

When Life is Upside Down

Jeff Rogers / Empty Nesters Bible Study
Jeremiah 32

- God is immutable; He never changes. (Num 23:19; James 1:17)
 - **Numbers 23:19a**, *God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. . .*
 - **Malachi 3:6a**, *“For I the Lord do not change; . . .*
 - **Hebrews 13:8**, *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*
 - **James 1:17**, *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*
- *“A god who is all love, all grace, all mercy, no sovereignty, no justice, no holiness, and no wrath is an idol.”* — R.C. Sproul

I. The Sold-Out Prophet (Jeremiah 32:1-5)

- A. In the midst of impending destruction, God still speaks (Jeremiah 32:1)
 - 1. The Babylonian King was set on the annihilation of Jerusalem (32:2a)
 - a) The three attacks (606, 597, 586 BC). This is the final siege.
 - b) Jeremiah was being held in the court of the prison (Jeremiah 32:2b)
 - 2. The message to Zedekiah from the Lord (Yahweh) (Jeremiah 32:3-5).
 - a) We cannot speak the truth of the Bible and expect no response from the world
 - b) We cannot speak truth and claim neutrality (Two Kingdoms, only)

II. The Land Purchase (Jeremiah 32:6-15)

- A. The prophetic confirmation of the puzzling command (Jeremiah 32:6-8)
 - 1. Redemption is always messy
 - 2. Redemption is beautiful (Lev 25:25-34; picture Ruth 4:1-12)
- B. The public declaration (32:9-15)
 - 1. Jeremiah executes the transaction (9)
 - 2. Jeremiah files with the title company
 - a) God uses the most puzzling and troubling events in our life as a testimony of His grace.
 - b) God uses the “less than honest” in our lives at times for His glory.
 - c) God uses public displays of His grace

III. The Prophet’s Prayer (Jeremiah 32:16-25)

- A. The Puzzled Sigh “*Ah Lord God!*” When we don’t know how to pray...
 - 1. **Jeremiah 1:6**, *Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth.”*
 - 2. **Jeremiah 4:10**, *Then I said, “Ah, Lord God, surely you have utterly deceived this people and Jerusalem, saying, ‘It shall be well with you,’ whereas the sword has reached their very life.”*
 - 3. **Jeremiah 14:13**, *Then I said: “Ah, Lord God, behold, the prophets say to them, ‘You shall not see the sword, nor shall you have famine, but I will give you assured peace in this place.’ ”*
 - 4. **Romans 8:26–27**, *Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*
- B. The Mighty Acts
 - 1. God’s creative power (Jeremiah 32:17b) “*nothing too hard*”
 - 2. God’s redemptive love (Jeremiah 32:18-23a)
- C. The Glorious Attributes
 - 1. His omnipotence (Jeremiah 32:17)
 - 2. His covenantal love (Jeremiah 32:18)
 - 3. His divine justice (Jeremiah 32:18b, 19b, 23)
- D. The Clear Confusion (Jeremiah 32:24-25)

IV. The Lord's Question

- A. The common pattern – God answers our question with a question of His own
1. Jeremiah's question
 - a) **Jeremiah 12:1**, *Righteous are you, O Lord, when I complain to you; yet I would plead my case before you. Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why do all who are treacherous thrive?*
 - b) **Jeremiah 12:5 (ESV) — 5** “If you have raced with men on foot, and they have wearied you, how will you compete with horses? And if in a safe land you are so trusting, what will you do in the thicket of the Jordan?”
 2. Job's Question
 - a) **Job 38:2**, *“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?”*
 - b) **Job 42:3**, *“Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?” Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.*
 3. Paul's Question
 - a) **Romans 9:19**, *You will say to me then, “Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?”*
 - b) **Romans 9:20–24**, *But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?” 21 Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? 22 What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, 23 in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory— 24 even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?*
 4. Sarah's Question
 - a) **Genesis 18:10–11**, *The Lord said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. 11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah.*
 - b) **Genesis 18:13–14**, *The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ 14 Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.”*
 5. **Matthew 19:26**, *But Jesus looked at them and said, “**With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.**”*

V. The Promised Deliverance

- A. **Jeremiah 32:42–44**, *“For thus says the Lord: Just as I have brought all this great disaster upon this people, so I will bring upon them all the good that I promise them. 43 Fields shall be bought in this land of which you are saying, ‘It is a desolation, without man or beast; it is given into the hand of the Chaldeans.’ 44 Fields shall be bought for money, and deeds shall be signed and sealed and witnessed, in the land of Benjamin, in the places about Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, in the cities of the hill country, in the cities of the Shephelah, and in the cities of the Negeb; for I will restore their fortunes, declares the Lord.”*
- B. **Jeremiah 33:3**, *Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.*
1. God shows us His tender mercy.
 2. God shows us His amazing grace
 3. God shows us His perfect plan
 4. God shows us His loving redemption
 5. God shows us His personal love
 - a) We see God's work in the Bible and in others and acknowledge all these things; but, if you are His child, redeemed and born into His family, these things are yours!

- The Word of the Lord in the Old Testament was/is perhaps more than we could ever imagine. The Word of the Lord was meant to be seen with the eyes and heard with the ears, and there are several examples of this in Scripture:
 - Abraham and the word of the Lord (Gen 15:1,17)
 - Samuel and the word of the Lord (1 Samuel 3:1, 4, 21)
 - Jeremiah and the word of the Lord (Jeremiah 1:4-5, 9)
 - **John 1:1–2, 14**, *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

C.

D. What verdict would God give on your life?

1. Do we forget God in our daily life?
2. Do we establish our own righteousness rather than pursuing Christ's righteousness?
3. Do we rebel against the Lordship of Christ when given clear instructions & commands?
4. Do we add any other "gods" in our life (money, positions, fame, stuff)?
5. Do you love God like a newly married bride?