

THE GREAT FAITH NEEDED IN THE COMING DAYS JEREMIAH 32:26–44

Introduction

The coming days will be a very trying time in the history of the human race. Although there may be brief periods of peace and prosperity, the prophecies of God's Word issue us a strong warning. There will be wars and rumours of wars, strife and division, lawlessness and violence, injustice and immorality, oppression and atrocities. Tragically, as time marches on, evil will be heaped upon evil until the LORD can bear it no longer. When that day comes, God's hand of judgment will fall upon the earth, and every human being will give an account before Him.

But until that day comes, we all must live in this corrupt and wicked world. As we walk day by day, we must make sure that we are living victoriously by conquering all the temptations and trials of life. To be conquerors — to be victorious — one thing is essential: *great faith*. We must have a strong faith in the LORD. Possessing great faith is the practical subject of the present Scripture. Jeremiah had *great faith* in the LORD, a faith that remained strong even in the worst circumstances.

Both Jeremiah and his fellow citizens desperately needed strong faith to face the troubles of their day. Remember that the Babylonian army had set up a siege around Jerusalem in an attempt to starve the people into submission. After eighteen months, their food and water supplies were depleted, and many of the people had already starved to death or died from thirst. Others had died from a plague. As in any crisis situation that threatens the survival of a community, riots had broken out as people fought to get hold of the last available supplies of food and water or the money to purchase them. A deep spirit of despair and hopelessness gripped the hearts of the people, for they were utterly helpless before the powerful Babylonian army. Ill-equipped and far outnumbered, the people were doomed. If there had ever been a time when they needed great faith to face the coming days, this was it. This is, *The Great Faith Needed in the Coming Days*, Jeremiah 31:31-32:44.

- I. Jeremiah's imprisonment: an example of the unwavering faith needed in dire circumstances (vv. 1-5).
 - II. Jeremiah's seemingly illogical purchase of land: an example of the confident faith needed in God's future promises (vv. 6-15).
 - III. Jeremiah's prayer: an example of the unshakable faith needed in the power of prayer (vv. 16-25).
 - IV. Jeremiah's prayer heard by God: an example of the sure faith needed in God's Word (vv. 26-44).
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***Jeremiah 32: 26-44 God Heard Jeremiah's Prayer:
An Example of the Sure Faith Needed in God's Word***

God immediately answered Jeremiah's prayer. God honoured his strong and sure faith and immediately spoke to reassure him. God hears the prayers of everyone who truly believes Him. Thus the LORD met the need of His dear prophet, and Jeremiah in turn proclaimed God's Word to reassure those who truly trusted the LORD. The Scripture and outline show how God met their needs:

1. God gave strong reassurance to Jeremiah and the people. Despite the crisis and their desperation, the LORD lifted up a bright future before them. He assured them that He is the LORD, the God of all mankind. Nothing is too hard for Him, for He possesses all power over all the peoples of the world (vv. 26-27). No doubt this was a direct reference to the Babylonian army that would soon break through the walls of Jerusalem, destroy the city, and deport the survivors throughout the nations of the empire. Despite the hardship and sufferings that lay ahead for the people, the LORD was still in control. He was far more powerful than the Babylonians.

The suggestion is that God could fulfil His promises anytime He chose. His omnipotent power could do anything. Note the question He asked Jeremiah: "Is anything too hard for Me?" Jeremiah had praised the power of God. And the LORD confirmed Jeremiah's declaration. He is the omnipotent God, the God of all power, the only One to whom His people can turn for help. The LORD had the power to help them if they would just turn to Him in faith. His promises were true, and He would fulfil them if His people trusted Him.

2. God declared that He would demonstrate His power by executing judgment against Judah (vv. 28-35). He had appointed Babylon to be His agent of judgment and was personally handing Jerusalem over to the Babylonians because of the people's sins. Once the Babylonians captured the city, they would burn it to the ground. God gave eight reasons why He was allowing Babylon to destroy the city:
 - => The people were idolaters who worshipped false gods (v. 29). They were so steeped in idolatry that they even worshipped false gods on the roofs of their houses.
 - => The people were stubborn, stiff-necked and continually committed evil. Throughout their history they had done nothing but evil in the sight of the LORD. Their history was not one of righteousness, but of wicked and unjust behaviour (v. 30).
 - => The people continually sinned and aroused God's anger (v. 31). From the founding of Jerusalem to that day, the citizens had done nothing but stir up God's anger by rejecting Him and His commandments.
 - => The people provoked God by all the evil they had committed (v. 32). Everyone was guilty, including the kings and officials, the priests and prophets, the men and everybody else.

- => The people rejected the LORD (v. 33). Instead of turning their faces to Him in worship and prayer, they turned their backs to Him, denied Him and followed false gods.
- => The people refused to listen to God's Word or respond to His discipline (v. 33). Although the LORD had sent prophets to them time and time again to teach them right from wrong, they shut their ears and stubbornly refused to obey God. Even when the LORD disciplined them in order to get their attention, they still refused to listen.
- => The people even defiled the temple itself (v. 34). They set up their detestable idols right in the temple, the house that bears God's very name.
- => The people built false worship centres and altars to make human sacrifices to false gods — a detestable evil in the sight of God! (v. 35).
- 3. God also said that He would demonstrate His power by setting His people free from captivity and returning them to the promised land (v. 36). The present judgment would not be God's final word. Many of the Jewish people would die by the sword, famine and plague, and the city would fall to the king of Babylon. But despite this terrible tragedy, there would be a very bright future for Israel. God had the power to fulfil His promises and to give the true believers among Israel the brightest of futures. God gave Jeremiah seven wonderful promises and told the prophet to write them down for future generations:
 - => The LORD would gather the Israelites from all the nations and bring them back to the promised land (v. 37). He would restore the nation, and the people would live in peace and security.
 - => The LORD would establish a personal relationship with His people and give them unity of heart and behaviour (vv. 38-39). He would place the fear of God in their hearts, a fear that would stir them to live righteously and resist evil.
 - => The LORD would make an everlasting covenant with His people (v. 40). He would always bless them and motivate them up to fear Him so they would never turn away from Him.
 - => The LORD would plant and establish them in the promised land (v. 41). Note that God's heart and soul would work to this end. The driving thrust of His love and purpose is to give the promised land to His people. He longs for His people to inhabit the land He has promised them. Remember that the promised land of Canaan is a symbol of heaven and of the spiritual and physical rest that God's people are to experience throughout all eternity.
 - => The LORD would give them all the *good things* He had promised. This included the property of the promised land and all the blessings of a fruitful life — everything He had promised (v. 42).
 - => The LORD would restore business transactions in the very land Jeremiah had pronounced judgment upon (v. 43). Although the land of Judah would be devastated

and made a desolate waste, God promised that He would someday restore it. Buying and selling, the business transactions of a robust economy, would once again take place in the land.

- => The LORD would give the people peace and security (v. 44). They would conduct normal day-to-day business transactions. Note how various cities and geographical areas are mentioned. This is to show that these transactions would take place throughout the entire country. God would restore the entire nation of Israel.
4. God has the power to guarantee the return and restoration of His people (v. 44c). He emphatically declared that He would bring His people back from captivity and restore their nation. This was His Word, His promise to them. And the LORD always keeps His Word. Not a single word or promise will ever fail to be fulfilled. This was the wonderful assurance that God gave His prophet in the face of the dark, dismal days that lay ahead.

Mat 5:18 *“I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.”*

Luke 21:33 *“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”*

Deut 7:9 *Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.*

1 Kng 8:56 *Praise be to the LORD, who has given rest to his people Israel just as he promised. Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave through his servant Moses.*

Psa 89:1 *“I will sing of the LORD’s great love forever: with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.”*

Psa 111:7 *The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.*

Ezek 12:25 *But I the LORD will speak what I will, and it shall be fulfilled without delay. ■*