

JEREMIAH 32:17-25 -- PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING & JEREMIAH 32:26-44 – GOD’S ANSWER!

8/1/15 Sat Morn Prayer

Biblical Background:

- In Jeremiah’s day, things in Judah were as bad as they could be. The Lord was turning up the heat. Jerusalem was under siege by Babylon, because of their continuing immorality and sin. Jeremiah was prophesying that Jerusalem should surrender to the Babylonians, as their only hope of survival. His prophesies were viewed as treason.
- Jeremiah prophesied that King Zedekiah would see the king of Babylon face to face and would be lead to Babylon. Ezekiel was prophesying at the same time in Babylon that Zedekiah would not see Babylon. Both prophesies were true, but Zedekiah looked at the prophesies as contradicting each other and rejected them both!
- Now around 587 B.C., at the time of this prayer, Jeremiah had been shut up in the court of prison, which was in the house of King Zedekiah.
- While in prison, Jeremiah **received a word of knowledge** from the Lord that Jeremiah was to purchase a family field, which was in Anathoth, which had already fallen to Babylon, for the right of redemption. Also that Hanamel, Jeremiah’s cousin, the son of Shallum, your uncle will come to you with this instruction.
- Then Hanamel came to Jeremiah in the court of the prison according to the word of the Lord. **Then Jeremiah knew** that his vision to purchase the field, was from the Lord.
- So Jeremiah obediently purchased the field for seventeen shekels of silver and signed the deed.
- Jeremiah then said, *Jer 32:13 "Then I charged Baruch before them, saying, [14] 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Take these deeds, both this purchase deed which is sealed and this deed which is open, and put them in an earthen vessel, that they may last many days." [15] For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Houses and fields and vineyards shall be possessed again in this land." ' "*
- **NOTE: How Jeremiah must have felt** -- Buying a piece of land, in Anathoth, his hometown, where he was so hated! How totally ridiculous it must have felt to buy land, which was worthless in the face of the Babylonian invasion.
- We see Jeremiah being **put to a great test** – to **live in accordance with what he was preaching!** What a lesson for us! Preaching is one thing, but spending your own money is another thing – **putting your money where your mouth is!** A **consistency between your life and your ministry, your testimony.**
- Jeremiah is **really perplexed** as he is to buy something that makes no sense! Yet God is setting things in place, that He knows is coming.

What does Jeremiah then do? He prays for understanding!!

*Jer 32:16-25 "Now when I had delivered the purchase deed to Baruch the son of Neriah, I prayed to the LORD, saying: [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. [18] You show **lovingkindness to thousands**, and repay the iniquity of the fathers into the bosom of their children after them—the **Great, the Mighty God**, whose name is the LORD of hosts. [19] You are **great in counsel and mighty in work**, for **your eyes are open** to all the ways of the sons of men, **to give everyone** according to his ways and according to the fruit of his doings. [20] You have set **signs and wonders** in the land of Egypt, to this day, and in Israel and among other men; and **You have made Yourself a name**, as it is this day. [21] You have **brought Your people Israel** out of the land of Egypt with **signs and wonders**, with a **strong hand and an outstretched arm**, and with great terror; [22] **You have given them** this land, of which You swore to their fathers to give them— "a land flowing with milk and honey." [23] And they came in and **took possession of it, but they have not obeyed Your voice or walked in Your law.** They have **done nothing of all that You commanded them** to do; therefore You have caused all this calamity to come upon them. [24] 'Look, the siege mounds! They have **come to the city** to take it; and **the city has been given** into the hand of the Chaldeans who fight against it, because of the sword and famine and pestilence. What You have spoken has happened; there You see it! [25] And **You have said to me, O Lord GOD, "Buy the field for money, and take witnesses!"—yet the city has been given into the hand of the Chaldeans.** ' "*

- Notice the wonderful prayer! It **consists almost entirely of praising and thanking God** for His care, loving kindness and faithfulness!! A characteristic of almost all the prayers in the Bible.
- **His greatness constitutes** almost all of the prayer! What constitutes our prayer? Self-centered or **God centered?**
- His request, in verse 25, is so short, it seems just that it’s a footnote or an add-on to the prayer! **Is that how we pray?**

GOD’S ANSWER TO JEREMIAH’S PRAYER –God’s answer showing his promise of mercy and restoration:

*Jer 32:26-44 Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying, [27] "**Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?** [28] Therefore thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the Chaldeans, into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and he shall*

take it. [29] *And the Chaldeans who fight against this city shall come and set fire to this city and burn it, with the houses on whose roofs they have offered incense to Baal and poured out drink offerings to other gods, to provoke Me to anger; [30] because the children of Israel and the children of Judah have done only evil before Me from their youth. For the children of Israel have provoked Me only to anger with the work of their hands,' says the LORD. [31] 'For this city has been to Me a provocation of My anger and My fury from the day that they built it, even to this day; so I will remove it from before My face [32] because of all the evil of the children of Israel and the children of Judah, which they have done to provoke Me to anger—they, their kings, their princes, their priests, their prophets, the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. [33] And they have turned to Me the back, and not the face; though I taught them, rising up early and teaching them, yet they have not listened to receive instruction. [34] But they set their abominations in the house which is called by My name, to defile it. [35] And they built the high places of Baal which are in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire to Molech, which I did not command them, nor did it come into My mind that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.' [36] "Now therefore, thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning this city of which you say, 'It shall be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence: [37] Behold, I will gather them out of all countries where I have driven them in My anger, in My fury, and in great wrath; I will bring them back to this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely. [38] They shall be My people, and I will be their God; [39] then I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me forever, for the good of them and their children after them. [40] And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from doing them good; but I will put My fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from Me. [41] Yes, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will assuredly plant them in this land, with all My heart and with all My soul.' [42] "For thus says the LORD: 'Just as I have brought all this great calamity on this people, so I will bring on them all the good that I have promised them. [43] And fields will be bought in this land of which you say, "It is desolate, without man or beast; it has been given into the hand of the Chaldeans." [44] Men will buy fields for money, sign deeds and seal them, and take witnesses, in the land of Benjamin, in the places around Jerusalem, in the cities of Judah, in the cities of the mountains, in the cities of the lowland, and in the cities of the South; for I will cause their captives to return,' says the LORD."*

SUMMARY:

- Even in times of greatest darkness, God is working!
- V. 33 – How precious is God talking to us/me! Do I cherish His speaking to me?
- Note God's unending mercy and grace!
- Do we really understand and appreciate God's goodness and that He is a covenant keeping God?
- How are your prayers? Filled with things of Him or filled with things of self?
- Oh, how faithful He is!

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS!

*Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not; as Thou hast been Thou forever will be.
Refrain:*

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided; great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth. Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Refrain*

SAT MORN PRAYER GUIDELINES:

We all want to receive **instruction from the teaching in Biblical prayers and for the prayer time be effective, being led by the Holy Spirit.** To that end:

- Please be on time at 6:30am to receive the blessings of the weekly prayers in the Bible.
- If you are late, **simply agree in prayer and refrain from praying** in group prayer and **wait until the small group** prayer time.
- Those who pray aloud during the prayer meeting portion, **please keep the prayers short (2-3 minutes)** praying as led by the Holy Spirit. There is only about a 30 minute period for 15 or so to pray.
- **Intercessory prayer** (church, country, leaders) **during group time; personal prayer** during small group time.
- **Welcome times of silence** during the group prayer time **as we wait on the Holy Spirit.**