



## The Burning Bush - Online article archive

### Jeremiah 30 - The future fulfilment of its prophetic teachings

By Rev Ivan Foster

I recently was at a meeting in which Dr John Douglas was preaching the first message in a series entitled: "The Land and the Book - God's future dealings with Israel." He introduced his subject by saying that Jeremiah chapters 30-33 are a mini "Apocalypse". The parallel is there for all to see! The opening words of Jeremiah 30:1 remind us very much of Revelation 1:1. Just look at the opening verses of both portions and you will see a link.

"The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD God of Israel, saying, Write thee all the words that I have spoken unto thee in a book," Jeremiah 30:1-2.

"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John," Revelation 1:1.

#### Parallel

There is the stamp of divine inspiration upon both these passages from the very outset. But the parallel does not end there. Jeremiah 30-33 deals especially with the period of the great tribulation through which the remnant of Israel will pass during the time of Antichrist's dominance of Jerusalem and the Holy Land and also God's intervention to the deliverance of His ancient people and the peculiar circumstances in which that intervention will take place. It deals with the period depicted in Revelation 12 which describes events in and around Jerusalem at the end of this age when the devil recognises that his time is running out. "Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time," Revelation 12:12.

You may listen to the whole series of messages on this subject preached by Dr Douglas at **this link**.

#### How do we know?

But how do we know that Jeremiah is speaking of events at the end of this age in which we live? Can it be proved from the passage itself that such an interpretation is legitimate and proper. These are important questions dealing with vital issues.

I am what they term a "Futurist"! That is I believe that the vast majority of the prophetic Scriptures deal with future events, those events just prior to the return of Christ in power and great glory.

Of course, many preachers reject such a view of prophecy. But I sincerely believe that Futurism is Biblical and it alone can be defended to be so.

I wish to show you from the passage we are looking at that a careful study of the inspired Word of God will show just when the events of which Jeremiah speaks will take place. We should take note that we are dealing with words spoken by the Lord. "The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying," verse 1. That these are the words of Jehovah is reiterated seven times in the first nine verses. I enjoyed listening to Dr Douglas underscoring this truth.

From these words so specifically called the recorded utterances of Jehovah, we wish to note that the Lord clearly tells us when these events will happen and that in words and terms which cannot be misunderstood.

#### Careful study

Reverence for God's Word is essential in any study of prophecy. I have often been dismayed by the cavalier attitude that some, who would considered themselves sincere Christians and faithful preachers of God's Word, have toward the prophetic Scriptures. They seem quite content to place upon a passage of God's Word



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an interpretation other than that which a simple and plain understanding of the words suggest. Thus when the Lord speaks using words such as "Jerusalem" or "Zion" or "Israel" there are preachers who would tell us that the Lord does not mean what these words clearly and literally indicate. Instead, they "decode" these words and place upon them meanings which a taking of the words at face value would never suggest to the reader of the Bible. The system of interpretation they thus employ has been called "Spiritualisation" or as I have heard it called, "Vapourising" God's Word!

The promises and predictions of God will be fulfilled literally! Joseph Hart (1712-1768) wrote, "What Christ has said must be fulfilled; on this firm rock, believers build."

### C H Spurgeon

Charles Haddon Spurgeon, preaching on Zechariah 2:1-5 in 1864 said the following regarding understanding God's Word literally: "It is evident that this vision and prophecy graciously reveal the future history of Jerusalem. You may spiritualise, if you will, and say that Jerusalem signifies the Church: but I pray you not to forget the literal meaning of such words as these in the twelfth verse, 'The Lord shall inherit Judah his portion in the holy land, and shall choose Jerusalem again.'

Jerusalem is spoken of, and Jerusalem is meant. A man with a measuring line is about to measure the length and breadth of the city; he appears to be interrupted in his work by another angel, who foretells that so greatly shall Jerusalem extend, that she will be as a town without walls, for the number of men and cattle that shall be therein. This prophecy has not as yet been fulfilled: it may have had some partial fulfilment in those times of peace before the Coming of the Saviour, but even then Jerusalem was surrounded by a triple wall; and though it is true that there was a large suburban population, yet the city was not even then 'as towns without walls,' nor was the glory of God in the midst of her in any eminent degree. I believe this passage refers to a happy and glorious future yet to come, when the city of Jerusalem shall have no walls, except the protection of the Lord, but shall be extended far and wide. The Jewish people and their royal city shall remain the centre of the manifestations of divine glory, just as the city of London still remains the centre of the metropolis; but the nations of the earth shall be joined unto the Lord: so that while Jerusalem remains the city of the Great King, the faithful among the people of all nations shall be, as it were, a suburban population to the chosen city, and the kingdom of Messiah shall extend far and wide. Jerusalem will be rebuilt in more than her former splendour; the Jews will be restored to their own land; and Messiah will reign as a prince of the house of David. We cannot understand many portions of Scripture except upon this belief. If it be so, it appears according to this prophecy that God shall be the protection of this great city, and the glory in the midst of her. All her sons shall be gathered from their distant wandering places; and where they have associated themselves with Antichrist, they shall hear the voice which saith, "Deliver thyself, O Zion, that dwellest with the daughter of Babylon." Christ himself shall fulfil his promise, "Lo, I come;" the nations shall be judged; God shall shake his hand over all lands and give them as a spoil unto his people; Zion shall sing and rejoice; her Lord and King shall dwell in the midst of her; many nations shall join themselves unto Jehovah, and He, from shore to shore shall reign, while all flesh is silent before him, because he is raised up out of his holy habitation.

I am not given to prophesying, and I fear that the fixing of dates and periods has been exceedingly injurious to the whole system of pre-millennial teaching; but I think I clearly see in Scripture that the Lord Jesus Christ will come - so far I go, and take my stand - that he will come personally to reign upon this earth. At his coming it appears clear to me that he will gather together the Jewish people, that Jerusalem shall become the metropolis of the new empire which shall then extend from pole to pole, from the river even to the ends of the earth. If this be a correct interpretation of prophecy, you may read the whole of this chapter through and understand it; you have the key to every sentence: without such a belief; I see not how to interpret the prophet's meaning."

### Sanctified logic

This is the logic of faith and the reasoning of the fear of the Lord. Surely to come to any other conclusion is



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to reject the authenticity and authority of God's Word and place upon it our own notions of what God means!

How does such reasoning differ from the modernist and the liberal? They come to the miracles of Christ and reject the literal account of Holy Scripture and replace it by their notions of what the record of His miraculous actions are meant to teach us! The modernist takes the record of the swallowing of Jonah by a great fish as a symbol rather than a specific fact. How does this differ from those who would spiritualise the literal meaning of God's Word into something that simply is not to be found in the word thus spiritualised.

It is a dangerous and lethal interpretative philosophy to embrace.

Our attitude ought to be that of Peter the fisherman. "And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net," Luke 5:5. He who calls Christ Master will embrace His Word irrespective of how illogical it may appear to his own mind and experience.

### Seven indications

As we consider Jeremiah 30, I wish to point out to you something that Dr John Douglas pointed out in his introduction to a study of this passage. It is important that this be noted. Seven times in the first five verses there is a reference to the fact that what Jeremiah is writing down are the very words of the Lord. Please look at those verses and see the series of expressions that declare this fact.

- "The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD," verse 1.
- "Thus speaketh the LORD God of Israel, saying," verse 2.
- "Write thee all the words that I have spoken unto thee in a book," verse 2.
- "For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD," verse 3.
- "I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the LORD," verse 3.
- "And these are the words that the LORD spake concerning Israel and concerning Judah," verse 4.
- "For thus saith the LORD," verse 5.

Such a repeated assertion of the divine nature of the message Jeremiah is given must be noted and acknowledged by our reverential treatment of what God says here in this chapter. How dare we contradict the Lord or impose our notions upon His Words? Rather, faith would bow before them and simply believe them by taking them at their literal face value.

### Last days

Let us come then to our investigation of just when it is that the things the Lord refers to here will take place. It is interesting to note that the chapter ends with words: "The fierce anger of the LORD shall not return, until he have done it, and until he have performed the intents of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it," verse 24. The word "consider" means to "perceive" or "understand". It is in "the latter days" that understanding of what the Lord says will be known by all, even the unbelieving Jews. The phrases, "latter days", "latter times", "last days" cover that period which will end at the coming of the Lord. It is the times of the Gentiles. It is the period that we presently live in. Consider what Paul says in Hebrews 1: 1-2. "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds." We are obviously in the last days. At the end of this dispensation will take place that of which Jeremiah here writes.

Indisputable proof of that may be seen in this chapter 30 of Jeremiah.



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### **Firstly, reference is made to Israel again possessing the land.**

"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," Jeremiah 30:3. "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: but they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them," Jeremiah 30:8-9.

Never since the days of destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonian army has Israel enjoyed the freedom and independence spoken of here in these verses. The word "possess" means to "inherit" to "take possession of". Right up until the present time Israel does not "possess" the land given them of God. The sovereignty exercised by modern Israel is exceedingly limited. The government of Israel must take heed to international opinion. The United States particularly, upon whom Israel depends for armaments and financial aid, exercises considerable control over Israel's affairs.

These promises of possession have yet to be fulfilled. Their fulfilment lies in the future. The return may have begun but the "possession" has yet to take place.

### **Secondly, reference is made to a united Israel and Judah.**

"And these are the words that the LORD spake concerning Israel and concerning Judah," Jeremiah 30:4. The division of the nation has continued since the days of Solomon's son, Rehoboam. The division and disarray of the nation of Israel has increased from that day until they are today totally unaware of their tribal structures and identity, something so important in the earlier times of the nation. But there is coming a time, according to these words in verse 4 that the Lord will bring order to the nation and their tribal identities will be known amongst them once more. Again, this testifies of a future event. "Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God. Then shall the children of Judah and the children of Israel be gathered together, and appoint themselves one head, and they shall come up out of the land: for great shall be the day of Jezreel," Hosea 1:10-11. That has never taken place since the days of Hosea. It lies in the future.

### **Thirdly, reference is made to unparalleled trouble.**

"For thus saith the LORD; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it," Jeremiah 30:5-7. The things that the Lord is going to do for the united nation of Israel will take place AFTER a time of unparalleled trouble and distress for the people. It is the time of "Jacob's trouble." Hear what the Lord said of this time through His servant Ezekiel. "Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Also, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD unto the land of Israel; An end, the end is come upon the four corners of the land. Now is the end come upon thee, and I will send mine anger upon thee, and will judge thee according to thy ways, and will recompense upon thee all thine abominations. And mine eye shall not spare thee, neither will I have pity: but I will recompense thy ways upon thee, and thine abominations shall be in the midst of thee: and ye shall know that I am the LORD. Thus saith the Lord GOD; An evil, an only evil, behold, is come. An end is come, the end is come: it watcheth for thee; behold, it is come. The morning is come unto thee, O thou that dwellest in the land: the time is come, the day of trouble is near, and not the sounding again of the mountains. Now will I shortly pour out my fury upon thee, and accomplish mine anger upon thee: and I will judge thee according to thy ways, and will recompense thee for all thine abominations. And mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: I will recompense thee according to thy ways and thine abominations that are in the midst of thee; and ye shall know that I am the LORD that smiteth," Ezekiel 7:1-9.

The prophet Zechariah also spoke of this time of tribulation. "And it shall come to pass, that in all the land,



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saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God," Zechariah 13:8-9.

This is the time spoken of by the Lord Jesus while He answered the questions of His disciples on the Mount of Olives. "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: for then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened," Matthew 24:15-22.

There have been many days in which the poor people of Israel have suffered because of their stubborn sinfulness and rebellion against the Lord. Within living memory, 6 million of them perished most cruelly at the hands of the Nazis.

But there is worse to come!

There is a day, unlike any other that has gone before, approaching for disobedient and defiant Israel. All who Love the Lord will grieve for His people and the judgment and chastising that they bring upon themselves.

### **Fourthly, reference is made to a glorious deliverance after the time of trouble**

"Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it. 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: but they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them. 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," Jeremiah 30:7-10.

Here again is proof of the futurity of these promises. This time of trouble is not in the past because the deliverances that God has promised will follow when He ends it have not taken place. Hitler's regime is past and gone and the yoke he imposed upon the Jewish people has been broken but the deliverances promised here by the Lord have not taken place, therefore the 'Holocaust' of the 30s and 40s was not the trouble spoken of in this passage. That lies in the future.

What are the blessings which the Lord says will come upon Israel in the day of their deliverance at the Lord's hand?

- Israel will be completely delivered from all bondage and slavery. "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." There are many places, even in Europe, where anti-Semitism is still rife and the Jewish people face persecution (read examples of it **here**). But when this promise is fulfilled that will all end and that completely.
- Israel shall live in their own land in peace and quiet. "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." When Israel became a sovereign nation in 1948 it did not herald peace and quietness for them. No, it ushered in a time of almost uninterrupted war until the present day. That day spoken of has not yet dawned.



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It is plainly in the future.

- Furthermore, Israel will undergo a spiritual change. “. . . they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them.” The “David” here spoken of in verse 9 is great David’s Greater Son - the Lord Jesus Christ. Jeremiah speaks of this raising up of Christ, the son of David in chapter 23, verse 5. “Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.” Paul the apostle, when preaching in the synagogue in Antioch in Pisidia said: “And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will. Of this man’s seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus,” Acts 13:22-23. The David-like King that will be raised up in the latter days to rule Israel is the Lord Jesus Christ. That lies in the future.

Central to the changes the Lord will bring in in the future in fulfilment of these promises is the spiritual conversion of the remnant of Israel which will have been brought through the ‘Great Tribulation.’

“But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them. 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. 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. For thus saith the LORD, Thy bruise is incurable, and thy wound is grievous. There is none to plead thy cause, that thou mayest be bound up: thou hast no healing medicines. All thy lovers have forgotten thee; they seek thee not; for I have wounded thee with the wound of an enemy, with the chastisement of a cruel one, for the multitude of thine iniquity; because thy sins were increased. Why criest thou for thine affliction? thy sorrow is incurable for the multitude of thine iniquity: because thy sins were increased, I have done these things unto thee. 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. 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. Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will bring again the captivity of Jacob’s tents, and have mercy on his dwellingplaces; and the city shall be builded upon her own heap, and the palace shall remain after the manner thereof. And out of them shall proceed thanksgiving and the voice of them that make merry: and I will multiply them, and they shall not be few; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small. Their children also shall be as aforetime, and their congregation shall be established before me, and I will punish all that oppress them. 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. And ye shall be my people, and I will be your God,” Jeremiah 30:9-22.

Paul, in Hebrews 8:8-12, quotes from Jeremiah 31 where reference is made to the new covenant which the Lord will make with Israel. “Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.” Here is the character of the change Israel will undergo. It is an old-fashioned conversion and it is to take place in days yet to come!

### Chastisement



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The Lord will correct His people Israel and cure them of the wounds that all those lovers they resorted to over the centuries could not cure. He will "devour" all who ever "devoured" Israel or spoiled her, verse 16. How specific the Lord is in His promise of blessing!

"For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the LORD." "Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will bring again the captivity of Jacob's tents, and have mercy on his dwellingplaces." Mercy can only mean one thing - SALVATION and DELIVERANCE from sin. "And out of them shall proceed thanksgiving and the voice of them that make merry." This is the return of the Prodigal indeed! This is a making merry unmatched and unequalled. "And ye shall be my people, and I will be your God." This is the glorious restoration, that of which Paul wrote in Romans 11:23. "And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again."

Paul also said: "For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?" Romans 11:15. The recovery and regeneration of Israel will usher in the glorious time known as the Millennial Reign of Christ when "the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea," Habakkuk 2:14.

What a glorious time lies in the future for Israel, for the earth and for the believer in Christ. And yet even then, it will be said that "the end is not yet but the greatest has yet to be!" Beyond the thousand years of blessedness that will be ushered in during Christ's reign on earth will stretch the even more glorious eternal time when the Lord will ". . . create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind," Isaiah 65:17. "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death," Revelation 21:1-8.

### **Merciful warning**

Yet even in these words that sets forth the glory that eternally awaits the child of God there is a warning to the Christ-rejecting sinner. "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

Is it the bright glory of God's heaven that lies before you or is it the burning brimstone of God's eternal damnation?

Flee to Christ for refuge today and seek the shelter of His precious blood whereby your sins will be covered and forgiven.