

Notes: March 17, 2018

Start: 10 AM

Order of service:

1. Shabbat Shalom – Service Begins
2. God Bless America: *Prayer for America and it's Leadership*
3. Children's Song: *What You Sow Is What You Reap*
4. Children's Lesson: *Remember The Sabbath*
5. Children's Blessing and Dismissal to Class
6. Welcome, Announcements, and Prayer
7. Matovu
8. Drash – Cynthia Hudson - Wisdom
9. Name of God For the Week: *My Redeemer*
10. Liturgy
11. Prayer
12. Worship in Music and Dance
13. Rabbi Stephen's Message: *Jeremiah's Warning – Part 3*
14. Kiddush

Children's Blessing:

Transliteration: *Ye'simcha Elohim ke-Ephraim ve hee-Menashe*

English: *May God make you like Ephraim and Menashe*

Transliteration: *Ye'simech Elohim ke-Sarah, Rivka, Rachel ve-Leah.*

English: *May God make you like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah.*

Introduction: Jeremiah's Promises – Part 3

On February 10th and 17th I talked you about five of the 13 warnings to Israel as conveyed by Adonai through Jeremiah. It was quite clear that Adonai was trying to get Israel's attention as it pertains to their transgression. I conveyed Adonai's enormous patience with Israel in that these warning took place over the course of many years. Jeremiah's time as a Prophet to the nation was 40 years. A great deal of that time was spent in urging Israel to t'shuvah, repent and return.

Ultimately, through all these warnings and Israel's ignoring of these warnings, one thing became certain...judgment was coming.

And on February 24th, I talked with you about Jeremiah's promises as conveyed by Adonai, beginning in Chapter 29. Adonai used Jeremiah to convey His promises to the people of Israel, even though judgment was coming. It would not be permanent, nor final. Perhaps he wanted to communicate Isra'el's future hope so the Jews could put the events of the captivity in proper perspective before God's judgment came crashing down upon the Nation.

Let's review some of the promises made by Adonai as conveyed to Jeremiah, who in turn conveyed them to what remained of the once united Kingdom of Israel...

1. Exile from the land as a result of the nations transgressions of adultery, worshiping other gods and ignoring the sign of Adonai's Covenant with them, violating the Shabbat, would be temporary. For some judgment was final, in that after 13 warnings t'shuvah was nowhere to be found. Yet, for the nation, Adonai set distinct end to the exile.
2. As a result of exile being temporary, Adonai in essence promised that He would return Israel to the land He had given them.
3. Adonai reiterates through Jeremiah "I will be their God and they will be my people (30:22 & 30:25)

One would think after 13 warnings, Adonai would be done with Israel. Bringing to mind the golden calf incident whereby Adonai conveys the following to Moshe after their great transgression:

Exo 32:9 Adonai continued speaking to Moshe: "I have been watching these people; and you can see how stiffnecked they are.

Exo 32:10 Now leave me alone, so that my anger can blaze against them, and I can put an end to them! I will make a great nation out of you instead."

To where Moshe interceded on their behalf...

Exo 32:11 Moshe pleaded with Adonai his God. He said, "Adonai, why must your anger blaze against your own people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and a strong hand?

Exo 32:12 Why let the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intentions that he led them out, to slaughter them in the hills and wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce anger! Relent! Don't bring such disaster on your people!

Exo 32:13 Remember Avraham, Yitz'chak and Isra'el, your servants, to whom you swore by your very self. You promised them, 'I will make your descendants as many as the stars in the sky; and I will give all this land I have spoken about to your descendants; and they will possess it forever.' "

Exo 32:14 Adonai then changed his mind about the disaster he had planned for his people.

To where this brings us to Jeremiah 31 and Adonai's and the next promises He will make to the Jewish people.

Jer 31:2 (31:1) Here is what Adonai says: "The people escaping the sword found favor in the desert — I have brought Isra'el to its rest."

Jer 31:3 (31:2) From a distance Adonai appeared to me, [*saying,*] "I love you with an everlasting love; this is why in my grace I draw you to me.

Jer 31:4 (31:3) Once again, I will build you; you will be rebuilt, virgin of Isra'el. Once again, equipped with your tambourines, you will go out and dance with the merrymakers.

Jer 31:5 (31:4) Once again, you will plant vineyards on the hills of Shomron, and those doing the planting will have the use of its fruit.

Jer 31:6 (31:5) For a day will come when the watchmen on Mount Efrayim will call, 'Come, let's go up to Tziyon, to Adonai our God.' "

Adonai reiterates the previous promise of returning them to the land.

Followed by a new promise...

Jer 31:7 (31:6) For here is what Adonai says: "Sing with joy for Ya`akov! shout for the chief of the nations! Proclaim your praise, and say: 'Adonai! You have saved your people, the remnant of Isra'el!'"

Jer 31:8 (31:7) Look! I am bringing them from the land in the north, gathering them from the far ends of the earth; among them are the blind and lame, women with children, women in labor, all together, a vast throng returning here.

Jer 31:9 (31:8) They will come weeping and praying as I bring them back. I will lead them by streams of water on smooth paths, so that they won't stumble. For I am a father to Isra'el, and Efrayim is my firstborn son."

Jer 31:10 (31:9) Nations, hear the word of Adonai! Proclaim it in the coastlands far away. Say: "He who scattered Isra'el is gathering him, guarding him like a shepherd his flock."

Jer 31:11 (31:10) For Adonai has ransomed Ya`akov, redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

Jer 31:12 (31:11) They will come and sing on the heights of Tziyon, streaming to the goodness of Adonai, to the grain, the wine, the olive oil, and the young of the flock and the herd. They themselves will be like a well-watered garden, never to languish again.

A nation separated through their transgression, ultimately leading to Adonai's judgment would be united by Adonai.

A divided Kingdom would be reunited.

Jer 31:13 (31:12) "Then the virgin will dance for joy, young men and old men together; for I will turn their mourning into joy, comfort and gladden them after their sorrow.

Jer 31:14 (31:13) I will give the cohanim their fill of rich food, and my people will be satisfied with my bounty," says Adonai.

The virgin will dance...

Jer 31:15 (31:14) This is what Adonai says: "A voice is heard in Ramah, lamenting and bitter weeping. It is Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted for her children, because they are no longer alive."

Rachel's children are no longer alive...through Joseph, this is Efrayim and Manasseh, the Northern tribes, whom Adonai dispersed through the Assyrians in 722 BCE

Jer 31:16 (31:15) This is what Adonai says: "Stop your weeping, and dry your eyes, for your work will be rewarded," says Adonai. "They will return from the enemy's land;

Jer 31:17 (31:16) so there is hope for your future," says Adonai. "Your children will return to their own territory.

Jer 31:18 (31:17) "I hear Efrayim bemoaning himself: 'You disciplined me, and I took your discipline like a young ox not used to a yoke. Let me return, and I will return, for you are Adonai, my God.

Jer 31:19 (31:18) Yes, I turned away; but later I repented. When I had been made to understand, I struck my thigh in shame and remorse, bearing the weight of the disgrace acquired when I was young.'

Jer 31:20 (31:19) "Isn't Efrayim my very dear son, a child who delights me so? I speak about him all the time, I can't help but recall him to mind. In sum, I deeply yearn for him; I will surely show him favor," says Adonai.

Jer 31:21 (31:20) Set up road signs, erect guideposts, pay attention to the highway, the path on which you traveled. Come back, virgin Isra'el, come back to these cities of yours!

Jer 31:22 (31:21) How long will you hesitate, you unruly daughter? For Adonai has created something new on earth: a woman with the strengths of a man.

All of this speaks to the promise in Torah – Deuteronomy 30 whereby Adonai warns Israel...

Deu 30:1 "When the time arrives that all these things have come upon you, both the blessing and the curse which I have presented to you; and you are there among the nations to which Adonai your God has driven you; then, at last, you will start thinking about what has happened to you;

whereby the curses are as a result of not keeping Adonai's Torah, and the consequences that would ensue as a result of God's people's transgression. As a result of that transgression, Adonai would disperse His people from the land He gave them.

Jer 31:23 (31:22) Here is what Adonai-Tzva'ot, the God of Isra'el, says: "This expression will be used again in the land of Y'hudah and its cities after I have returned their exiles: 'May Adonai bless you, home of justice, holy mountain!'

Jer 31:24 (31:23) In it will live together Y'hudah and all its cities, the farmer and those who lead the flocks.

Jer 31:25 (31:24) For I have satisfied the weary and filled the needs of all in distress."

Jer 31:26 (31:25) At this point I woke up and looked around, but I had enjoyed my sleep.

Jer 31:27 (31:26) "Here, the days are coming," says Adonai, "when I will sow the house of Isra'el and the house of Y'hudah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals.

Jer 31:28 (31:27) At that time, just as I used to watch over them with the intent to uproot, break down, overthrow, destroy and do harm; so then I will watch over them to build and plant," says Adonai.

Jer 31:29 (31:28) "When those days come they will no longer say, 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge.'

Jer 31:30 (31:29) Rather, each will die for his own sin; every one who eats sour grapes, his own teeth will be set on edge.

Meaning, the sins of one's ancestors are not prevelant, nor an excuse. You can't blame your transgression on anyone else. The buck stops with you. As such, t'shuvah must then start with you.

Rom 10:8 What, then, does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart." — that is, the word about trust which we proclaim, namely,

Rom 10:9 that if you acknowledge publicly with your mouth that Yeshua is Lord and trust in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be delivered.

Rom 10:10 For with the heart one goes on trusting and thus continues toward righteousness, while with the mouth one keeps on making public acknowledgement and thus continues toward deliverance.

Which now leads us to this not so insignificant promise...

Jer 31:31 (31:30) "Here, the days are coming," says Adonai, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Isra'el and with the house of Y'hudah.

A New Covenant.

A New Covenant made with the Kingdom that still exists – Judea and the Kingdom that no longer exists – Israel. A divided Kingdom.

Jer 31:32 (31:31) It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers on the day I took them by their hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt; because they, for their part, violated my covenant, even though I, for my part, was a husband to them," says Adonai.

A New Covenant that will not be like the Sinai Covenant

Jer 31:33 (31:32) "For this is the covenant I will make with the house of Isra'el after those days," says Adonai: "I will put my Torah within them and write it on their hearts; I will be their God, and they will be my people.

As Jeremiah alluded to earlier, there would be a reunification of the Kingdom of God – Israel. A divided Kingdom that He divided will become a united Kingdom that He reunifies.

A promise to put Adona's Torah within us and to write it on our hearts. Ezekiel says we are to receive a new heart.

The issue with the first covenant was not the covenant itself, but the heart of those who received the covenant...

Eze 36:26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit inside you; I will take the stony heart out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Eze 36:27 I will put my Spirit inside you and cause you to live by my laws, respect my rulings and obey them.

And the promise to write His Torah on our hearts.

Jer 31:34 (31:33) No longer will any of them teach his fellow community member or his brother, 'Know Adonai'; for all will know me, from the least of them to the greatest; because I will forgive their wickedness and remember their sins no more."

A powerful new dynamic where He will remember our sins no more. Not just a covering, but a deliverance from our transgression.

Jer 31:35 (31:34) This is what Adonai says, who gives the sun as light for the day, who ordained the laws for the moon and stars to provide light for the night, who stirs up the sea until its waves roar — Adonai-Tzva'ot is his name:

Here God addresses the covenant with Noah by saying that when the fixed order of the sun and moon and the creation can be measured and explored fully, only then will Isra'el cease to be a people or be cast off. While the creation stands, Isra'el stands as the people of God. And the new covenant will bring all the promises to full operation.

Jer 31:36 (31:35) "If these laws leave my presence," says Adonai, "then the offspring of Isra'el will stop being a nation in my presence forever."

Jer 31:37 (31:36) This is what Adonai says: "If the sky above can be measured and the foundations of the earth be fathomed, then I will reject all the offspring of Isra'el for all that they have done," says Adonai.

Whereby these verses further substantiate the eternal nature of Adonai's relationship with Israel. Ultimately, Jeremiah conveys this promise from Adonai...

Jer 29:11 For I know what plans I have in mind for you,' says Adonai,'plans for well-being, not for bad things; so that you can have hope and a future.

A future that will introduce Messiah Yeshua to the world.

And yet still one more promise...

Jer 31:38 (31:37) "Look, the days are coming," says Adonai, "when the city will be rebuilt for Adonai from the Tower of Hanan'el to the Corner Gate.

Jer 31:39 (31:38) The measuring line will be stretched straight to Garev Hill, then turn to Go`ah.

Jer 31:40 (31:39) The whole valley of corpses and ashes, including all the fields as far as Vadi Kidron, and on to the corner of the Horse Gate to the east, will be separated out for Adonai; it will never be uprooted or destroyed again."

To rebuild the city, Yerushalyaim, and to return to the land permanently. History tells us that this wasn't a promise fulfilled in the first century, in that the Jewish people were driven from the land. So, the realization of this promise occurred 70 years ago.

How fitting that we conclude here talking about Israel residing in the land permanently.

How appropriate that we end here, having read the promise of Adonai's New Covenant.

Appropriate because this New Covenant is the Passover.

The next time we gather together, it will be for Passover. The promise of a New Covenant conveyed through Jeremiah, but not knowing at the time how it would be enacted.

Luk 22:14 When the time came, Yeshua and the emissaries reclined at the table,

Luk 22:15 and he said to them, "I have really wanted so much to celebrate this Seder with you before I die!

Luk 22:16 For I tell you, it is certain that I will not celebrate it again until it is given its full meaning in the Kingdom of God."

Luk 22:17 Then, taking a cup of wine, he made the b'rakhah and said, "Take this and share it among yourselves.

Luk 22:18 For I tell you that from now on, I will not drink the 'fruit of the vine' until the Kingdom of God comes."

Luk 22:19 Also, taking a piece of matzah, he made the b'rakhah, broke it, gave it to them and said, "This is my body, which is being given for you; do this in memory of me."

Luk 22:20 He did the same with the cup after the meal, saying, "This cup is the New Covenant, ratified by my blood, which is being poured out for you.