

Jeremiah Ch 32 & 33 • “Great and Mighty Things”

- Background Ch 30-33 = “Book of Consolation” (hope on the other side of judgment)
- 33v1 Twilight of Judah (c. 588BC – after siege begins but before fall of Jerusalem)
- v2-5 Jeremiah in custody: his (true) prophecies sound like enemy propaganda.
- v6-8 God calls J. to another symbolic act: redeem cousin’s land per Leviticus 25. J. probably able to do so bc Egypt attacked; broke siege (cf Jer 52).
- v9-12 Don’t know if price was high or low; either way was step of faith for J.
- v13-15 J. orders scribe to keep documents safe: they will be a testimony.
- v16-25 J. prays. Unclear if he is rejoicing in God or doubting God!
Always easier to tell other people to trust God than trust ourselves!
- v26-35 God (patiently) reminds Jeremiah who He is. Explains judgment (again).
“From their youth” (before entered land); “work of hands” (idols).
But new depths: idolatry in temple; human sacrifice in valley of Ben Hinnom.
Place where people sacrificing to false gods will become a sacrifice!
- v36-37 “Yes, Jeremiah – judgment is coming! But that won’t be end of the story!
- v38-42 New Covenant revisited; God’s perspective shifts to long-term here.
“Heart” refers to inner self; “way” refers to outer self (actions).
New Covenant will produce inward righteousness; outward holiness.
This isn’t Israel post-exile; this is Israel post-Tribulation!
- v43-44 Back to Jeremiah’s question: what is purchasing the field all about?
It’s a tangible commitment to the idea that destruction won’t be forever.
People, commerce, prosperity will all return after judgment.
God has promised to punish His people; also promised not to wipe them out!
- Ch 33v1 Book of Consolation continues; same themes and same time period.
- v2-3 God’s answers are greater than our prayers (cf Eph 3:20).
- v4-5 Judgment will be worse than we can imagine (God removes protection)
- v6-8 But (nevertheless) God will forgive more completely than we can imagine.
Three words for sin: “iniquity” (twisted), “sin” (missing mark),
“transgressed” (breaking commandments) – all the ways God will forgive!
- v9 When God forgives Israel, the nations will fear and tremble because they will realize Israel’s deliverance means their judgment!

- v10-11 After Babylonian (Roman) (Tribulation) invasions, Jerusalem devastated. But then rejoicing like at a wedding celebration (YHWH & Israel remarried).
- v12-14 Shepherd imagery: counting by touch to make sure none are missing. Era of peace and tranquility (Millennial Kingdom) — “Behold, days coming!”
- v15-16 Sounds like Jer 23:5-6 but important difference: Jerusalem not Jesus! Focus here not Son of David but City of David (“She shall be called”) Also verb tense: “be being called” – Jerusalem *becoming* righteous. Righteous Branch (Ch 23) is Jesus; “branch of righteousness” is *like* Jesus. God’s point: in Kingdom, Jerusalem will become city God always intended.
- v17-18 Also in Kingdom will be culmination of Davidic Covenant: descendant of David (Messiah) will sit perpetually on throne AND Levitical priesthood will be restored (cf Ezekiel).
- v19-22 Similar conclusion to Ch 31 (if someone says won’t happen, they’d better be ready to do away with moon, sun, stars) – except in this case comparison is “better be able to stop night from becoming day from becoming night.” God is going to keep promises to David and Levites. And (bonus) going to keep promise to Abraham (v22).
- v23-26 God speaking to Jeremiah but also to church. Not done with Judah & Israel! Same comparisons: if I keep My promise that the sun will rise every morning and the moon and stars will continue in paths, I will preserve My people!
- Application For centuries the church believed and taught that God was done with Israel. Example of how we let our imagination limit our concept of God. “If I can’t imagine it, how could God possibly do it? God reminds us at the end of Ch 31 & 33 – He does the miraculous ever day! He is mightier than we know and His love is greater than we fathom.
- When we don’t know how to pray, remember God is mighty and loving and ask Him to BE mighty and loving. Not according to our understanding but according to His power and His character!