

Jeremiah 33:10-18, 20-22

Haftarah reading for **Deuteronomy 28**.

In contrast to the list of curses in **Deuteronomy 28**, the prophet here gives a vision of hope, if there is repentance.

Not part of the reading, but setting the stage for it, is verse 6.

The curses in Deuteronomy 28 promised plagues and diseases will cling to those who disobey God's commands. But here...

Jeremiah 33:6 - "Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth."

"health" - spiritual wholeness

- **Psalm 103:3-4** - "He who forgives all your iniquities, and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit and crowns you with loving devotion and compassion"

Targum: "and I will reveal the gate of repentance unto them, and I will show them, how they shall walk in the way of peace and truth"

It's amazing that even repentance is not within our power to achieve - God has to reveal the gate of repentance to us.

Then...

"Open the door for me, my beloved sister..." (commentary on Shir HaShirim"/**Song of Songs 5:2**) Rabbi Yesa said, 'The Holy One, Blessed be He said to Israel, "My sons, Open the door of Repentance as the 'eye of a needle,' and I will open it for you so that wagons and carriages can pass through." (Shir HaShirim Rabbah 24)

"Rabbi Yochanan said, 'Great is Teshuvah (repentance), for it causes a person's verdict to be torn up.'" (Rosh HaShanah 17b)

Jeremiah 33:10-11 - "Thus saith the LORD; Again there shall be heard in this place, (which ye say shall be desolate without man and without beast, even in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, that are desolate, without man, and without inhabitant, and without beast), The voice of joy, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the voice of them that shall say, Praise the LORD of hosts: for the LORD is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: and of them that shall bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the LORD. For I will cause to return the captivity of the land, as at the first, saith the LORD."

Why is only the "sacrifice of praise" mentioned and no other offering or sacrifice?

The medieval Rabbi David Kimchi explains:

"He does not say a sin offering, or a trespass offering, because at this time there will be no ungodly persons and sinners among them, for they shall all know the Lord. And so our Rabbins of blessed memory say, all offerings shall cease in time to come (the Times of the Messiah) but the sacrifice of praise."

"the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride" -

Christ is the bridegroom, his church is his Bride, as both John the Baptist and Paul interpreted it. John the Baptist saw himself in the position of the "friend of the bridegroom" who listens at the bridal chamber for a cry from the couple that the marriage has been consummated:

- **John 3:29** - "He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled."

Like most spiritual typology, this has been fulfilled in Christ's incarnation and ministry, is being fulfilled now in His relationship with His Bride the church, but will be sealed at the end of time, at the "Marriage Supper of the Lamb."

"for his mercy endureth for ever" -

This phrase from both **Psalms 118** and **Psalms 136**, The Great Hallel, was sung at the dedication of Solomon's Temple, and at the laying of the foundation of the Second Temple by Ezra, and became part of the Passover Haggadah. It verifies that "The Holy One, blessed be He, is enthroned on high in the universe and yet gives food to His children," according to the Talmud.

See **Psalms 118:25-29** - "Save now, I beseech thee, O LORD: O LORD, I beseech thee, send now prosperity. Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the LORD: we have blessed you out of the house of the LORD. God is the LORD, which hath shewed us light: bind the sacrifice with cords, even unto the horns of the altar. Thou art my God, and I will praise thee: thou art my God, I will exalt thee. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever."

- **Luke 13:35** - "Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, Ye shall not see me, until the time come when ye shall say, 'Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.'"

Luke's statement combines the prophecies and curses of Deuteronomy 28 with the vision of restoration and hope in **Jeremiah 33**.

Jeremiah 33:12 - "Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Again in this place, which is desolate without man and without beast, and in all the cities thereof, shall be an habitation of shepherds causing their flocks to lie down."

Seen spiritually, Jeremiah is talking about more than a repopulation of the land of Israel (which did occur). The pastors and flocks pictured are the church and its ministers, under the authority of the Good Shepherd Christ. He causes us to lie down in green pastures, in safety and sufficiency.

Jeremiah 33:13 - "In the cities of the mountains, in the cities of the vale, and in the cities of the south, and in the land of Benjamin, and in the places about Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, shall the flocks pass again under the hands of him that telleth them, saith the LORD."

Rashi - Israel will come and go under the hands of a king who walks at their head.

The Targum and the rabbis say this refers to the Israelites going in and out under the hands of their King Messiah. - Either the "passing under the rod" to determine the first fruit offering, or as a shepherd who keeps close account of his sheep.

- **2 Timothy 2:19** - "The Lord knows them that are his"

Jeremiah 33:14 - "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah."

The rabbis say these verses point to the times of Messiah.

Jeremiah 33:15 - "In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land."

The Targum: "The Messiah of righteousness"
Kimchi - "This is the King Messiah"

See **Isaiah 11:1-2** - "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and might, The spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord"

- **Isaiah 53:2** - "For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, And as a root out of a dry ground: He hath no form nor comeliness; And when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him."

Jeremiah 33:16 - "In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness."

"The LORD our righteousness" - This is the essence of the Gospel. Our own 'righteousness' is not righteous at all, but instead is like something unclean to God. We need to be covered with His righteousness. God covering Adam and Eve with cloaks of

skins prefigures Christ's sacrifice. If we are covered by His blood, God doesn't see us, He sees His Son.

Jeremiah emphasizes this again, when he had already said it previously:

- **Jeremiah 23:5-6** - "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and He will reign wisely as King and administer justice and righteousness in the land. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is His name by which He will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness."

Seems like it must be important!

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

Jeremiah 33:17-18 - "For thus saith the LORD; David shall never want a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel; Neither shall the priests the Levites want a man before me to offer burnt offerings, and to kindle meat offerings, and to do sacrifice continually."

Fulfilled:

- **Luke 1:31** - "And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David"

Similarly, his church is a nation of priests, a royal priesthood, with Christ as their high priest after the order of Melchizadek - who offered Himself as the final sacrifice.

- **Hebrews 7:24** - "But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood."

We now offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Christ - the sacrifice of praise.

The Strength of God's Covenant

Jeremiah 33:20-21 - "Thus saith the LORD; If ye can break my covenant of the day, and my covenant of the night, and that there should not be day and night in their season; Then may also my covenant be broken with David my servant, that he should not have a son to reign upon his throne; and with the Levites the priests, my ministers."

i.e. as long as the earth remained, **Genesis 8:22** (like Noah's covenant)

Jeremiah 33:22 - "As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the seed of David my servant, and the Levites that

minister unto me."

Similar to the promise made to Abraham:

- **Genesis 22:17-18** - "I will surely bless you, and I will multiply your descendants like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will possess the gates of their enemies. 18And through your offspring all nations of the earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice"

And is a counterpoint to the curse threatened in Deuteronomy 28:

- **Deuteronomy 28:62** - "And ye shall be left few in number, whereas ye were as the stars of heaven for multitude; because thou wouldest not obey the voice of the LORD thy God."

Since Pentecost, God has brought multitudes into His church from every nation and tongue, fulfilling this promise.