

# LOOKING BEYOND THE IMMEDIATE IN HOPE

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JEREMIAH 32

GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA

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## **SCRIPTURE READING JEREMIAH 32:1-3; 6-15 (ESV)**

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**Jeremiah 32:1-3 “1 ¶ The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar.**

**3 “2 At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and Jeremiah the prophet was shut up in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah.**

**3 For Zedekiah king of Judah had imprisoned him, saying, “Why do you prophesy and say, ‘Thus says the LORD: Behold, I am giving this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall capture it;” (Jer 32:1-3 ESV)**

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**Jer 32: 6-15 “6 Jeremiah said, “The word of the LORD came to me:**

**7 Behold, Hanamel the son of Shallum your uncle will come to you and say, ‘Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours.’**

**5 8 Then Hanamel my cousin came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the LORD, and said to me, 'Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself.' Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD.**

**9 "And I bought the field at Anathoth from Hanamel my cousin, and weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver.**

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**6 10 I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the money on scales.**

**11 Then I took the sealed deed of purchase, containing the terms and conditions and the open copy.**

**7 12 And I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch the son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of Hanamel my cousin, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard.**

**13 I charged Baruch in their presence, saying,**

This Psalm, this hymn, is one of adoration and complete trust in God. It was composed by David whose relationship with God was most intimate. He recognized the grandness and goodness of God. Knowing God's holiness caused him to have an opposition to evil and hatred of it.

This Psalm is a reflection of a very personal relationship between God and David.

We can personalize this Psalm as we read through it today. Where we read "me", we can insert our name.

Being members of the new covenant between God and man, we understand that Jesus, God, the Elect man who was incarnate in our flesh, has conquered sin, death and evil in our place. United to him, we have faith that we are completely forgiven. Jesus is our peace. He is now our life.

Through faith in him, we become a people rescued from the darkness of this world. Paul reminds the Christian in the early church of their identity and of their special calling (next slide)

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**8 14 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware vessel, that they may last for a long time.**

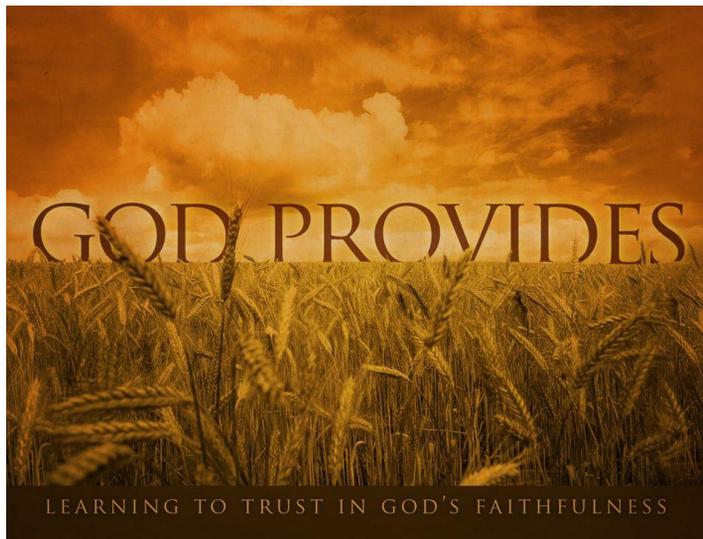
**15 For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.'" (Jer. 32:6-15 ESV)**

9

**THESE ARE THE INSPIRED WORDS OF  
THE LIVING GOD**

**THANK YOU FOR BEING TRUE AND  
FAITHFUL**

**AMEN**



As we read the Scriptures, we can better appreciate God's faithfulness toward his people, the people of Israel.

God told Israel that if they walked in his statutes and observed his commandments and do them that he would give them rain in their season, and the land would yield its increase, and the trees of the field would yield their fruit. He told them that if they obeyed him and submitted to his covenant that he would remove harmful beasts from the land. They would live at peace and the sword would not go to their land. (Paraphrase taken from Leviticus 26:1—13.)

On the flipside, he told them very clearly if did not listen to him and if they would not do all the commandments he had given them and turn their backs on him that they would suffer from all kinds of problems. They would be visited with panic, with wasting disease and fever that consume the eyes and make the heart ache. The seed that they would sow would be harvested by their enemies. The consequences for their disobedience are listed in Leviticus 26:14-39.

God then goes on to tell them that even if they go astray, in the end, God would stay faithful to his covenant made with their forefathers. He promised that he would not

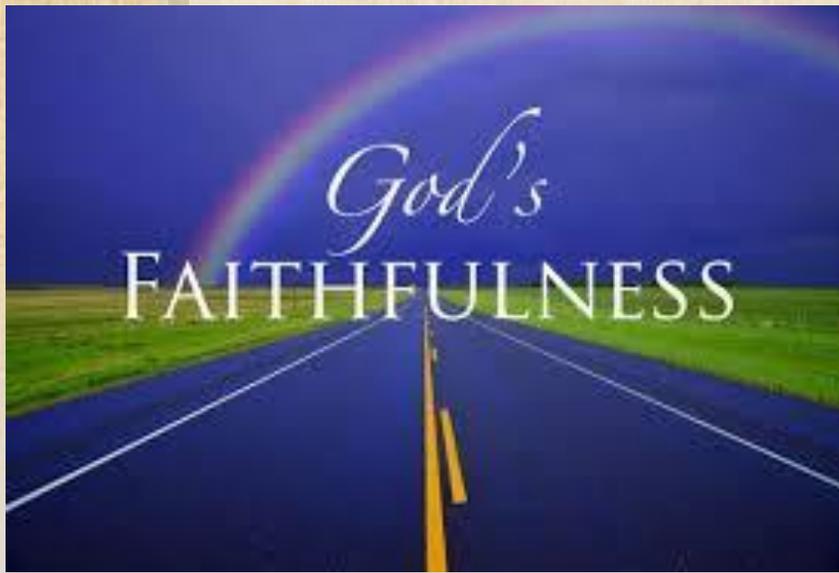
abhor or detest them so as to destroy them utterly.

God promised that he would never break his covenant that he had made with their forefathers whom he had brought out of the land of Egypt. (Leviticus 26:40-45.)

Going back to Jeremiah chapter 32, the context is that the people of God had turned their backs on God and turned to idols. Consequently, they did detestable things and sinned against the Lord.

Jeremiah, obeying God's command, went and told the leadership of Judah that because of their disobedience, Jerusalem would be captured by the King of Babylon.

In Jeremiah chapters 30 and 31, Jeremiah writes a prophecy that God would eventually restore Israel.



**Jer 30:1-3**

**12** **“1 ¶ ‘At that time, declares the LORD, I will be the God of all the clans of Israel, and they shall be my people.’**

**2 Thus says the LORD: ‘The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest,**

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**3 the LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.”**  
(Jer 31:1-3 ESV)

This is very encouraging to know that God’s love is everlasting. He does not give up on his people.

Jeremiah bought a field as the King of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem and Jeremiah was shut up in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah.

From a real estate point of view, the field was worthless. The field would shortly be in enemy territory.

From God’s point of view, the point is being made that this piece of real estate would have value someday as God would restore Judah.

Even if the immediate appeared to be hopeless, God is faithful to his word. He promised he would restore things and he did.

Judah was punished because of their sinfulness and their walking away from God.

Sin is a deformity that exists in people. Israel was in slavery to sin. Luther rightly said that human nature is "**bent on itself.**" (Intellectuals Don't Need God and Other Modern

Myths, Alister E. McGrath page 70)

God promised that he would not abandon Israel in that state. Of course we know that Israel is a type of humanity and humanity is under the same slavery with no way of escape on our own. Sin is a yoke of slavery which needs to be broken. (Next slide)

## SIN = YOKE OF SLAVERY

• **“There is a radical deformity in human nature on account of sin—and that deformity expresses itself at the social, political, religious, and personal levels. Sin causes sin. —Not merely personal sins, but structural sin, build deep into the very fabric of human institutions and agencies.** (Intellectuals Don't Need God And Other Modern Myths Alister McGrath page 70.)

Being under the new covenant, we know that Jesus has, as the perfect human being, broken the yoke of sin for us. John the Baptist describe Jesus as “The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” ((John 1:29).

The good news is that he did! He took the sin of humanity upon himself. Being both God and perfect man in his person, being our perfect representative, he took away the sin of the world. The sin of the world is no longer a barrier between God and man for all those who accept God's reconciliation in faith. (See 2 Corinthians 5:16-21)

Sin is so powerful that only God could break it.

Consequently, Jesus, the eternal son of God, was incarnate in our flesh. He lived the perfect life. Sin could not have any hold on him because he never sinned. He was tempted just as we are but never sinned once. He always, always, submitted to God the Father's perfect will. Being fully God, on that cross, he became sin for us. He completely broke the power of sin for us.

Although sin still is defeated and taken away, for a time, God permits sin to continue to exist in our world.

I like what Alister McGrath wrote in that same book on page 72.

15

**“God does not abolish sin, in individuals or institutions; it enables God to work through that sin. Grace does not destroy our frailty, making us into spiritual superheroes; it transfigures that frailty, enabling God to make his treasure available to our earthen vessels. Sin is for real, crippling our efforts to become like Christ; Grace is equally for real, allowing God to achieve wonders through what little we have to offer him in the way of self-improvement.”** (item p. 72)

In his grace, God transforms us sinners into saints by giving us the gift of himself. Jesus becomes our redemption, our justification our wisdom and our sanctification.

On the cross, Jesus has freed us from the yoke of sin. In faith, we are able to take the yoke of Jesus.

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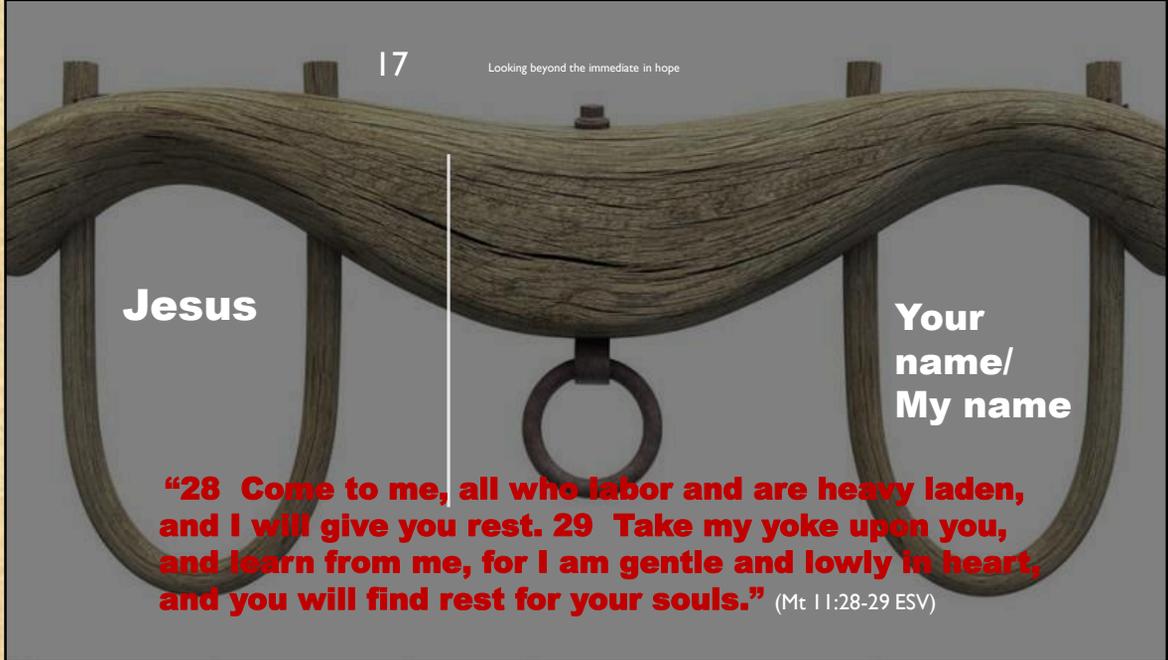
Looking beyond the immediate in hope

**Jesus**

**Your  
name/my  
name**

**For my yoke is easy and  
my burden is light**

**Matt 11:30**



Jeremiah had a sure hope for the future when he bought that field. He trusted in God's word. He looked beyond the immediate in hope. He knew what he saw wasn't the end, the last word of God.

We to have a sure future. Even if the present situation looks bleak, even if we hear of major climate changes, of mountain nice melting by the billions of tons. Even if we read reports such as the following, **""There's an erosion of the numbers of common birds,"** Rosenberg says. His team determined that 19 common species have each lost more than 50 million birds since 1970. Twelve groups, including sparrows, warblers, finches, and blackbirds, were particularly hard hit. Sep 19, 2019,". (Google search.)

Even if we read that presently deforestation is happening at the rate never experienced before, we have hope of a new earth and a new heaven which will be devoid of all evil.

In our personal life, we need to remember that God works things out for the good for those who love him! (Next slide)

Looking beyond the immediate in hope

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## ROMANS 8:28

AND WE KNOW THAT IN ALL THINGS  
GOD WORKS FOR THE GOOD OF THOSE  
WHO LOVE HIM, WHO HAVE BEEN CALLED  
ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.

Whatever is our situation, we can have the confidence that God is able to bring out good things in any situation as difficult as it may seem. We do not work out the good but very clearly, Romans 8:28 tells us that God works for the good of those who love him.

Who are those who love him?

**“Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” (Joh 14:21 ESV)**

What is God's commandments? (Next slide)

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**“And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.” (1Jo 3:23 ESV)**

We are completely in his hands. We participate in what he is doing. He is in charge of the outcome.

20



And he who was seated on the throne said, **"Behold, I am making all things new"**. Also he said, **"Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."** (Rev. 21:5)

However things may look on this earth, we know God has an everlasting love for his people. Whatever happens on this earth does not change God's eternal love for us all.

Let us look beyond our fears and anxieties knowing that in every moment of our life, our loving triune God never forsakes us nor leaves us.

God promised physical blessings to Israel in his covenant love. In the New Covenant love, he promises eternal life to all those who put their faith in him.

Like Jeremiah, let us look beyond the immediate and trust in God's faithfulness!

What we see now is but a moment. Our forward look and sure hope is eternity with God. As his beloved adopted children, God's desire and plan is for our participation in his triune eternal relationship of perfect love through the perfect man, Jesus. **"For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus," (1Ti 2:5 ESV)**

Let us praise him in song and in prayer!