

The Message of Consolation

Jeremiah 30

Jeremiah 30:1-3 – *“The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, ² ‘Thus speaks the Lord God of Israel, saying: ‘Write in a book for yourself all the words that I have spoken to you. ³ For behold, the days are coming,’ says the Lord, ‘that I will bring back from captivity My people Israel and Judah,’ says the Lord. ‘And I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.’”*

Background Notes

Jeremiah 30-33 is called the “Book of Consolation.” This group of prophetic messages emphasized the **good news** about Israel’s future. In verse 3 the Lord said, *“the days are coming... that I will bring back from captivity My people Israel and Judah.... and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.”* When will this take place? Here are three reasons why we believe this return is still in the **future** - and does not refer to the return of the Jewish people from their captivity in Babylon.

1. It’s still future because verse 24 implies that these prophecies will be fulfilled *“in the latter days”* of the End Times: *“In the latter days you will consider it.”*
2. It’s still future because verse 3 says that the fortunes of both Judah and Israel will be restored. The kingdom of Judah was only partially restored when the Jewish people returned from Babylon. The northern kingdom of Israel (that was conquered by the Assyrians) was not restored at all.

And by the way, we don’t agree that this prophecy of future blessing for Israel and Judah is being fulfilled now in the Church. No! **The Church is not the “New Israel,” and the Church does not replace Israel.** This prophecy of blessing should not be “spiritualized” and taken away from the literal descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, or from the literal Land of Promise that God gave to Abraham and his physical descendants. The fact that the Jewish people are now returning to their ancient homeland is only a foretaste of the great blessing that is to come in the future when they return to the Lord.
3. It’s still future because the rest of the chapter indicates there will be a time of great trouble for Israel before the time of blessing comes. In fact, out of that time of great tribulation, Israel will turn back to the Lord and to the Messiah whom she once rejected.

Doctrinal Points

1. In the future, Israel will be saved out of “the time of Jacob’s trouble.”

Jeremiah 30:4-7 - *“Now these are the words that the Lord spoke concerning Israel and Judah. ⁵“For thus says the Lord: ‘We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. ⁶ Ask now, and see, whether a man is ever in labor with child? So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins like a woman in labor, and all faces turned pale? ⁷ Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; and it is the time of Jacob’s trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.”*

In our Lord’s Olivet Discourse He spoke of a future time of “*great tribulation*” for Israel. *“For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened...”* (Matthew 24:19-22).

Was our Lord’s prophecy fulfilled in AD 70, when the Roman armies invaded and conquered Jerusalem, destroyed the Temple, killed 600,000 Jews, and took thousands into captivity? That certainly was a time of much tribulation, and it was a prelude to what will take place in the future. But it was definitely not the predicted greatest tribulation of all time, because the Lord went on to say that this great tribulation would occur right before He returns to earth with power and great glory. Matthew 24:29-30: *“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”*

We believe that Jeremiah was referring to this still future time of great tribulation in verse 7: *“Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it.”* The terror and pain will be so great that men will behave as if they’re having labor pains (v5-6). We call this future time the “Tribulation period.” The book of Revelation (and other Scriptures) predicts that this will be a time of *worldwide* tribulation. But here in Jeremiah it is called “*the time of Jacob’s trouble*” because it will be especially hard on the Jewish people. Zechariah 14:2 says that *“all nations will be against Jerusalem in that day.”*

The good news was given at the end of verse 7. The Lord Himself will rescue the Jewish people who turn to Him out of this time of great tribulation. In the future, Israel will be saved out of “the time of Jacob’s trouble.”

2. In the future, Israel will return to serve David their King.

Jeremiah 30:8-24 - *‘For it shall come to pass in that day,’ says the Lord of hosts, “that I will break his yoke from your neck, and will burst your bonds. Foreigners shall no more enslave them. ⁹ But they shall serve the Lord their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up for them. ¹⁰ ‘Therefore do not fear, O My servant Jacob,’ says the Lord, ‘nor be*

dismayed, O Israel. For behold, I will save you from afar, and your seed from the land of their captivity Jacob shall return, have rest and be quiet, and no one shall make him afraid. ¹¹ For I am with you,' says the Lord, 'to save you; Though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you. Yet I will not make a complete end of you. But I will correct you in justice, and will not let you go altogether unpunished.'

¹² "For thus says the Lord: 'Your affliction is incurable. Your wound is severe. ¹³ There is no one to plead your cause, that you may be bound up. You have no healing medicines.

¹⁴ All your lovers have forgotten you. They do not seek you, for I have wounded you with the wound of an enemy, with the chastisement of a cruel one, for the multitude of your iniquities, because your sins have increased. ¹⁵ Why do you cry about your affliction? Your sorrow is incurable. Because of the multitude of your iniquities, because your sins have increased, I have done these things to you.

¹⁶ 'Therefore all those who devour you shall be devoured; and all your adversaries, every one of them, shall go into captivity. Those who plunder you shall become plunder, and all who prey upon you I will make a prey. ¹⁷ For I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds,' says the Lord, 'because they called you an outcast saying: "This is Zion; no one seeks her.'"

¹⁸ "Thus says the Lord: 'Behold, I will bring back the captivity of Jacob's tents, and have mercy on his dwelling places. The city shall be built upon its own mound, and the palace shall remain according to its own plan. ¹⁹ Then out of them shall proceed thanksgiving and the voice of those who make merry. I will multiply them, and they shall not diminish. I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small. ²⁰ Their children also shall be as before, and their congregation shall be established before Me, and I will punish all who oppress them. ²¹ Their nobles shall be from among them, and their governor shall come from their midst. Then I will cause him to draw near, and he shall approach Me; for who is this who pledged his heart to approach Me?' says the Lord. ²² 'You shall be My people, and I will be your God.'

²³ Behold, the whirlwind of the Lord goes forth with fury - a continuing whirlwind. It will fall violently on the head of the wicked. ²⁴ The fierce anger of the Lord will not return until He has done it, and until He has performed the intents of His heart.

In the latter days you will consider it."

Verses 8-24 predicted that in that future day, God will deliver His people from the yoke of foreign oppressors. The Jewish people will return to their homeland, and they will live there unafraid and in peace. And they will serve "David, their king" (v9-10).

This great news was certainly not fulfilled after the return from the Babylonian captivity. The Davidic dynasty and throne of David was not restored at that time - but it will be restored when the Lord returns! The Lord Jesus Christ is "David's greater Son," and He will reign as King. In fact, the Targum (the ancient Jewish paraphrase), translates verse 9 as "they shall serve Messiah, the Son of David, their King."

All this will be fulfilled at the time of the Lord's millennial kingdom here on this earth. This will be a time of great blessing and peace! It will last for 1000 years (Revelation 20), and then merge with the Eternal State when the Lord brings about the new heavens and the new earth.

God allowed the scattering of Israel and the hard times for Israel (including the time of Jacob's trouble) as discipline because of Israel's sin of turning away from Him and His Word (v11-15). But, in His grace, God will restore His people Israel to health and prosperity, and He will personally deal with those who despise and persecuted Israel (v16-17). (I'd be more than a little concerned if my nation despised Israel at this time!)

During the time of Jacob's trouble, Jerusalem will suffer significant ruin, but Jerusalem will be rebuilt (v18). In verses 19-20, there is the promise of thanksgiving and joy in returning to Jerusalem once again.

The "leader" (v21) is the Lord Himself. He is not a foreigner imposing His rule on the people. Like Melchizedek of old, the Lord is both King and Priest in His kingdom. *'You shall be My people, and I will be your God'*(v22).

In the last two verses of the chapter, the Lord's judgment will not stop until all that He has promised is fulfilled. *"The fierce anger of the Lord will not return until He has done it, and until He has performed the intents of His heart. In the latter days you will consider it"* (v24). In the future, Israel will return to serve David their king.

Practical Application

Use your healing as testimony!

"For I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds," says the Lord, 'because they called you an outcast saying: "This is Zion; no one seeks her."' (v17). This verse revealed one reason why God is going to heal and restore Israel.

Israel will be a testimony to those who have despised the Jewish people and the nation of Israel! And that includes a lot of people today.

There are many people today who despise Christians and consider them outcast and nobodies - and yet they cannot deny the truth that the God of the Christians, the one true God of the Bible, can – and does - supernaturally heal! He can heal the drug addict. He can heal the abused child. He can heal broken marriages. The world and its methods do not have such amazing testimonies!

Has the Lord healed you in some way? If He has, you can use your healing as a testimony to those who reject Christ and despise Christianity.

Use your healing as a testimony!