

Navigating Uncertainty

Lesson 10

Jeremiah 30-31, 32:36-44

November 15, 2020

God's Plan: The Hope of the World

Introduction

Israel was banished to Babylon for 70 years because of their terrible sins and rebellion against God. As a result, they found themselves in a foreign land, as outcast people and without any real hope of redemption. Jeremiah's words not only explained to Israel why they were in their current situation, but it was also God's promise that He would rescue them and bring them back to Jerusalem and their homeland. The best part was His announcement of a new covenant.

The old covenant was a set of requirements and expectations that Israel was not only incapable of keeping, but that they had flagrantly and systemically disobeyed for years. However, with the new covenant, God extends His grace and promises that he will create true worshippers by putting His law in Israel's heart.

Similarly, as God pulled Israel out of Babylon, He also pulls us out of our sin and gives us a new covenant through the sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary. The Holy Spirit is the embodiment of the new covenant that puts His desires in our hearts.

***Memory verse: "No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord. 'For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.'"*—Jeremiah 31:34**

Pray and read Jeremiah 30, 31, 32:36-44. What questions or observations do you have about these passages?

What do the passages say?

1. How did God describe Israel's problems? (Jeremiah 30:12-15)
2. What did God say that He would do for Israel? (Jeremiah 30:16-24)
3. What did God say he would give Israel after the punishments? (Jeremiah 31:2)
4. How did God say that Israel would respond to this? (Jeremiah 31:4-6)
5. What did God promise to give to Israel? (Jeremiah 31:31-34, 32:39-40)

What do the passages mean?

1. Why was Israel in such a dire situation as described in Jeremiah 30? Why were they banished from their homeland and having so many problems? (Jeremiah 30:14-15)

2. What do the verses in Jeremiah 31 tell us about why God disciplined Israel and what He knew the outcome would be? (Jeremiah 31:18-20)

3. How did God promise that His new covenant would be different than the old covenant? (Jeremiah 31:33-34)

4. How did the new covenant that God promised come to fruition? (Jeremiah 31:31-34, 32:41; Luke 22:19-20, Hebrews 10:14-18; 1 Corinthians 11:25)

5. How did God say that the new covenant would be different from the old covenant? (Jeremiah 31:33, Jeremiah 32:39-40)

6. What do you think it means when God said that He would give Israel a singleness of heart and action? (Jeremiah 32:39)

Applying the passages

1. The first part of Jeremiah 30 described the futility of Israel's situation and their desperate need for rescue. But then he went on to describe the promises of God to Israel to pull them out of their terrible situation and put His laws in their hearts. How is this like trading in our old, sinful selves for our reborn hearts once we have saving faith in Christ? (Jeremiah 30; 2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 2:8-9)

2. The old covenant was a system of laws and sacrifice that showed that Israel could never satisfy God's requirements under their own efforts. With His new covenant, God promised to do for His people what we cannot do for ourselves and do it through a new process by putting His Spirit in our hearts. How does a relationship with Jesus fulfill these promises? (Jeremiah 31:33)

3. Think about what it means to have God's law in your heart. Write down a few times that you've felt the Holy Spirit calling you to do something. Pray for a few minutes that Jesus will continue to reveal His heart to you. (Romans 8:14, 12:2; Galatians 5:25)