

**JEREMIAH, PART 2 (GOD'S CERTAIN JUDGMENT)
PROGRAM 12 (#912057)
WEEK 3 (912312)
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SERIES: Jeremiah, Part 2 (God's Certain Judgment)

TITLE: Program 12 – Saved From Distress

TUESDAY

OPEN

“I’m telling you, nobody cares about me. Nobody cares whether I live or whether I die. No one calls me, no one comes around me. I am totally, absolutely forgotten.” Is that the way you feel? Precious One, listen: That is a lie. Yes, people may not come around you, they may have abandoned you, but you can’t say “no one,” and I’ll tell you why.

PART ONE

I have been working on a manuscript, and it’s called: “When the Hurt Runs Deep.” It is a book that I am excited about. It is a book that I just sat down and wrote and wrote and wrote, trying to cover every area of hurt. And as I wrote it, I got on Facebook and I said to them, “I need some illustrations. Can you give me some illustrations?” And one of the illustrations I got just absolutely broke my heart. It was from a woman. No one loves her. No one cares about her. No one knows, or really cares whether she is alive or

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whether she is dead. And, and she goes to church and nobody makes contact with her, and she walks out and she is absolutely, totally alone. And the one thing that I have to say to you: If you're feeling like no one cares, or most of the people don't care or "I'm really not important." I want you to know that you are important to God. Now I know that may be very little consolation to you because it is not someone you can touch, it is not someone that can bring you a meal. It is not someone that you can talk to. It's not someone that you can say here, "Sit down here. Let me pull up a chair," and, "Let me sit here," and, "Let me talk to you, and reach over and pat me will you? Take my hand. Look me square in the eye and let me know that you really, really care." No. God, I mean, He's not visible. He's not visible. He likes to use Christians. He likes to come in, and He likes the Christians to be His hands and His arms and His mouth and His feet. He likes that. But if there's no Christian around, what do you do? Well when you look at Jeremiah chapter 30 and 31, which is what we are looking at today, and we're looking at it all week, is we're looking at these two chapters where God is telling these people that He is going to chasten, that He is going to take them through a time like has never been on the earth before: the time of Jacob's distress. He's also telling them, "Look I am going to bring you to a life of quiet. I'm going to bring you to a life of ease." In other words, "I'm going to restore your fortunes, but you've got to walk hand in hand with Me. You've got to cling to Me," as Jeremiah chapter 13:11 says, "**...As the waistband clings to the waist of a man....**" (**Jeremiah 13:11**) "I'm in the process; I'm in the process of restoring. I'm in the process of redeeming. I'm in the process of bringing recovery into your life, but it is a process." Watch what He says, in Jeremiah. And I want to go back to verse 7 of chapter 30 because I want you to see this: "**Alas! for [the] day is great, there is none like it...it is the time of Jacob's distress [the time of Jacob's distress]....**" (**Jeremiah 30:7**) There's nothing like it. "**...But he will be saved from it.**" (**Jeremiah 30:7**) He will be saved from that time of distress. He will survive that time of

distress. So whatever kind of a situation you're in now, if you will cling to God, if you will listen to God, if you will take this time of discipline, this time of child training, this time of shaping you up from God, then you will come through it. You will be delivered out of it. Right now, you can't see any way of delivery. Right now, you are looking at it with human eyes, but there is a way. There is a way out because this is what this chapter and chapter 31 is all about, and the whole answer is tied up in the new covenant which we will get to. But listen to what He says, **"It shall come about on that day...[when I save you out of it] that I will break his yoke...off their neck..."** the enemy's yoke off their neck, **"...[I] will tear off their bonds [the chains]; and strangers will no longer make them their slaves. But they shall serve the LORD their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them."** (Jeremiah 30:8-9) Now if you will remember what we did yesterday, what we did is, we drew our straight line. Whenever I tell you to draw a straight line we're on a timeline. And what we did is, we put the cross in the middle and over to the right, some distance to over to the right, we drew two straight lines and then a little half line in between those and divided them over three and a half years and three and a half years. Now that last three and one half years is the time of Jacob's distress. It is the time of Jacob's distress. Now Jacob is another word for Israel. It's another word for Israel. So it is the time of Jacob's distress. It is a time that is described, if you got your study guide, if you went to preceptsforlife.com and you downloaded your study line, you had some other scriptures to look at. One of the scriptures that we suggested that you look at is Daniel chapter 12. Now remember Daniel is a contemporary of Jeremiah. Daniel was taken captive into Babylon at the first siege of Jerusalem. That was 605 B.C. He was put in as a wise man in Nebuchadnezzar's power and company in the palace there. And so Daniel interpreted two dreams for Nebuchadnezzar, telling him what was going to happen in his life. From Daniel 7 to Daniel 12, God gives Daniel His own visions and dreams which he interprets. One of

those is in Daniel chapter 11 and 12. And it starts in Daniel 11:1 and then moves all the way through 12. All right, in Daniel chapter 12, verse 1 it says, **“Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands *guard* over the sons of your people, will arise....” (Daniel 12:1)** There is an angelic being that watches over Israel. And it says: **“...And there will be a time of distress such as [has] never occurred since there was nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.” (Daniel 12:1)** There is a time of distress such as has never occurred. Now there is a time of distress and there has been none like it. So you see the parallels between the two. If you go to the gospel of Matthew, in Matthew chapter 24, when Jesus is telling and they’re asking him questions about the future, and they’re asking him about the Temple and what is going to happen and how the Temple’s going to be destroyed. In Matthew chapter 24, Jesus begins to answer those questions. But they also want to know: [“When is the time of your coming? When are you coming back?”] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 24:3) You see Jesus came. He was born in a manger, and He came that time as the Lamb of God, as the Son of man, as the Son of God, as the Lamb of God to take away the sins. He came to die on a cross. By the way, that is the new covenant that we are going to study, all right? And then He is coming again. He’s coming again to rule on the face of the earth. Now go back to your drawing and look over at the right hand, way to the right of the cross, just before the NH and the NE, the new heaven and the new earth and what you see is you see a thousand years. That “1000 years,” you can put a throne over it, and this is when Jesus is going to rule on the face of the earth. So just put a throne there and know that that’s when He’s coming to rule. Okay, now in Matthew chapter 24, they want to know, excuse me. They want to know, **“...What [is] the sign of your coming...?” (Matthew 24:3)** “When are You going to come in Your clouds of glory and come to earth and set up Your kingdom? When are You going to rule over this throne? When are You going to be the King of kings? When

are all the nations of this earth going to submit and bow to You and Your kingdom is going to take them over? When is that going to happen? ‘**...What will be the sign of your coming...?’**” (Matthew 24:3) So then what He does is in Matthew 24 He talks about, “**This gospel of the kingdom [will] be preached...**,” verse 14, “**...in the whole world as a testimony to...the nations, and then the end will come. Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION... spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place...**” Standing in the holy of holies, “**...(Let the reader understand).**” (Matthew 24:14-15) Then He says, “You are to flee,” verse 21: “**For...there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world...nor ever will.**” (Matthew 24:21) In other words, He’s paralleling this, He’s talking about this time of Jacob’s distress, and He says it’s going to be a time such as has never been and never will be again. He says it in Joel also. (See Joel 2:2) You can look up these scriptures when you get your study guide, put them in your Bible and know it is coming. You say, “Doesn’t sound good.” Well, be back in a minute and we’ll make it sound much better.

PART TWO

When Jeremiah talks about Jacob’s distress, “a time like no other,” that is very key. (See Jeremiah 30:7) I mean, that is a keeper. That’s something you want to remember when you study the Scriptures. So next to this verse, or next to Matthew 24, or next to Daniel, you want to put down these verses so that you have them in the Bible, so that you have cross-references. For instance, next to verse 21 of Matthew 24, and that’s where I put it because that is the easiest one for me to remember, all right? I have Daniel 12:1. I have Joel 2:2. I have Mark 13:19 and I have Jeremiah chapter 30, verses 6 and 7. And so if I can remember where I have it—or if you want to put it in the front of your Bible—sometimes I make lists there, so that when I want to teach someone else, or I want to look it up, I have a place to go, okay? Now

it's the time of Jacob's distress, but what I want you to see is, he's going to be delivered out of it. He's going to be at ease, he's going to be safe. Look at what it says and let's go back to Jeremiah chapter 30. He says, **"It shall come about on that day..."** the time of Jacob's distress, **"...declares the LORD... 'that I will break his yoke... off their neck....'"** (Jeremiah 30:8) I'm going to take him through this tribulation, but in the process of taking him through a trial I am going to set him free. Now I want you to know that if you are going through a trial, the purpose of that trial is not to destroy you, it is your approval. When you study trials; if you and I are going through a trial, the purpose of that trial is to work patience in our life so that we might be perfect and mature unto every good work. (See James 1:2-4; 2 Timothy 3:17) So my friend that, right now, is without any friend, that says that nobody loves her, nobody cares for her, and this is the way she is looking, she's looking inwardly, she's looking at her, you know, which makes her in a sense, less attractive. Because then she's focused on herself, and people that are focused on themselves, other people don't want to be around them. I mean, they don't want to be around someone that is just going to look at themselves and contemplate their belly button, so to speak. So they don't want that, and they want to be with someone that is healthy and and whole. So whatever your situation, whatever your distress, you want to say, "Lord, teach me what you want me to learn. Use this distress to break the bondage that is my life." And then he says, **"...Strangers [will] no longer make them their slaves...."** (Jeremiah 30:8) He says, **"...But they [will] serve the LORD their God...."** (Jeremiah 30:9) They're gonna go through this distress, but they're gonna serve the Lord their God. And then he goes on to say: **"...And David their king, whom I will raise up for them."** (Jeremiah 30:9) Now this is awesome! Because when Jesus comes back; and Jesus is going to live here and He's going to rule and reign on the face of this earth. When He comes back to do that, you and I can know that he is going to raise up David. Yes, the David in the Bible. Yes, the David of

David and Bathsheba. Yes, the David of David and Absalom. Yes, the king who's had a "heart after God's heart." (See 1 Samuel 13:14) That is who He is going to raise up, and David is going to be the king over Israel. You say, where is Jesus? Well, He is going to be here as the King of kings. Now watch what he goes on to say, it is so neat, He says, **"...Fear not, O Jacob My Servant...do not be dismayed, O Israel; for behold, I will save you from afar, and your offspring from the land of their captivity...."**

(Jeremiah 30:10) In other words, "This is what I am going to do, I am going to bring you all back out of your captivity, you're going to come back to this land and you are going to live here. And then He says this: **"...Jacob will return and...be quiet and at ease [quiet and at ease]...."** Restored. He says, **"...No one will make him afraid. For I am with you,' declares the LORD, 'to save you...."** **(Jeremiah 30:10-11)** "I am there to save you. You are never, never, never totally alone." Now if you reject God, and you walk away from God, and you refuse to have God help you in any way, if you just obliterate the thought of Him, yes, you are alone. You are; and take the word right, you are hellishly alone. Because hell and the lake of fire is a place of separation from God, separation from man, and a place of torment, and you have the right to choose. So if that is your status, if right now you are as mad as you can be at God, if right now somehow God has put you and tuned you here to listen, to hear His word, you can know this: God's trying to give you a chance. God's trying to draw you to himself and you can write Him off and He'll let you, but you will suffer the consequences. So this is what He also tells Israel, **"...I will [completely] destroy...all the nations where I have scattered you, only I will not destroy you completely...."** **(Jeremiah 30:11)** Remember what He said to Israel? **"...I know the plans that I have for you...plans...[of] welfare and not...calamity to give you a future and...hope."** **(Jeremiah 29:11)** **"...I will not destroy you completely. But I will chasten you justly and will by no means leave you unpunished."** **(Jeremiah 30:11)** Now part of the time of Jacob's trouble,

part of the time of Jacob's distress is to take them through a chastening process, to take them through a disciplining process. Part of it is to separate the wheat from the chaff. Let me show you this, in the book of Zechariah, because it's very, very interesting. Zechariah is the second to last book in the Old Testament. It is a powerful, powerful book. It tells you a lot about the future, and when you get to Zechariah, He talks about this time of Jacob's distress. He doesn't call it Jacob's distress, but this is what he says, Zechariah 13 verse 8. **“It will come about in all the land,’ declares the LORD, ‘That two parts in it will be cut off and perish; but the third [part] will be left in it...I will bring the third part through the fire...test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name...I will answer them....”** (Zechariah 13:8-9) Now remember this 'cause it gets good later on in the week. **“...I will say, ‘They are My people,’ and they will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’”** (Zechariah 13:9) I don't know what you are going through now, but I can tell you this, that God has an ultimate plan. And that ultimate plan is not the destruction of man, but the restoration of man. Not the captivity and bondage that you could live in but the redemption, the freedom. This is what he has for you, but you have to respond to Him. You can't put it in neutral. You've got to put it in gear and head toward God. And right now, if you are feeling like nobody loves you, nobody cares, you have no future; if you have God you have a future. Don't let your past define you, but let God mold you and make you into the man or woman he wants you to be.