

# LAUGHTER WILL RETURN Sunday, September 28, 2014

## Unifying Topic: IMPROBABLE POSSIBILITIES

### Lesson Text

I. **The Certainty Of The Fall Of Judah** (Jeremiah 33:2-5)

II. **The Certainty Of The Rise Of Judah** (Jeremiah 33:6-11)

**Lesson Text:** 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 (Jeremiah 33:11, KJV).

**Unifying Principle:** So many times when they have done wrong things, people reach a point at which they stop and wonder which way to turn. How can people seek renewal and accept help to turn their lives around? Jeremiah says God is willing to forgive and bring recovery, healing, and restoration.

**Lesson Aim:** To give hope to students that the Lord's judgment is not permanent but also includes restoration, peace, and joy.

**Life Aim:** To engage in a hopeful lifestyle of peace because God always restores His people.

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- 33:2 Thus saith the Lord the maker thereof, the Lord that formed it, to establish it; the Lord is his name;
- 33:3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.
- 33:4 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;
- 33:5 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.
- 33:6 Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth.
- 33:7 And I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return, and will build them, as at the first.
- 33:8 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.
- 33:9 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.
- 33:10 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,
- 33:11 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.

### **HISTORY:**

Jeremiah was in prison and bought a field from his cousin. Transaction was made in the court of prison. The two documents (sealed and an opened one) were placed in an earthen vessel by Baruch, Jeremiah's trusted scribe.

**Jeremiah Chapter 32:16-44** Jeremiah then prayed and praised the Lord. He remembers how God showed signs and wonders in Egypt and brought His people out of the land of Egypt with signs and wonder with a strong hand, giving them the land flowing with milk and honey. And he recalls how they went in and possessed the land and turned around and disobeyed God's voice and walked contrary to His law and caused all the evil to come upon themselves (**vv.16-23**).

### **JEREMIAH PRAYS FOR UNDERSTANDING**

So in prayer, Jeremiah thinks of the siege mounds being built, but not able to withstand the Chaldeans who fight against them. What God spoke came to pass. He thinks about the field God had him buy, and the witnesses, even though the city will belong to his enemies. He wonders why God had him buy the land. He has doubts (**vv.24-25**).

### **GOD ANSWERS JEREMIAH**

Through this prayer Jeremiah will receive understanding for God answers his prayer by reminding him that He (God) is the God of all flesh and brings the question; "Is anything too hard for Me?" God then begins to confirm and reassure His purpose to Jeremiah. It's really not what Jeremiah thought would happen, because God is giving

the city into the hands of the Chaldeans and into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, and they will set the city on fire and burn down all these houses where the roofs have been used to offer incense to Baal; drink offerings poured out to other gods, causing God's anger to rise. Israel and Judah have done nothing but wrong, from the time the city was built until now and God was determined to remove it from His sight. It was the sins of the children of Israel, kings, officers, priests, and prophets that provoked God to anger. They turned away from God even though He has taught them persistently. They didn't listen to receive His instructions. In His Temple and in His Name they set up abominable idols and high altars to Baal offering up their sons and daughters to Molech. God certainly never commanded them to do this which caused Judah to sin (**vv.26-35**).

#### **THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE, AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD**

Now, God explains concerning the city being given into the hands of the king of Babylon through warfare, famine, and disease, but He will gather His people back again from all the countries that He had scattered them to, in His anger, and make them live in peace. Then they shall be His people, and He will be their God. In order to worship God, He will give them one heart and put fear in their hearts for their good and the good of the next generation. He will make with them an everlasting covenant, promising never to desert them, but to do things for their good. They will reverence God in their hearts and not turn from Him. This will bring pleasure to God to do good, and plant them in their land in faithfulness, with all His heart and soul. Just as He brought great disaster upon His people, He can bring good upon them. They look at fields of desolation; those same fields shall be bought; even though given into the hand of the Chaldeans those same fields shall be bought for money, and deeds shall be signed and sealed and witnessed, in the land of Benjamin, in the places about Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, in the cities of the hill country, in the cities of the Shephelah, and in the cities of the Negeb; for God will restore their fortunes (**vv.36-44**).

**33:1 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,**— This really is a continuation of chapter 32. The word "*moreover*" indicates it is connected. Jeremiah is still shut up in the court of the prison, but he is able to move around with some freedom because Jeremiah may be in prison but God's Word comes freely to him. God is not shut up!

#### **LESSON:**

#### **Jeremiah 33:2-5 The Certainty Of The Fall Of Judah**

**33:2 Thus saith the Lord the maker thereof, the Lord that formed it, to establish it; the Lord is his name;**— God is still answering Jeremiah and this verse captures the essence of who God is. He is Yahweh, Creator, the Maker; the One who formed the world (the earth); the One who established it. The Lord Yahweh is His Name. He's making it known that He's Maker and He can send in whomever He pleases to destroy it (*like the Chaldeans*). And what has taken place in Judah God knows how to create what pleases Him.

**33:3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.** However, because of God's love and grace, He says two firm things: Call unto me, and I will answer thee. He still wants Jeremiah to call upon Him. He will still answer, but not in the way Jeremiah desired Him to, because destruction wasn't Jeremiah's answer to straighten things out. But through this experience God will show Jeremiah great and mighty things he didn't even know could happen. Why? Because He's God! How? - Through Judah's inevitable fall.

**33:4 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;**— Well even the houses of the city and the palaces of the kings of Judah will be torn and broken down for materials to strengthen and reinforce the city walls against the siege mounts and sword of the enemy. The "*mounts*" also were made of earth, rocks, and trees, to be used to help men get into a walled city to attack it. These mounts and swords were the tactics used by the Chaldeans to bring down the houses. There was no way to keep the wall up; to keep an invader out except to defeat him on the wall. There wasn't, when God is fighting against you.

**33:5 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.** Wow! Judah comes to fight against the Chaldeans and they are going to be the dead bodies that fill the houses. It is because of the wickedness of these men in Judah that God hid His face and killed in His anger and fury. The certainty of Judah was real. You can't fight against God!

### **Jeremiah 33:6-11 The Certainty Of The Rise Of Judah**

**33:6 Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth.** <sup>1</sup>It is only God who can restore them. Man cannot save Himself, he needs a Saviour. God will bring health and cure. Peace and Truth will be revealed to them, but the real Peace and Truth is in the Person of Jesus Christ. The word for "*health*" signifies the closing of a wound with special emphasis on the new flesh that grows at the affected spot. The word for "*cure*" simply means healing—in this case, of national woes that had previously seemed beyond remedy. God says this even in the face of their destruction, He gives future promises that He will bring, He will cure, and He will reveal the restoration of Judah and Jerusalem. It will all be fulfilled through Him. This "*peace*" is the security, stability, and prosperity that Israel will enjoy in their own land. And the "*truth*" will be God's trustworthiness in keeping His covenants.

**33:7 And I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return, and will build them, as at the first.** God will cause the captivity of Judah and Israel to return and He will rebuild them as they were before. He would have them return to their own country and remain secure as they were at first, before their sins had provoked God to anger.

**33:8 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.** You know that before any can be restored, God has to cleanse and pardon them from all their iniquities that were committed against Him. "*Pardon*" means that He would remember their sins no more; would forgive the sins done in rebellion against Him; their guilt would be removed by His forgiveness.

**33:9 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.** This thing God will do, restoring Judah and Israel as they were before will be a name of Joy to Him, a praise and honor before all the nations. Whatever gives God joy, praise and honor, will give others joy, praise and honor! When all the nations hear and think about all the good God has done on behalf of His people, they will commence to fear and tremble; everyone will hear and they will respect the power of Israel's God. All the goodness and all the prosperity that God brings about for His people is because of His love and will cause them to reverence God. This prophecy isn't confined to the state of the city, but also to the kingdom of Christ. All nations will fear and tremble at the Name of Jesus; of the goodness and prosperity He obtained through His shed blood; His dying on the cross, and His rising from the dead, for the body of Christ, His people, and the church, body of Christ will be a name of Joy, praise and honor.

**33:10 Thus saith the Lord; Again there shall be heard in this place, –** This part of the verse connects with verse 11. Yahweh says again I'm telling you of what is going to happen 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,–** This expresses the unbelief and despair of some of the thoughts of man who declared that the place was desolate, without man and beast, even in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, desolation. Sometimes you can't even remember yet along laugh because of your situation, but God has a plan for the present and the future. God is saying again, even in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem that you called desolated, you will be begin to hear something in that same place.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/jeremiah/36.html>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

**33:11 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.** You will begin to hear the voice of joy and the voice of gladness coming from the bride and bridegroom where there is always a festive occasion. Because of the blessings God has bestowed upon His people it will cause them to give praise to the Lord of hosts saying: *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.* God will cause this joy and gladness to return to the land that's been in captivity. He will reverse their captivity and return it to its first condition, to what it was at first from the beginning. Laughter will return again! What was improbable is possible with God!

### **SUMMARY:**

God is Maker, the Lord is His name that formed and established the earth. God tells Jeremiah to call on Him and He will answer to show him great and mighty things he can't even fathom, because He has a better plan than Jeremiah can think of concerning Judah. Their houses will be thrown down by the mounds and sword of the Chaldeans and their houses will be filled with their dead bodies because they can't fight against those whom God has sent to defeat and destroy them. He has even hid His face because of their wickedness. Their fall is certain (**vv.2-5**).

And now God declares to Jeremiah that there is a certainty that Judah will rise again. Because He will bring health to them, cure them, and reveal to them an abundance of peace and truth. God keeps His Covenant. He might have to tear you down to bring you up to His standards. He had to cause the captivity of Judah and Israel before He could return them and build them as they were from the beginning. He will cleanse and pardon them of their sin. In restoring them, this will be a name of joy, praise and honor before all the nations of the earth for Him. They will hear of all the good God had done for His people and they will begin to fear and tremble before Him; that is reverence Him. What they called desolation—without man and without beast, shall turn around and be voices of joy and gladness, like a bridegroom and bride brings laughter, shouts of praise in the house of the Lord, for God will cause those that were captive to return to the joy and gladness as it was before (**vv.6-11**).

### **APPLICATION:**

Just as God pardons and forgives those He cleanses, He can also bring you into a place of joy and laughter; laughter into a desolate and barren heart. God does not give up on us, He just turns us around to adjust us to His plan. When it looks bad and you can't seem to laugh. He can bring that laughter again, if you truly trust in Him.