

THE WHOLE STORY

From Genesis to Revelation

Jeremiah 29:1-23 & 31:31-34

Introduction:

This week we will focus on how God has a plan for Israel, and despite Israel's shortcomings, he vows to remain faithful.

Every time we take communion together as a church, we remember that Jesus' blood was the seal of the New Covenant that God made with man. This week we will look at the book of Jeremiah, when God first promised that a New Covenant would come for his people that would save them not only from childlessness and oppression, but from the wayward heart that every human has had since the Fall of man in the Garden of Eden.

This Week's Main Focus

God has a plan for salvation and he will fulfill it..

Throughout Jeremiah 28-31, we see God continually show his faithfulness to the Israelites despite their disobedience. Hananiah, a false prophet, tells the Israelites that they will be freed from Babylonian captivity in two years. Jeremiah, the true prophet, contradicts these claims. He informs the Israelites that they are in Babylon for the long haul, tells them to settle in and prosper, and warns Hananiah of his impending fate. God affirms Jeremiah, and Hananiah soon dies. The Lord continues to speak through Jeremiah to tell the Israelites that he will follow through on his promises, and they will prosper again. He will send a leader, Christ, to guide them back to their former glory. Through this new leader, he will establish a New Covenant that will look much different than the covenants that have come before.

First revealed in chapter 31, the New Covenant sets up an entirely new way for mankind to relate to God. We no longer rely on one prophet to speak on God's behalf; God now promises that each individual can have a personal relationship with Him through Christ Jesus!

Bible Study Questions: Read Jeremiah 29:1-23 & 31:31-34

1) What does the Lord tell the Israelites to do while in Babylon in verses 29:4-7? Why?

2) List the promises God makes to the Israelites in verses 29:10-14.

3) In Jeremiah 31:31-34, God establishes a new covenant. List the other major covenants in the Old Testament. How will the New Covenant be different from the old covenant that was made after God rescued Israel from Egypt?

4) Throughout Israel's history, they continued to rebel and reject God, but God declares through the prophet Jeremiah that "You will be my people, and I will be your God." What does this reveal about the character of God?

5) In Jeremiah 31:33, the Lord says that he will "put [his] law within them, and [he] will write it on their hearts." What will it mean for man's relationship with God once the law is written in each person's heart?

Group Application Questions:

6) Throughout all of Jeremiah, including this week's passages, the Lord promises to break the yoke off of Israel's neck; he will burst all of the bonds of his people. What are some yokes in your life that you have been battling, that if given to the Lord, he can free you from?

7) We, like the Israelites, continue to fail to abide by God's perfect will, but even through their failings, He "loved [them] with an everlasting love" and "continued [his] faithfulness to [them]." God's promise to remain faithful to Israel is the same as his promise to us through the New Covenant. Describe where in your life God's faithfulness most evident?

Prayer: Read Psalm 119:89-96

- Praise God that his word is firmly fixed forever, that his faithfulness is everlasting, and he is able to do everything that he says he will.
- Confess to God specific times when you have not delighted in God's law and forgotten his commandments.
- Thank God for saving you.
- Pray for each other, knowing that the sufferings of this world are opportunities for Satan to tempt us to not trust God. Pray that each other would be strengthened according to God's word and love.