

THE ABSOLUTE SURETY OF GOD'S PROMISES IN THE COMING DAYS JEREMIAH 33:01–26

Introduction

As we walk through life, we will encounter crisis after crisis. Think of the crises that confront human beings: deformities and diseases, loss of jobs and deaths of loved ones, accidents and mistakes, financial difficulties and bankruptcies, separations and divorces, man-made disasters and natural catastrophes. All kinds of crises confront people before the final crisis of death. But no matter how serious these crises are, people who trust the promises of God have a bright future. For God promises to take care of His people as they walk through the crises of life. He promises to encourage and strengthen all who put their trust in Him.

God's wonderful promises are the subject of the present Scripture. This chapter concludes what is known as "the Book of Consolation," the special messages of comfort and consolation that God instructed Jeremiah to write down as a permanent reminder to His people (chs. 30-33). This is, *The Absolute Surety of God's Promises in the Coming Days*, Jeremiah 33:1-26.

- I. The surety of answered prayer (vv. 1-3).
- II. The surety of judgment (vv. 4-5).
- III. The surety of restoration: being set free from captivity (vv. 6-13).
- IV. The surety of the coming of the Ideal King: a prediction of the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ (vv. 14-26).

I. *Jeremiah 33:01–03 The Surety of Answered Prayer*

One of the great promises of God is that He will answer prayer. Jeremiah desperately needed to hear from the LORD, for he was in prison for preaching the Word of God (32:3-5). At the same time, the citizens of Jerusalem were also suffering. The Babylonian army had already conquered the entire nation except for the capital Jerusalem. After being surrounded by the invaders for eighteen months, the people's food and water supplies were depleted. People were starving and dying of thirst, and the Babylonian army was ready to assault and capture the city. No doubt Jeremiah felt the pain of his people's sufferings as well as the anguish of his own imprisonment during those days of crisis. As would any believer imprisoned for his faith, this faithful prophet sought the LORD in prayer. And God met His dear servant's need. Note that this is the second time God gave His Word to Jeremiah while the prophet was in prison (32:1-2).

God assured Jeremiah that He had the power to answer prayer (v. 2). After all, He is the Creator, the very One who formed the universe and set it in place. His name is the LORD (Yahweh, Jehovah), the only true and living God. The creator of the universe naturally

has the power to answer prayer. He has the power to meet the needs of His people, no matter how desperate or hopeless they may be.

Apparently, Jeremiah's heart was broken over the sufferings of his people. Because of the revelations the LORD had already given him, he knew that the Babylonians would utterly destroy Jerusalem, enslave the people, and deport them to foreign lands. He also knew that God had promised to restore His people some day in the future. But now during the final days before the nation's collapse, the sufferings and hopelessness of the people bore heavily upon his heart. So the LORD encouraged Jeremiah by inviting him to call upon Him. And God assured His prophet that He would answer his prayer by showing him His program for the future. God would reveal His plans for His people. By telling Jeremiah the wonderful things He had in store for His people, God would greatly encourage His dear prophet.

The word *mighty* (*besurot*) in verse 3 of the KJV is sometimes translated "unsearchable" (NIV) or "hidden" (RSV) or "remarkable" (NLT) or "wondrous things" (HCSB). The Hebrew word means "inaccessible" or "impregnable." The picture is of a fortified city that is impenetrable because of its high, thick walls. The idea being conveyed is that God alone knows the future. No human being can see into the impenetrable, inaccessible future. Only God knows the future. And when He wishes, He reveals it to His people. In the present case, the LORD meets the need of His dear servant by revealing the future to him.

Thought 1. God will answer the prayers of His people. Whenever crises confront us, if our hearts truly belong to the LORD and we are walking faithfully before Him, we can pour out our hearts to Him, and He will hear us. No matter what the crisis is, the LORD will meet our needs. He will either remove the crisis or give us the strength to walk through it. Either way, God will always act for our good and make us stronger than ever before. God will work all things out for good to all who truly love Him and are called to live according to His purpose on earth. Listen to God's wonderful promises concerning prayer:

Mat 7:7-8 *"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."*

John 14:13-14 *"And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."*

John 15:7 *"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you."*

John 16:24 *"Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete."*

1 John 3:22 *And receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him.*

Deut 4:29 But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you look for him with all our heart and with all our soul.

Psa 91:15 He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honour him.

Isa 65:24 Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.

II. *Jeremiah 33:04–05 The Surety of Judgment*

Another great promise of God is that He will execute true justice. He will judge the wicked. Jeremiah needed to know that the people's attempts to escape judgment would be useless. In their desperation to save themselves, the citizens of Jerusalem had torn down their houses and even the royal palaces so they could use the materials to fortify the walls of the city. But their attempt to strengthen the defences of the city would be futile. In fact, the partially dismantled houses and palaces would be filled with the bodies of the defenders, who would be slain by the Babylonian army (v. 5a). But note that the Babylonians were only the agents of the LORD. He Himself had appointed them to execute His judgment against the people. The LORD was in complete charge. He could have saved the people if they had truly trusted Him and repented of their sins. But they had refused to repent; consequently, the LORD had been forced to forsake them. He had to turn away from the people and hide His face because of their wickedness (Is.59:2; 64:7). Their sin compelled Him to execute judgment upon them.

Thought 1. God will judge the wicked of the earth. Judgment is certain, for God cannot look upon evil. God is holy, righteous, pure, completely free from the contamination of immoral, unjust, and unloving behaviour. Therefore, any person who commits such behaviour will face the judgment of God. And His coming judgment is sure.

Mat 20:11-16 "When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. 'These men who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.' But he answered one of them, 'I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?'"

Mat 25:31-33, 41 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.... Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"

John 5:28-29 *“Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out — those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.”*

2 Th 1:7-9 *And give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power.*

Heb 9:27 *Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.*

2 Pet 2:9 *If this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.*

Jude 1:14-15 *Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: “See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”*

Eccl 12:14 *For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.*

III. Jeremiah 33:06–13 The Surety of Restoration: Being Set Free from Captivity

A third great promise of God is that of Israel's restoration. The return of Israel from captivity back to the promised land is a surety. A dramatic reversal of the nation's horrible trials will take place. The suffering of the nation will be erased, and the people will be wonderfully blessed. Restoration — not judgment — is the final word of the LORD.

God gave five wonderful promises to Jeremiah and to any of the people who would truly put their trust in the LORD:

- => God promised to help and heal the nation (v. 6a). Although the present wicked generation was suffering His judgment, the day was coming when God would heal the land and any of the people who put their trust in Him.
- => God promised to give the people peace and truth or security (v. 6b). Although the present generation was facing utter devastation due to the lies of false prophets, the day was coming when the nation would be peaceful and secure. Furthermore, the people would live in a society of truth, free from all falsehood and deception.
- => God promised that Judah and Israel, the combined kingdoms, would be set free from captivity. The people would be given their liberty (v. 7a). Although Jerusalem would soon collapse and the people would be exiled to foreign nations, the day would come when they would be set free to return to the promised land.
- => God promised to rebuild all the cities of the restored nation of Israel (v. 7b).

=> God promised to forgive and cleanse the defiled nation from its sin and rebellion against Him (v. 8).

Note what would happen once the city had been restored: Jerusalem would become a strong testimony for the LORD (v. 9). The nations of the earth would be stirred up to worship Him. They would praise and honour Him because of all the wonderful things He had done for the city. And they would actually tremble in awe and fear because of the enormous prosperity and peace the LORD would bring to the city.

Also note two significant changes that would take place in the restoration described in this passage (vv. 10-13). First, the devastated, deserted *cities and streets* would change dramatically (v. 10). After Babylon's utter destruction of Jerusalem and the other cities, the nation would be a desolate waste, and most if not all of the cities would be utterly destroyed. Neither people nor domesticated animals would live in the cities. But the day would come when the normal activity of day-to-day life would resume. The streets of the cities and villages would be filled with the joyful sounds of happy occasions like weddings. The sounds of worship and of praise to God for His goodness and love would be heard (v. 11). The LORD would ensure the security and prosperity of the people so they could live lives filled with joy and gladness.

Second, the devastated, deserted *towns and villages* would also change radically (vv. 12-13). Throughout the nation, people would once again enjoy the privilege and joy of work. Shepherds and their flocks would have plenty of pasture, and the flocks would prosper throughout the promised land. Someday in the future, shepherds would count their sheep in peace and security. The businesses and workforce of the nation would build a strong, bustling economy. All of this would happen because the LORD Himself would restore and rebuild the nation.

It should be noted that these promises and blessings have not been completely fulfilled in the lives of the Jewish people since they returned from exile. Although some of the promises were partially fulfilled when they returned from Babylon, they were not totally fulfilled. A complete fulfilment will take place in the Messiah's kingdom, when Jesus Christ returns to set up God's kingdom on earth (vv. 14-26).

Thought 1. The restoration of Israel is a picture of people being delivered from the captivity of this world. As human beings living on earth, we are held in the bondage of sin, death and condemnation. No human being can keep from sinning or from dying. When people are born into the world, they are destined to commit sin, die and face the condemnation of God. We are enslaved, held in the bondage of sin, death and condemnation. No human being, government, technology or science has the power to break this bondage. Only one Person can set us free and He is the LORD Jesus Christ. He and He alone can set us free and bring peace to our hearts and lives. Once we allow Him to take over our lives, He sets us free from sin, death and condemnation. Because of His death on the cross, He is able to restore our lives. He is able to forgive

our sins and present us perfect before God, acceptable to Him. And once we become acceptable to God, He floods our souls with peace, joy and prosperity. Listen to what God's Word says:

(1) The LORD will bring peace to those who truly trust Him.

John 14:27 *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."*

John 16:33 *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

Luke 1:78-79 *Because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun [Christ] will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.*

Rom 5:1 *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Phil 4:6-7 *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Rom 8:6-7 *The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.*

Rom 14:17 *For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

Gal 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

Psa 4:8 *In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety.*

Psa 29:11 *The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace.*

Isa 26:3 *You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.*

Isa 53:5 *But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.*

(2) The LORD will flood the hearts of true believers with joy.

John 16:24 *"Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete."*

John 17:13 *"I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them."*

Rom 14:17 *For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

1 Pet 1:8-9 *Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy.*

Psa 16:11 *You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.*

Psa 30:5 *For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favour lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.*

Isa 12:3 *With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.*

Isa 35:10 *And the ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.*

Isa 61:10 *I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.*

Jer 15:16 *When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O LORD God Almighty.*

(3) The LORD will give His people security and economic prosperity.

Mat 6:33 *"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."*

Phil 4:19 *And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.*

1 Pet 5:7 *Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*

Rev 22:14 *Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.*

Exo 23:25 *Worship the LORD your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you.*

Deut 5:29 *Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!*

Deut 29:9 *Carefully follow the terms of this covenant, so that you may prosper in everything you do.*

Psa 1:3 *He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.*

Psa 68:19 *Praise be to the LORD, to God our Saviour, who daily bears our burdens.*

Mal 3:10 *“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.”*

IV. *Jeremiah 33:14–26 The Surety of the Coming of the Ideal King: A Prediction of the Messiah, the LORD Jesus Christ*

The final great promise of God is that He will give the world the Ideal King. Note the reference to “the days are coming” and “in those days” (vv. 14-15). This points to the last days of human history. It is a clear prediction of the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will return and set up God's kingdom on earth. God's wonderful promise to give the world an Ideal King is clearly seen in the Scripture and outline:

1. The coming Ideal King will fulfil God's promises to His people (v. 14). In an unmistakable voice, God says that He will fulfil His promise to restore His people to the promised land. Some day in the future, the kingdoms of Israel and Judah will return and be united as one nation. God's wonderful promise to restore a remnant of Israel will be fulfilled.
2. The coming Ideal King will be the righteous Branch from David's line (v. 15; also see 23:5-8). He will be a descendant of David, but a different kind of descendant. In contrast to the frail, weak and sinful rulers who succeeded David, this King will be righteous. He will bring justice and righteousness to the land. The idea is that he will personally execute justice and righteousness and teach others to do what is just and right. In that day, there will be no lawlessness, injustice, violence or immorality in society.
3. The coming Ideal King will save and secure His people (v. 16a). Because justice and righteousness will rule in the land, the people of the nation will be safe from the threat of enemies. People will dwell in safety. They will be perfectly secure and able to go about their daily affairs without fear.
4. The coming Ideal King will give Jerusalem His name, the LORD Our Righteousness (v. 16b). The Messiah will establish the seat of His government in Jerusalem. Therefore, the capital will reflect the very righteousness of God's Messiah and King. Righteousness will flow from the Ideal King throughout the city, and the city will be known as the capital of the LORD Our Righteousness.
5. The coming Ideal King will fulfil God's covenant with David, the promise of an eternal dynasty (v. 17a; 2 Sam 7:11-17; Mat 1:6, 16; Luke 1:22-33; Rev 19:16; 22:16). Although David's descendants have not always sat on the throne of Israel, his dynasty has never ceased to exist. And his dynasty never will, for the LORD Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah, is seated at the right hand of God the Father as the sovereign majesty of the universe. In fulfilment of God's promise to David, the LORD rules over His people, and He will continue to rule throughout human history and all eternity.

In the person of Jesus Christ, David's dynasty is an eternal dynasty (Mat 1:1-16; Luke 1:32-33; Luke 3:23-31).

6. The coming Ideal King will fulfil the covenant God gave the priests in former generations. This covenant was the promise that a priest would stand eternally before God on behalf of the people (v. 18b; Num 25:10-13; Zec 6:12-13; Heb 5:5-10; 6:20; 7:11-28). God's promise of a permanent priesthood is fulfilled in the Messiah, the LORD Jesus Christ. He is the eternal priest God promised to send to the people of former generations, as well as to all succeeding generations. As the Ideal King and Eternal Priest, He represents the human race before God, both Jew and Gentile (Psa 110:4). Only through the ministry of His priesthood and sacrifice can people become acceptable to God.
7. The coming Ideal King and His work are assured by God (vv. 19-26). The covenants with David and the priests will be fulfilled. God Himself strongly guarantees their fulfilment. These two covenants are guaranteed just as much as the covenant of creation and the natural order of day and night (v. 20). If a man can break the fixed law of day and night, then the Messiah (Christ) will not come as the eternal king promised to David (vv. 20-21). Since no man can change the order of day and night, God's people can rest assured that the covenants will be fulfilled. The descendants of David and of the Levites will be as countless as the stars of the sky and the sand on the seashore. This is a clear prediction of the countless believers who will trust the LORD down through the centuries and submit themselves to serve the Ideal King and Messiah. When Christ returns to set up His kingdom on earth and to create a new heavens and earth, all who have truly trusted Him will reign with Him (Luke 22:28-30; Rom 8:16-17; 1 Cor 6:2-3; 2 Tim 2:11-12; Titus 3:5-7; 1 Pet 2:5-9; Rev 1:5-6; 2:27; 3:21; 5:10; 20:4-6; 22:5).

One of the great works of the LORD will be to vindicate His people before all those who mocked and persecuted them because of their faith (vv. 23-26). In our day, just as in Jeremiah's day, some deny that God will restore Israel and that the Ideal King will come. But God assured His prophet that these unbelievers and mockers would be proven wrong. For God has the power to establish the fixed laws of the universe and of the day and night. If these could fail, perhaps His promises might also fail. But the fixed laws will not fail because God has the power to hold the world in place as long as He wills. Therefore, God will use His power to show His mercy and compassion (v. 26). He will never reject the descendants of Jacob and David — those who truly believe Him — and He will never fail to continue the dynasty of David. God will send the promised Ideal King and Messiah to the world, the Righteous Branch who will sprout from David's line. He will restore His people. He will set them free from captivity and return them to the promised land.

Thought 1. Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah, the Righteous Branch who was sent to establish God's justice and righteousness on earth. Jesus Christ is *our righteousness* (Jer 23:6; 1 Cor 1:30; 2 Cor 5:21). When Christ came to earth, He walked perfectly before God the Father. By living a sinless life, He secured Perfect Righteousness, the Ideal Righteousness, for us. When we place our trust in Christ, God credits the righteousness of Christ to our account. God counts us righteous, acceptable to Him. We become acceptable because we stand before God in the righteousness of Christ. As this passage teaches, the very name of the Messiah, the LORD Jesus Christ, is the LORD our Righteousness. The only way we can ever become acceptable to God is through the sacrifice and righteousness of Christ.

Acts 13:39 *Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses.*

1 Cor 6:9-11 *Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

1 Cor 1:30 *It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God — that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.*

2 Cor 5:21 *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Gal 3:23-24 *Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.*

Eph 1:7 *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace. ■*