

**October 26–November 1: Jeremiah 30–33; 36; Lamentations 1; 3**  
**“I Will Turn Their Mourning Into Joy”**

Because Judah refused to heed Jeremiah’s warnings, repent, and follow the Lord, Jerusalem endured an eighteen-month siege during which the people suffered greatly.

**Jeremiah Warns of Babylon’s Conquest**

Jeremiah gave this admonition directly to King Zedekiah, warning him what would happen if he failed to do what God had commanded.

Jer 32:1-4

1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar.

2 For then the king of Babylon’s army besieged Jerusalem: and Jeremiah the prophet was shut up in the court of the prison, which was in the king of Judah’s house.

3 For Zedekiah king of Judah had shut him up, saying, Wherefore dost thou prophesy, and say, Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall take it;

4 And Zedekiah king of Judah shall not escape out of the hand of the Chaldeans, but shall surely be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon, and shall speak with him mouth to mouth, and his eyes shall behold his eyes;

What did Jeremiah make clear would happen to Zedekiah and Jerusalem if they refused to surrender?

**Gathering of Israel**

Jeremiah witnessed firsthand the captivity and scattering of the Jews, but he found comfort in knowing that the Lord would gather Israel in the last days and restore them to the land of their inheritance.

The Lord will raise up prophets and ministers to teach Israel His true ways and guide them back to Him.

Jer 23:1-4

1 Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the Lord.

2 Therefore thus saith the Lord God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the Lord.

3 And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase.

4 And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the Lord.

Who did the Lord hold responsible for scattering His people?

(Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture)

What will the Lord provide for Israel when He gathers them from the nations?

(I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them)

The Lord will deliver Israel from the nations and kingdoms that hold them captive.

Jer 30:3,8-11

3 For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.

8 For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him:

9 But they shall serve the Lord their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them.

10 ¶ Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the Lord; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid.

11 For I am with thee, saith the Lord, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished.

What will the Lord do to the nations that have captured, scattered, and oppressed Israel?

(strangers shall no more serve themselves of him  
though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee)

Lorenzo Snow

“By and by the nations will be broken up on account of their wickedness.... They will contend and quarrel with one another, state after state and nation after nation, until they are broken up, and thousands, tens of thousands and hundreds of thousands will undoubtedly come and seek protection at the hands of the servants of God.” (JD, 14:309)

Jer 30:16-17,20-22

16 Therefore all they that devour thee shall be devoured; and all thine adversaries, every one of them, shall go into captivity; and they that spoil thee shall be a spoil, and all that prey upon thee will I give for a prey.

17 For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the LORD; because they called thee an Outcast, saying, This is Zion, whom no man seeketh after.

20 Their children also shall be as aforetime, and their congregation shall be established before me, and I will punish all that oppress them.

21 And their nobles shall be of themselves, and their governor shall proceed from the midst of them; and I will cause him to draw near, and he shall approach unto me: for who is this that engaged his heart to approach unto me? saith the LORD.

22 And ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

What will the Lord do to the nations that have captured, scattered, and oppressed Israel?

(I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid

Therefore all they that devour thee shall be devoured  
they that spoil thee shall be a spoil  
all that prey upon thee will I give for a prey)

“The Assyrians were destroyed by the Babylonians; the Babylonians by the Medes and Persians; the Egyptians and Persians by the Greeks. All these empires have now vanished, but the Jews still exist as a distinct people. In the latter days Israel will be the Lord’s people, and He will be their God as He desired in the beginning.” (Old Testament Student Manual; 1 Kings-Malachi, pg. 254)

What does the Lord promise to do for Israel after their suffering and captivity?

(I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds  
ye shall be my people, and I will be your God)

He prophesies about the gathering of the Northern Kingdom.

Jer 31:6-10

6 For there shall be a day, that the watchmen upon the mount Ephraim shall cry,  
Arise ye, and let us go up to Zion unto the Lord our God.

7 For thus saith the Lord; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O Lord, save thy people, the remnant of Israel.

8 Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, and with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither.

9 They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

10 ¶ Hear the word of the Lord, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock.

What do these verses teach us about the Lord's role in gathering and caring for Ephraim and the remnant of Israel?

(the watchmen upon the mount Ephraim shall cry, Arise ye, and let us go up to Zion unto the Lord our God  
a great company shall return thither  
wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn)

Bruce R. McConkie

"Hear it again, O ye scattered ones, and let it be written in every heart. Ephraim shall bring salvation to you in the last days. Ephraim shall hear the word from the Lord and proclaim it to you. In his hands shall be the Stick of Joseph, which is the Stick of Ephraim, which is the Book of Mormon which contains the fulness of the everlasting gospel, which is the standard around which all men must either rally or be damned. The call shall come unto you from the mountains of Ephraim. Be wise and give heed.

"For thus saith the Lord; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O Lord, save thy people, the remnant of Israel.' Salvation now goes forth to the scattered remnants in all the nations of their habitation. Publish the word; praise the Lord. Cry Salvation, and Glory, and Honor. The promised day of restoration is here." (The Millennial Messiah: The Second Coming of the Son of Man, pg. 194)

LeGrand Richards

"I will bring them... a great company shall return thither.' This was something the Lord was going to do. Note that Jeremiah does not say that they will return hither, or to the place where this prediction was made, but thither, or to a distant place. He understood that Joseph was to be given a new land in the 'utmost bound of the everlasting hills' (Genesis 49:26)." (Israel! Do You Know?, pg. 177-78)

Jer 31:10-14

10 ¶ Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock.

11 For the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of him that was stronger than he.

12 Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the LORD, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all.

13 Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together: for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from

their sorrow.

14 And I will satiate the soul of the priests with fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, saith the LORD.

What do these verses teach us about the joy and blessings that will come to Israel as the Lord gathers and redeems His people?

(He that scattered Israel will gather him  
they shall come and sing in the height of Zion  
they shall not sorrow any more at all  
I will satiate the soul of the priests with fatness)

LeGrand Richards

“While the members of the Priesthood in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are not paid for their services, and thousands of them have left their families for years at a time to do missionary work in the nations of the earth, paying their own expenses and without remuneration from the Church, yet, in their hearts, they feel they are better paid than any other religious leaders in the world, because of the joy and satisfaction the Lord plants in their hearts, which could not possibly be purchased with money. Thus He has satiated ‘the soul of the priests with fatness,’ and His people are satisfied with His goodness.” (Richards, Israel! Do You Know?, pg. 179–80)

## The New and Everlasting Covenant

During the final gathering, Israel will receive the new and everlasting covenant – not the old and temporary covenant that they had known

Jer 31:31-34

31 ¶ Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord:

33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

What does it mean to have the Lord’s law written in our hearts, and how does this help us truly know Him?

(for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them)

Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers... which my covenant they brake)

Bruce R. McConkie

“When the Lord brought Israel out of Egypt he offered them the fulness of the gospel. Moses held the Melchizedek Priesthood, and his people could have lived the higher gospel law had they chosen to do so. But they broke not only the gospel covenant but also the Mosaic or lesser covenant, at least in large measure.

”But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.’ There will be a day when latter-day Israel will serve the Lord with all their hearts and make themselves worthy of the fulness of his glory. (The Millennial Messiah: The Second Coming of the Son of Man, pg. 681)

Note, “for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them.” What do you think will make that possible?

Joseph Fielding Smith

“The Lord has promised that the time shall come when every man shall be his own teacher, that is, he will know because of righteous living what to do. He will be so filled with the Spirit of the Lord that he will be guided and directed in doing right without the necessity of someone coming into his home to set it in order. Now is a good time for us to begin.” (Doctrines of Salvation, 1:319)

If those saving and exalting priesthood ordinances cease to exist, then Israel also will also cease to exist

Jer 31:35-36

35 ¶ Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name:

36 If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever.

What do these verses teach us about the relationship between the Lord’s ordinances and the continued existence of His covenant people?

Joseph Smith

"The power, glory and blessings of the Priesthood could not continue with those who received ordination only as their righteousness continued; for Cain also being authorized to offer sacrifice, but not offering it in righteousness, was cursed. It signifies, then, that the ordinances must be kept in the very way God has appointed; otherwise their Priesthood will

prove a cursing instead of a blessing." (TPJS, pg. 169)

Jer 32:37-41

37 Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely:

38 And they shall be my people, and I will be their God:

39 And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them:

40 And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.

41 Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul.

What do these verses teach us about the Lord's commitment to gather His people, make them His, and establish an everlasting covenant with them?

(And they shall be my people, and I will be their God  
And I will give them one heart, and one way  
And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them)

Jer 33:6-14

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.

7 And I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return, and will build them, as at the first.

8 And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against me; and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me.

9 ¶ And it shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honour before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them: and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it.

10 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,

11 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.

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.

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.

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.

“In Jeremiah 33:3–14 the Lord again spoke of the restoration of Israel and Judah in the latter days. Notice the language He used to describe the process: ‘I will cure them... I will cleanse them... I will pardon all their iniquities.’

“In the latter days even the desolate land will be restored to its former condition. The cities that were once desolate will again be full of people and their bounteous flocks. In the latter days the Lord will perform all that He has promised to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. (Old Testament Student Manual: Kings - Malachi, pg. 257)