

PRAYER OF JEREMIAH

Jeremiah 32:16-19, 26-27, 36-38

INTRODUCTION: When Jeremiah was imprisoned, God gave him a promise as well as hope for his beloved Jerusalem. As Christians, we have the same blessings from our heavenly Father and His dear Son. Our hope in Christ is as secure as His Word which is established in heaven. Jesus said in Mark 13:31, "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away." We read in Luke 16:17, "And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail."

I. PROBLEMS JEREMIAH FACED

A. CONFINEMENT OF JEREMIAH.

Jeremiah was a faithful prophet of God. He was called of God to declare the greatness of God. Jeremiah was imprisoned in Jerusalem for declaring God's truth. King Zedekiah was the ruler of Jerusalem during the siege by the Babylonians. Zedekiah was the last king of Judah. He was the king when Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed by Babylon. The Babylonians were a powerful enemy during this time in Jerusalem's history. Jerusalem faced the approaching attack and possibly the destruction of the city as well as the nation.

B. COMMANDMENT OF GOD.

God gave the prophet Jeremiah a strange command. He was instructed to buy a piece of land near where he lived. Some Bible teachers believe the command was a way that God gave Jeremiah and Jerusalem a word of hope for the future. God would eventually restore His people to their homeland. When Jeremiah purchased the land, it showed his obedience to God and his faith in God. We live by faith in God's promise that we have a home in heaven prepared for us although we have not yet seen it.

II. PRAYER JEREMIAH PRAYED (Jeremiah 32:17-18)

A. JEREMIAH EXALTS THE LORD OF CREATION.

Jeremiah's prayer is recorded in Jeremiah 32:17, "Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:" This verse exalts the sovereign Lord of creation.

The Bible's statement that "nothing is too hard" declares God's unlimited power. God made the heaven and earth with His powerful spoken word. The God we worship and serve is to be exalted. 2 Samuel 22:47 states: "The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation."

B. JEREMIAH EXTOLS THE LORD'S CHARACTER.

In verse 18, Jeremiah declared God's character. He spoke of God's limitless mercy and grace. Even God's justice reveals His perfect love and longsuffering toward man. But He also allows the consequences of one generation's sin to affect the next generation. God's divine character is revealed in His love for thousands and His justice against sin in the next generation. The love, power, and mercy of God are seen through Jesus Christ.

The Prophet Jeremiah offered this prayer while imprisoned in Jerusalem by King Zedekiah during a devastating Babylonian siege (circa 587 B.C.). Despite the impending destruction of the city and the nation, God instructed Jeremiah to buy a piece of land in his hometown. This puzzling command was a symbolic act of faith—showing that God would one day restore his people to their land. Jeremiah's prayer is his acknowledgment that even though the current circumstances looked hopeless, the Creator of the universe was in ultimate control.

III. PRAISE JEREMIAH OFFERED (Jeremiah 32:19)

A. REVERENCE FOR GOD.

In Jeremiah's prayer, he acknowledged God's sovereignty and providence in verses 18 and 19. He offered God the praise and worship He desires. When we consider the universe and the planet Earth, God's wisdom and power are on display for all to see. We read in Psalm 19:1-3 that "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard."

We also read in Psalm 8:3-4, "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?"

B. RESPONSE OF GOD.

In God's response to Jeremiah, He confirmed the great truths every believer should hold dear to their heart. God confirmed first of all His divine nature. We read God's response to Jeremiah in Jeremiah 32:26-27, "Then came the word of the LORD unto Jeremiah, saying, Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?"

God gave this promise in Jeremiah 32:36-37, "And now therefore thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning this city, whereof ye say, It shall be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence; Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely: And they shall be my people, and I will be their God:"

We know from the Bible that someday all of creation, both in heaven and on earth, will praise and worship God. Revelation 5:13 states: "And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever."

Jeremiah had to live by faith while waiting for God to fulfill His promises. We are told to live by faith until Jesus returns for His bride. We read in Romans 1:17, "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith."

LESSONS FOR LIFE:

1. Faith living is our total trust in God.
2. Our God is with us, our future is before us, and heaven is prepared for us.
3. We need to remember that "there is nothing too hard for thee."