

Journey through Jeremiah Part 34 The LORD Turns Mourning Into Joy

A sermon series by Pastor Byron Chesney, Th.D. – Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2017

† Jeremiah 31:1-10

(1) At the same time, saith the LORD, will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.

“At the same time,” is referring to what he just said in the previous chapter that we studied last week concerning “the latter days”: **Jeremiah 30:24** The fierce anger of the LORD shall not return, until he have done *it*, and until he have performed the intents of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it.

These “**latter days**” is a reference to the end of days, or the time of Jacobs trouble. When the Jews will be living in peace in the Millennial Kingdom.

(2) Thus saith the LORD, The people *which were* left of the sword found grace in the wilderness; *even* Israel, when I went to cause him to rest.

The **people which were left of the sword** is a reference of the Children of Israel when the LORD led them out of Egypt’s bondage by their leader, Moses. He led them in the wilderness and took care of them. Ultimately they were supposed to enter into the Land of Canaan, however, because of their constant rebellion and murmuring they spent 40-years wandering in the wilderness.

(3) The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, *saying*, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

I am glad the LORD loves His people with an “everlasting love,” aren’t you? If His love was not everlasting then it would do us no good to believe in Him and follow Him. If his love was like man’s love, the first time we sinned against Him He would throw us away. That’s how man’s love usually works.

I’ve had people tell me “I love you pastor and love to hear the messages you preach.” But the first time I preach against their particular sin or if I don’t do something they thought I should, then they hate me and don’t ever want anything to do with me again. Man’s love is shallow but God’s love is everlasting.

(4) Again I will build thee, and thou shalt be built, O virgin of Israel: thou shalt again be adorned with thy tabrets, and shalt go forth in the dances of them that make merry.

This is another picture of a restored Israel. The merry celebrations they would have and the women would dance with the **tabrets**, this is also what we know as **tambourines**, also interpreted in the Bible as **timbrels**, such as when Moses led the Children of Israel out of Egypt’s bondage and when they were safe on the other side and Pharaohs army was under water, they began celebrating and we read in **Exodus 15:20** And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances.

The LORD proclaims that they will once again enjoy celebrating and making merry.

(5) Thou shalt yet plant vines upon the mountains of Samaria: the planters shall plant, and shall eat *them* as common things.

When he says they shall yet plant vines, he is referring to their vineyards where they grow the grapes to make the wine. They will be plentiful and so common that they will be eating them all the time.

(6) For there shall be a day, *that* the watchmen upon the mount Ephraim shall cry, Arise ye, and let us go up to Zion unto the LORD our God.

The watchman was placed above the city to watch for the enemies but in the day that

the LORD brings His people into their Land they will not have to worry about the enemy. The watchman will be crying out for them to enter into Zion, the city of God and celebrate, as we see in the next verses:

(7) For thus saith the LORD; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O LORD, save thy people, the remnant of Israel.

(8) Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, *and* with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither.

(9) They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim *is* my firstborn.

This is a picture of the LORD gathering his people home. They will come from all places and gather in the Holy Land. He says he will bring them from the north country, and from the coasts of the earth. Anywhere they are scattered, the LORD will draw them back to His Holy Land of Promise.

Of course, in the immediate sense of God’s people in Jeremiah’s day, they would be coming from the North country of Babylon and returning home. The Assyrians had driven Israelites far into the North during the 1st captivity of the Northern Tribes of Israel. Some were also scattered around the regions of Mesopotamia and Media which could be considered the “coasts of the earth.”

But in a prophetic sense of future events, we also know that God will draw his people home, back to the Land of Promise. Right now, they are scattered all throughout the earth and on every coast.

LESSON ON HEBREWS, ISRAELITES, AND JEWS

I’m sure you have heard of the **Jewish Diaspora**, which simply means a **dispersion of the Jews**. Certainly, it began in the days of Assyrian and Babylonian captivity, and the Romans ended what was known as the Jewish State, however, the diaspora has continued all through the ages with Jews being scattered all over the earth.

It is estimated that there are around 14 to 15 million Jews alive today. The latest statistics that I can find on where most Jews are living at today are as follows:

1. Israel = 6,336,400
2. United States = 5,700,000 nearly half live in NY City: 2,007,850
3. France = 460,000
4. Canada = 388,000
5. United Kingdom = 290,000
6. Russia = 200,000
7. Argentina = 180,000
8. Germany = 117,000
9. Australia = 113,000
10. Brazil = 95,000

But before the LORD wraps this thing up, the Jews are going to return to Israel, to the Holy Land. The move is already under way. I guess you could say it “officially” began on November 29, 1947 when the United Nations voted to establish the **State of Israel**. When Jews return to Israel it is referred to as the **Ali-yah**, which means “moving up.” Moving up to Jerusalem is what it means.

One thing you need to understand is that we often use the term “**Jew**” “**Israelites**” and “**Hebrews**” interchangeably, however, we need to understand that there are differences.

First of all, the Jews originally were called “**Hebrews**.” Abraham was a Hebrew. We first see that in **Genesis 14:13** *And there came one that had escaped, and told **Abram the Hebrew**; for he dwelt in the plain of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol, and brother of Aner: and these were confederate with Abram.*

The word “**Hebrew**” comes from the Hebrew word “**ib-ree**” which means “**a descendant of Eber**.”

Eber was the great, great, grandson of **Noah**. This is the bloodline that Abram or Abraham came from. You can trace Abraham’s bloodline in **1 Chronicles 1:1-27**, which begins with Adam.

So, the word “**Hebrew**” comes from **Eber** and since Abraham was a descendant of Eber then he was known as a **Hebrew**, then all of his descendants were known as **Hebrews** until God changed Abraham’s grandson’s name from **Jacob to Israel**. Of course, Jacob being the son of Isaac, who was the son of Abraham. Therefore, all descendants of Jacob which made up the 12-Tribes of Israel, became known as **Israelites**, or **Children of Israel**.

Then, during King Solomon’s rule, after the **nation of Israel** was divided into the **Northern** and **Southern Kingdoms**, the **10 Tribes of the North** were called **Israel** and the **2 Tribes of the South** were called **Judah**. That’s where the term “**Jew**” comes from.

You will first read the word “**Jews**” in the Book of **2 Kings 16:6** *At that time Rezin king of Syria recovered Elath to Syria, and drave **the Jews from Elath**: and the Syrians came to Elath, and dwelt there unto this day.* Here the text is referring to inhabitants of Judah who were in control of Elath. This is the first time in the Bible we see a group of people collectively referred to as “**Jews**.”

We don’t read of an individual being referred to as a, “**Jew**” until we get to the **Book of Esther** in the Bible. It was a term used by the Gentiles when they were referring to people from the Land of Judah. **Esther 2:5-6**: *Now in Shushan the palace there was a certain Jew, whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite; (6) Who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captivity which had been carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away.*

Since Nebuchadnezzar’s war was against **Judah**, they began calling all of those exiles from the Kingdom of Judah; “**Jews**.” Mordecai wasn’t from the Tribe of Judah, he was from the Tribe of Benjamin, but since the Tribe of Benjamin was part of the Land of Judah, and they were carried away along with the Tribe of Judah, they too were considered “**Jews**.”

But, those 10 Tribes that were carried away in Assyrian captivity 100 years before the captivity of Judah, they were considered Israelites – not Jews.

The LORD Jesus is from the Tribe of Judah; therefore, he is called a Jew.

The Apostle Paul is from the Tribe of Benjamin; therefore, he is called a Jew.

But, Paul called himself all three, a **Hebrew, and Israelite, and a Jew**. **Acts 22:2-3**: *(And when they heard that he spake in the Hebrew tongue to them, they kept the more silence: and he saith,) (3) I am verily a man **which am a Jew**, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all*

are this day.

Philippians 3:5 *Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an **Hebrew** of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;*

Acts 21:39: *But Paul said, I am a man **which am a Jew** of Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, a citizen of no mean city: and, I beseech thee, suffer me to speak unto the people.*

Romans 11:1 *I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an **Israelite**, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.*

Some people have a belief that God is finished with the Jew and that the Church is some type of **Spiritual Israel**. This is called **Suppressionism** or **Replacement Theology**. These folks believe that the Church replaced Israel and all the promises to Israel are promises to the Church. The problem with that is it contradicts what the Bible says such in **Romans 11:25-28** *For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.*

(26) And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

(27) For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

(28) As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers’ sakes.

Here Paul is stating that Israel shall be saved. That means the nation of Israel, not every single Jew, but the nation of Israel as God’s covenant people.

Paul also says that they are currently enemies of the gospel. And they are and have been ever since Jesus came into this world as the God man and gave unto us the Gospel of Christ.

So, no, the LORD is not finished with Israel by any means. In matters of eschatology, or end of time events, God has a plan for Israel. This is the true Israel. The people that God chose to be His people. We’ve been studying a lot about it in my Sunday School class over the past 30-weeks. Specifically, in **Revelation Chapter 7** which shows us the sealing of the 144,000 from the 12 Tribes of Israel. 12,000 from every tribe.

Now, having said all of that, in our New Testament we find that the Bible uses both Israel and Jew interchangeably when it comes to the future of Israel. So, it would not be wrong to refer to all of them as “**Jews**.”

The term “**Jew**” nowadays refers more to a person’s religious practice than it does a nation of people. Similar to **Christian**, that is for those of us who practice the religion of **Christianity**, followers of Jesus Christ. Today anyone can technically become a **Jew** by converting over to **Judaism**, however, unless their bloodline is from the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, they are not blood “**Jews**,” or “**Israelites**.”

(10) Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock. The message is sent out to all lands that the LORD is gathering His people back. He is also clear to tell them that it was HE that scattered them to begin with, not them. They may have been the ones that invaded and took them captive, but it was the LORD that caused them to do it to fulfill His purpose. And now like a Shepherd his is gathering His flock.

† All Scripture from the Authorized King James Version of the Bible