

Title: Is This The End of Israel? Part 3

Scripture Jeremiah 31:31-37

Intro: in these three messages I have asked the questions, is this end of Israel? Does some of our modern way of thinking and preaching of Israel line up with the word of God? What does God's word say about the Jews, past, present, and future? In the first message I did we looked at verse 31 and 32 of Jeremiah chapter 31, we looked at a new covenant promised to the Jews, one covenant which was to be for both the house of Israel and the house of Judah, one covenant for all of them as one united people. In that first message we looked at how this new covenant is not the old covenant which was made with their fore fathers, when the LORD took them by the hand out of Egypt, the one that the Israelites eventually broke with idolatry even though God was a husband to them. But God was not done with Israel. In the second message we looked at verses 33 and 34 and what this new covenant was to be, that it came in the form of a man Jesus Christ the Messiah, the one who would redeem Gods people with this new covenant, and bring salvation from God, but as He was rejected and crucified and despised by His own creation as John writes about Jesus, that *He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him*. This new covenant was then opened and given to the gentiles as spoken of in Acts 13: 46 and 47 *Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first **that was the Jews**; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. "For so the Lord has commanded us: 'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.'*

In that second message I noted that the promise of the new covenant in verses 33 and 34 had a near and far fulfillment, first here and now to the Christians in the church age, and secondly for the Jews during the millennium. And I stressed that fore time periods must be taken as literal time periods of the past, present and future, the 69 weeks prophesied by Daniel, the Church Age which was not seen throughout the Old Testament, the 70th week of Daniel which is the tribulation and finally the millennium and all in that order. But still throughout each era of time God is still not done with the Jews, and so as we enter the last three verses of the verses that were read for us this morning we will look verses 35,36,37

III. The Eternal Covenant with Israel.

Verse 35

Now in looking at our text that we have before us today verses 35, 36 and 37 there are two sections verses 35 and 36 are one and 37 is another, each contain an illustration and each illustration is different but both point to the same purpose, which is, Gods view of Israel .Each section begins with the phrase 'Thus says the LORD'. This phrase 'thus says the LORD' is the first line in the first section verses 35 and 36 as well as the first line in verse 37. As it is used twice in the text we are going to be looking at today so we will look at that phrase first.

The phrase Thus says the LORD or **thus saith the 'existing one'** occurs 418 times in our New King James bibles and is found and used **most** often by the prophets of the Old Testament, when

found in the New Testament it is only a quote from the Old Testament. Old Testament Prophets were the mouth piece of God, they were 'the spokes person for the LORD' and when a true prophet of God started with the words 'thus says the LORD' he was conveying a message from GOD sent by God through a prophet and it was God using that prophet to be a speaker for Him to the people. It may have been the prophet who was talking but it was the LORD who was speaking.

Now there is a command that applies to all mankind starting with Adam in the garden to this very moment in which you are sitting here today, it is a command has been unchanging for over 6000 years and is very important, it is quite profound to the rest of the world when they hear it but here it is 'when God speaks, we better listen'. When God speaks by either His prophets as in the old testament, through angles as His messengers, or in the written word we have today as the bible, we better listen, it is the disobedience that brought sin into this world and it is one of the biggest problems in our world today, God is speaking and man is not listening. and as for the role of prophets there is I think a good way to illustrate this is that of little children. How many times as parents don't we have one of our younger children come to us and say something like this where little Sally will come in and say 'Dad... or mom... Billy says he wants to climb onto the roof of the house with a rope and swing down like Tarzan'. Has this kind of scenario or other potentially dangerous situation ever happened in your home? And since mom is busy washing dishes and dad is busy with something on his iphone and we as parents have responded with something like this, 'Sally you go tell your brother that Dad said if he's going to climb the roof and swing down like Tarzan he's goanna get a spanking'. How many of us have done this? Made little prophets of our children, and how does little sally usually react? She runs out to her brother with the feeling of power and authority, because she now has a message... a message from Dad, stamped with his authority, rule and the for coming judgment and she will say something like... Billy, Dad said if you climb the roof of the house and swing down with a rope you will get a spank... Now I ask you how much authority does little sally have in warning her brother about the warning and punishment he would receive if he did proceed with his grand idea. If he jumped off the roof could he use the excuse 'well I never heard dad say what he would do, I never heard "Dad" say that?' could he use the excuse saying that it was only his little sister talking even though she said it was from Dad? No he could not. And we as parents never excuse it either. Now this may not be the best illustration on how to present this but this was the job of a prophet, The LORD spoke to the prophet, and the prophet relayed the message to the people, and said thus says the LORD, it was very rare that the prophet ever came with good and encouraging words but they were words from the LORD either way.

Now, very often when the phrase 'thus says the LORD' is used it is immediately followed by a command or statement of some kind just like the illustration, For example the first time this phrase is used it is to Moses the greatest and most iconic spokes person of God for the Jewish people. We find this first use in Exodus 4 verses 21-23

Exodus 4 21-23

21 And the LORD said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you do all those wonders before Pharaoh which I have put in your hand. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go.

22 *"Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: "Israel is My son, My firstborn. **this is a statement***

23 *"So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. **this is a command** But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn."'" **statement***

And we all know what happened... in the tenth plague of Egypt, as a result of not listening to the LORD and a result of the stubbornness of Pharaoh, the LORD came and struck all the first born in that land as we read in Exodus 12:29

Exodus 12:29

And it came to pass, that at midnight the LORD smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle.

Now had Pharaoh listened to the command or warning from Moses from the very beginning it would have saved him, his people and his nation from suffering, grief and complete destruction and death.

How often do we not see this in the Old Testament, of when God speaks on a certain subject, or against a certain practice that the outcome or consequences will come to pass. When a true prophet of God spoke 'thus says the LORD', it was always a good indication that the people should be listening and adhere to what was being said, Old and New Testament alike. And as I said earlier that the phrase thus says the LORD is not used in the New Testament except in quoting is because all these words that are colored red in our bible in the New Testament **is** what the LORD said, there was no need for a prophet to convey a message, for the LORD spoke the words Himself to the people and even the epistles were written they were written by man and the Holy Spirit. We could say in one sense that this entire book is a collection of 'Thus says the LORD', for this book contains the words of God Himself; this book is The LORD speaking to us. It is God Himself speaking to us through these words and pages.

If you hear this message today, in that this book is God speaking to you, and you are unsure which God I am speaking about, well, then listen very closely to the next part of this point. You see as I said before, the phrase 'thus says the LORD' is usually followed by a statement or command as to what God wants to say, but often between the phrase 'thus says the LORD' and the command there is a word or sometimes a phrase or even entire verses that describes to the reader who this LORD is, or who this 'Existing One' is that is speaking to you, that we the reader may know who He is, and why we should be listening.

If you look through your bible you will find passages like;

'Thus says the LORD GOD'

'Thus says the LORD God of Israel'

'Thus says the LORD God of the Hebrews'

'Thus says the LORD of Hosts'

'Thus says the LORD GOD of Hosts'

'Thus says the LORD the God of David your father'

'Thus says the LORD who redeemed Abraham'

‘Thus says the LORD GOD the Holy One of Israel’
‘Thus says the LORD, The Redeemer of Israel, their Holy One’
‘Thus says the LORD who made you, And formed you from the womb, who will help you’
‘Thus says the LORD, who created you, And He who formed you’
‘Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: ‘I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God.’

And lastly the one in the bible and the one that describes it best:

Isa 45:18 For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: "I am the LORD (the existing one), and there is no other.

This is the one true God who is speaking to us here in this book and there is no other. It is He who spoke the universe into existence and everything in it, it is He who created the earth, the sea and the sky and every living creature on and in them, everything we can see and everything we cannot see, it is this one true God that created everything, including me and including you, this is He the ‘Existing One’ who is speaking to us in these pages when it says ‘Thus says the LORD’ and if you want to know who He is... you will find Him in this book.

This is the type of verse that we are looking at today in verse 35 of Jeremiah chapter 31

Verse 35 Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for a light by day, the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, And its waves roar (The LORD of hosts is His name):

As the verse starts with the phrase that we looked at ‘Thus says the LORD’ and is followed by describing who our LORD is. For the text says He is the LORD who gives the sun for a light by day, He is the LORD who gives the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night. He is the LORD who disturbs the sea, and its waves roar. And then in brackets as if the reader needed reminding, The LORD of hosts is His name. Not only does this verse tell us of the one who gives these lights, but it is a reference for us as the reader to who created them and takes us all the way back to the creation chapters in Genesis chapter 1 verses 9 and 10 and verses 14-19 where it tells us the creation and the creator of these lights and oceans:

9 ¶ Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so.

10 And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

14 Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons and for days and years;

15 "and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so.

16 Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also.

17 God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth,
18 and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And
God saw that it was good.
19 So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

How many times haven't we heard of how important the first three chapters of the bible are?

In a video clip from Answers in Genesis Ken Ham states and I quote 'The very first verse of the bible states that 'in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth', of course if that verse is not true than the rest of the bible isn't true'. End of quote.

Also, from Answers in Genesis from there question and answers section reads like this.

[“What is Biblical Creation and Why Is It Important?”](#) Biblical creation is supernatural as opposed to some long naturalistic process. The Creator did not need matter, large amounts of time, energy, or anything else. Biblical creation is important, because it identifies God, man, and is the basis of the gospel. It explains death, suffering, and foreshadows Christ and His redemption!” The Bible not only claims to be a revelation from the infinite Creator but it gives a very detailed history concerning origins, to enable us to come to right conclusions. No other book does this. We have a revelation from an omnipotent God, who gives us the history we need to know so we can interpret the evidence of the present correctly.” End of quote

This is probably why the author Jeremiah places these verses here, that it is to refer us to the beginning of creation and the Creator. If you want to misinterpret the first three chapters of the bible and take them lightly you will probably take these next three verses lightly as well, just as many Christians do and not take it serious as to what the Lord says, however if you believe in a literal interpretation of the account of Genesis and hold to that foundation very seriously, that you believe that God created the world in six literal days, made the heavens and the earth the land and trees, fish and birds, animals and man, **sun, moon and stars**, all in this one week, if you believe this to be true and irrefutable and that there is no gap theory, no evolution, no day age theory, no millions and billions of years, you have probably put yourself into a very narrow minded, unpopular minority, literal way of thinking, **but... with that** you will probably take more serious what the Lord says about the verses that we are looking at this morning. This LORD that Jeremiah is referring to **is our great omnipotent God**. Our great all powerful God who spoke the world and everything in it into existence. He is LORD of all creation and **He** has something important to say. *Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for a light by day, the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, And its waves roar (The LORD of hosts is His name).*

And here is what he has to say; verse 36 *"If those ordinances depart From before Me, says the LORD, and we halt to look at those words first before we can continue.*

If those ordinances depart...

In 6000 years that have gone by in this world the sun has been unchanging. In the 2,191,500 days give or take a few hundred or so for error the sun has given us 2,191,500 sun rises each and every single day and it has given us 2,191,500 sun sets each and every day. This never changes,

you can check online the exact minute that the sun will rise tomorrow or the day after, or next week, or month, or even next year, it will tell you exactly when it will come up and when it will go down any time you want to look at. We humans have developed timing to such a fine science we know exactly where the sun will be at any given time in any given place and in any given season. This is the set ordinance of the sun that the LORD has made. With a few exceptions in scripture where the sun stood still for a day and also went backwards 10 degrees but these were supernatural events done by the LORD and are not part of the normal ordinance.

Next the moon, the moon has for 6000 years gone round and round the earth completing its lunar phase every 29.5 days and has done this 78,267 times since the time of creation and so far only ever showed us here on earth one side, its rotation and orbit around the earth are perfectly equal. And its perfect ordinance that God has so planned has allowed man to time every moon rise, moon set, where and when each phase will be. We can tell where each eclipse will be and when it will happen, we know when there will be a blood moon and how often they will occur, you see we can see far into the future and know where the moon will be and in what phase. Why? Because God has perfectly ordained it where it is supposed to be at all times. God's timing is perfect. The verses says the moon and stars for a light by night. Now the stars, the sky seems so vast and the stars so innumerable and in creation chapters it refers to them as simply 'He made the stars also', these giant raging planets of burning gasses, some of them billions of times larger than our own sun are only tiny pin points of light when viewed here from earth, they seem perfectly still and quiet, the constellations never change never move and seem to pass ever so slowly over head as our world turns. Our great God has put in place these lights in the heavens for the earth, each one for a purpose, each one for a reason, each one is different but one thing is the same, they all continue in the set path that God has ordained.

Now the section *"If those ordinances depart From before Me, says the LORD,*

If you wake up tomorrow and the sun rises up in the north, or south or west or not at all you would begin to think that there is something very very wrong or if the moon were to continually be full moon for a month or be turned around to see the other side or not be seen at all you would begin to wonder what in the world is happening, or if at night all the stars had moved to one end of the sky or begin to dance around like leaves on a tree or flash across the sky as the northern lights sometimes do, or all of them disappeared and we were left in complete blackness we would not only be in wonder we would be terrified out of our wits, there would be nothing cool or amazing about such a moment, why? Because that **would not be normal**, because it is not what the LORD ordained them to do, we have never see any of the celestial bodies do that, it would not be in concordance with what the LORD had set them out to do. Now for the rest of the verse

36 *"If those ordinances depart From before Me, says the LORD, Then the seed of Israel shall also cease From being a nation before Me forever."*

Here is a verse of scripture in which many evangelical pastors somehow miss the point. Did we still see the sun set in the west last night and rise up in the east this morning? Yes. Do we still see the moon go around the earth showing us its phases every 29.5 days this past month? Yes. And the last time you looked at the stars on a clear night were they still all in the same place and

remain unchanged? Yes. So have any of the preset ordinances changed or departed from the LORD in any of the recorded history of the earth? No. **and since they have never changed or departed Israel will still remain a nation or a people in the eyes of our almighty God.** 36 *"If those ordinances depart From before Me, says the LORD, Then... Then the seed of Israel shall also cease From being a nation before Me forever."* According to this verse it is as plain as day that the sun rises in the east and sets in the west that the Jews are still Gods chosen people, and as the moon continues to faithfully go round the earth in its cycles so God is faithful to His promise to His people. And as the stars are steadfast and unchanging so also is our LORD GOD steadfast and unchanging about His chosen nation of Israel. Only when the sun rises in the west and the moon spins the other way around and the stars run about the sky like ants on an ant hill, then... then these people could begin to have grounds for replacement theology, and yet I think that when these wonders would begin to happen replacement theology will be the last thing on their minds.

God is not done with Israel. And until these elements change Gods mind remains unchanging. Well as I said earlier verse 36 and 37 have the same purpose only with different illustrations so let's look at the last verse in the text we are looking at, the first part of 37

37 *Thus says the LORD: (we looked at that part already) "If heaven above can be measured, And the foundations of the earth searched out beneath,*

Now the first part of the verse starts off with 'if heaven above can be measured'. Now in order to measure something you need to start at one end and then count in some kind of predetermined increment to the other end. For example I can measure this piece of paper in inches 8.5 by 11, we could measure this building from this side to that side in feet, we can measure in miles how far it is from here to any other city on this planet, we can measure how far it is around our planet 24,901.5 miles. We can measure how far away we are from the sun which is 94.5 million miles or 8.5 light minutes which is a measurement of how far light travels in one minute. We can measure how big our own milky way galaxy is in diameter which is a small one compared to others at 100,000 light years from one end to the other we can compare it to some of the larger galaxies which can span 980,000 light years and still we haven't measured heaven, only the stars in these respected galaxies. And thanks to Hubble which is an amazing piece of technology, we can look farther and farther into heaven, the firmament part that is.

Even when looking at the farthest reaches of its limits and when set to the highest magnification what do they see? More stars and more galaxies. The Hubble ultra deep field picture is a picture taken of the stars with extreme magnification, and Wikipedia describes it as looking at the sky through a hole smaller than 1mm by 1mm in a piece of paper 1 m away and in this picture they estimate that there are over 10,000 galaxies not stars galaxies and that it looks approximately 10 to 15 billion light years into the heavens and still there is no end. 6 *Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters."* 7 *Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so.* 8 *And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day'* Genesis chapter 1 verses 6-8'

If heaven above can be measured’ there is a reason the verse uses the word ‘*if*’ for our God is such a great God, we humans in all of our far reaching technology cannot even see where the heavens begin or let alone where it ends how then can we ever measure it when it says of God ‘*He made the stars also.*’

Now the next part of the verse is not up but down ‘*And the foundations of the earth searched out beneath*’. Now the difference in this statement from the previous is it says ‘the foundations **searched out**’ not measured, because we know how large the earth is and how far around the earth is and how far it is from north to south how much space it takes up, how thick the crust is how far it is to the middle but what it is asking is can we search out the foundations of the earth beneath? And when I first looked at this I thought there were there were two ways you can look at this, one is what is the foundation of the earth or what does the earth sit on or second what does everything here on the earth sit on.

Well Job says in chapter 26 at the end of verse 7 ‘that the lord hangs the earth on nothing’ So, if the lord hangs the earth on nothing then there won’t be anything there to search out underneath. There is no foundation that the earth sits on if it hangs on nothing, and so with that it eliminates the possibility of first question and must mean the second.

The foundation beneath that is spoken of in this verse I believe is the foundations where everything on this earth is fastened to? What is the foundation of the world around us? We can see the foundation of trees when they have been up rooted or fallen over, we can see when new homes are built the foundation that is poured for the house to sit on, we can dig down beside castles of old and find the rock that they are planted on, we can go down and see the bedrock where monstrous man made bridges are founded on but what is underneath our world? What holds up this crust of the earth? What do the mountains sit on? What is underneath all of this? Well scientists tell us that the world is covered by tectonic plates and the thickness of these plates range from 30 to 50 kilometers thick. They float and move about on vast layers of magma, a seas of molten rock that get hotter and hotter the closer you get to the center of the earth. We can see this magma when it comes out of the cracks and volcanoes in the earth’s crust. Now as our text ask can we *searched out* the foundation beneath, the online bible Hebrew lexicon defines the word searched out like this:

- 1) to search, search for, search out, examine, investigate
- 1a2) to search through, explore
- 1a3) to examine thoroughly
- 1b1) to be searched out, be found out, be ascertained, be examined
- 1c) to search out, seek out

Can we take a flash light and go underground and look around under Mount Everest and say... so this is what this mountain sits on. Or go under the sea floor and say so this is what holds up the sea. You see we can’t, the deepest mine in the world today only goes down 4km. that is impressive for a mine but its only down into about 10% of the earth’s crust, and if we could travel through molten lava which we can’t because everything melts in liquid rock, there would be another 6370km down to get to the center. Our impressive deep mine only goes down 0.0006% of depth on the earth. Can we take a flash light and go down and look around and see

what holds up everything we see? Popular Science.com writes this about the earth Our perspective of Earth tends to be very shallow--literally. Everything we experience, from the deepest depths of the ocean to the highest mountain peaks, only skims the top of the outermost layer of the Earth, the Earth has plenty of secrets buried inside it. End of quote, and many secrets it will keep.

Now, all of this talk about the heaven above and the earth below is to show us what? I think it is to show us the greatness of our God, even when we only look at His creation of the heavens and the earth it reveals how Big God is and how small man is in the grand scale of creation. Even when we just look at the vastness of heaven, and the unsearchable depths of bellow, we are so finite when it comes to the question that God is asking here.

37 Thus says the LORD: "If heaven above can be measured, And the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel For all that they have done, says the LORD.

And here is His word verse 37

37 Thus says the LORD: "If heaven above can be measured, which we can't because it is so vast and great And the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, which is impossible because nothing is able to survive in lava, then and only then says the lord will I also cast off all the seed of Israel For all that they have done,

Yes if we as humans can achieve these things then the LORD will be done with Israel, He will cut them off, all and every seed of them for all the harlotry, all the adultery, for all the idolatry and all the horrible things they have done. So says the LORD, but since none of our human efforts of measuring the heavens and searching the foundations beneath seem achievable any time soon, well then we have a good indication of how soon God will cast off and be done with Israel. And so I ask you when scripture is so simple how ignorant must some pastors have to be to scripture when they hold a view that God is done with Israel. It is so simple that in one verse it is explained so that even a child can understand. Paul says in Romans 11 verses one and first half of two. 1 *I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.* 2 *God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says...*

Well what do the scriptures say... if you read the scriptures, literally, I cannot see how you can come to a different conclusion without having to ignore or turn a blind eye to some passages. My prayer and hope is that you will continue to have a place in your heart for the Jews, God does, they are His people. And while many big speakers in the world preach a message of how God is done with the Jew, and the nation of Israel, and that the church has replaced them my prayer is that you will read scripture and know that the LORD is not done with Israel, that we the church have not nor ever will replaced Israel. Zachariah speaks of Israel as being the apple of Gods eye and in Zachariah 12:1,2,3. Speaks of what Israel will be, 1 *The burden of the word of the LORD against Israel. Thus says the LORD, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him: 2 "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. 3 "And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.* And is this not the one thing that this whole world would

like to do with the nation of Israel, pick it up and heave it into the sea. Muslims would like to do it literally, many Christians are doing it metaphorically either way you choose they would like it so that Israel was no more. But the lord says *all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.* And I say be very careful what you do with that stone and with those people.

So as we conclude this message and series I hope that we all will look at scripture more carefully when God speaks about His chosen people Israel, the ones that are referred to as the Wife of God, the apple of His eye, a holy people to the LORD, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. And I ask do you take all the words of this book literally that speak about Gods people as to what they mean, are we not always to be like the bereaians in Acts 17: 10 and 11 speaking of Paul and Silas when they came to Berea. For *When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.* And that is what I want to leave with you today and this series that when you hear a pastor or speaker speak in such a way that God is done with Israel, that there is no more purpose in His plan for the Jew, that the church has replaced Israel, then I ask you search the scriptures and find out what God thinks of Israel and check if what the speaker is saying is really true. Will there ever be an end of Israel? I don't think so and as the titles ask 'Is This the End of Israel?' I say the answer is no. it never was nor never will it ever be. Check it for yourself. May God bless you, Amen.