Jeremiah 31 Israel 2020

Jeremiah 31:23-25

**Jeremiah 31:23-25 (NIV)**
23 This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "When I bring them back from captivity, the people in the land of Judah and in its towns will once again use these words: 'The LORD bless you, O righteous dwelling, O sacred mountain.'
24 People will live together in Judah and all its towns--farmers and those who move about with their flocks.
25 I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint."

These verses as well as most or if not all of Jeremiah have to do with Israel. When we pick up the Bible, read a newspaper or listen to the news on TV or radio etc. we hear much about Israel. It seems that everyone is against Israel. It is dangerous to go against Israel.

The United States or any other country as important as they seem to be, shadows Israel. As I see the Bible Israel is the most important nation on earth and Jerusalem is the most important capital city in the world.

In reality, did you and I know that our country is patterned after Old Testament Israel. We originally had thirteen colonies – twelve were for the twelve tribes of Israel and Washington DC was patterned like Jerusalem. I find this is interesting and thought provoking. Our United States was started as a Christian nation. We who are born again Christians must stand up for our beliefs or we could lose them and may be already losing them – we are so silent.

Now in Congress there is a discussion – i.e. debate – on what to with certain issues when it comes to Israel. One alliance we have is to provide military assistance to them – money and equipment – we must not turn our backs on Israel

As I understand it, the Lord has built His plans around Israel. Jesus came from the tribe of Judah. Our task is to figure out what the Lord is saying here in these verses. The very last verse of our text gives us the direction the Lord is leading all of Israel and certainly Judah as Jesus was to come and did come from Judah.

**Jeremiah 31:25 (NIV)**
 I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint."

The Prophet Jeremiah is saying to Israel: and I believe to all of us! We see so much that we cannot go along with – police defunding, riots in the third precinct in Minneapolis, Recruitment in the police force slowing down but hopefully keeping up. Abortions galore! Virus problems and concerns and more. Can we let Jeremiah speak to us? Promotion of anti-biblical sexual matters, and drug abuse and more. I think we can and must let the Lord speak to us through Jeremiah. Jeremiah is openly frank with Israel in Jeremiah 17:13-14 which reads:

**Jeremiah 17:13-14 (NIV)**
13O LORD, the hope of Israel, all who forsake you will be put to shame. Those who turn away from you will be written in the dust because they have forsaken the LORD, the spring of living water.
14Heal me, O LORD, and I will be healed; save me and I will be saved, for you are the one I praise.

Any nation that turns away from Israel will be turned to dust; they will not last. Doomed. We need to watch what our federal office holders say about Israel.

Here is our theme verse for Israel and for us:

**Jeremiah 31:25 (NIV)**
I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint."

Our theme this morning can very well be “What is it that really refreshed and satisfies.”

What Jeremiah relates that the Lord will not leave them desolate. The Lord is faithful to Israel and the Lord is faithful to those who know Him and have a personal relationship with Him and He calls those who do not know Him as personal Savior and Lord. He wants to do good to all people – it is their choice.

As then, we see today how Israel is being attacked by those countries that surround them. Israel is in constant war with the Palestinian countries around it. And the big issue today is the West Bank. I do not know the ins and outs of this matter.

In the previous chapter Jeremiah (chapter 30) relates that the Lord loves Israel. The Lord is intending to bless Israel. Jeremiah is telling them that the Lord is not abandoning His people. The Lord will never abandon Israel and the Lord will not abandon anyone. We may feel that way but our feelings do not change the heart of the Lord.

In our text, Jeremiah is promising that Israel’s situation is not the final word from the Lord. The Lord will not abandon Israel and He will not do so today. The Lord in the day of Jeremiah has no choice but to make them captive to their enemies. He had no choice but to do this. He was forced to do so. He did not want to do this. The heart of the Lord was not into it and His heart does not want to discipline people today either. But people bring it on themselves. The worldly or fleshly people will pay for their decisions, they will pay for the things they do, say etc.

**James 1:17 (NIV)**
 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

**Jeremiah 31:23 (NIV)**
 This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "When I bring them back from captivity, the people in the land of Judah and in its towns will once again use these words: 'The LORD bless you, O righteous dwelling, O sacred mountain.'

**Jeremiah 31:24 (NIV)**
People will live together in Judah and all its towns--farmers and those who move about with their flocks.

Jeremiah was imprisoned by (578 B. C.) by King Zedekiah. Zedekiah did not like Jeremiah’s talking and writing about doom, so Jeremiah was imprisoned right in the royal palace.

Later Jeremiah prayed to the Lord. He recalled what the Lord had already done for Israel. The Lord responded as seen in Jeremiah 33:27 – “Is anything too hard for me?” The Lord would again restore Israel.

The Lord instructed Jeremiah that He – the Lord – would restore them to the land that He had promised them. The Lord had entered into a Covenant with them and He would stick to His promise made in that Covenant.

The Lord would eventually raise up a ruler and king for them. He would come from line of David. The Lord would bring peace to them. The Lord foretold about the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Numbers 23:19 (NIV)**
God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?

**Numbers 25:12-13 (NIV)**
12 Therefore tell him I am making my covenant of peace with him.
13 He and his descendants will have a covenant of a lasting priesthood, because he was zealous for the honor of his God and made atonement for the Israelites."

Israel had rejected the Covenant that the Lord wanted to make with them. They had been rescued by the Lord before but their time of walking with the Lord was brief. So, they ended up in captivity once again. When things were going well, they turned to false God’s and worshipped them – forgetting their Covenant with the Lord.

Could this be true of us? I am afraid it is true of us. The Covenant with Israel is also a Covenant with us today. When I think of the Old Testament people of Israel from Moses and Abraham, Gideon and others – I think of the faith they needed to follow the Lord – We can look back on the trusted biblical and historical facts about Jesus – it should be easier for us to be in a Covenant relationship with Jesus, our Lord and Savior. It should be easier!

**Ecclesiastes 4:5-7 (NIV)**
5The fool folds his hands and ruins himself.
6Better one handful with tranquility than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind.
7Again I saw something meaningless under the sun:

Life is pretty meaningless unless we are in a Covenant relationship with Jesus – the Lord.

I firmly believe that when we who are not Jewish get saved, we become Jews! We become part of the Covenant people. Favored by the Lord – all because Jesus suffered, died and lived again.

**Romans 2:28-29 (NIV)**
28 A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical.
29 No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God.

We are then part of the Covenant people. Whatever happens to us personally we can remember the last verse of our text

**Jeremiah 31:25 (NIV)**

 I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint."

Whatever we face as a Country we can apply this verse:

**Jeremiah 31:25 (NIV)**
I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint."

Whatever happens to someone else – saved or not – we can apply this verse:

**Jeremiah 31:25 (NIV)**
I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint."

We are under the New Covenant :

We follow Jesus – Jesus was the greatest man in History, He had no servants, yet Jesus is called Him Master. Jesus had no degree, yet He is called teacher. He had no medicines (vaccines!), yet He is called a Healer. He had no army, yet kings feared Him. He won no military battles, yet He conquered the world. He committed no crime yet He was crucified. He was buried in a tomb, yet He lives today. And He lives in our hearts

Jeremiah prophesied about Jesus. And, it all came true.

**1 John 2:7-8 (NIV)**
7  Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard.
8  Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

**Hebrews 8:6-8 (NIV)**
6  But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises.
7  For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another.
8  But God found fault with the people and said: "The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.