

## Message #35

## Jeremiah 31:1-40

To show how amazing the promises are in this text, we want to establish the reality of what Israel faces right now. We will put this in an analogy that I read. Let's say New Jersey is Israel. New Jersey sits on the ocean and has 8.5 million people and contains a land mass of 0.2% of the total in the United States. The rest of the United States we will represent Middle East nations. They have 330 million people (actually in mid-east 400 million) and they comprise a land mass of 99.8%. Now let's say all the other land mass states all agree on one thing, New Jersey must go and we must get rid of her. If you can visualize that, you can actually understand what Israel is up against right now.

In the last couple of weeks, the hatred against Israel is intensifying and news out of Israel is anything but positive. Israel is under attack from Iran, Hamas and an Anti-Semitism that is brewing right here in the United States.

Furthermore, we know from the previous chapter that for Israel things will get worse. There is coming a time of Jacob's trouble the likes of which the world has never seen (Jer. 30:7). There will be a time when God will pour out His fierce anger and wrath on the wicked and no one will stop it (Jer. 30:23-24).

When this happens, there will be some amazing things that will happen to and for Israel. God Himself will intervene for Israel in a more dramatic fashion than He did when He brought Israel out of Egypt in the Exodus. This fabulous futuristic moment and promises are described right here.

**BECAUSE OF GOD'S EVERLASTING LOVE AND MERCY FOR ISRAEL, GOD PREDICTS THAT HE WILL TOTALLY AND COMPLETELY RESTORE AND BLESS BOTH ISRAEL AND JUDAH IN THEIR LAND AND IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.**

**God will discipline His people but He will never forget His people or forsake His people.** Observe how **verse 1** begins "at that time." This refers to a future, eschatological time. At the time when God has finished pouring out His wrath He is going to focus His attention on Israel. He is going to show that He is the God of all of Israel and all of Israel will display the fact that they are God's national people.

Now the promises in this chapter are amazing. In fact, these promises are like a dream because when Jeremiah saw this, it says in **verse 26**, I woke up and looked and my sleep was pleasant to me." So this is a pleasant dream come true for Israel.

We may break it down into three main prophetic promises:

**PROMISE #1** – The promise of what God will do for Israel. **31:2-22**

**Israel is the northern Kingdom and what is discussed here is more than just survival in the Exodus wilderness or survival from the Babylonians sword. This reaches to the Tribulation.**

In **verse 2** we learn that God is going to do some amazing things for His people who “survived the sword” of His judgment. Now the way they survived was they got out of Jerusalem and fled to the wilderness where they experienced God’s grace (Rev. 12:14-16; Matt. 24:15-21).

According to **verse 3**, when the people obey God’s word and flee to this area, they will learn that God loves them with an everlasting love and it was actually God who drew them to Himself in His loving-kindness and mercy.

There was nothing in this relationship that merited God’s love and mercy. In fact, Israel did just the opposite of what God wanted her to do time and time again. But here is the point—**God’s future salvation of His people is not based on their merit, it is based on His loving, merciful, elective grace.**

Now God makes a series of 15 remarkable predictions as to what He will do:

**Prediction #1** - God will build and rebuild Israel. **31:4a**

Notice God says I will do this “again.” Only this time, it will be forever. This building and rebuilding of Israel does not just include physical things in the land, which it does, but it also has to do with the relationship Israel has with God. God will rebuild the relationship. She will be like a virgin bride to Him even though now she is divorced from Him (Jer. 3:1; 31:32).

**Prediction #2** - God will cause them to have a joyful party. **31:4b**

It is very clear that when God does this the dominant emotion of the nation Israel will be joy and rejoicing. It will be a glorious happy time. All will be happy and nothing dark or gloomy.

**Prediction #3** - God will cause them to plant all over the land and enjoy what they plant. **31:5**

Samaria was the capital of Israel and it is clear from this verse that Israel will be in her land, enjoying her land and flourishing and prospering in her land.

**Prediction #4** - God will cause all to want to go to Zion to worship God. **31:6-7**

Ephraim was one of the twelve tribes of Israel and her land was in the central part of the Promised Land. It was a place where people worshipped. What is recorded here is that all tribes will want to go to Zion to worship God. It will be a happy time when all Israel will be saved and all nations will be praising God for saving Israel.

**Prediction #5** - God will bring and lead His people everywhere straight to Him. **31:8-9**

God will bring all His people from all parts of the earth to Israel. The person may have been blind or lame or a pregnant woman, He will bring them all to their home in Israel. They will come weeping and “by supplication I will lead them.” In other words, they will ask God to take them to Israel and, as a loving father, He will bring them home.

**Prediction #6** - God will proclaim to the nations what He has done for Israel. **31:10-11**

This is important because most churches miss this point. Nations need to hear the Word of God and specifically they need to hear what God will do for Israel one day. Nations need to realize that God is the One who has scattered Israel and He is the One who shepherds Israel, watches over Israel and will redeem Israel.

**Prediction #7** - God will bountifully bless His people to never languish again. **31:12**

This is truly an amazing prediction of prosperity and blessing that God will give to Israel. God will bless them in their land and give them “the bounty of the LORD.” They will flourish with grain and new wine and oil and flocks and herds. They will “never languish again.”

**Prediction #8** - God will bring rejoicing to all people of all ages. **31:13**

God will turn Israel’s sorrow and mourning into joy. All the people of Israel, regardless of age, will be blessed by God. It will be a party atmosphere for all.

**Prediction #9** - God will abundantly fill and bless the priests. **31:14a**

The priests of God will be blessed by God. Those who ministered for God will receive His special blessings of abundance. Worship will be wonderful and the priests will prosper because of the generosity of the people who are being blessed.

**Prediction #10** - God will cause all His people to be satisfied with His goodness. **31:14b**

What a great moment when all Israel is satisfied with the goodness of God. Nothing good will be missing.

**Prediction #11** - God will put a stop to the hurt and tears of His people. **31:15-16**

Rachel was the mother of Benjamin and grandmother of both Ephraim and Manasseh. She was closely connected with both the northern and southern kingdoms. She wept over the hatred and the brutality leveled against Israel. There has always been weeping in Israel. God says there will come a time when that will stop.

**Verse 15** is critical because it points out that the One who will put a stop to the tears is Jesus Christ. **This very verse is quoted pertaining to the birth of Jesus Christ when Herod killed the babies two years of age and younger (Matt. 2:18).** During the Tribulation 2/3rds of the Jews will die and only 1/3<sup>rd</sup> will survive. But God says I will regather that remnant and they will never cry again.

**Prediction #12** - God has chastised His people but her future is bright because He will restore them from their sorrow, shame and humiliation. **31:17-19**

Look carefully what is said concerning hope. This is true for Israel and for us. Hope lies in our future. Our hope is not in the present, it is in the future. That moment will come for Israel when the people of God have finally learned their lesson. They were being chastened by God in **verse 18**. The chastisement of God trained them. They repented and became ashamed and humiliated over their sin.

Do you see what real true repentance is? It is not going forward in church; it is being ashamed and humiliated over our sin.

**Prediction #13** - God loves His children and longs to be merciful to them. **31:20**

God says I want My people to know even when I am angry at them, I remember them, yearn for them and will have mercy on them.

**Prediction #14** - God will direct His people back to the land in the same direction they left it. **31:21**

God says remember from where you came and mark it. Mark the direction on the road, for I will bring you back the same way you left. You will end up where you are supposed to end up.

In all reality, when we see the grave stone of some believer, we are basically seeing a reminder, they have gone home.

**Prediction #15** - God will cause faithless woman to encompass a man. **31:22**

The faithless daughter of God, Israel will encompass a man. Now often God will use something very unusual to describe a new thing God is going to do or create. He is going to create such a wonderful world for Israel that the thought of a Jewish woman would threaten any man.

In other words, Israel will be so secure that a Jewish woman would be dominant over any intimidating man.

**PROMISE #2** – The promise of what God will do for Judah. **31:23-26**

There are some amazing predictions God makes concerning Judah, the southern kingdom:

**Prediction #1** - God will restore the fortunes to Judah. **31:23a**

**Prediction #2** - God will restore the righteousness to Judah. **31:23b**

**Prediction #3** - God will cause a unity in all the cities. **31:24**

When the southern kingdom is restored, then all cities will be established and there will be great joy in the land.

**Prediction #4** - God will bring total satisfaction and refreshment to everyone. **31:25**

In **verse 26**, Jeremiah says that he awoke and looked and his sleep had been pleasant to him. This must have been some revelatory dream. What a wonderful dream he had. This revelatory dream was showing Jeremiah exactly what God would do in the future for Israel and Judah.

**PROMISE #3** – The promise of a New Covenant that God will implement with both Israel and Judah. **31:27-40**

When we come to this part of Jeremiah, we come to one of the most significant passages in the O.T. concerning the future. In fact, we may observe that **verse 27** says, “days are coming.” They are not here yet, but we believe they are close:

**Prediction #1** - God will sow and plant Israel and Judah in her land. **31:27-28**

God has watched over Israel and He has punished Israel, but He has never forgot Israel and He declares that He will bring His family back to her land and plant her in it.

**Prediction #2** - God will not punish people for inherited sin but individual sin. **31:29-30**

God has pronounced a national judgment on Israel because the nation persisted in its iniquity. God says the time will come when there will no longer be a national judgment against Israel, but judgment will be individual. Now this is critical. **Before God will restore national Israel to all these blessings, individual Jews must be willing to face their individual sin.**

**Prediction #3** - God will make a New Covenant with Israel and Judah. **31:31**

When individual Jews face their sin and call out to Jesus Christ, amazing things will happen. The adjective “new” in the Septuagint is one that means brand new in existence. This will be a new covenant in existence, in kind and quality (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, pp. 225-226).

**Prediction #4** - God’s New Covenant will not be like the Old Covenant. **31:32**

To further distance this covenant with Israel from the previous covenant, God says this new covenant will not be like the old one.

**Prediction #5** - God's New Covenant will be produced in the heart of His people. **31:33**

The first new element will be that the word of God will not be written on stone but in every heart of every Jewish person. God will actually put His word in people's hearts. All people will know God and His word. There are five "I wills" in this verse:

- 1) I will make a covenant with Israel after those days;
- 2) I will put My law within them;
- 3) I will write it on their heart;
- 4) I will be their God and
- 5) They will be My people.

God says this is not what might happen, this will happen. God will not give people laws and ceremonies to obey; they will have hearts that are transformed that will want to obey. God is a God of new beginnings for people who have made a mess in life.

**Prediction #6** - God will cause all people to know Him. **31:34a**

Because God writes His word in people's hearts, there will be a universal knowledge of God. There will be no need for witnessing. There will be no need to defend the faith and defend truth.

Now this does not mean there will not be teaching and instruction in this kingdom, it means all people will know the LORD and you will not need to evangelize the lost because there will not be any lost.

**Prediction #7** - God will forgive their iniquity and forget their iniquity. **31:34b**

God will choose not to remember His people's sins in fact, He will forget them. Each person will have assurance my sins are gone.

**Prediction #8** - God's preserved planets prove God's preserved nation Israel. **31:35-37**

It does not matter how Israel looks right now, this is Divine truth. God will always preserve Israel just as He preserves nature.

**Prediction #9** - God's city will be completely rebuilt and secure. **31:38-39**

There will be a literal city in a literal location that will feature literal landmarks.

**Prediction #10** - God's land shall be sacred. **31:40**

When this happens a massive amount of land will feature dead bodies and that same land will be sacred and holy. It will never be overthrown again.

- 1. The future for God's people is bright.**
- 2. When God forgives our sins, He chooses not to remember our sins.**
- 3. God disciplines His people but always does it justly and lovingly.**