

# Jeremiah 33 - Excellence of the Restored Nation

## IV. Prophecies of future comfort for Israel and Judah (Jer 30:1—33:26)

- (5) Davidic and Levitical covenants reaffirmed (33:1-26)
  - (A) Present destruction (33:1-5)
  - (B) Future restoration (33:6-13)
  - (C) Reaffirmation of the Davidic and Levitical covenants (33:14-26)
    - (a) Davidic covenant (33:14-17)
    - (b) Levitical covenant (33:18)
    - (c) These covenants are as sure as the fixed order (33:19-26)

## Jeremiah 33

- (5) Davidic and Levitical covenants reaffirmed (33:1-26)

- (A) Present destruction (33:1-5)

**1** Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the second time, while he was still confined in the courtyard of the guard, saying,

**1** Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the second time, while he was still confined in the court of the guard, saying,

**1** This message from the LORD came to Jeremiah a second time while he was still confined in the courtyard of the guard:

**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,

- Zedekiah was facing the Babylonian siege. Jeremiah was in the court of the prison.

— Zedekiah turns out to be a double-minded man. Scripture tells us that he is unstable in all his ways. He likes Jeremiah but his court advisors are very anti-Jeremiah. Jeremiah's message is pro-Babylon and that the Babylonians are God's instruments of judgment and they will prevail. Most of Zedekiah's advisor's were pro-Egypt and they kept intriguing in the hopes that Egypt will be a strong enough ally to fend off the Babylonians.

— Jeremiah predicts that this isn't going to work and so from time to time he is attacked by the court leadership and Zedekiah will sometimes protect him, sometimes seeks his counsel and in this case, sometimes put him in prison

**2** "This is what the LORD says, *He* who made the earth, the LORD who formed it to create it, *He* whose name is the LORD:

2 "Thus says the LORD who made *the earth*, the LORD who formed it to establish it, the LORD is His name,

2 "This is what the LORD says who made the earth, the LORD who formed it in order to establish it—whose name is the LORD—

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

3 'Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'

3 'Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'

3 'Call to me and I'll answer you, and will tell you about great and hidden things that you don't know.'

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

4 For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel says concerning the houses of this city, and concerning the houses of the kings of Judah which have been torn down *to make a defense* against the assault ramps and the sword:

4 For thus says the LORD God of Israel concerning the houses of this city, and concerning the houses of the kings of Judah which are broken down *to make a defense* against the siege ramps and against the sword,

4 For this is what the LORD God of Israel says about the houses of this city and the houses of the kings of Judah that were torn down to defend against the siege ramps and the sword,

**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 'While *they* are coming to fight the Chaldeans and to fill their houses with the bodies of people whom I have struck down in My anger and My wrath, and I have hidden My face from this city because of all their wickedness:

5 'While *they* are coming to fight with the Chaldeans and to fill them with the corpses of men whom I have slain in My anger and in My wrath, and I have hidden My face from this city because of all their wickedness:

5 'The Chaldeans are coming to fight and to fill those houses with the dead bodies of the people that I've struck down in my anger and wrath, for I've hidden my face from this city because of all their wickedness.

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.

(B) Future restoration (33:6-13)

6 Behold, I am going to bring to it healing and a remedy, and I will heal them; and I will reveal to them an abundance of peace and truth.

6 Behold, I will bring to it health and healing, and I will heal them; and I will reveal to them an abundance of peace and truth.

6 “Look, I’ll bring restoration and healing to it, and I’ll heal them. I’ll reveal to them an abundance of peace and faithfulness.

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.

7 And I will restore the fortunes of Judah and the fortunes of Israel, and will rebuild them as *they were* at first.

7 I will restore the fortunes of Judah and the fortunes of Israel and will rebuild them as they were at first.

7 I’ll restore the security of Judah and Israel and rebuild them as they were at first.

7 And I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return, and will build them, as at the first.

- The captivity to return = He will undo it. The promise of returning not just to Judah, also to Israel. Israel here is used denotatively as the Northern Kingdom, Judah being the Southern Kingdom after the division of Israel in the days of Jeroboam and Rehoboam.

There is no such thing as the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel. Called the Ten Tribes because the Northern Kingdom consisted essentially of ten tribal areas. Judah and Benjamin are the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

Ten tribes to the north and 2 tribes to the south is a very naïve notion, because there was thirteen tribes due to Levi. The Northern Kingdom drifted into idolatry, the faithful migrated south. The Northern Kingdom was taken captive by Assyria because of their idolatry some hundred years prior to the writings of Jeremiah. The Assyrians were taken captive by the Babylonians and ultimately inherited their captives. When Babylon prevails over the Southern Kingdom of Judah, which is not just two tribes, it is a mixture of the faithful of the Northern Kingdom. They become co-mingled with the other slaves so the concept of the Ten Lost Tribes is a little naïve. The promise here that both Judah and Israel will be returned.

8 And I will cleanse them from all their wrongdoing by which they have sinned against Me, and I will forgive all their wrongdoings by which they have sinned against Me and revolted against Me.

8 I will cleanse them from all their iniquity by which they have sinned against Me, and I will pardon all their iniquities by which they have sinned against Me and by which they have transgressed against Me.

8 I'll cleanse them from all their sin that they have committed against me, and I'll forgive all their sins that they committed against me and by which they rebelled against me.

8 And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against me; and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me.

- A prophecy, yet future

9 It will be to Me a name of joy, praise, and glory before all the nations of the earth, which will hear of all the good that I do for them, and they will be frightened and tremble because of all the good and all the peace that I make for it.'

9 It will be to Me a name of joy, praise and glory before all the nations of the earth which will hear of all the good that I do for them, and they will fear and tremble because of all the good and all the peace that I make for it.'

9 Jerusalem will be for me a name of joy, praise, and glory to all the nations of the earth that hear about all the good that I'm doing for them. They'll fear and tremble because of all the good and because of all the peace that I'm bringing to Jerusalem.'

9 And it shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honour before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them: and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it.

- Encouragement right in the middle of all this judgment, The Book of Consolation.

**10** "This is what the LORD says: 'Yet again there will be heard in this place, of which you say, "It is a waste, without man and without animal," *that is*, in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem that are deserted, without man and without inhabitant and without animal,

**10** "Thus says the LORD, 'Yet again there will be heard in this place, of which you say, "It is a waste, without man and without beast," *that is*, in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without man and without inhabitant and without beast,

**10** "This is what the LORD says: 'You are saying about this place, "It is a ruin without people and without animals." Yet in the cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem which are desolate places without inhabitants and without animals, there will again be heard

**10** Thus saith the LORD; Again there shall be heard in this place, which ye say *shall* be desolate without man and without beast, *even* in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, that are desolate, without man, and without inhabitant, and without beast,

11 the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the groom and the voice of the bride, the voice of those who say, "Give thanks to the LORD of armies, For the LORD is good, For His mercy is everlasting," as they bring a thanksgiving offering into the house of the LORD. For I will restore the fortunes of the land as *they were* at first,' says the LORD.

11 the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voice of those who say, "Give thanks to the LORD of hosts, For the LORD is good, For His lovingkindness is everlasting"; *and of those* who bring a thank offering into the house of the LORD. For I will restore the fortunes of the land as they were at first,' says the LORD.

11 the sounds of rejoicing and gladness, the sounds of the bridegroom and the bride, and the sounds of those saying, "Give thanks to the LORD of the Heavenly Armies, for the LORD is good, and his gracious love lasts forever," as they bring thanksgiving offerings to the LORD's Temple. For I'll restore the fortunes of the land as they were at first,' declares the LORD.

11 The voice of joy, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the voice of them that shall say, Praise the LORD of hosts: for the LORD *is* good; for his mercy *endureth* for ever: *and* of them that shall bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the LORD. For I will cause to return the captivity of the land, as at the first, saith the LORD.

- The closing part of the benediction in Jewish marriages

**12** "This is what the LORD of armies says: 'There will again be in this place which is waste, without man or animal, and in all its cities, a pasture for shepherds who rest their flocks.

**12** "Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'There will again be in this place which is waste, without man or beast, and in all its cities, a habitation of shepherds who rest their flocks.

**12** "This is what the LORD of the Heavenly Armies says: 'In this place that is now a ruin without people or animals, and in all its towns there will again be pasture for shepherds resting their flocks.

**12** Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Again in this place, which is desolate without man and without beast, and in all the cities thereof, shall be an habitation of shepherds causing *their* flocks to lie down.

13 In the cities of the hill country, in the cities of the lowland, in the cities of the Negev, in the land of Benjamin, in the areas surrounding Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, the

flocks will again pass under the hands of the one who counts them,' says the LORD.

13 In the cities of the hill country, in the cities of the lowland, in the cities of the Negev, in the land of Benjamin, in the environs of Jerusalem and in the cities of Judah, the flocks will again pass under the hands of the one who numbers them,' says the LORD.

13 In the towns of the hill country, in the towns of the Shephelah, in the towns of the Negev, in the territory of Benjamin, in the areas around Jerusalem, and in the towns of Judah flocks will again pass under the hands of the one who counts them,' says the LORD."

13 In the cities of the mountains, in the cities of the vale, and in the cities of the south, and in the land of Benjamin, and in the places about Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, shall the flocks pass again under the hands of him that telleth *them*, saith the LORD.

- Interesting that Benjamin is mentioned because of the property that was bought in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin. It ties it to the other chapter.

- The rest of this chapter (v14-26) happens to not appear in the Septuagint version, and that causes all kinds of scholars to ponder it. Most of what is here is also found elsewhere and so there is no reason not to include it.

#### (C) Reaffirmation of the Davidic and Levitical covenants (33:14-26)

##### (a) Davidic covenant (33:14-17)

**14** 'Behold, days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will fulfill the good word which I have spoken concerning the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

**14** 'Behold, days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will fulfill the good word which I have spoken concerning the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

**14** "'Look, the time is coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I'll fulfill the good promise that I spoke concerning the house of Israel and Judah.

**14** Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah.

15 In those days and at that time I will make a righteous **Branch** of David sprout; and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth.

15 In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth.

15 In those days and at that time I'll cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he will uphold justice and righteousness in the land.

15 In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land.

- Jeremiah restates (v15-16) the basic points of his statement in Jer 23:5-6.

- "...Branch" - one of the titles of Jesus Christ

-- One Hebrew rendering is *netzar* upon which there is a pun built in the NT, the concept of a Nazarene and the concept of a branch. A Messianic prophecy.

- Jeremiah's pictures:

- Spring of living water (Jer 2:13)
- Good Shepherd (Jer 23:4; 31:10)
- Righteous Branch (Jer 23:5)
- Redeemer (Jer 50:34)
- The Lord our Righteousness (Jer 23:6)
- A linking of David the King as a Messianic title (Jer 30:9)
- The Agent of the New Covenant (Jer 31:31-34)

16 In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety; and this is *the name* by which it will be called: **the LORD is our righteousness.**'

16 In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell in safety; and this is *the name* by which she will be called: the Lord is our righteousness.'

16 At that time Judah will be delivered and Jerusalem will dwell in safety. And this is the name people will call it, "The LORD is Our Righteousness."

16 In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this *is the name* wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness.

- "...the LORD is our righteousness" - Jehovah *Zidkenu*; a name by which the Lord will be called, and the city of Jerusalem is linked to the Lord through this name (Ezek 48:35; it is also tied to His altar in Judges 6:24; Cf. 2 Cor 5:21)

## Davidic Throne

The emphasis in this passage is clearly on the eternality of the Davidic Covenant and the impossibility of breaking it. Under no circumstances will the House of David ever become extinct, for the Davidic Covenant is both unconditional and eternal. Ultimately the seed of David will be greatly multiplied and the re-establishment of the Davidic Throne will be the antidote to the poisonous teaching that God no longer intends to fulfill His covenants with Israel. God is not through with Israel, but will fulfill every promise of the Davidic Covenant and the Abrahamic Covenant. Regarding the eternality of the Davidic Covenant, Kingdom, Dynasty and Throne, see: Ps 89:3-4,29,34-37; Is 9:6-7; 16:5; Jer 23:5-6; 33:14-26; Amos 9:11-12; Zech 14:9; Luke 1:31-33

17 For this is what the LORD says: 'David shall not lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel;

17 For thus says the LORD, 'David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel;

17 For this is what the LORD says: 'David will never be without a man sitting on the throne of the house of Israel,

**17** For thus saith the LORD; David shall never want a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel;

- Under no circumstances will the House of David be allowed to become extinct.

— The rest of the book of Jeremiah continues to reaffirm God's intention to fulfill all the conditions of the Davidic Covenant

- Blood curse on Jeconiah, (see Jer vol 2, pages 8-11) and today there is only one left and He is at the throne of God

(b) Levitical covenant (33:18)

18 and the Levitical priests shall not lack a man before Me to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to prepare sacrifices continually.'"

18 and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man before Me to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings and to prepare sacrifices continually.'"

18 nor will the Levitical priests be without a man offering up burnt offerings, bringing in grain offerings, and offering sacrifices continuously before me.'"

18 Neither shall the priests the Levites want a man before me to offer burnt offerings, and to kindle meat offerings, and to do sacrifice continually.

- The Levitical priesthood is permanent. In the book of Hebrews Jesus Christ is a priest after the order of Melchizedek.

- Promise to Phinehas (Num 25:13), that the Levitical priesthood would be forever. Jesus Christ is our High Priest after the order of Melchizedek. Continuing covenant with Levi in Mal 2:4 and Num 17.

(c) These covenants are as sure as the fixed order (33:19-26)

**19** And the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying,

**19** The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying,

**19** This message from the LORD came to Jeremiah:

**19** And the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah, saying,

20 "This is what the LORD says: 'If you can break My covenant for the day and My covenant for the night, so that day and night do not occur at their proper time,

20 "Thus says the LORD, 'If you can break My covenant for the day and My covenant for the night, so that day and night will not be at their appointed time,

20 "This is what the LORD says: 'If you could break my covenant with the day and night so that day and night wouldn't occur at the proper time,



20 Thus saith the LORD; If ye can break my covenant of the day, and my covenant of the night, and that there should not be day and night in their season;

21 then My covenant with David My servant may also be broken, so that he will not have a son to reign on his throne, and with the Levitical priests, My ministers.

21 then My covenant may also be broken with David My servant so that he will not have a son to reign on his throne, and with the Levitical priests, My ministers.

21 then my covenant with my servant David might also be broken so that he wouldn't have a son sitting on his throne, and so also with my servants the Levitical priests.

21 *Then* may also my covenant be broken with David my servant, that he should not have a son to reign upon his throne; and with the Levites the priests, my ministers.

- Not to worry, if you can stop nights and days then you can break the covenant He has made with David. A way of saying you can't do it.

22 As the heavenly lights cannot be counted, and the sand of the sea cannot be measured, so I will multiply the descendants of My servant David and the Levites who serve Me."

22 As the host of heaven cannot be counted and the sand of the sea cannot be measured, so I will multiply the descendants of David My servant and the Levites who minister to Me."

22 As the heavenly bodies cannot be counted, and the sands of the sea cannot be measured, so I'll multiply the descendants of my servant David and the descendants of Levi who serve me."

22 As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the seed of David my servant, and the Levites that minister unto me.

**23** And the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying,

**23** And the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying,

**23** This message from the LORD came to Jeremiah:

**23** Moreover the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying,

24 "Have you not observed what these people have asserted, saying, 'The two families which the LORD chose, He has rejected them'? So they despise My people as no longer being a nation in their sight.

24 "Have you not observed what this people have spoken, saying, 'The two families which the LORD chose, He has rejected them'? Thus they despise My people, no longer are they as a nation in their sight.

24 "Haven't you noticed what these people have been saying?—'The LORD rejected the two families that he had chosen!' They have contempt for my people and no longer

consider them a nation.

24 Considerest thou not what this people have spoken, saying, The two families which the LORD hath chosen, he hath even cast them off? thus they have despised my people, that they should be no more a nation before them.

25 This is what the LORD says: 'If My covenant *for* day and night *does* not *continue*, and I have not established the fixed patterns of heaven and earth,

25 Thus says the LORD, 'If My covenant *for* day and night *stand* not, *and* the fixed patterns of heaven and earth I have not established,

25 This is what the LORD says: 'If I had not established my covenant for day and night and the laws that govern the heavens and earth,

**25** Thus saith the LORD; If my covenant *be* not with day and night, *and if* I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth;

26 then I would reject the descendants of Jacob and David My servant, so as not to take from his descendants rulers over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. But I will restore their fortunes and have mercy on them.'"

26 then I would reject the descendants of Jacob and David My servant, not taking from his descendants rulers over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. But I will restore their fortunes and will have mercy on them.'"

26 then I might reject the descendants of Jacob and my servant David by not taking some of his descendants as rulers over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Indeed, I'll restore their fortunes, and I'll have compassion on them.'"

26 Then will I cast away the seed of Jacob, and David my servant, so that I will not take *any* of his seed *to be* rulers over the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: for I will cause their captivity to return, and have mercy on them.

- The end of the chapters called the Book of Consolation, particularly this last chapter, very straightforward passage of encouragement, quite a contrast with gloom and doom which Jeremiah has been nailing them with in previous chapters.