

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

NOTES FOR THIS WEEK: 4/5-6/2021

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: *Jeremiah Chapters 33-34*

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS112, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746?pwd=TK5oVjN0TzdpWjE3UC9Oam05a21uQT09>

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Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 For Audio & notes from previous studies - www.ptwente.com

OPENING PRAYER – Introduction *Jeremiah Chapters 33-34*

O Praise The Name (Anástasis -Resurrection) (4:06) Hillsong

I cast my mind to Calvary Where Jesus bled and died for me

I see His wounds, His hands, His feet, My Saviour on that cursed tree

His body bound and drenched in tears, They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb

The entrance sealed by heavy stone, Messiah still and all alone

(Refrain) O praise the name of the Lord our God O praise His name forevermore

For endless days we will sing Your praise Oh Lord, oh Lord our God

*And then on the third at break of dawn, The Son of heaven rose again
 O trampled death where is your sting? The angels roar for Christ the King (Refrain)
 He shall return in robes of white The blazing sun shall pierce the night
 And I will rise among the saints, My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face
 (Refrain)
 Oh Lord, oh Lord our God, Oh Lord, oh Lord our God*

THIS WEEK'S STUDY:

Chap. 33 – Excellence of the Restored Nation (vs. 1-18); The Permanence of God's Covenant (vs. 19-26); Chap. 34 – Zedekiah Warned by God; (vs. 1-7); Treacherous Treatment of Slaves (vs. 8-22).

- **Jeremiah had been shut up in the prison**, because of his prophecy to Zedekiah of the fall of Jerusalem, and the captivity of the king himself. While he was in prison, *the word of the Lord* came to him to buy the field of his cousin Hanamel. Jeremiah redeemed the field, but then he thought that that's foolish, as the Babylonian army has already encircled the city of Jerusalem and has the city under siege. They're going to fall to Babylon, they're going to be in captivity for seventy years. I don't need that field. Why would I buy that field? So, he prayed to the Lord.
- **In the Chapter 32 prayer of Jeremiah to the Lord**, he describes the awesome power of the Lord. He said, "Lord there is nothing too hard for You", and so as the Lord answered Jeremiah's prayer, He responded by declaring, "There is nothing too hard for Me."

Jer 33:1 Moreover the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah a second time (1st- Jer 32:2), while he was still shut up in the court of the prison, saying,

- **Jeremiah is in prison, shut up, bound in prison.** In a similar situation, Paul said, (2Ti 2:9) *for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained.* The word of God cannot be stopped. It accomplishes what God send it forth to do. This is the second time, concerning the Messiah and the church in His times, he speaks from prison.
- **Listening places!** There are all kinds of prisons, of unforgiveness, of bitterness, hatred, fear! But those prisons can become listening places! Places where we may hear things that we ordinarily would not hear if we were free.

Jer 33:2 "Thus says the LORD who made it, the LORD who formed it to establish it (the LORD is His name): (Jer 32:17) 'Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You.

- **This time the LORD introduces Himself** as the One *who made it, the LORD who formed it to establish it*, that is of heaven and earth. Now when Jeremiah prayed (Jer.32:17), in his prayer he said, "You have made the heaven and the earth by Your great power."
- The Lord began to reveal then, through prophecy, the things that were going to happen in the future to Jerusalem and to the people of Israel, and Judah. First of all, their future was to be very dark and bleak, because Babylon was to utterly destroy the city of Jerusalem.

Jer 33:3 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty (unsearchable, inaccessible, fortified, hidden, difficult, otherwise unknown) things, which you do not know.'

- **The LORD says, in your imprisonment**, if you *will call to Me*, (cry out; cry, cried – about 30X in the Bible) *to Me, and I will answer you!* If your cry to Me is genuine, I will show you great and inaccessible, things, that there is no human access to. I will divinely impart to you, in that difficult place, things you could never come up with on your own!
- **He is asking for genuineness, for diligence.** (Heb 11:6) *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is (that He exists!), and that He is a rewarder (that is, He becomes) of those who diligently seek Him.* In your prison moments, you *call*, you cry out desperately to Him, because *you believe that He is*. He exists and as you do that, it says, He becomes *a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.* We need to be reminded of that! At desperate times we pray desperate prayers! When I'm happy and content, I pray happy and content prayers!
- **God's invitation to Jeremiah to just call to Him.** That the Lord would answer him and *show* him *great and mighty things* that he did *not know*. The circumstances of Judah and life all around you as it's unfolding. Revealing *great and mighty things, things* you can't know in and of yourself! He may not reveal all the things we might ask to know, but we will never know what He might tell us, unless

we ask Him! Here's the invitation! Bring your questions, your confusion to Me! I'm a God of revelation! Ask Me! He will answer! Listen for what you otherwise could not know!

Jer 33:4 "For thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the houses of this city and the houses of the kings of Judah, which have been Pulled down to fortify against the siege mounds and the sword:

Jer 33:5 "They come to fight with the Chaldeans, but only to fill their places with the dead bodies of men whom I will slay in My anger and My fury, all for whose wickedness I have hidden My face from this city.

- **The mounds were the ramps** that the Babylonians built to get a high position to fire down on those that were defending the city on the walls. It is a description of the destruction that's going to come, the houses, of the kings, and of the people will be destroyed. The people are going about in a frenzy, pulling down house and using the stones, trying to bolster their defenses, but they are wasting their time! God is saying, "***I will slay in My anger***" and ***fill the places*** of these houses with dead bodies! You are fighting Me! Until they repent, they is nothing they can do!
- **Importance of relying on the LORD!** Earlier in their history, when they were faced with a tremendous army from Ethiopia that was invading the land, Asa was the king at the time, He had not been reigning very long; and, when he saw this huge army of over a million men invading, he went to the Lord and he said, ***(2Ch 14:11) And Asa cried out to the LORD his God, and said, "LORD, it is nothing for You to help, whether with many or with those who have no power; help us, O LORD our God, for we rest on You, and in Your name we go against this multitude. O LORD, You are our God; do not let man prevail against You!"***
- **He went out, the Lord was with him and the Lord defeated the Ethiopians, and he was victorious.** As he was coming back from the war, he was given a prophecy, a principle we need to remember: ***(2Ch 15:2b) "Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin. The LORD is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.***
- **The people of Jerusalem and Judah had come to the place where they had forsaken God!** Now God has forsaken them. Again, they are facing a powerful army, the Babylonian army. They're going to go out against the Babylonian army, but not under the protection of God. They're going to go out in their own strength and they're just going to be slain by the Babylonians. For the Lord has turned His back on them, even as they have turned their back upon the Lord! Jerusalem is to be destroyed.

Jer 33:6 Behold, I will bring it health and healing; I will heal them and reveal to them the abundance of peace and truth.

- **Now the LORD once again changes gears.** His judgment is going to come upon Jerusalem and Judah, But He then speaks of a future that will occur, following Babylonian's conquest and captivity. There will be a far and fullest fulfillment, in the Kingdom Age! Jeremiah brings this ray of hope in the midst of the gloom and doom!

Jer 33:7 And I will cause the captives of Judah and the captives of Israel to return, and will rebuild those places as at the first.

- God is going to draw them back into the land. Establish them there in the land. He is going to rebuild Jerusalem, even though it will be utterly destroyed, but the people will come back!

Jer 33:8 I will cleanse them from all their iniquity (twistedness) by which they have sinned against Me, and I will pardon all their iniquities by which they have sinned and by which they have transgressed against Me.

- **God reveals that all of this is going to occur in their lives, in Judah, in Israel.** They would come back into the land, be restored at a time, when finally, health and healing and God's truth and obedience to His word, came to mean more to them, than their sin! God knew the day would come.
- **The medicine would be tough to take, but ultimately the day would come.** Like the prodigal son (***Luk 15:17-18) "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! [18] I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, All of this represents a relationship with God, turning from sin and returning to the relationship that he had at the beginning, but he could never appreciate it properly.***

Jer 33:9 Then it shall be to Me a name of joy, a praise, and an honor before all nations of the earth, who shall hear all the good that I do to them; they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and all the prosperity that I provide for it.'

- **The nation of Israel will be a name of joy, a praise a trophy of God's grace, before all the nations** of the earth. Things are going to change. Throughout the world, the thought will be that of joy, and honor for what God has done for Israel again.
- **How many of us believers are just such a trophy of God's grace?** God takes us from a life of sin, *restores* us back to Him. He changes our life. Then, our life becomes a trophy of God's grace, a testimony to the greatness of God's love. What an encouragement that it is! People watch our lives. They come to a conclusions about God, as a result of it, both in His seriousness related to sin, but also the greatness of His love and His willingness to restore and bless us once again! What a witness!

Jer 33:10 "Thus says the LORD: 'Again there shall be heard in this place—of which you say, "It is desolate, without man and without beast"—in the cities of Judah, in the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without man and without inhabitant and without beast.

Jer 33:11 the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voice of those who will say: "Praise the LORD of hosts, For the LORD is good, For His mercy endures forever"—and of those who will bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the LORD. For I will cause the captives of the land to return as at the first,' says the LORD.

- **The destruction of Jerusalem was so complete that there were no inhabitants left within the city.** It was just rubble. The streets that were once filled with children playing and shouting to one another. The streets that were filled with people as they were engaged in commerce, are now strangely silent. The people who saw it in that condition felt that it could never be rebuilt or inhabited again. But the Lord *promises* that in this place that is lying desolate, will once again be filled the voice of joy and gladness. Within this city and from this city there will rise praises once again unto the LORD!
- **Praise the LORD of hosts, For the LORD is good, For His mercy endures forever"—and of those who will bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the LORD.** In the New Testament the sacrifice of praise is referred to as the fruit of our lips. It is your offering praise unto God..
- **For I will cause to return the captivity of the land.** I'm going to bring them back, as I did in the beginning.

Jer 33:12 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'In this place which is desolate, without man and without beast, and in all its cities, there shall again be a dwelling place of shepherds causing their flocks to lie down.

- **The hillsides, now barren and empty, again will be covered with the flocks.** Not only will people return, but prosperity with return. There will be shepherds, flocks and herds once again!

Jer 33:13 In the cities of the mountains, in the cities of the lowland, in the cities of the South, in the land of Benjamin, in the places around Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, the flocks shall again pass under the hands of him who counts them,' says the LORD.

- **Through the nation there will be many flocks and herds!** With many sheep in a flock, the shepherd would count them as they were brought into the fold at night, always concerned over any that were lost! Jesus said (*Luk 15:4, 7*) *"What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? [7] I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.*

The Lord's Eternal Covenant with David

Jer 33:14 'Behold, the days are coming,' says the LORD, 'that I will perform that good thing which I have promised to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah:

- **These prophecies have not yet been fulfilled.** These prophecies for all Israel are yet future. We have not yet seen these prophecies fulfilled. The whole land from north to south, east to west will be filled with this joy of this restoration, this prosperity, once again when people turn back to God!

Jer 33:15 'In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David A Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.

- **At the full fulfillment of these prophecies, the Messiah, the descendant of David, will reign!** At the second coming of Jesus Christ, *the descendant of David*, when He shall establish God's kingdom

upon the earth. The Old Testament scriptures are filled with the prophecy, the glorious eternal reign of the Messiah.

- **Now this is what created the difficulty for the Jews, with Jesus Christ.** They were looking for the Messiah, who would reign in power and glory over the earth. When Jesus was crucified, that was in total opposition to their expectations. The cross was a stumbling block for the Jews. They spiritualized the prophecies of His suffering and death, taking literally only those prophecies of His glorious reign.
- **Now reconciled in the two comings of Jesus!** In His first coming, He fulfilled all those prophecies concerning His suffering and His death. In His second coming, He will fulfill all of the prophecies of the glorious reign of the Messiah, over the earth. In the first coming, He came to redeem the earth back to God, and that was His purpose! He has not yet taken His purchased possession, but He is coming again to reign in judgement and in righteousness!

Jer 33:16 In those days Judah will be saved, And Jerusalem will dwell safely. And this is the name by which she will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. (Rom 11:25b-27) that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. [26] And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "THE DELIVERER WILL COME OUT OF ZION, AND HE WILL TURN AWAY UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB; [27] FOR THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS."

- ***In those days, when the Lord shall come and establish God's kingdom, Judah will be saved, And Jerusalem will dwell safely. And this is the name by which she (Jerusalem) will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS!*** Righteousness will prevail! No need for police, for the military. No crime, murdering and robbing, no drug lords or cartels! It won't be because we Christians bring it, but the wicked will be upended because God will do it Himself! This is more sure than anything! Through Jesus, God will establish perfect righteousness in this world!

Jer 33:17 "For thus says the LORD: 'David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel;

Jer 33:18 nor shall the priests, the Levites, lack a man to offer burnt offerings before Me, to kindle grain offerings, and to sacrifice continually.' "

- ***Isn't Zedekiah the end of the Davidic line?*** It looks like all of the promises concerning this endless line of kings to come from the lineage of David, that that has been destroyed. But God comes in and says, no, it won't be destroyed. My covenant with David is in place. ***'David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel!*** The King of Kings and the LORD of Lords, Jesus, from the loins and lineage of David, Jesus will rule and reign there.
- ***There will be the priests, the Levites, lack a man to offer burnt offerings before Me.*** Sacrifices will be offered in the temple in the Kingdom Age, the thousand-year reign of Christ. For Christians, that can seem confusing because Jesus Christ fulfilled the Old Testament scriptures, paying the price completely of our sin! The best answer seems to be is that when these sacrifices, temple, furnishings are all in place with everything operating as God wants it, what then how could be a more powerful witness to the Jews to be reminded of the typology that they largely missed, that this was all about Jesus Christ! They will be reminded of what they missed. The Old Testament will continue as an important part of the Scriptures in the Kingdom Age and the powerful testimony, that Jesus is the Messiah and the prophecies given concerning Him.

to offer burnt offerings before Me, to kindle grain offerings, and to sacrifice continually.' "

- ***The burnt offering*** was a sacrifice that you would offer unto the Lord, by which you were offering your life to God in complete consecration. "Lord I'm giving my life to You. Let my life be consumed with Your fire, with Your love, Lord, as I serve You and I'm giving myself to serve You."
- ***The peace offering*** was the offering of communion. The idea of becoming one with God, and communing with God, as the family ate the sacrifice together, and feasted together. Such a beautiful offering!
- ***The sin offering that Ezekiel speaks of may well be*** completely memorial offerings. They will be in memory of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who gave His life for us, and they will be looking back in memorial. The sacrifice of Jesus for our sins is complete, but this will be a memorial, even as we have the communion service and we take the bread and the cup, partaking in remembrance of Him and what He did in dying to save us! It will be a very beautiful memorial, during the Kingdom Age.

The Permanence of God's Covenant

Jer 33:19 And the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying,

Jer 33:20 "Thus says the LORD: 'If you can break My covenant with the day and My covenant with the night, so that there will not be day and night in their season,

Jer 33:21 then My covenant may also be broken with David My servant, so that he shall not have a son to reign on his throne, and with the Levites, the priests, My ministers.

- **Forever! God said, As long as the sun comes up, My covenant stands!** The sun came up today! The *covenant* still stands! Also, that, "If you can break the covenant of the sun rising or the moon going through the sky at night, then *My covenant with David can be broken.*" But God has established the *covenant*, and He will fulfill the *covenant*, and Jesus shall reign! No one is going to be able to stop this *covenant* from being fulfilled, coming to pass in His Second coming.

Jer 33:22 As the host of heaven (the stars) cannot be numbered, nor the sand of the sea measured, so will I multiply the descendants of David My servant and the Levites who minister to Me.' "

- **Too many stars to be numbered! God is going to multiply His people.** About 6,000 stars could be counted in Jeremiah's time. Now with aid of our telescopes, it is believed there are billions of galaxies and each galaxy has a billions of stars. Think of a hundred billion, billion stars! The stars, of heaven cannot be numbered. Science texts are revised every few years, but God's word in the original, has never and will never need revision, because it has been written by God and not man!

Jer 33:23 Moreover the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying,

Jer 33:24 "Have you not considered what these people have spoken, saying, 'The two families (Israel and Judah) which the LORD has chosen, He has also cast them off'? Thus they have despised My people, as if they should no more be a nation before them.

- **The conclusion of nations surrounding Israel** had considered with the conquering of the northern ten tribes by Assyria in 722 BC and the pending conquering of Judah by Babylon, that God has cast off, that they never would be heard of again. They have no future! Even today, the world speaks derisively of Israel. It's a great testimony of God's grace as He defends Israel even though He is in process of ever correcting their idolatry and immorality. Upon true repentance, we have this and other examples of such a forgiving, loving and caring God!

Jer 33:25 "Thus says the LORD (again repeating): 'If My covenant is not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth,

Jer 33:26 then I will cast away the descendants of Jacob and David My servant, so that I will not take any of his descendants to be rulers over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For I will cause their captives to return, and will have mercy on them.' "

- **God declares all of this is absolutely sure!** It's even more sure than the sunrise and the sunset! All of these things are going to come to pass in both a near and in a far fulfillment! A wonderful age lies ahead for the Jewish people. A terrible, terrible, nightmare is going to precede it! All of this is in the future! God has not abandoned the Jewish people!

Zedekiah to Die in Babylon

Jer 34:1 The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and all his army, all the kingdoms of the earth under his dominion, and all the people, fought against Jerusalem and all its cities, saying,

- **Chapters 34-39 tell of the destruction of Jerusalem by Babylon.** This is the end of Judah, prior to their being conquered by Babylon.. This is the prophecy that Jeremiah had at this time when Nebuchadnezzar was coming with *all* of his hosts against Jerusalem, not just the Babylonian army but including *all* those nations that Babylon had taken, resulting in a huge, awesome assembly of armies!

Jer 34:2 "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: 'Go and speak to Zedekiah king of Judah and tell him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire.

- **This is the prophecy, "I'm going to give Jerusalem to the king of Babylon.** He's going to burn it with fire". Zedekiah, you cannot escape! The coming destruction is from Me! Today you can see in the strata,

a layer of ashes about four-six inches thick, from the it was burned by Nebuchadnezzar. The evidence of this prophecy being fulfilled is right there to be seen!.

Jer 34:3 *And you (Zedekiah) shall not escape from his hand, but shall surely be taken and delivered into his hand; your eyes shall see the eyes of the king of Babylon, he shall speak with you face to face, and you shall go to Babylon.' " "*

- **Zedekiah is going to be taken to Babylon.** You'll be taken to Babylon. You are not going to die in the siege, in the battle of Jerusalem. But you are not going to be able to escape.

Jer 34:4 *Yet (Jeremiah said) hear the word of the LORD, O Zedekiah king of Judah! Thus says the LORD concerning you: 'You shall not die by the sword.*

- Now, his sons did, but he will not. The last thing Zedekiah saw was his sons being killed.

Jer 34:5 *You shall die in peace; as in the ceremonies of your fathers, the former kings who were before you, so they shall burn incense for you and lament for you, saying, "Alas, lord!" For I have pronounced the word, says the LORD.' " "*

- **Burning incense for the dead.** It was just their custom, a tradition, and so they will be mourning and burning their *incense for you*. What grace we see here! Considering Zedekiah's record as king, to be told he won't die in the battle and he will be remembered in the manner of kings, when he eventually will die must have indeed been good news to him!

Jer 34:6 *Then Jeremiah the prophet spoke all these words to Zedekiah king of Judah in Jerusalem,*

Jer 34:7 *when the king of Babylon's army fought against Jerusalem and all the cities of Judah that were left, against Lachish and Azekah; for only these fortified cities remained of the cities of Judah.*

- **At this point only three cities in Judah, all fortified to withstand an enemy invasion were still standing – Jerusalem, Lachish and Azekah.**

Treacherous Treatment of Slaves

Jer 34:8 *This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, after King Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people who were at Jerusalem to proclaim liberty to them:*

Jer 34:9 *that every man should set free his male and female slave—a Hebrew man or woman—that no one should keep a Jewish brother in bondage. (Exo 21:2) If you buy a Hebrew servant, he shall serve six years; and in the seventh he shall go out free and pay nothing. (Exo 20:2; Deu 5:6) "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.*

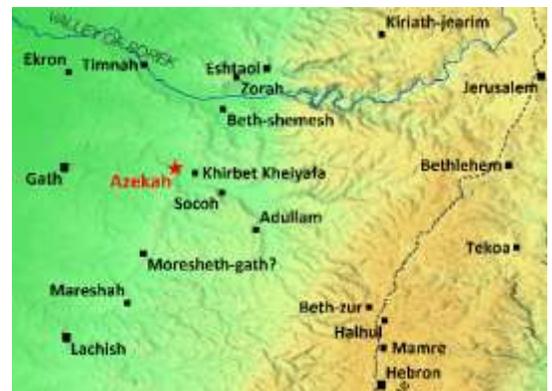
- **Apparently in the midst of this siege in Jerusalem, things are looking so bad, they realized they needed more soldiers,** more servants, King Zedekiah made a *covenant* with the people that their Hebrew slaves were to be set free. Under the Jewish law, you were not to keep a servant who was a Hebrew more than six years. Possibly they thought that if we keep the law of Moses in this way, maybe God will come in and deliver us from the Babylonians, producing a miraculous deliverance!

Jer 34:10 *Now when all the princes and all the people, who had entered into the covenant, heard that everyone should set free his male and female slaves, that no one should keep them in bondage anymore, they obeyed and let them go.*

- **Set the slaves free, as ordered by the king.** To proclaim liberty to them. They made a *covenant* with the people and with God, in the area of the temple, in obedience with the God's word. The king said, "Let them go free." The people obeyed the king and let them go *free!*

Jer 34:11 *But afterward they changed their minds and made the male and female slaves return, whom they had set free, and brought them into subjection as male and female slaves. (Jer 37:5) Then Pharaoh's army came up from Egypt; and when the Chaldeans who were besieging Jerusalem heard news of them, they departed from Jerusalem.*

- **Going back on a promise! But afterward they changed their minds!** Possibly, when they thought that that Babylon had departed, they broke this *covenant* and brought recently freed servants back into slavery. They broke the *covenant!* We want our slaves back! Their making the *covenant* had little



to nothing to do with honoring God, but just for their own situation. The pressure is on us. We need to do something desperate. But once the pressure was taken off, then they pulled back and showed their true colors, only being concerned for themselves! A great lesson here for us!

Jer 34:12 Therefore the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,

Jer 34:13 "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: 'I made a covenant with your fathers in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage, saying,

Jer 34:14 "At the end of seven years let every man set free his Hebrew brother, who has been sold to him; and when he has served you six years, you shall let him go free from you." But your fathers did not obey Me nor incline their ear. (Exo 21:2) If you buy a Hebrew servant, he shall serve six years; and in the seventh he shall go out free and pay nothing.

- **God reminds them of this law**, but they, as they father had done, ***did not obey Me nor incline their ear.***

Jer 34:15 Then you recently turned and did what was right in My sight—every man proclaiming liberty to his neighbor; and you made a covenant before Me in the house which is called by My name.

- **The angels in heaven must have been shocked** that they did something right! But wait!

Jer 34:16 Then you turned around and profaned My name, and every one of you brought back his male and female slaves, whom he had set at liberty, at their pleasure, and brought them back into subjection, to be your male and female slaves.'

- **God describes their change of heart.** Initially, ***you recently turned and did what was right in My sight! But then, you turned around and profaned My name.*** God said, you have dishonored Me! You have demonstrated the God of Israel and Judah, is not worthy of your keeping your promises! This is how God views this kind of thing. They've given their word. Then they turned back on it. It communicated something to people who were watching, making God look common, unholy, before the nations and before the world! This is so unacceptable to Him, notice His response:

Jer 34:17 "Therefore thus says the LORD: 'You have not obeyed Me in proclaiming liberty, everyone to his brother and every one to his neighbor. Behold, I proclaim liberty to you,' says the LORD 'to the sword, to pestilence, and to famine! And I will deliver you to trouble among all the kingdoms of the earth.

- **Your liberty is going to be to the sword, pestilence famine and to trouble!** You're going to become slaves,! You will become slaves and servants! This is the ***liberty*** that I will give ***you!***

Jer 34:18 And I will give the men who have transgressed My covenant, who have not performed the words of the covenant which they made before Me, when they cut the calf in two and passed between the parts of it— (Gen 15:8-10) And he said, "Lord GOD, how shall I know that I will inherit it?" [9] So He said to him, "Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." [10] Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two.

- **Covenants are important to God! This also was historically important to the people.** They would cut an animal in two and you would walk between the halves of the animal that was hanging there. It was just a sign of a ***covenant***. "I have made the ***covenant*** with you." The sign of it was passing between. It communicated the seriousness about the agreement that is being entered into. It also had a warning side to it. If either one of us fails to keep that ***covenant***, may we become like the calf that is cut into on either side.

Jer 34:19 the princes of Judah, the princes of Jerusalem, the eunuchs, the priests, and all the people of the land who passed between the parts of the calf—

- **God said this was the covenant.** This was the imagery. This is what you, the ***princes, eunuch, the leaders and all the people of the land*** had ***all*** entered into.

Jer 34:20 I will give them into the hand of their enemies and into the hand of those who seek their life. Their dead bodies shall be for meat for the birds of the heaven and the beasts of the earth.

- **God is going to punish them** for this broken ***covenant***. ***All of the people*** who had been actively involved in this ***covenant***, that had ***passed between the parts of the calf!***

Jer 34:21 And I will give Zedekiah king of Judah and his princes into the hand of their enemies, into the hand of those who seek their life, and into the hand of the king of Babylon's army which has gone back from you.

Jer 34:22 Behold, I will command,' says the LORD, 'and cause them to return to this city. They will fight against it and take it and burn it with fire; and I will make the cities of Judah a desolation without inhabitant.' "

- **God's prophecy is sure, and it was fulfilled! The Babylonians had come,** and they've begun to besiege the city, and Judah called for the Egyptians to help. The Babylonian army left Jerusalem and went and defeated the Egyptians. When the Babylonians had left, the people thought, "Ah ha! Our diplomacy has won the day, and now we don't have to worry anymore." But Jeremiah says, "They're going to come back. The **LORD** has ordered them to return." They surely did! They came back, completed the siege and took Jerusalem. The word of God was fulfilled, as prophesied by Jeremiah! The city was destroyed, **burnt with fire**, the **princes the kings**, and **all** were carried away to Babylon, where they served the Babylonians.
- **God is communicating with them.** I am in control of this situation. Your problem isn't supremely with the Babylonians, it's much more serious than that! You're up against Me in all of this and that's battle that nobody can win. They couldn't win either.
- **Making promises under desperation – Going back on a promise!** One of the things that we're taught here is that it teaches that we should never make **promises** to God in the heat of some kind of circumstances, that we find ourselves in. We should always obey His word, but when we find ourselves in some kind of a difficult situation, we should never make a **promise** to God that once the heat is off, we would then renege on that **promise** that we have made to God.
- **Christians commonly play this game with God.** Christ comes into a person's life, which makes us re-consider some area of disobedience within our life that we're living. We cry out! God if You get me out of this situation, I'll serve You for the rest of my life, I'll give You everything. I'll always be in church. I'll tithe and I'll serve in every area that there's a need, for the rest of my life! And then what happens is then pressure releases and the person goes right back to their former behavior!
- **No real commitment to God!** It's an indication that there was no real sobriety related to God. It was just that I wanted to get out of the squeeze. The commitment wasn't a real one! This teaches us, very importantly, that we're to obey God in our lives, when the heat is on and when the heat is off, that He is worthy of that kind of obedience!
- **God's word. The certainty of God's word.** The **covenant** that God has established, and the certainty of that **covenant**. We do not want to mess with God, or with the word of God. We are not to think that "Maybe it won't happen", or "It won't happen to me." You can be certain that God's word is sure. It is steadfast! What He has said, He will surely do!
- **What a blessing!** He has **promised** that I should live and reign with Jesus Christ in the glorious kingdom. God's word is sure, and that blesses my soul!
- **How fearful if you're in the wrong position!** If the fact that God keeps His word completely terrifies you, you're in the wrong position. You're in the wrong relationship with God. It should thrill you that God is so faithful in keeping His word! If you're a child of God, it's a thrill. If you're an enemy of God, then wow, it's a terror! **God is a terror to the enemies, but oh, what a blessing** to those who are His children!

Summary:

- *(Jer 33:3) 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'*
 - ✓ **The Awesome Creator God has promised to show us great and mighty things,** which no one could know except that God revealed them! He promises to reveal these unknowable things to anyone who diligently cries out to Him, even if we are in prison!
 - ✓ **Prisons can be listening places,** where we may hear things that we ordinarily would not hear if we were free. He may not reveal all the things we might ask to know, but we will never know what He might tell us, unless we ask Him!
 - ✓ **God reveals these great and mighty things to Jeremiah** regarding the excellence of the restored nation of Israel! **It is revealed that Jerusalem, now under siege, pending desolation, will be**

restored. That the Son of David will establish His reign there and the city will be called **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS!**

- **Permeance of Covenant with David (Jer 33:17, 20-21)**
 - ✓ **The LORD promises that 'David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel;** Even though Zedekiah is to be the last king, prior to the Babylonian destruction,
 - ✓ Nor shall the priests, the Levites, lack a man to offer burnt offerings before Me, to kindle grain offerings, and to sacrifice continually.' "
 - ✓ **Forever! God said, As long as the sun comes up, My covenant stands!** The sun came up today! The covenant still stands! No one is going to be able to stop this covenant from being fulfilled, coming to pass in His Second coming.
 - ✓ **Too many stars to be numbered!** About 6,000 stars could be counted in Jeremiah's time. Now with aid of our telescopes, it is believed there are billions of galaxies and each galaxy has a billions of stars. Think of a hundred billion, billion stars! The stars, of heaven cannot be numbered.
- **Zedekiah's covenant of liberty, made with God and with the people, to free Hebrew slaves (Jer 34:8-10)**
 - ✓ **The siege in on! Things are looking so bad, they realized they needed more soldiers,** more servants, King Zedekiah made a *covenant* with the people that their Hebrew slaves were to be set free. Under the Jewish law, you were not to keep a Hebrew servant more than six years. They may have thought that if we keep the law of Moses in this way, maybe God will come in and deliver us from the Babylonians, producing a miraculous deliverance!
 - ✓ **Set the slaves free, as ordered by the king.** To proclaim liberty to them. They made a *covenant* with the people and with God, in the area of the temple, in obedience with the God's word. The king said, "Let them go free." The people obeyed the king and let them go *free!*
- **"But!!!" They changed their mind! (Jer 34:11)**
 - ✓ **Going back on a promise! But afterward they changed their minds!** They broke the *covenant!* We want our slaves back! Their making the *covenant* had little to nothing to do with honoring God, but just for their own situation. The pressure is on us. We need to do something desperate. But once the pressure was taken off, then they pulled back and showed their true colors, only being concerned for themselves! A great lesson here for us!
- **God hates their breaking of their covenant! (Jer 34:15-17)**
 - ✓ **God says, Initially, you turned and did what was right in My sight! But then, you turned around and profaned My name!** God said, you have dishonored Me! You have demonstrated to the world, the God of Israel and Judah, is not worthy of your keeping your promises! This is how God views this kind of thing. This is so unacceptable to Him, notice His response:
 - ✓ **Your liberty is going to be to the sword, pestilence famine and to trouble!** You're going to become slaves,! You will become slaves and servants! This is the **liberty** that I will give **you!**
 - ✓ **Covenants are important to God! This also was historically important to the people.** They would cut an animal in two and you would walk between the halves of the animal that was hanging there. The sign of it was passing between. It communicated the seriousness about the agreement that is being entered into. It also had a warning side to it. If either one of us fails to keep that **covenant**, may we become like the calf that is cut into on either side.
 - ✓ **God is going to punish them for this broken covenant. All of the people who had been actively involved in this covenant, that had passed between the parts of the calf!**

Closing prayer: