

Lessons Old  
Testament Prophets  
Could Give  
to America Today

Jeremiah 32-33

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# Introduction

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- Jeremiah records the time frame of this prophecy (10th year of Zedekiah - also 18th year of Nebuchadnezzar).
- This occurred when Babylon was besieging the Jerusalem (588-586 BC).
- Jeremiah was under arrest and confined to the court of the guard in Jerusalem when God appeared to him.

|           |      |       |      |        |                         |           |                   |  |        |         |        |             |  |
|-----------|------|-------|------|--------|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------|--|--------|---------|--------|-------------|--|
| 12 Tribes |      |       |      | 722    | Assyria takes 10 tribes |           | 2 Tribes of Judah |  | 609    | Babylon | 539    | Medo-Persia |  |
| Obadiah   | Joel | Jonah | Amos | Hosea  | Nahum                   |           | -                 |  | Daniel |         |        | -           |  |
| Elisha    |      | -     |      | Micah  | -                       | Zephaniah | Habakkuk          |  | -      | Ezekiel | -      | ★ Zechariah |  |
| -         |      |       |      | Isalah |                         | Jeremiah  |                   |  |        | -       | Haggai | Malachi     |  |

Obadiah

Zephaniah

Habakkuk

Jeremiah

# The Circumstances

Jeremiah 32:1-12

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# The Circumstances

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- Jeremiah is imprisoned by Zedekiah for prophecies that he deemed “treasonous.”
- Jeremiah predicted that Nebuchadnezzar would capture both Jerusalem and the king of Judah.
- Zedekiah would be handed over to Nebuchadnezzar and taken to Babylon.
- Such statements were not appreciated by those trying to hold out against Babylon.

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# The Circumstances

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- In the midst of this situation, God tells Jeremiah that Hanamel will visit him and ask him to buy his field.
- Jeremiah has the first right to buy and also has a duty to buy it if he can (because he is a relative).
- The field was in Anathoth which was already under Babylonian control. This would seem a foolish purchase.
- Jeremiah bought the field for 17 shekels of silver (this would be a small price for a field).

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# The Circumstances

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- Jeremiah signed, sealed the deed, and had it witnessed.
- Two copies of the deed of purchase were made.
- One copy was bound with string and sealed with Jeremiah's official seal. The other copy remained unsealed so it could be examined later.
- Jeremiah gave the deed to Baruch (his scribe) in order to put them in a clay pot.

# The Explanation

Jeremiah 32:13-15

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# The Explanation

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- Jeremiah instructed Baruch to take both documents and put them in a clay jar for preservation.
- The documents had to last a long time since it would be years before the people would be able to return from captivity and claim their land.
- Jeremiah did this to show them that houses, fields, and vineyards would be again be bought by the people.

# Prayer of Jeremiah

Jeremiah 32:16-25

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# Prayer of Jeremiah

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- Jeremiah begins his prayer by focusing on the greatness and majesty of God's character.
- He is the Creator of the heavens and the earth.
- Nothing is too hard for Him (verse 17 and verse 27).
- He is a God of love and justice (verse 18).
- And He rewards everyone according to his conduct (verse 19).

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# Prayer of Jeremiah

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- God has shown His signs and wonders in Egypt.
- God brought them out of Egypt (verse 21).
- But they did not obey God when they entered the land.
- Now the Babylonian siege mounds were erected against Jerusalem and their fate was sealed.
- God foretold what would happen, and yet God told him to buy a field already under Babylon's control.

# Answer of the Lord

Jeremiah 32:26-44

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# Answer of the Lord

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- God answered Jeremiah by reminding him of His character.
- Jeremiah could depend on God's Word even if he did not understand how it would be accomplished.
- Nebuchadnezzar would indeed destroy Jerusalem.
- Evil had characterized both Israel and Judah - did evil in my sight from their youth (verse 30).

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# Answer of the Lord

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- Jerusalem will be handed over to Babylon, but that is not the end of God's covenant people.
- God will gather His people from all the land where they had been in exile (Jeremiah 31:1-17).
- Jeremiah's purchase of the field (verses 1-5) was a symbolic act to show that fields will once again be bought for silver, and deeds will be signed (verse 44).

# The Restoration of Israel

Jeremiah 33:1-13

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# Judgment and Restoration

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- God comes to Jeremiah once again, while he is still confined in the court of the guard.
- He says for Jeremiah to call to Him, and He will answer and tell him great and hidden (unsearchable) things.
- He says the dismantled houses will be filled with dead bodies of those slain by the Babylonians.
- God would hide his face from the city (verse 5).

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# Judgment and Restoration

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- God says He will bring health and healing (verse 6).
- God will restore the fortunes of Judah (verse 7).
- In the wasteland without man or beast, will be the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness (verse 10).
- There will be voices of thank offerings (verse 11).
- There will be habitations of shepherds resting their flocks (verse 12).

# Application: Trusting God

Jeremiah 29:11-14

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# Jeremiah 29:11-14

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“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.”

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# Jeremiah 29:11-14

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- In the previous chapter, we meet Hananiah who falsely prophesied Israel would live in peace and prosperity.
- Jeremiah rebukes Hananiah and predicts his death.
- He goes on to tell Judah that they will be defeated and taken into exile.
- Their hope is that restoration will eventually come.
- But God does not reveal all His plans for them.

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# Application

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- For I know the plans I have for you - God knows the plans He has for us, but we may not know them or even understand them.
- Plans to prosper you and not harm you - God's plan may not seem good to us at the time. Romans 8:28 - "all things work together for good."
- To give you a future and a hope - Hebrews 11:1 - "faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."