

**The Great Gift of Restoration:
A Picture of Reconciliation Between God
And His Backsliding People
Jeremiah 31:01–30**

**1. *God's promise to be reconciled
with His backsliding people:
"At that time" — in the last days***

- a. He will shower His grace on all the exiles who return to the promised land: Give them rest — peace and security
- b. He will pour out His unfailing love and kindness on those who return
- c. He will rebuild the nation of Israel:
Both Samaria and Judah
 - 1) Will be a day of joy
 - 2) Will be a day of peace and prosperity: People working and planting, enjoying the fruit of their labour
 - 3) Will be a day of true commitment: The people of the Northern Kingdom (Ephraim) worship in Zion

**2. *God's promise to save
and abundantly provide
for His people***

- a. God will save a remnant of true believers

- 1 "At that time," declares the LORD, "I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they will be my people."
- 2 This is what the LORD says: "The people who survive the sword will find favour in the wilderness; I will come to give rest to Israel."
- 3 The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.
- 4 I will build you up again, and you, Virgin Israel, will be rebuilt. Again you will take up your timbrels and go out to dance with the joyful.
- 5 Again you will plant vineyards on the hills of Samaria; the farmers will plant them and enjoy their fruit.
- 6 There will be a day when watchmen cry out on the hills of Ephraim, 'Come, let us go up to Zion, to the LORD our God.'"
- 7 This is what the LORD says: "Sing with joy for Jacob; shout for the foremost of the nations. Make your praises heard, and say, 'LORD, save your people, the remnant of Israel.'

<p>1) He will gather His people from the ends of the earth</p> <p>2) He will gather a great multitude of people: The blind, the lame and expectant mothers</p> <p>3) He will accept the weeping (repentance) and prayers of His people</p> <p>4) He will guide His people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quench their thirst • Lead them on level paths to keep them from stumbling <p>5) He will watch over His people like a shepherd: Caring, protecting, guiding and providing for them</p> <p>6) He will redeem (ransom) His people from their enemies</p> <p>b. God will abundantly provide for the remnant of believers</p> <p>1) He will supply an abundance of crops and food</p> <p>2) He will erase all sorrow</p> <p>3) He will give cause for celebration, comfort and joy</p> <p>4) He will meet the needs of the priests and the people</p>	<p>8 See, I will bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the ends of the earth. Among them will be the blind and the lame, expectant mothers and women in labour; a great throng will return.</p> <p>9 They will come with weeping; they will pray as I bring them back. I will lead them beside streams of water on a level path where they will not stumble, because I am Israel's father, and Ephraim is my first-born son.</p> <p>10 "Hear the word of the LORD, you nations; proclaim it in distant coast lands: 'He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.'</p> <p>11 For the LORD will deliver Jacob and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they.</p> <p>12 They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion; they will rejoice in the bounty of the LORD — the grain, the new wine and the olive oil, the young of the flocks and herds. They will be like a well-watered garden, and they will sorrow no more.</p> <p>13 Then young women will dance and be glad, young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow.</p> <p>14 I will satisfy the priests with abundance, and my people will be filled with my bounty," declares the LORD.</p>
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- c. God will end
all mourning and grief
- 1) The cause of the mourning:
The death of Israel's children
due to war and captivity
- 2) The instructions of the LORD:
Rachel's weeping should be
restrained
- Because the LORD will return
Rachel's children from exile
 - Because there is hope:
Rachel's children (Israel) will
return to the promised land
 - Because the LORD's discipline
will stir the people to pray
for forgiveness and restoration
 - Because the people
will repent
 - Because the LORD
will remember His people
and yearn for reconciliation:
He will have compassion
on Ephraim
 - Because Israel will heed
the call of God to return

- 15 This is what the LORD says:
"A voice is heard in Ramah,
mourning and great weeping,
Rachel weeping for her children
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more."
- 16 This is what the LORD says:
"Restrain your voice from weeping
and your eyes from tears,
for your work will be rewarded,"
declares the LORD. "They will return
from the land of the enemy.
- 17 So there is hope for your descendants,"
declares the LORD.
"Your children will return to their own land.
- 18 "I have surely heard Ephraim's moaning:
'You disciplined me like an unruly calf,
and I have been disciplined.
Restore me, and I will return,
because you are the LORD my God.
- 19 After I strayed, I repented;
after I came to understand, I beat my breast.
I was ashamed and humiliated
because I bore the disgrace of my youth.'
- 20 Is not Ephraim my dear son,
the child in whom I delight?
Though I often speak against him,
I still remember him.
Therefore my heart yearns for him;
I have great compassion for him,"
declares the LORD.
- 21 "Set up road signs; put up guideposts.
Take note of the highway,
the road that you take. Return,
Virgin Israel, return to your towns.

- Because the LORD will cause something new to happen

- Because people will call upon the LORD to bless the holy city, Jerusalem

- Because the people will live and work together in peace

- Because God will give rest to the weary and sorrowful

d. God will always give the hope of future glory:
Given to Jeremiah in a dream

e. God will restore both Israel and Judah

1) He will increase both people and livestock

2) He will not destroy and defeat them as in the past, but He will watch over them

f. God will stop the people from blaming others for the sour grapes that they have to eat

1) A proverb that will be proven false

2) A person will be held responsible and die for his own sins (sour grapes)

22 How long will you wander, unfaithful Daughter Israel? The LORD will create a new thing on earth — the woman will return to the man.”

23 This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: “When I bring them back from captivity, the people in the land of Judah and in its towns will once again use these words: ‘The LORD bless you, you prosperous city, you sacred mountain.’

24 People will live together in Judah and all its towns — farmers and those who move about with their flocks.

25 I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint.”

26 At this I awoke and looked around. My sleep had been pleasant to me.

27 “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will plant the kingdoms of Israel and Judah with the offspring of people and of animals.

28 Just as I watched over them to uproot and tear down, and to overthrow, destroy and bring disaster, so I will watch over them to build and to plant,” declares the LORD.

29 “In those days people will no longer say, ‘The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge.’

30 Instead, everyone will die for their own sin; whoever eats sour grapes — their own teeth will be set on edge.