

Christ Reformation Church

Tillamook, Oregon

You Must be Born Again!

www.sermonaudio.com/crc

www.unholycharade.com

www.lightfordarktimes.com

Christ Reformation Church – YouTube Channel

Called to Speak for the Lord – the Book of Jeremiah

The Temple of the Lord

May 16, 2021

Sermon Text: Jeremiah 32-33

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 43:1-12

We are going to begin this morning in the same manner we began last time – by reading an entire section of Jeremiah – namely, chapters 32-33. And before we are finished today, we will find ourselves in Ezekiel, Ephesians, First Peter, and finally in Revelation. As you will see, Jeremiah is pointing us toward the true Temple, and it is that theme which we must trace out if we are going to properly understand the Lord's promises to His people. You recall that last time we looked at chapter 31 in which the Lord promised a future New Covenant, and we saw in the book of Hebrews that this New Covenant was established in Christ and is the covenant

by which the Lord saves His true Israel – His church, His elect.

Follow along then as we read, beginning in chapter 32 –

Jer 32:1-44 The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar. (2) At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and Jeremiah the prophet was shut up in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah.

(3) For Zedekiah king of Judah had imprisoned him, saying, “Why do you prophesy and say, ‘Thus says the LORD: Behold, I am giving this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall capture it; (4) Zedekiah king of Judah shall not escape out of the hand of the Chaldeans, but shall surely be given into the hand of the king of Babylon, and shall speak with him face to face and see him eye to eye. (5) And he shall take Zedekiah to Babylon, and there he shall remain until I visit him,

declares the LORD. Though you fight against the Chaldeans, you shall not succeed’?”

(6) Jeremiah said, “The word of the LORD came to me: (7) Behold, Hanamel the son of Shallum your uncle will come to you and say, ‘Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours.’ (8) Then Hanamel my cousin came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the LORD, and said to me, ‘Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself.’ Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD.

(9) “And I bought the field at Anathoth from Hanamel my cousin, and weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver. (10) I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the money on scales. (11) Then I took the sealed deed of purchase, containing the terms and conditions and the open copy. (12) And I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch the son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of Hanamel my cousin, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of

the guard. (13) I charged Baruch in their presence, saying, (14) ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware vessel, that they may last for a long time. (15) For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.’

(16) “After I had given the deed of purchase to Baruch the son of Neriah, I prayed to the LORD, saying: (17) ‘Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you. (18) You show steadfast love to thousands, but you repay the guilt of fathers to their children after them, O great and mighty God, whose name is the LORD of hosts, (19) great in counsel and mighty in deed, whose eyes are open to all the ways of the children of man, rewarding each one according to his ways and according to the fruit of his deeds. (20) You have shown signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, and to this day in Israel and among all mankind, and have made a name for yourself, as at this day. (21) You brought your people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs and wonders, with a strong hand and

outstretched arm, and with great terror. (22) And you gave them this land, which you swore to their fathers to give them, a land flowing with milk and honey. (23) And they entered and took possession of it. But they did not obey your voice or walk in your law. They did nothing of all you commanded them to do. Therefore you have made all this disaster come upon them.

(24) Behold, the siege mounds have come up to the city to take it, and because of sword and famine and pestilence the city is given into the hands of the Chaldeans who are fighting against it. What you spoke has come to pass, and behold, you see it. (25) Yet you, O Lord GOD, have said to me, “Buy the field for money and get witnesses”—though the city is given into the hands of the Chaldeans.”

(26) The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: (27) “Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me? (28) Therefore, thus says the LORD: Behold, I am giving this city into the hands of the Chaldeans and into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and he shall capture it. (29) The Chaldeans who are fighting against this city shall come and set this city on fire and burn it, with the houses

on whose roofs offerings have been made to Baal and drink offerings have been poured out to other gods, to provoke me to anger. (30) For the children of Israel and the children of Judah have done nothing but evil in my sight from their youth. The children of Israel have done nothing but provoke me to anger by the work of their hands, declares the LORD. (31) This city has aroused my anger and wrath, from the day it was built to this day, so that I will remove it from my sight (32) because of all the evil of the children of Israel and the children of Judah that they did to provoke me to anger—their kings and their officials, their priests and their prophets, the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. (33) They have turned to me their back and not their face. And though I have taught them persistently, they have not listened to receive instruction.

(34) They set up their abominations in the house that is called by my name, to defile it. (35) They built the high places of Baal in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to offer up their sons and daughters to Molech, though I did not command them, nor did it enter into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.

(36) “Now therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning this city of which you say, ‘It is given into the hand of the king of Babylon by sword, by famine, and by pestilence’:

(37) Behold, I will gather them from all the countries to which I drove them in my anger and my wrath and in great indignation. I will bring them back to this place, and I will make them dwell in safety. (38) And they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

(39) I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them.

(40) I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me. (41) I will rejoice in doing them good, and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, with all my heart and all my soul.

(42) “For thus says the LORD: Just as I have brought all this great disaster upon this people, so I will bring upon them all the good that I promise them. (43) Fields shall be bought in this land of which you are saying, ‘It is a

desolation, without man or beast; it is given into the hand of the Chaldeans.’

(44) Fields shall be bought for money, and deeds shall be signed and sealed and witnessed, in the land of Benjamin, in the places about Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, in the cities of the hill country, in the cities of the Shephelah, and in the cities of the Negeb; for I will restore their fortunes, declares the LORD.”

Jer 33:1-26 The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah a second time, while he was still shut up in the court of the guard: (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.

(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 to fight against the Chaldeans and to fill them 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.

(6) Behold, I will bring to it health and healing, and I will heal them and reveal to them abundance of prosperity and security. (7) I will restore the fortunes of Judah and the fortunes of Israel, and rebuild them as they were at first. (8) I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me. (9) And this city shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and a glory before all the nations of the earth who shall hear of all the good that I do for them. They shall fear and tremble because of all the good and all the prosperity I provide for it.

(10) “Thus says the LORD: In this place of which you say, ‘It is a waste without man or beast,’ in the cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without man or inhabitant or beast, there shall be heard again (11) the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voices of those who sing, as they bring thank offerings to the house of the LORD: “Give thanks to the LORD of hosts, for the LORD is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!” For I will restore the fortunes of the land as at first, says

the LORD.

(12) “Thus says the LORD of hosts: In this place that is waste, without man or beast, and in all of its cities, there shall again be habitations of shepherds resting their flocks. (13) In the cities of the hill country, in the cities of the Shephelah, and in the cities of the Negeb, in the land of Benjamin, the places about Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, flocks shall again pass under the hands of the one who counts them, says the LORD.

(14) “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. (15) In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. (16) In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’ (17) “For thus says the LORD: David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel,

(18) and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man in my presence to

offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to make sacrifices forever.”

(19) The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: (20) “Thus says the LORD: If you can break my covenant with the day and my covenant with the night, so that day and night will not come at their appointed time, (21) then also my covenant with David my servant may be broken, so that he shall not have a son to reign on his throne, and my covenant with the Levitical priests my ministers. (22) **As the host of heaven cannot be numbered and the sands of the sea cannot be measured, so I will multiply the offspring of David my servant, and the Levitical priests who minister to me.”**

(23) The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: (24) “Have you not observed that these people are saying, ‘The LORD has rejected the two clans that he chose’? Thus they have despised my people so that they are no longer a nation in their sight. (25) Thus says the LORD: If I have not established my covenant with day and night and the fixed order of heaven and earth, (26) then I will reject the offspring of Jacob and David my servant and will not choose one of his offspring to rule over

the offspring of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For I will restore their fortunes and will have mercy on them.”

Now, how we handle these kind of texts in the Old Testament is going to determine if we end up with God’s people, the Promised Land, the Temple, the Levitical priesthood and sacrifices...*as being an earthly, physical-descendant-of-Abraham-Israel, an earthly city of Jerusalem with and earthly temple and restored blood sacrifices and an earthly messiah whose throne is in the earthly Jerusalem – OR,*

...a heavenly Jerusalem inhabited by the true Israel of God which consists of people who are children of Abraham because they are in Christ...a Land that is the New Heavens and New Earth, a Temple that is the true Church and which extends everywhere in the New Creation.

That is to say, how we approach these Old Testament passages is going to lead us to an earthly fulfillment of them, or a heavenly one – that is to say – *a New Heavens and Earth new creation fulfillment.* [These issues are at the heart of the difference between *dispensational theology and reformed*

theology]. But these differences are much larger in importance than just which theological camp they lead us to. In fact, a mishandling of the Old Testament is an immense disaster and it has spread like a plague within the evangelical churches for many, many years now. These errors rob us of a clear vision of what Christ meant, for example, when He said –

Joh 14:1-3 “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. (2) In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? (3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

The “Strange” Sayings

Now, you probably noticed as we read these chapters that there are some verses and phrases that – well, are just odd. For example:

Jer 32:15 For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.’

Jer 32:36-37 “Now therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning this city of which you say, ‘It is given into the hand of the king of Babylon by sword, by famine, and by pestilence’: (37) Behold, I will gather them from all the countries to which I drove them in my anger and my wrath and in great indignation. I will bring them back to this place, and I will make them dwell in safety.

Jer 33:5-9 They are coming in to fight against the Chaldeans and to fill them 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. (6) Behold, I will bring to it health and healing, and I will heal them and reveal to them abundance of prosperity and security. (7) I will restore the fortunes of Judah and the fortunes of Israel, and rebuild them as they were at first. (8) I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me. (9) And this city shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and a glory before all the nations of the earth who shall hear of all the good that I do for them. They shall fear and tremble because of all the good and all the prosperity I provide for it.

Jer 33:10-11 “Thus says the LORD: In this place of which you say, ‘It is a waste without man or beast,’ in the cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without man or inhabitant or beast, there shall be heard again (11) the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voices of those who sing, as they bring thank offerings to the house of the LORD: “Give thanks to the LORD of hosts, for the LORD is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!’ For I will restore the fortunes of the land as at first, says the LORD.

(33:18) and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man in my presence to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to make sacrifices forever.”

What is, as I say, odd about all of this? It is this – it seems as if the Lord is promising to bring the Jews back to the land of Canaan, bless them, effect a tremendous revival among them, *and renew the Levitical priesthood and Old Testament sacrifices and offerings. FOREVER.* And these are the kinds of scriptures that have led to people embracing and teaching dispensational

theology which says that God’s primary plan concerns the physical descendants of Abraham, the earthly promised land, an earthly temple with offerings and sacrifices and a Jewish priesthood. Often you will have people of this school make the accusation that if we don’t believe this is God’s plan, then we don’t believe the Bible and we are really those dreaded “liberals” who deny the inerrancy of Scripture.

But...consider what else we have here in these two chapters (and in chapter 31 where we saw the promise of the New Covenant) -

Jer 32:38-40 And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. (39) I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them. (40) **I will make with them an everlasting covenant**, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me.

Jer 33:14-18 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. (15) In those days and at that time I will

cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

(16) In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.' (17) "For thus says the LORD: David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel, (18) **and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man in my presence to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to make sacrifices forever.**"

Jer 33:25-26 Thus says the LORD: If I have not established my covenant with day and night and the fixed order of heaven and earth, (26) then I will reject the offspring of Jacob **and David my servant and will not choose one of his offspring to rule over the offspring of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.** For I will restore their fortunes and will have mercy on them."

Consider this – if we take what the Lord is saying here as only pertaining to the earthly Israel, the Jews, then what you have is a restored Temple, a rebuilt Jerusalem, a Jewish nation, *and Levitical priesthood that will make*

burnt offerings, grain offerings, and sacrifices FOREVER.

Do you see the problem? –

Heb 9:11-15 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) (12) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. (13) For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, (14) how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. (15) Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

Heb 10:1-18 For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these

realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. (2) Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? (3) But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. (4) For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. (5) Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; (6) in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. (7) Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'" (8) When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), (9) then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. (10) And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. (11) And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. (12)

But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, (13) waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. (14) For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. (15) And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, (16) "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds," (17) then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." (18) Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Therefore, when Jeremiah says:

(17) "For thus says the LORD: David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel, (18) **and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man in my presence to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to make sacrifices forever.**"

...he cannot mean that there is going to be a restoration of the OT sacrifices, in a literal earthly temple in Jerusalem, offered by a restored Levitical

priesthood. Christ is the end of the OT Law. He is the end of all those OT sacrifices. He offered Himself once for all of His people.

So...what does all of this mean? How are we to interpret passages like this? Are we to embrace popular evangelical eschatology that is Israel, Israel, Israel while the church is God's afterthought?

Well, let me end with this – where that kind of theology is taught and embraced, *the real glory of the redemption we have in Christ is radically diluted, the “Christianity” we embrace is largely the religion of the Pharisees, and the riches of the grace of God shown us in Christ is gutted.*

Therefore we will plan to return to this next time, and we will be headed for Ezekiel 40-47, Ephesians 2, 1 Peter 2, and the Bible's grand finale – Revelation.