**Jeremiah 31 (Lesson 17a)**

**I. Text Of Chapter 31 – The New Covenant (5 min. to read)**

A. God’s Mercy (31:1-6 – key Hebrew word here is: *hesed*)

1. Covenant renewal language (cf. 30:22; Dt. 26:16-19; 27:9; 29:1, 10-13)

2. Though she had prostituted herself (3:6), He gives her a totally new relationship to Him (cf. 50:20; Hos. 2:14-20; v. 5 w/ Dt. 28:30, 39).

B. Joyful Future Restoration (31:7-14; cf. Amos 6:1; Is. 40:3-5, 11; 42:16; 43:1-7; 48:20f; 49:9-13)

1. All are included (us, blind, lame, mother, pregnant, great company). Seems to develop further than who returns under Cyrus, hinting to NC.

2. God’s goodness is reflected in His word to the Gentiles (cf. Is. 2:1-4). Language of v. 11 anticipates kinsman redeemer typology of ch. 32.

C. God’s Mercy Toward Ephraim (31:15-22)

1. The fall of Samaria was in 722 B.C. and Sargon II deported many

2. v. 15 quoted in Mt. 2:17f; Rachel weeps for her failing/dead descendants through Ephraim; there is comfort (cf. Rev. 7:17; 21:4)

3. vv. 21f – possibilities by LA Mott Jr, *Thinking Through Jeremiah,* 150f; cf. John 1:14 – God became what we are to make us what He is!

D. Judah’s Glorious Future (31:23-26; use of prophetic perfect heavy here)

1. Jeremiah’s sleep was sweet b/c message was hopeful (contrast 20:8)

E. Blessings When Messiah Comes (31:27-34; 2 quotes in Harrison, 140)

1. Aphorism also in Ezek. 18:1f, after messianic passage (17:22-24); Lam. 5:7

2. The NC (cf. Gal. 3:19-29; Heb. 7:18f; 8:7-13; 9:15-17; 10:1-4) is better b/c no one can enter this relationship w/o knowing God (cf. John 6:44; Heb. 11:6; contrast Jer. 9:23f).

F. Spiritual Jerusalem Will Never Fall (31:35-40)

1. cf. v. 37 w/ Rom. 11:1-5

2. Even areas formerly unclean are made clean in the New Jerusalem!

**II. Thought Questions For Chapter 31**

A. Pick out some of the anthropomorphic and/or personification language of this chapter & comment on it.

B. Explain the enigmatic statement in verse 22: *“For the LORD has created a new thing in the earth—A woman will encompass a man.”*

C. Where else do we see the proverb in verse 29? What is the message of it?

D. Where else do we see the new covenant prophesied in the OT? Where do we see this prophecy quoted in the NT?

E. Israel has been overthrown (several more times). Does this mean that God’s promises at the end of chapter 31 are void?

**III. Applications For Chapter 31**

A. Ephraim receives great mercy after repenting from waywardness. In the same way, we can expect great mercy if we repent, even though we are still undeserving (cf. gracious father in Luke 15:22-32).

B. Nobody can rightfully declare that we are guilty of the sins of our forefathers*— “The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge.”*

C. *“The new covenant is not a covenant with a physical nation, but with individuals who submit themselves to God’s law—converted, true believers.”* (Mott, 152) We are privileged people, having the NC offered to us!

**Jeremiah 32 (Lesson 17b)**

**I. Text Of Chapter 32 – Kinsman Redeemer (5.5-6 min. to read)**

A. Historical Context (32:1-5)

1. *“This sketch of the time and circumstances under which Jeremiah was to buy a field show how little hope the present offered as to Judah’s future. Jerusalem was under siege, soon to fall and to go into exile. Jeremiah was confined, not knowing what would become of him.”* (Mott, 153)

2. The siege began in the 9th year of Zedekiah; it’s now the 10th year.

3. Compare the imprisonment to 37:15f, 20f; 38:1-3, 6. For the message of condemnation, compare Ch. 21; 34:1-5; 37:16f; 38:17-23. Cf. JTB.

B. Jeremiah As A Kinsman Redeemer (32:6-15; v. 15 indicates significance of this)

1. Redemptive rights (Lev. 25:13-17, 23f). 17 shekels was not a lot of $.

2. *“Two copies were made—one sealed, one opened (vv 11-12). The open one gave easy access to the deed; the sealed copy assured that if the other were damaged, defaced, or tampered with, a perfect copy would yet remain.”* (Mott 154) Vessels usually sealed with pitch

3. 37:11-14 tells us that when Jeremiah went to survey the property, he was thought to be defecting to Babylon and was arrested.

C. Jeremiah Prays (32:16-25)

1. He will most likely never be able to settle there in Anathoth.

2. *“He tries to quell his rising anxieties by thinking that there is nothing too difficult for the God who created the cosmos to achieve in human life…Jeremiah could scarcely believe that a reliable and consistent deity would instruct him to acquire property when the end of organized life in Judah was at hand. Yet the prophet had been bidden to act as though the land had a glorious and prosperous future, and his faith and obedience under these circumstances are a model of conduct for all true believers (cf. Heb. 11:6).”* (Harrison, 142)

D. YHWH Answers (32:26-44; again, prophetic perfect stands out)

1. Compare the perpetuity here with Is. 55:3; Ezek. 16:60; 37:26.

2. God will pour out blessings upon a disciplined and repentant people (31:28; Dt. 30:9; Is. 62:5).

**II. Thought Questions For Chapter 32**

A. Where was Jeremiah when his cousin approached him about redeeming the land?

B. What OT passages speak of the rights & responsibilities of a kinsman redeemer?

C. Did Jeremiah initially understand God’s reasoning for this action? Did his lack of understanding prevent him from redeeming the property? What was God’s reasoning for this action?

D. Pick out some of the anthropomorphic and/or personification language of this chapter & comment on it.

**III. Applications For Chapter 32**

A. We may not understand the ways of God in our generation. He may be laying the groundwork for blessings to our descendants in what we are facing today. Obedient faith does not mean there will be no questions or puzzlement.

B. When your faith is under fire, express confidence in the power of the Lord and pray to God for more nourishment to your faith.

C. Jesus is the greatest kinsman redeemer (Hebrew: *go’el*). See Eph. 1:7.