

## Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 315 – They Shall Be My People Through Holy To The Lord (Jeremiah 31:1-40)

1. What was God's thinking toward His being the Father of Israel during this apostasy?

That the apostasy would end. He would restore Israel and His relationship with them: *"(1) At the same time, saith the LORD, will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. (2) Thus saith the LORD, The people which were left of the sword found grace in the wilderness; even Israel, when I went to cause him to rest. (3) The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee. (4) Again I will build thee, and thou shalt be built, O virgin of Israel: thou shalt again be adorned with thy tabrets, and shalt go forth in the dances of them that make merry. (5) Thou shalt yet plant vines upon the mountains of Samaria: the planters shall plant, and shall eat them as common things. (6) For there shall be a day, that the watchmen upon the mount Ephraim shall cry, Arise ye, and let us go up to Zion unto the LORD our God. (7) For thus saith the LORD; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O LORD, save thy people, the remnant of Israel. (8) Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, and with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither. (9) They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn"* (Jeremiah 31:1-9).

- "At the same time" is a statement that ties us back to **Jeremiah 30:18-24**.
- The promise of God to Abraham was that He would be a Father to his seed (**Genesis 17:7**).
- God's intention was to purify His people (**Zechariah 13:9**).
- In the past, Israel's survivors found mercy in the wilderness (**Psalms 136:15-16**).
- "Of old" (**Hosea 11:1**).
- Though His love is stated as everlasting, there are certain qualifiers (**Psalms 103:17-18**).
- Rebuilding (**Ezra 1:1-8**) and rejoicing for the sorrowful whom are returning (**Zephaniah 3:14-15**).

2. Whose goodness would satisfy the restored children of Israel?

The Lord's: *"(10) Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock. (11) For the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of him that was stronger than he. (12) Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the LORD, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all. (13) Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance,*

*both young men and old together: for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow. (14) And I will satiate the soul of the priests with fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, saith the LORD” (Jeremiah 31:10-14).*

- As we have discussed throughout the prophets thus far, God calls attention from all to His actions (**Isaiah 34:1-2**, **Jeremiah 6:19**, **Jeremiah 22:29**, and **Micah 1:2**).
- The Lord redeemed His people (**Isaiah 48:20**) from a people stronger than they were (**Daniel 4:1-3** and **John 10:29**).
- In restoration, there would be real satisfaction for the people (**Psalms 90:14**, **Psalms 107:9**, and **Isaiah 58:11**).

3. How did God comfort the lamenting going on amongst His people?

By giving them hope: *“(15) Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not. (16) Thus saith the LORD; Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears: for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the LORD; and they shall come again from the land of the enemy. (17) And there is hope in thine end, saith the LORD, that thy children shall come again to their own border” (Jeremiah 31:15-17).*

- Ramah is “a town in Benjamin on the border of Ephraim about 5 miles (8 km) from Jerusalem and near to Gibeah” (Strong’s # 7414).
- Concerning Ramah, consider the prophesy here as noted in **Matthew 2:1-18**.
- Their work would be rewarded (**II Chronicles 15:7** and **Hebrews 11:6**).
- There is hope in thine end (**I Peter 1:13**).

4. Did God hear and/or remember His people?

Yes: *“(18) I have surely heard Ephraim bemoaning himself thus; Thou hast chastised me, and I was chastised, as a bullock unaccustomed to the yoke: turn thou me, and I shall be turned; for thou art the LORD my God. (19) Surely after that I was turned, I repented; and after that I was instructed, I smote upon my thigh: I was ashamed, yea, even confounded, because I did bear the reproach of my youth. (20) Is Ephraim my dear son? is he a pleasant child? for since I spake against him, I do earnestly remember him still: therefore my bowels are troubled for him; I will surely have mercy upon him, saith the LORD. (21) Set thee up waymarks, make thee high heaps: set thine heart toward the highway, even the way which thou wentest: turn again, O virgin of Israel, turn again to these thy cities” (Jeremiah 31:18-21).*

- God must have seen real change to have heard His people (**Isaiah 59:1-3**).
- They recognized that they had refused correction (**Jeremiah 5:3**) as a bullock unaccustomed to a yoke, which says something (**Daniel 9:3-19**).
- They rightfully felt shame (**Job 42:6**, **Jeremiah 3:25**, and **Ezekiel 6:9**), which too was a change (**Jeremiah 6:15** and **Jeremiah 8:12**).

- The Lord was troubled over His lost children (**Genesis 6:5-6, Psalms 78:40, Psalms 95:9-10, Isaiah 63:10, Ezekiel 6:9, Luke 15:1-32, and Luke 19:41-44**).
- God wanted them to set their course to turn back to Him (**Deuteronomy 4:30-41, II Chronicles 30:9, and Lamentations 3:40**).

5. Though God had thrown down His people what did He promise He was going to do? Build and plant them: *“(22) How long wilt thou go about, O thou backsliding daughter? for the LORD hath created a new thing in the earth, A woman shall compass a man. (23) Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; As yet they shall use this speech in the land of Judah and in the cities thereof, when I shall bring again their captivity; The LORD bless thee, O habitation of justice, and mountain of holiness. (24) And there shall dwell in Judah itself, and in all the cities thereof together, husbandmen, and they that go forth with flocks. (25) For I have satiated the weary soul, and I have replenished every sorrowful soul. (26) Upon this I awaked, and beheld; and my sleep was sweet unto me. (27) Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of man, and with the seed of beast. (28) And it shall come to pass, that like as I have watched over them, to pluck up, and to break down, and to throw down, and to destroy, and to afflict; so will I watch over them, to build, and to plant, saith the LORD. (29) In those days they shall say no more, The fathers have eaten a sour grape, and the children’s teeth are set on edge. (30) But every one shall die for his own iniquity: every man that eateth the sour grape, his teeth shall be set on edge” (Jeremiah 31:22-30).*

- “A woman shall compass a man”. I do not know what that is to mean.
  - Women had ruled over the erring (**Isaiah 3:12**).
  - Women had been in abundance while finding a man was hard (**Isaiah 4:1**).
  - ???
- This picture of restoration is one that has God building them back up (**Psalms 147:1-5 and Jeremiah 32:36-41**) wherein there will be individual accountability (**Isaiah 3:10-11, Ezekiel 18:20, and Galatians 6:7-8**).
- Remember, it was not only their sins but the sins of their fathers that led them captivity (**Daniel 9:16**).

6. What hope did the promise of a new covenant bring to the people?

That God would no longer remember their sins: *“(31) Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: (32) Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: (33) But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. (34) And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the*

*least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more” (Jeremiah 31:31-34).*

- **Matthew 26:28, Acts 13:38-39, Romans 8:2, Ephesians 2:11-17, Colossians 1:12-14, Hebrews 8:1-10:22, Hebrews 12:24, and Hebrews 13:20-21.**

7. What reasoning did God use to show His promises would not fail?

He reminded of His power, His might, the immeasurable bounds of His Creation to show that His work is unfailing as is His word: *“(35) Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name: (36) If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever. (37) Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD” (Jeremiah 31:35-37).*

- **Psalms 89:35-37, Jeremiah 14:22, and Acts 14:17; cf. Isaiah 40:12-18.**
- Consider the points of **Isaiah 55:8-11**

8. What was going to happen to the torn down city and valley of dead bodies?

The city built and the despised valley would become holy: *“(38) Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the city shall be built to the LORD from the tower of Hananeel unto the gate of the corner. (39) And the measuring line shall yet go forth over against it upon the hill Gareb, and shall compass about to Goath. (40) And the whole valley of the dead bodies, and of the ashes, and all the fields unto the brook of Kidron, unto the corner of the horse gate toward the east, shall be holy unto the LORD; it shall not be plucked up, nor thrown down any more for ever” (Jeremiah 31:38-40).*

- God’s O.T. desire was Jerusalem and to show His might through her being built (**Psalms 147:1-5**).
- An interesting point about the measuring line: **Zechariah 2:1-13**
- What God had made a valley of slaughter (**Jeremiah 7:32**) would be restored to be a holy land to the Lord (**Zechariah 2:12**).