

# A PROMISE ASSURED Sunday, September 7, 2014

## Unifying Topic: A VISION OF THE FUTURE

### Lesson Text

I. A Promise Of Restoration (Jeremiah 30:1-3)

II. A Description Of Restoration (Jeremiah 30:18-22)

**Lesson Text:** For, lo, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the Lord: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it (Jeremiah 30:3, KJV).

**Unifying Principle:** People often find themselves in situations when they feel lost and alone. How do they regain a sense of belonging? Jeremiah tells of God's promise to restore the fortunes of the people, Israel and Judah, and to reestablish the covenant with them.

**Lesson Aim:** To give assistance to the students that God will restore those who put their trust in His promises—that He will take them out of captivity and bless them.

**Life Aim:** To have a hopeful outlook about every situation because God has promised to take care of His people.

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30:1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying,

30:2 Thus speaketh the Lord God of Israel, saying, Write thee all the words that I have spoken unto thee in a book.

30:3 For, lo, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the Lord: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.

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30:18 Thus saith the Lord; Behold, I will bring again the captivity of Jacob's tents, and have mercy on his dwelling places; and the city shall be builded upon her own heap, and the palace shall remain after the manner thereof.

30:19 And out of them shall proceed thanksgiving and the voice of them that make merry: and I will multiply them, and they shall not be few; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small.

30:20 Their children also shall be as aforetime, and their congregation shall be established before me, and I will punish all that oppress them.

30:21 And their nobles shall be of themselves, and their governor shall proceed from the midst of them; and I will cause him to draw near, and he shall approach unto me: for who is this that engaged his heart to approach unto me? saith the Lord.

30:22 And ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

### **HISTORY:**

**Jeremiah 29:15-32** <sup>1</sup>The people disbelieved Jeremiah's message because it contradicted the message of the false Jewish prophets in Babylon (vv.15-19). Evidently these prophets were proclaiming the safety of Jerusalem and the swift return of those in captivity. Jeremiah shattered their optimistic forecasts by announcing that those who had not been exiled were destined for the sword, famine, and plagues. Jeremiah singled out two men who were evidently the ringleaders of the false prophets in Babylon (vv.20-23). They were Ahab son of Koliah and Zedekiah son of Maaseiah. Nothing else is known about these men, but they were prophesying lies (v.21) to the people and committing adultery with their neighbors' wives (v.23). God vowed to judge these false prophets by handing them over to Nebuchadnezzar who would put them to death before the very eyes of the exiles, to serve as an object lesson on the danger of fomenting (*provoking*) *rebellion*.

Evidently after Jeremiah's first letter to the exiles (vv.1-23) another prophet in Babylon, Shemaiah, wrote the leaders in Jerusalem urging them to punish Jeremiah (vv.24-28). However, the letter was read to Jeremiah (v.29) who then wrote a second letter to the exiles. He quoted the text of Shemaiah's letter (vv.24-28) and delivered God's Word of judgment against the false prophet (vv.29-32). Under God's guidance Jeremiah sent a second message to all the exiles. This letter contained God's judgment against Shemaiah for claiming to be God's prophet. God would punish both Shemaiah and his descendants. Neither he nor his family would live to see the good things God promised to do for His people but forfeited his right to take part in these blessings because, by urging those in Jerusalem to oppose Jeremiah, he had preached *rebellion* against God.

This lesson declares God's assured promises through Jeremiah for the restoration, reestablishment, and the building up of Jerusalem back to their place of blessings. It is a marvelous vision of the future!

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/it-is-dangerous-to-take-sides-against-gods-man/>  
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

## LESSON:

### Jeremiah 30:1-3 A Promise Of Restoration

**30:1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying,**— Over half of Jeremiah's message thus far has been "*pluck up and ...break down*" Now the prophet is able to deliver the other side of his prophetic call. This message came at a time when Jerusalem was under Babylonian siege and God used Jeremiah to speak and write His words down for His people. Jerusalem was the capital of Judah. Judah had already rejected God's warnings spoken by Jeremiah, and now Jerusalem is under siege.

**30:2 Thus speaketh the Lord God of Israel, saying, Write thee all the words that I have spoken unto thee in a book.**

Jeremiah was later instructed to write God's words in a book (scroll), not just these words but all the words God had spoken unto him, so the nation would have a permanent record preserved in the archives of God's promises He was giving to His people; also, for generations coming out of and returning from Exile and those not yet born could learn from them. That's why any book is written—for coming generations to learn from. This particular book is called the "*Book of Consolation or the Book of Comfort.*" The book would vindicate His faithfulness and His predictions of judgment to come and thereby bring comfort of His promises.

**30:3 For, lo, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the Lord: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.**

God gives a promise of the coming days—seventy years in the future. God's instructions to Jeremiah, stating the theme of His message: Israel (the northern kingdom, taken by Assyria in 722 BC), and Judah (the southern kingdom), taken by Babylon will eventually return to their land as a united people; restored! For you see, at this point, the Southern Kingdom of Judah was under the attack of the Neo-Babylonian Empire, while the Northern Kingdom of Israel had already been swept away into captivity by the Assyrian Empire. Warnings came to Judah of their sins from Jeremiah, but they rejected his words, and now they are under attack. While the promise refers ultimately to the re-gathering of the Jews at the end of the age, it certainly was an encouragement to the exiles in Babylon, for if God can gather His people from all the nations of the world, surely He can deliver Judah from the captivity of one nation. The promise return is not simply the return from Babylon, but the future millennial kingdom. "*I will bring again... I will cause them to return*" When? - After the exiles seek God with all their heart.

To further follow the northern and southern kingdom—Why was Israel divided into the Southern Kingdom and Northern Kingdom? Look up: <http://www.gotquestions.org/Israel-Northern-Southern-kingdoms.html>

### Jeremiah 30:18-22 A Description Of Restoration

**30:18 Thus saith the Lord; Behold, I will bring again the captivity of Jacob's tents, and have mercy on his dwelling places; and the city shall be builded upon her own heap, and the palace shall remain after the manner thereof.** God gives a description of His restoration of those days to come. God's love will ultimately be expressed when His wrath has accomplished its purpose. God is restoring. Four things stand out here:

1. God will bring again the captivity of Jacob's tents (*Jacob's clan once lived in tents*),
2. God will have mercy on his dwelling places (*have compassion; take pity on Jacob's homes*);
3. the city shall be built upon her own heap (*the city shall be built upon the former ruins; old foundations; old mounds*),
4. the palace shall remain after the manner (*refers to the Temple, God's palace reconstructed anew as it was before*).

This is speaking of the rebuilding of Jerusalem, the rebuilding of the temple, and of a people being rebuilt. Every possible level of society will be renewed, for clans living in tents, to city dwellers living on towns built on a mound of rubble, the temple or palace restored. This prophecy that Jerusalem would be rebuilt was not completely fulfilled by the work of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Zerubbabel. The city was indeed rebuilt after the captivity, but the final restoration will occur when all believers are gathered in Christ's kingdom. This will include buildings (30:18), people (30:19), rulers (30:21), and a region (30:22).

**30:19 And out of them shall proceed thanksgiving and the voice of them that make merry: and I will multiply them,**

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**and they shall not be few; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small.** Singing will replace sorrow, growth will replace decimation (ruin), and honor will replace shame. Out of the people will come thanksgiving and sounds of merry-making. God says He will multiply (increase) them and He will be the One to glorify them (make them honored), meaning they will not be just a few nor will they be small.

**30:20 Their children also shall be as aforesaid,** meaning, their children shall prosper as in David's reign; as if they had not gone through anything. They would be secure and happy. **...and their congregation shall be established before me,** meaning, their religious assemblies shall be established; the communities will be reestablished in God's favor. **...and I will punish all that oppress them,** meaning God will punish anyone who will hurt them.

**30:21 And their nobles shall be of themselves, and their governor shall proceed from the midst of them; and I will cause him to draw near, and he shall approach unto me: for who is this that engaged his heart to approach unto me? saith the Lord.** God's people will be governed by their own rulers. The times of the lording Gentiles will be over.

- *Their nobles* and judges *shall come from among themselves*, of their own nation, and they shall no longer be ruled by strangers and enemies and not from the Gentiles who had lorded over them for many centuries.
- *Their governor (ruler of God's people) shall proceed from the midst of them*, shall be one that has been a sharer with them in the afflictions of their captive state. He is of ourselves, *in all things made like unto his brethren*.
- He will have access to God's presence and approach Him, for who else has the boldness on his own initiative to approach God? This either refers to the Millennial time of the Messiah who will be over all resurrected saints in the coming ages.

**30:22 And ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.** The Word of the Lord God of Israel was spoken to Jeremiah from the beginning of this chapter and concludes with God declaring that Israel shall be His people and He will be their God! Jeremiah expresses the Covenant to be renewed, especially after the exile.

#### NOT APART OF THE LESSON

**30:23-24** God's intentions include removing the wicked in Israel; displacing Israel's enemies. The Lord's wrath would break forth on the wicked like a severe storm. And He will not call off His fierce anger until it has performed the intents of His heart; finished all the terrible destruction He had planned. The purposes of his wrath, as well as the purposes of His love, will all be fulfilled. It will all be understood later on.

#### SUMMARY:

<sup>2</sup>God told Jeremiah to write His promises of comfort in a book so they would be available to the exiles after Jerusalem fell (**vv.1-3**). This book would declare a note of hope that the days are coming when God will restore His people. Jeremiah pointed to a day of *restoration* when God will bring the nations of Judah and Israel into a new relationship with Him and when He will set straight His accounts with the Gentile nations.

<sup>3</sup>The city of Jerusalem will be rebuilt on her ruins, including the king's palace (**v.18**). This prophesy that Jerusalem would be rebuilt was not completely fulfilled by the work of Ezra, Nehemiah and Zerubbabel. The festive sound of rejoicing that had been silenced by Babylon will once again be heard in the city (**v.19**), and God will increase Judah numerically (cf. Deut.30:5). The nation will be secured and established before God, and He will punish anyone who tries to oppress her (**vv.20-22**).

#### APPLICATION:

We can always count on the promises of God, no matter how long it takes, even to another generation.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/god-will-restore-his-people/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/judgment-must-come-before-blessing-can-come/>  
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>