

PRECEPTS FOR LIFE

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SERIES: Jeremiah, Part 2 (God's Certain Judgment)

TITLE: Program 19 – The Covenant-Keeping God

THURSDAY

OPEN

Oh Beloved, do you look at what's going on in our world today and do you think it's never going to straighten out; it'll never, never change? I mean, has despair grabbed you? Have you lost hope? Oh, don't lose hope, because He is the Lord God and there is nothing too difficult for Him. (See Jeremiah 32:27) He's the God of all flesh. God has a plan. He's working it out. It will soon come to pass. We'll see that today.

PART ONE

Oh Beloved, don't let despair overtake you. Don't say there's no hope. Don't say it's always going to be this bad, because God watches over His word to perform it, because God is a covenant-keeping God. (See Jeremiah 1:12) And so when we come to Jeremiah chapter 33 we have seen that He is the Lord, that He is the God of all flesh, and that there's nothing too hard for Him. (See Jeremiah 32:27) We have seen in Jeremiah chapter 33, that He is the One that made the earth, who formed it, who established it. (See



Jeremiah 33:2) He is the One who says, [Call unto Me and I will show great and mighty things that you know not.] (PARAPHRASE, Jeremiah 33:3) Now as we come to Jeremiah 33 in verse 12, we're going to see why there is to be no despair. We're going to see why God can say to Israel, "Yes, I'm going to judge you. Yes, the Babylonians are gonna come in. Yes, it's going to be bad." And as Leviticus 26 says you're gonna suffer seven times for your sin (See Leviticus 26:18), but because God is a covenant-keeping God, because "...[He watches] over [His] word to perform it." (Jeremiah 1:12), because if He makes a promise, He is going to stand by the promise, then God is going to restore the fortunes of Israel. You have heard people say, listen, "Israel needs to give that land to the Palestinians. It is their land." People that say that, don't know the Word of God. The Palestinians want to drive Israel into the sea. They do not recognize them as a nation, as a people. Do you know that today's lesson is going to address all that? And behind it all is this one sterling fact that is immutable and that is that God is God. He is God. And so this is what we're seeing all this week. "...I am the LORD, [I am] the God of all flesh; is [there] anything too difficult for Me?" (**Jeremiah 32:27**) So listen to what He says. Verse 12 of Jeremiah 33, "Thus says the LORD of hosts...." (Jeremiah 33:12) Now when He says "LORD of hosts" He's showing Himself as the One that is in charge, as Jehovah-Sabaoth, the One that is the captain of everything in the heavens, all the armies, all the demonic forces, the good angels, the bad angels. He's the captain of the hosts. He's the captain of all the hosts in every army on the face of the earth. And this is what He says "There will [be again] in this place...," He says, "...which is waste...." (Jeremiah 33:12) Now it's not waste yet, but it's going to be waste, and He's told them that because of their sins. "... Which is waste, without man or beast, and in all [the] cities, a habitation of shepherds who read their flocks. In the cities of the hill country, in the cities of the lowland, in the cities of the Negev...." (Jeremiah 33:12-13) That's south of Jerusalem. It's on the way down to Elah, to the Red Sea. And He says, "...In the land of Benjamin, in the



environs of Jerusalem...in the cities of Judah, the flocks will again pass under the hands of the one who numbers them..." (Jeremiah 33:13)

And this is what happened: As the sheep would line up the shepherd would be there. He would be with his crook and he would stop the sheep. He numbers them. He counts them. He makes sure that they're all there. He says, "It's gonna happen again. It's going to be a waste now. It's going to be desolation. It's not going to have an inhabitant, but there will be again even shepherds counting their sheep." And this is what He says, "'Behold, days are coming,' declares the LORD...." (Jeremiah 33:14) Now when God declares, that's it. I mean you may believe it; you may not believe it. It doesn't matter. God has declared it; it stands. And you know what? I feel sorry, so sorry for those people that take this human, puny fist and raise it in the face of God and turn their back on God and walk in their own way to do their own thing and think they can get away with it, when the only reason that they can raise that puny little fist in the face of God is because God ordained to give them breath so that they might live at that moment, so that they might live at that day. They just don't know. He says, "'Behold, days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will fulfill the good word which I have spoken concerning the house of Israel and the house of Judah." (Jeremiah 33:14) Now those of you that have been studying with us in the Old Testament, those of you especially that have gone even deeper and have connected with our Ministry and gotten into Precept classes and have been studying Genesis and Exodus and Leviticus and Numbers and Deuteronomy all the way up through the Bible to this time, you know the good word that He has promised. You know and you understand the covenants. People have told us that have done our Precept courses, which are like the Cadillac of courses. They have told us "You know every moment of investment has been worth it. It has changed my life. It has transformed me. It has enabled me to go forward because I know God. I know God." You say, "I would like to know about those classes." Go to "preceptforlife.com". Go online "preceptsforlife.com". And be in touch with



us. And we'll show you how we can take you deeper and deeper, so you will understand the Word of God and have a new dimension and a new sense, a strong foundation for hope. This is what He says "Behold, days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will fulfill the good word which I have spoken concerning the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days...." (Jeremiah 33:14-15) Now you want to put a green circle around "in those days" because it's a time phrase. It's telling you when God is going to do something. "In those days and at that time...." It's all a time phrase. There's a day coming; there's a time coming. He says "...I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and He will execute justice and righteousness on the earth." (Jeremiah 33:15) You see, if you don't understand that God is going to do this, if you don't understand that this righteous Branch of David is going to come and take over the governing of this earth, I mean you could get so frustrated, because you look at what's happening in our nation, you look at what's happening in other nations, you look at the world and it's a mess and it's chaos and these little human beings, these heads of countries and presidents think that they have the answer, that they can straighten out things, that they can bring peace on the earth, and so they move us into, or they try to move us into, into their form of government because they think it's going to be through a form of government. Hey, there's only one government that is going to straighten out this earth right now. There is only one government that is going to be a good government and you're never going to wish that you didn't elect a person or that you had seen what was coming, or whatever. Listen to who this One is. He says, "...I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth." (Jeremiah 33:15) Justice will reign. Righteousness will reign. Sin will be brought to an end. "In those days...," in those days; the same days now. You mark the time phrase. "[In those days] Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell in safety...." (Jeremiah 33:16) Now is Jerusalem dwelling in safety now? No. They're always prepared for



terrorists attacks. We go every year. We take Bible teaching tours. People go over there and they say, "You know, where's all this that's on the news? I thought we were in danger." But they still wanted to come. You're not in danger. We wouldn't take you if you were. But I mean everybody gets an Inductive Study Bible. We teach all day long. It is absolutely incredible. And I'm not the kind that just shows up several nights of the week and does something spectacular. I'm with you all day long. And we're studying together. But there is a day coming when Jerusalem will dwell in total safety. Why? Because the righteous Branch will be here, because the righteous Branch will be executing justice and will be executing righteousness. (See Jeremiah 23:5) "In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell in safety...;" verse 16, "...and this is the name by which she will be called...." She who? Jerusalem. "...The LORD is our righteousness," (Jeremiah 33:16) Jehovah-Tsidkenu. Jehovah-Tsidkenu: It's the name, one of the names for God. And it's "...the LORD is our righteousness." (Jeremiah 33:16) And then it says, "For thus says the LORD, 'David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel; and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man before Me to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings and to prepare sacrifices continually." (Jeremiah 33:17-18) What is He saying? He's saying, "Hey, there's a new era coming. There is a new reign coming. There is a righteous Branch of David that is coming and He will execute justice and He will execute righteousness on the earth and Jerusalem will not be hassled by any nation. Jerusalem will dwell in safety. Why? Because God fulfills His word. Aren't you glad to know that? You say, "Explain a little bit more." I would love to. I'll be back in just a minute.

PART TWO

God started in Jeremiah chapter 31 with a promise of a covenant, a new covenant. (See Jeremiah 31:31) God in Jeremiah chapter 32 was saying, "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh; is [there] anything too



difficult for Me?" (Jeremiah 32:27) In Jeremiah 33 He has already said to us, [I am the One that created the earth and I established it. Call unto Me and I will answer and show you great and mighty things that you know not.] (PARAPHRASE Jeremiah 33:2-3) He has said it over and over again: I will restore the fortunes. (Jeremiah 29:14, 30:3, 30:18, 32:44, 33:7) And you're saying "When, when," It's when He brings [His righteous Branch and establishes peace and righteousness, righteousness and justice on this earth.] (PARAPHRASE, Jeremiah 33:15) It's when Jerusalem is going to dwell in safety. (See Jeremiah 33:16) It's when the Levitical priests are going to be in the temple offering burnt offerings continually to the Lord. (See Jeremiah 33:18) Watch. Let me read the rest of it and then we'll come back and we will look at it. Verse 19 is where I stopped in Jeremiah 33. It says, "The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah saying, 'Thus says the LORD, "If you can break My covenant for the day and My covenant for the night, so that [night] and [day] will not be at their appointed time," (Jeremiah 33:19-20) so that what you would have is day and then you'd have a night thrown in, or you'd have night, night, night, night and then day. Hey, if you can mess up what God has made a covenant for, then you can mess up God. But you can't mess up God. You just look every morning when you get up. You have day because of the covenant of God. Every night you have night because of the covenant of God. Now a covenant is a solemn binding agreement. And what I do is I mark "covenant" by coloring it red and then putting a yellow box around it. I color it red because when it talks about He made a covenant it's "karath berith" which "karath" means to cut. So there's a shedding of blood. And then I put yellow around it because God is the administrator of all covenants. And so I put yellow around it to show that God is the One that sees that that covenant is kept, and if it's broken, God acts as a judge. So now watch and you want to mark "covenant". So he says "Thus says the LORD...," verse 20, "'If you can break My covenant for the day and My covenant for the night, so that day and



night will not be at their appointed time, then My covenant may also be broken with David My servant so that he will not have a son to reign on his throne, and with the Levitical priests...," with David and with the Levitical priests, "...My ministers." (Jeremiah 33:20-21) If you can do that, if you can stop day and night, then you can stop this from happening. You can't stop day and night. God's covenant with David will not be broken. Now what is God's covenant with David? Well you would want to write down 2 Samuel chapter 7 and you would want to go back and read that passage. But just 2 Samuel chapter 7 and I want us to look at verse 16 because God is making a covenant with David. And that covenant is a promise that David will always have someone to sit on the throne. And so in 2 Samuel chapter 7 in verse 16 He says "Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever...." Forever; forever is forever. And He says "...your throne shall be established forever." (2 Samuel 7:16) In other words, He promised David that David would always have someone; someone who would sit on his throne, on God's throne, who would rule for Him. So we have this promise with David. Now when Zedekiah was taken to Babylon, I mean that was the end of the descendants of David sitting on the throne. It looks like it's over and God is saying, "No, it's not over. I'm the God. I created the heavens and the earth. Nothing is too difficult for Me." (See Jeremiah 32:27) It's not over. So what does He do? There's a cry, there's a cry of a baby born in Bethlehem, the House of Bread, the city of David. It's a descendant of David. It is the Son of God. It is Christ, the Messiah. Christ and Messiah are the same: the Anointed One, the Promised One. He is the One that is going to come and He is going to sit on the throne of David as King of kings and Lord of lords. He is the righteous Branch of David. And that righteous Branch of David, Beloved, will rule in justice and will rule in righteousness and Jerusalem will be secure and Jerusalem will be at rest because His throne, His throne will be in Jerusalem. And this is what He is saying. And not only that, but the priests will be over here in the temple, which is in Jerusalem, rebuilt. And the priests will be offering



continual burnt offerings to the Lord. You say, "But I thought those offerings were gone." Well, wait until we study Ezekiel and you will see it and you will understand it. God made a covenant with David in 2 Samuel chapter 7. This is the Davidic covenant. And if you get your study guide you're going to see the other verses that go with this in Chronicles. But He made that covenant. Next to Jeremiah in your Bible, you want to write Numbers 25:10-13. Write it next to verse 21 of chapter 33. And it says in Numbers 25:10-13 that God makes a covenant with the house of Levi, that they will always have a priesthood. He talks about this in Malachi chapter 2, verse 1-9. And this is what He says, "As the host of heaven...," verse 22. "...cannot be counted and the sand of the sea cannot be measured, so I will multiply the descendants of David My servant and the Levites who minister to Me. And the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah saying, 'Have you not observed what this people have spoken, saving, "The two families which the LORD chose. He has rejected them"? Thus they despise My people, no longer are they as a nation in their sight."" (Jeremiah 33:22-24) Ah, that's what the world is saying. Israel's not a nation. This land belongs to the Palestinians. No it doesn't. God gave it to Israel under covenant as an everlasting possession. He promised it to Abraham. He ratified the covenant with Isaac. He ratified the covenant with Jacob and his twelve sons as a perpetual covenant. He says, "Thus says the LORD, 'If My covenant for day and night stand not, and the fixed patterns of the heaven and [the] earth I have not established, then I would reject the descendants of Jacob and David My servant, not taking from his descendants rulers over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. But...," His covenant stands, "...I will restore...." He says look at it, verse 26. "...[I will restore] their fortunes and will have mercy on them." (Jeremiah 33:25-26) He's God. Bow the knee.