Word of God, that it happened as Jeremiah prophesied it

would – down to the most intricate detail. Even so, in the inky darkness, Jeremiah was given a lamp to light his way. This prophet now knows a great day is coming in the distant future for the nation Israel....

XXXIII

1 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah the second time, while he was yet shut up in the court of the prison, saying,

2 Thus saith the LORD the maker thereof, the LORD that formed it, to establish it; the LORD is his name;

3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

4 For thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the houses of this city, and concerning the houses of the kings of Judah, which are thrown down by the mounts, and by the sword;

5 They come to fight with the Chaldeans, but it is to fill them with the dead bodies of men, whom I have slain in mine anger and in my fury, and for all whose wickedness I have hid my face from this city.

6 Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth.

~ In this chapter, God is confirming and reaffirming the covenant He made with David so long ago in chapter seven of second Samuel. God reassures Jeremiah in this passage the day is coming when Israel will be restored to fellowship with Him in the Promised Land. Verse three is used in many prayer meetings – and that’s fine, I suppose; but it makes absolutely no semblance of sense when it is taken out of the setting in which it belongs – which is right here in the thirty-third chapter of the prophecy of Jeremiah. Our last report saw Jeremiah purchase a piece of real estate from his cousin in Anathoth, which seemed foolish, considering the invasion of the Chaldean’s; but God instructed Jeremiah to act in faith, which he did, but he still had so many questions. Jeremiah wondered, “.... *why was God*

allowing this to happen to His people?” “Why was it necessary for Judah to go into Babylonian captivity?” “Wouldn’t a drought or famine or pestilence – or something else – ANYTHING else – besides destruction of the temple and captivity be sufficient?” Those were Jeremiah’s basic questions.

Well, that, combined with his imprisonment, and inhumane mistreatment by his own people, led to some serious moments of doubt and despair for Jeremiah. While there is a very real danger of doubting God, it can also be an indication of a strong, growing faith. I know that sounds like a paradox – because it is. See, friends, when you are walking with God, and have no unconfessed sins in your life, then you will be in fellowship with the Father in Heaven – and God will do wonderful things. When we finally reach His direct will for our lives, Jesus will be an incomprehensible blessing to us. Of course, there will still be times when we cannot understand what He is doing. There are bound to be times when we cry out to the Lord and ask, *“... why are You permitting such and such to happen; and why are You doing this thing this way?”*

We all have questions for the Lord. At least, I do. Many, many questions I have, by the way. Most of them begin with, *“why?”* Frankly, God has permitted certain things to happen in my life that there is no possible way I could ever understand His plan and purpose for down here on this earth. I have had some questions for many years now – in fact, several decades – and all I can do is place my hand in His Hand, and continue on in the path with the light He has provided; the lamp of His Word, lighting my way. Even with His light, I still stumble on those questions. I’m just being honest. Trust me friends, the bad things that have happened to me and my family in this world literally give me a question mark for a brain. I can honestly say I trust Him, though – through it all – I trust Him. Absolutely; although not with an unquestionable existence.

Contrary to popular belief, faith has its doubts. Faith combined with John chapter sixteen verse thirteen *IN NO WAY* means you and I are going to understand everything in this world. What I do know is that the day is coming when God is going to explain all things and reveal all truth satisfactorily to me; but not in this lifetime – because, right now, as I type this report and as you read it – I still ask *“why?”* Maybe you think it’s wrong

– I don't. Jeremiah asked why. David asked why. Habakkuk asked why. Jonah asked why. All of the prophets asked why. Frankly, I think there is something very wrong with *NOT* asking why!

Most Christians put up a front that is as phony and fraudulent as a thousand dollar bill and say, "... *oh, I trust the Lord, and I'm just accepting what He gives me.*" That sounds great – but – those people are *NEVER* the ones who trust the Lord. They *DON'T* accept God's plan and purpose for their lives. In fact, they don't know what His plan is, and they fight God tooth and nail on every step they take in their walk with Him; they're the only ones who don't understand it. Deep down they ask, "*why*" – just like I do, though. I'm thankful Jeremiah was honest enough to ask God, "*why?*" Doubt is not a revelation of ones lack of faith; no, the front of pious platitudes and Christian clichés is a revelation of hypocrisy.

I just happen to know that God wants us to be honest with Him above everything else. When we are honest with Him in prayer, then He is faithful to allow us to beat our music out. The Word of the Lord came to Jeremiah when Jeremiah was in prison for giving the message that God had instructed him to give to His people. If that doesn't raise questions, I don't know what would? On the Damascus road, the apostle Paul was told by Jesus, "*... I will show you what great things you must suffer for My Names sake.*" When Paul asked the Lord to remove that thorn in his flesh, and God said, "*My grace is sufficient for you....*" – I think Paul replied, "*... well, okay – but why?*" Remember, Jeremiah began by saying, "*... nothing is impossible for God*" – so, to hear Jeremiah ask, "*... why don't you do things differently now?*" – is legitimate and fair.

We're living in a modern world where the Lord Jesus Christ has pretty much been ruled out altogether. Even so, I still see Him moving in a very definite and deliberate manner. If I told you what I believe He has done in these United States, and what He is about to do, most of you would never read another word I write – and most people don't read what I say anyways. God has been, and is doing, a little judging during the extremely few decades of my ministry – and I'll just leave it at that. God still rules in the kingdom of men, and overrules in the affairs of this world in which Satan is the god of, and the prince of power of the air. Man doesn't have to acknowledge God –

that doesn't change a thing; it neither alters, shapes, reforms nor destroys His plan and purpose for the life of genuine believers — nor for this world in judgment, friends.

In second Samuel chapter seven, God made a covenant with King David. The promise was that there would be One Who sat on the throne of Israel eternally. That became the theme of every prophet who would come along in the Bible, and the premise for all of the doctrines of Christ. Frankly, one prophet after another will sound like a stuck record. They repeat the same message; one after another. The entirety of Scriptural prophecy rests on the Davidic covenant. *"In those days"* in verse fifteen means in the Day of the Lord that is coming — future. Well, David hasn't had a righteous branch on the throne of Israel on this earth as long as I've been alive. Every single one of the kings in the northern kingdom of Israel were bad kings. They all did evil in the sight of the Lord — not *ONE* good one among them. The southern Kingdom of Judah had twenty kings — but only eight good kings — less than half did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord. And even the good kings had their own failures, disobedience, and sin.

The only Righteous Branch of David is the One Who was born in Bethlehem. Israel hasn't had a ruler like Jesus to date. The people in modern-day Jerusalem do not dwell in peace and safety. Verse sixteen presents Jehovah-tsidkenu — meaning: Jesus Christ is our righteousness. There isn't an Israelite on the topside of this earth that can make a claim to David's throne. The Only One Who can make that claim is sitting at the Right Hand of God Almighty right now, unless He is standing to receive a dear saint — but I digress. Until God makes His enemies His footstool, that's where Christ Jesus is going to remain, too. God is calling out a people to His Name and preparing to place Christ Jesus physically and literally on a physical and literal throne in the physical and literal Jerusalem on this physical and literal earth in the physical and literal Israel — someday. I believe it will be sooner than later, personally; but, again, I digress. Read this chapter very carefully, friends. Many people either want to totally ignore this section of Scripture, or spiritualize it into meaninglessness. Neither of those are acceptable. This is all as literal as literal can possibly get....

XXXIV

~ Zedekiah is still ruling and reigning on the throne in Jerusalem in this chapter; but Nebuchadnezzar kills all of his sons – effectively ending the lineage of kings in the descendants of David – and Nebuchadnezzar will put out Zedekiah’s eyes after murdering those sons. That’s a nice thing to have as the last thing you see before going blind, isn’t it? The life of the child of God is the only thing the world will ever look at. Zedekiah pretended to bring liberty to the land – but he was polluting the Name of God. Zedekiah really had no choice but to put up a front; because he was trying to rally the other nations to join him in fighting Nebuchadnezzar. Blaspheming the True and Living God with this proclamation of liberty was Zedekiah’s only avenue of showing he was different. Of course, Zedekiah couldn’t make good on his political promises – so, he brought his name and God’s Name both into disrepute at this time.

Today, the Name of God and the cause of Christ are hurt more by those who profess to know Him than by all of the atheistic evolutionary university professors, indifferent agnostics, and otherwise unbelievers combined. Those who name the Name of Jesus, yet live lives that utterly contradict their profession of faith, are responsible for the condition of the church today – which is useless and ineffective at witnessing to a lost and dying world. They have polluted and profaned God’s Name, and the church is in *ALMOST* total apostasy as a result. That’s the way it is. That’s what’s real. You can just write this down....

XXXV

~ In chapter thirty-five, we drop back in time to the reign of Jehoiakim; and we are introduced to the Rechabites. These were descendants of King Saul from chapter four of second Samuel verse two. They are part of the remnant of the tribe of Benjamin – and they are different than any other group of people in the Bible. I believe God gave us this chapter to reinforce that there is always a remnant; and we don’t know where they came from, or who they are. That King Saul’s lineage is named in the remnant is completely baffling to me. I might have understood this if that remnant offspring had been from Mephibosheth – but not from this son of King Saul. It’s another question I have for the Lord.

Well, irrespective of my understanding, God has already said He will never leave this world without a witness for Him. Flip back and read second Samuel, and you'll discover they still dwell in Israel *TO THIS DAY*. You may think that means until the time in which second Samuel was written – I say we can bring it up to today. Even in the darkest times of history – past, present and future – and even in the Great Tribulation period, when Satan governs and the one hundred forty-four thousand chosen from the twelve tribes of Israel have to go into hiding, there are still two witnesses who stand for God. That's an inviolate, irrevocable tenet of Scriptural truth. Further, God always makes a definite distinction between the remnant and the corporate nation Israel that has rejected Him and rebelled against Him – to this day...

XXXVI

~ Alright, our Spiritual Safari ends this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God examining the attitude King Jehoiakim had towards the Word of God. Jeremiah sent King Jehoiakim a written message. Jehudi took the written report back to Jehoiakim and, after reading just a few short sentences, Jehoiakim cut the roll up and threw it in the fire! That's exactly what most so-called Christians really think about the Word of God today, too, my friends. Most self-professing believers don't really care for a proper, correct and complete Bible study – not even close. They *ALL* say they do – but – they don't. They don't accept it; and they don't believe it, either. I'm not even the least bit impressed that almost everyone owns a copy of the Bible – because no one is reading it. It's either a dusty thing on a shelf, or a good-luck charm on a coffee table, or it sits in a car window as a pretense. Most have immediate access on a gadget they carry to church, but never even open it there, either. I wish they would throw it in a fire, too; because they would get a better use out of it that way. That's the way it is. Saying to me, “... Andrew, no, it's not that way” doesn't make it not that way – it certainly *IS* that way. Well, Jeremiah wrote it again – and that's what Andrew C. Hunt is doing, too – and you can thank God for that – or not; it made no difference to Jeremiah what they did with the Word of God and, candidly, I think you know what I am going to say here – it makes no difference to me what you do with it, either. My responsibility

ends when I present these lessons in sound doctrine. That's where your responsibility to learn something begins; something else you can just write down ~

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