



GOD LOVES FOREVER

Jeremiah 23; 30; 31; 33

For all the bad publicity Jeremiah received during his prophetic career for his doomsday predictions, Jeremiah also shared messages of hope about a future restoration. Even when Jehoiakim sealed Judah's fate by trying to destroy the Word of God, Jeremiah confidently shared that God's plan could not be stopped, even if the paper God's Word was written on was burned in a fire pit. Judah would be restored, and God would provide their salvation.

Judah would soon cease to be a free nation as they would fall to Babylon and be taken into captivity. Jeremiah's words in Jeremiah 23 bring comfort to the people because the words declare that one day, God would send a King far better than any earthly king—One who would be wise and do what is right. Not only would God send a righteous ruler, but the people would no longer be in bondage to Babylon. Jeremiah shared God's promise that just as God had delivered Israel from their oppression in Egypt, He would once again do the same for the Judean exiles.

Prophetic announcements of Jesus' reign showed the Messiah to be a Jew, one of God's own people. The Messiah would come from a family of little significance but would have the qualities God desired of priests. The Messiah would have access directly to God, another sign of His priestly nature. Not only would this Messiah save Israel, but by His sacrifice He would make it possible for the people to commune directly with God and not through a high priest.

Following the Messiah's death, a new covenant would be made between God and people. This new covenant would not be written on stone like the former, but would be written on the hearts and minds of the people. One-on-one relationship with God would be possible. No man would need to go through another because of the salvation provided through the Messiah. Despite future trouble, God still loved His people and offered hope.