



I FEEL YOUR PAIN

Studies in Jeremiah & Lamentations

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Growing in Spirit & Truth

Volume 5, Issue 38



The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

A Second Opinion

Introduction to Jeremiah 27-33

People often ask for a second medical opinion if they don’t like the first one. This isn’t always a good idea, because the doctor knows he’s right and it irritates him. It’s like the familiar joke—the doctor let’s you know that you’re in bad shape and you need surgery; when you ask for a second opinion he says, “okay, you’re ugly, too”. Judah was treating God the same way—they didn’t like His first opinion, so they kept turning to false prophets for a second one. In the study this week Jeremiah was instructed by God to wear a wooden yoke to illustrate that Judah was about to have the yoke of Babylon on their necks for seventy years. The false prophets came along with a second opinion, though, saying that it would only last for two years and Babylon’s yoke would be broken. God answered by saying that in its place would be an iron yoke, and their captivity had been decreed. In essence God wanted them to “take their medicine” - go to Babylon voluntarily, build houses there, plant gardens, and pray for their captors. This is the way life is in our world today—we live as divine strangers in an ungodly world, so our best option is pray for our “captors” and live among them as God’s people. In the second section this week, 29:1-31:26, God tells them to enjoy their recovery as He begins to clearly reveal His good plans for them. The people of Judah will return to their homeland after captivity, and although there will be a severe time of national difficulty, known as “Jacob’s distress”, at the end Jacob (Israel and Judah) will be restored. That will be a time

for them to celebrate. Finally, in the last section, 31:27-33:26, God encourages them to look forward to perfect health. This points to the day when God will make a new covenant with His people, one they can keep, and one in which every person will be forgiven, know God, and have His laws written on their hearts. Furthermore, He will fulfill the covenant He made with David to have His descendant forever sit on the throne over His people. As we can see, God’s first opinion is better than anyone’s second opinion.



Our hearts should break with God’s over our sin.

Daily Study Questions for Jeremiah 27-33

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to www.celebrationnet.com, small groups, abf)

<p>1. Look at Jer 27:1-22. What was Jeremiah to do (v1-2, 3) and what did it mean (v4-8, 9-11)? How did he respond (v12-15, 16-17) and what further hope did he give (v21-22)?</p>	
<p>2. In 28:1-17 what did Hananiah do (v1-4)? How did Jeremiah respond (v5-9) and what was Hananiah’s reaction (v10-11)? What was God’s response (v12-17)? Apply.</p>	
<p>3. From 29:1-14 what were the exiles told to do (v4-7) and why (v10)? What did God promise them (v11-14)? How is this a good model for us as believers in a hostile world?</p>	

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Jeremiah 27-33 Daily Study Questions (cont)

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| 4. Using Jer 29:15-32 what would happen to the false prophets in Babylon (v21) and why (v23)? What about Shemaiah (v32)? Why (v24-28, 31, 32)? Apply. | |
| 5. Based on 30:1-15 what was in the future for Judah (Jacob) for bad (v4-7) and for good (v1-3, 8-11)? What was their real problem (v12-14) and who would have to solve it (v15)? | |
| 6. According to 30:16-24 what would God do to Judah's enemies (v16, 20, 23-24)? What would He do for Judah (v17, 18-20, 21-22)? | |
| 7. In 31:1-26 describe God's love for Israel (v3), and how had it been shown (v2)? What would He do (v4, 8-11, 13-14, 15-17, 20, 25) and how would they react (v5-7, 12, 21, 23)? | |
| 8. From 31:27-40 what would life under the new covenant be like (v27-30) and what were its provisions (v31-34)? How did God underscore its certainty (v35-40)? | |
| 9. Looking at 32:1-15 what was Zedekiah's question (v1-5), and what was Jeremiah's answer (v6-15)? Why was this a good answer? | |
| 10. Scan 32:16-44. What was Jeremiah's prayer (v16-22, 23-25)? How did God answer (v27, 28-35, 36-42, 43-44)? What can we learn from this? | |
| 11. Using 33:1-13 what was Jeremiah's part in God's blessing (v1-3) and what would God do for Judah as a result (v5-7, 8, 9, 10-13)? | |
| 12. According to 33:14-26 who would fulfill God's promise to David (v15-18)? How certain was Israel's restoration (v19-22, 23-26)? | |

Scripture to Remember

"For I know the plans that I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope".

Jeremiah 29:11 (NAS)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—It's All About Jesus, Christ In You (Col 1:24-29)

(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. Everyone share with the group their favorite mystery show on TV or at the movies. Why do people enjoy mysteries so much?
2. Read Col 1:26-27. What does it mean that Christ is in us (v27)? Why is this called a mystery, and why is it our "hope of glory"?
3. Why are both penance and purgatory unbiblical concepts? Why do you think people ever came up with these?
4. How are we to "fill up the sufferings of Christ" (v24)? What should be our purpose for suffering and what attitude should we have? How can we do this practically?
5. Give some examples of Christ's servanthood. Which of the 4 ways to overcome meanness do you need to focus on (respond, give more, go further, give out of blessings)?
6. What should be the agenda of Christ's family (v28)? How should these be done?
7. Bring up anything else important to you from Sunday's message if there is time.