



Part 4 of 5

In contrast to all chapters in Jeremiah 1-29, which focus on judgment and the upcoming destruction of Judah, chapters 30-33 provide a wonderful reprieve with the promise of a future restoration for God's people. It is within this encouraging section that we find so many promises regarding the coming Messiah and His work.

Jeremiah presents several themes relating to the coming Messianic era. One prominent theme is that both Israel and Judah will be restored as a unified nation (30:3, 10; 31:5-6, 8-9, 20, 27; 33:7). Jeremiah proclaims that God will make a "new covenant" with His people (31:31-34), replacing the broken covenant (chpt. 11). This new covenant will be different from the old one. This new one will be written on their hearts rather than written on stone tablets, no longer would intermediaries like priests or prophets be needed to show the people how to know the Lord. (Jesus inaugurates this new covenant at the Last Supper).

After providing a glimpse of the future restoration to come, Jeremiah shifts back to current events and stresses how unfaithful kings of Judah were. Unlike most of the rest of the book, Jer. 37-45 is in chronological order, dealing with the tragic final days of Jerusalem. Jeremiah had preached and warned and pleaded, but to no avail. He sums up the tragic response: "Neither he (king of Judah) nor his attendants nor the people of the land paid any attention to the words the Lord had spoken through Jeremiah the prophet" (37:2).

As Jeremiah had prophesied, the Babylonians do overrun Jerusalem, capturing and executing the officials who had opposed them. All the people in Judah, except for the extremely poor, are taken into exile. The king of Babylon, however, commanded his army to not harm Jeremiah and to allow the prophet to roam free. *Final section next week...*