

Fact Sheet for **“Behold, the Days Are Coming”**
Jeremiah 33

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As we go through this chapter, especially after we come to verses 14-26, ask yourself, “How firmly do I believe this?” Your answer to that question will say a lot about your general commitment to God.

Let’s begin by immersing ourselves in this chapter.

ESV 33:1 ¶ **The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah a second time, while he was still shut up in the court of the guard:**

Remember from last week that this was the last year of King Zedekiah’s reign. Jerusalem was about to fall to Nebuchadnezzar.

² "Thus says the LORD who made the earth, the LORD who formed it to establish it-- the LORD is his name: ³ Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.

These words were not only to Jeremiah. They were to all the people of Israel. (*Read the whole chapter with this perspective.*)

Verse 3 has also been a favorite verse for people to memorize. Compare this with a verse from the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 7:7).

⁴ For thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the houses of this city and the houses of the kings of Judah that were torn down to make a defense against the siege mounds and against the sword: ⁵ They are coming in (*“In” is not required to translate the Hebrew. Compare other English versions with this verse.*) to fight against the Chaldeans and to fill them (*their houses and buildings*) with the dead bodies of men whom I shall strike down in my anger and my wrath, for I have hidden my face from this city because of all their evil.

Zedekiah and the people who were still in Jerusalem were doing their utmost to defend against the Babylonians, but they were in reality fighting against God. Who do you think was going to prevail? Do you remember what God said about the good figs and the rotten figs in Jeremiah 24:4-10? But God still had future plans for both Judah and Israel. *Read Jeremiah 33:6-13.*

Verse 11 contains the words “for his steadfast love endures forever.” These words show up in every verse of Psalm 136. But God’s blessing would only follow the destruction of Jerusalem and the people still remaining there.

Now God introduces his next comments in verse 14 with the words, “Behold the days are coming.” This phrase is used 16 times in Jeremiah. Seven times in a negative sense it referred to the coming destruction of Judah and the surrounding nations (7:32; 9:25; 19:6; 48:12; 49:2; 51:47, 52). Nine other times it referred to a future time of blessing when **(a)** the nation would be restored from captivity (16:14; 23:7; 30:3), **(b)** the righteous Branch of David would be ruling (23:5; 33:14), **(c)** the nation would be enjoying peace and prosperity in the land (31:27; 33:16),

(d) the New Covenant will be in effect (31:31), and **(e)** Jerusalem would be rebuilt and never again be destroyed (31:38). Jeremiah 33 is one of those nine times referring to a time still future to us. And these promises go beyond anything Israel has so far experienced.

Read Jeremiah 33:14-16

Over a century earlier Isaiah had recorded God's words about this same branch (Isaiah 11:1). This is none other than Jesus Christ, a descendant of Jesse, the father of King David!

Read Jeremiah 33:17-18

Zedekiah was the last descendant of David to sit as king. Have God's words failed? No! God didn't promise an unbroken monarchy. He did promise an unbroken line of descendants from David for a king who would sit on the throne. It is interesting to note here that Jesus' lineage to David is traced in the Gospels through both Joseph (Matthew 1:1-17) and Mary (Luke 3:23-38).

Then God gave an indication as to just how firm his words were. *Read Jeremiah 33:19-22.*

Notice that God mentions not only his covenant with David, but also his covenant with the Levitical priests.

Read Jeremiah 33:23-26, and read verse 24 in several versions.

Now come back to that question I asked at the outset of this sermon, "How firmly do you believe this?" It's been about 2,000 years since Jesus walked this earth with his disciples. Do you really believe he is coming again? If you do then this says quite a bit about your firm belief in all that the Bible has to say. If you are wavering in your answer then this says quite a bit about your questioning of other things the Bible has to say.

Here's a few examples from our time.

1. This week the New York legislature voted to allow abortions any time during pregnancy. The idea is that life does not begin until birth. This is a belief not supported by biological science but by politics. The Bible calls this murder.
2. In a day when there is so much talk about sexual identity, homosexuality, and sex outside of marriage our laws progressively favor what the Bible calls immoral. Again, those laws are being driven by politics.
3. God created us. We did not evolve. It is interesting that biological evolution has never once been observed. Evolution is only a theory that removes any need for God. But our public schools cannot teach even the possibility of God creating us.
4. There is no other way to the Father but through Jesus Christ! But all religions are generally treated in our society as equal but at the same time not true to reality.

If you firmly believe Jeremiah 33 to be true then you are very likely to have a high view of the Bible. It is inerrant and infallible. It is God's word for us. We will be committed to read it regularly. We will be committed to follow it and live righteously. We will often take a different path than what is politically correct. We will love God's church. We will try to reach a lost and dying world with the gospel. This will be true of old people. This will be true of young people. This will be true of everyone in between. It will affect the choices you will make in life.

Where do you stand? How firmly do you believe that Jeremiah 33 is true?