

Jeremiah 33-35

Chapter 33 – “The Peculiar People of God”

- the Current State of Jerusalem
- the Future Glory of Jerusalem
- the Future Worship in Jerusalem
- the Future King in Jerusalem
- a Future Priesthood in Jerusalem
- a Summary

Chapter 34 – Zedekiah's Temporary Obedience

Chapter 35 – The Condescension of God
(Obedience of the Rechabites)

Jeremiah 33-35

- Romans 11:1,7,11-12,15,25-27

Ch. 33 – The Peculiar People of God

"After I had been thus for some considerable time another thought came in my mind, and that was whether we were of the Israelites or no. For finding in the Scripture that they were once the peculiar people of God, thought I, if I were one of this race my soul must needs be happy."

- John Bunyan

Jeremiah 33-35

- Romans 11:1,7,11-12,15,25-27
- Jeremiah 33 is a description of what Romans 11 says about the future of the nation Israel

Ch. 33 – The Peculiar People of God

A Simple Chronology

Ch. 35 → Ch. 34 → Ch. 33

The Current State of Jerusalem (33:1-5)

Idolatry

- 2:10-13 false gods profit not
- 7:18,19 idolatry as a family, spiting themselves
- 10:15 idols are worthless, a work of delusion
- 16:19,20 man made gods are things of no profit

Creation

- 10:11-16 false gods perish under heavens created by God
- 2:12 the heavens should be appalled
- 27:5 God made man and beasts, controls the kingdoms
- 32:17 nothing too difficult for the God who made all things
- 33:25 he has fixed the patterns of heaven and earth

The Future Glory of Jerusalem (33:6-9)

- **“I will heal them...” (33:6)**
 - An abundance of peace and truth?
- **“I will cleanse them...forgive all their guilt” (33:8)**
 - Future Israel
 - Because these and further promises have not been fulfilled
 - **How would this encourage the Jews at that time?**
- Moses sees the faithfulness of God in leading Israel to Canaan
 - Encourages Joshua that God will do this (Deut. 31:7)
 - Yet he did not enter the land himself
- Abraham rejoiced in his inheritance
 - God had promised land and salvation to him and his descendants (Gen. 17:7,8)
 - Yet Abraham did not receive the inheritance (Heb.11:13)

The Future Glory of Jerusalem (33:6-9)

- We are encouraged by God's promises for the future
 - Yet we see how God is hated on earth
- We are encouraged to see God's faithfulness to Israel (Rom. 15:4)
- **“a name of joy...all the nations...will fear and tremble because of all the good and all the peace...” (Jer. 33:9)**
 - Jer. 3:17 – nations will come to Jerusalem, the Throne of the Lord

The Future Worship in Jerusalem (33:10,11)

- **“Give thanks...’...as they were at first...” (Jer. 33:11)**
 - David brought the ark to Jerusalem (1Chr. 16:34)
 - Solomon dedicated the temple (2 Chr. 5:13; 7:3)
 - Foundation laid for temple after captivity (Ezr. 3:10-13)
 - “as they were at first” = high points in history, when the Lord was the center of life, temple was the center of worship
 - Ezra's account of post-captivity temple falls short of this
 - Ezr. 9:8,9 – Israel a peg, a little reviving in their bondage
 - Neh. 9:36,37 – Israel still slaves under kings
 - Hag. 2:2,3 – new temple “like nothing in comparison”

The Future King in Jerusalem (33:14-16)

- **“When I will fulfill the good word concerning Israel and Judah” (33:14)**
 - New Covenant promises in Jer. 31 and these promises here
- **“Righteous Branch” (33:15)**
 - Rev. 5:5; 22:16 “the root and the descendant of David”
 - Isa. 11:1,4,10 “shoot of Jesse's stem, the branch from his roots...the root of Jesse”
 - Isa. 9:7 a king to reign on David's throne with justice and righteousness
 - Mt. 5:25 “it is the city of the Great King”
- **Judah will be saved, Jerusalem will dwell securely (33:16)**
- **“the LORD is our righteousness” (33:16)**
 - Isa. 45:24,25 Israel will know from where their righteousness comes
 - Compare to Paul's evaluation of them in Rom. 10:3

A Future Priesthood in Jerusalem (33:18-22)

- **“Levitical priests shall never lack a man...to prepare sacrifices continually” (33:18)**
 - Literal priesthood in a future temple (Ezek. 40-48)
 - Ezek. 43,44 – very specific instructions for the priest
 - Perhaps as a reminder similar to the Lord's Supper
- **“my covenant...with the Levitical priests, my ministers” (33:21)**
 - Num. 25:11-13 – “a covenant of a perpetual priesthood” with Phinehas
 - 1 Ki. 2:35 – Solomon replaced Abiathar with *Zadok*, a descendant of Phinehas, son of Eleazar, son of Aaron
 - Ezek. 43,44 Levitical priests will be “offspring of *Zadok*” and “the sons of *Zadok*”
 - Phinehas' covenant is a covenant kept in Jerusalem

A Summary (33:23-26)

- **“Two families...no longer a nation in their sight” (33:24)**
 - “they despise my people”
- **v.25 “If my covenant stand not...fixed patterns of heaven and earth I have not established, then I would reject...” (33:25)**
 - God will not reject his people Israel, as we read in Rom. 11

Ch. 34 Zedekiah's Temp. Obedience

- **The Setting (34:1,6-7)**
 - “when the king of Babylon was fighting against Jerusalem”
- **The Message (34:2-5)**
 - Jerusalem will be captured, burned
 - Zedekiah will not escape, will see him “eye to eye”
 - Yet God would show him kindness
 - Calvin's take
- **Covenant of Release for Hebrew Slaves (34:8-11)**
 - Perhaps a sense of desperation (Ninevites)
 - Deut. 15:12 – Hebrew slaves to be released after 6 yrs.
 - v.11 – they broke that covenant probably due to Chaldean retreat from Jerusalem (v.21,22)
- **God's Word to the People (34:12-22)**
 - Chaldeans will return (v.22)
 - Those who broke the covenant will be killed (v.20)
 - But not king Zedekiah

Ch. 35 The Condescension of God

- **Jeremiah brings Rechabites into house of the Lord (35:1-5)**
- **The Rechabites obey their father's command (35:6-11)**
 - Jonadab – used to run with Jehu (2 Ki. 10:15-23)
 - Rechabites were only in Jerusalem for safety from Babylon
- **The Contrast with Israel's disobedience to God (35:12-17)**
 - v.16 sums up the comparison
- **The Condescension of God (O.T. examples)**
 - Numbers 12 – Judgment on Miriam
 - Had her father but spit on her, her shame would be just
 - Gen. 18 – The Lord deals with Abraham
 - Sodom and Gomorrah to be destroyed
 - “the men turned away...while Abraham was still standing before the LORD” (v.22)
 - From 50 to 10 (v.26-32)
- **The Rechabites have a future too (35:19)**