

Hope: The Anchor of the Soul

S.R. Jeremiah 29:10 - 13

10 – 11 – 2020

Introduction

- A. What is the anchor of your soul? Is it Hope? In what or whom?
- B. “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” ESV

C. Background of the Time Period: 620 – 520 bc

- 1. Desolation via “sword, famine and plague” to idolatrous Judah. (Ezekiel)
- 2. Captivity for 70 years would purge the idolatry from the heart of a remnant who were God’s people. (Not all Israel were God’s true people of faith. – Good figs vs. bad figs (Jer. 24)
- 3. Prophets of the period: Habakkuk, Daniel, Ezekiel and Jeremiah, Haggai and Zechariah.

I. God’s Plans for His People in Babylonian Captivity - Context (Jeremiah 29:1 – 10) [597 bc]

- A. These words were spoken to the prophet Jeremiah at the time of Judah’s fall to Babylon (609-586 B.C.) Those addressed are clearly stated in verse 4. “This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.”
- B. The books of **Ezra and Nehemiah** record the Jews’ return to their homeland. The reconstruction of the Temple, the restoration of the law, and the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem.

II. God’s Plan and Promise

- A. The promise goes back to God’s call of Abraham. He promised him a land, to create from his descendants a great nation, and to bring a spiritual blessing to the world through his seed (**Gen. 12:1-3**).
 - 1. The **third promise** was fulfilled in the coming of Christ. Paul affirmed it in Galatians 3:16. “Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your Seed,” who is Christ.”
- B. The faithful remnant who returned to Palestine under the leadership of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Zerubbabel ultimately gave birth to the **spiritual Kingdom of Jesus Christ** (Daniel 7:13 – 14; Matt 16:16-19).

C. God Keeps His Promises

- D. The dejected, distraught and desolate people in captivity (cf, Psalm 137) needed to know that God had not forsaken them.

III. Our Hope and Confidence is Christ (Hebrews 6)

- A. Hebrews clearly speaks of our *confidence* in Christ
 - 1. **Hebrews 3:6, 14, 18 – 19**
- B. Our Hope rests in our High Priest and obedience to Him.
 - 1. The reason the generation that came out of Egypt failed to enjoy the future hope God had planned for them was **Disobedience**. Heb. 3:18; 4:6, 11
 - 2. To all who OBEY Him He is the source of “eternal salvation.” (5:9)
- C. Our Hope rests in not giving up on Christ.
 - 1. We can give up on Jesus (Hebrews 6:4 – 6)
 - 2. Hope is realized by the doing of what **accompanies salvation**.
- D. “Realize the full assurance of HOPE.”
 - 1. We who hope – act like people who serve as priests (6:9 – 12)
 - 2. Hope finishes strong – “until the end” (v. 11)
- E. Hope is based upon God’s promise (6:13) and God’s oath (6:16).
 - 1. Background: Genesis 22:16 – 17.
 - 2. We cannot anticipate – (desire and expect) if we do not **TRUST** the one who promised.
 - 3. Like Abraham – those who patiently wait (24 years) – receive God’s promised blessing.
 - 4. God does not lie and we can take refuge and have strong encouragement to take hold of the HOPE set before us – **(6:18)** Christ – through His resurrection is Out in Front.
- F. This hope serves to anchor us to the Christ.
 - 1. Our confidence in Christ is sure and steadfast because of:
 - 2. Who is your Hope? (**Heb. 4:14 – 16**)

IV. Conclusion:

- A. God has a future and a HOPE for all who will trust His Son the King and Priest.
- B. Are you?
 - 1. Holding fast your confession? (4:14) You said He was Lord – is He now?
 - 2. Do you still believe that He is your triumphant sinless High Priest?
 - 3. Are you drawing near with CONFIDENCE to the Throne of Grace?