

4/27/25

Sermon Title: God's Judgment and an Unbelievable Promise

Preacher: Pastor Kim Soonbae

Scripture Passage: Jeremiah 32:1-44

*(Jeremiah 32:1) This is 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.*

*(Jeremiah 32:2) The army of the king of Babylon was then besieging Jerusalem, and Jeremiah the prophet was confined in the courtyard of the guard in the royal palace of Judah.*

*(Jeremiah 32:3) Now Zedekiah king of Judah had imprisoned him there, saying, "Why do you prophesy as you do? You say, 'This is what the LORD says: I am about to give this city into the hands of the king of Babylon, and he will capture it.*

*(Jeremiah 32:4) Zedekiah king of Judah will not escape the Babylonians but will certainly be given into the hands of the king of Babylon, and will speak with him face to face and see him with his own eyes.*

*(Jeremiah 32:5) He will take Zedekiah to Babylon, where he will remain until I deal with him, declares the LORD. If you fight against the Babylonians, you will not succeed."*

*(Jeremiah 32:6) Jeremiah said, "The word of the LORD came to me:*

*(Jeremiah 32:7) Hanamel son of Shallum your uncle is going to come to you and say, 'Buy my field at Anathoth, because as nearest relative it is your right and duty to buy it.'*

*(Jeremiah 32:8) "Then, just as the LORD had said, my cousin Hanamel came to me in the courtyard of the guard and said, 'Buy my field at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. Since it is your right to redeem it and possess it, buy it for yourself.' "I knew that this was the word of the LORD;*

*(Jeremiah 32:9) so I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out for him seventeen shekels of silver.*

*(Jeremiah 32:10) I signed and sealed the deed, had it witnessed, and weighed out the silver on the scales.*

*(Jeremiah 32:11) I took the deed of purchase—the sealed copy containing the terms and conditions, as well as the unsealed copy—*

*(Jeremiah 32:12) and I gave this deed to Baruch son of Neriah, the son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel and of the witnesses who had signed the deed and of all the Jews sitting in the courtyard of the guard.*

*(Jeremiah 32:13) “In their presence I gave Baruch these instructions:*

*(Jeremiah 32:14) ‘This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Take these documents, both the sealed and unsealed copies of the deed of purchase, and put them in a clay jar so they will last a long time.*

*(Jeremiah 32:15) For this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Houses, fields and vineyards will again be bought in this land.’*

*(Jeremiah 32:16) “After I had given the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah, I prayed to the LORD:*

*(Jeremiah 32:17) “Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.*

*(Jeremiah 32:18) You show love to thousands but bring the punishment for the parents’ sins into the laps of their children after them. Great and mighty God, whose name is the LORD Almighty,*

*(Jeremiah 32:19) great are your purposes and mighty are your deeds. Your eyes are open to the ways of all mankind; you reward each person according to their conduct and as their deeds deserve.*

*(Jeremiah 32:20) You performed signs and wonders in Egypt and have continued them to this day, in Israel and among all mankind, and have gained the renown that is still yours*

*(Jeremiah 32:21) You brought your people Israel out of Egypt with signs and wonders, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with great terror.*

*(Jeremiah 32:22) You gave them this land you had sworn to give their ancestors, a land flowing with milk and honey.*

*(Jeremiah 32:23) They came in and took possession of it, but they did not obey you or follow your law; they did not do what you commanded them to do. So you brought all this disaster on them.*

*(Jeremiah 32:24) “See how the siege ramps are built up to take the city. Because of the sword, famine and plague, the city will be given into the hands of the Babylonians who are attacking it. What you said has happened, as you now see.*

*(Jeremiah 32:25) And though the city will be given into the hands of the Babylonians, you, Sovereign LORD, say to me, ‘Buy the field with silver and have the transaction witnessed.’”*

*(Jeremiah 32:26) Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:*

*(Jeremiah 32:27) “I am the LORD, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?*

*(Jeremiah 32:28) Therefore this is what the LORD says: I am about to give this city into the hands of the Babylonians and to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, who will capture it.*

*(Jeremiah 32:29) The Babylonians who are attacking this city will come in and set it on fire; they will burn it down, along with the houses where the people aroused my anger by burning incense on the roofs to Baal and by pouring out drink offerings to other gods.*

*(Jeremiah 32:30) “The people of Israel and Judah have done nothing but evil in my sight from their youth; indeed, the people of Israel have done nothing but arouse my anger with what their hands have made, declares the LORD.*

*(Jeremiah 32:31) From the day it was built until now, this city has so aroused my anger and wrath that I must remove it from my sight.*

*(Jeremiah 32:32) The people of Israel and Judah have provoked me by all the evil they have done—they, their kings and officials, their priests and prophets, the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem.*

*(Jeremiah 32:33) They turned their backs to me and not their faces; though I taught them again and again, they would not listen or respond to discipline.*

*(Jeremiah 32:34) They set up their vile images in the house that bears my Name and defiled it.*

*(Jeremiah 32:35) They built high places for Baal in the Valley of Ben Hinnom to sacrifice their sons and daughters to Molek, though I never commanded—nor did it enter my mind—that they should do such a detestable thing and so make Judah sin.*

*(Jeremiah 32:36) “You are saying about this city, ‘By the sword, famine and plague it will be given into the hands of the king of Babylon’; but this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says:*

*(Jeremiah 32:37) I will surely gather them from all the lands where I banish them in my furious anger and great wrath; I will bring them back to this place and let them live in safety.*

*(Jeremiah 32:38) They will be my people, and I will be their God.*

*(Jeremiah 32:39) I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me and that all will then go well for them and for their children after them.*

*(Jeremiah 32:40) I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them to fear me, so that they will never turn away from me.*

*(Jeremiah 32:41) I will rejoice in doing them good and will assuredly plant them in this land with all my heart and soul.*

*(Jeremiah 32:42) “This is what the LORD says: As I have brought all this great calamity on this people, so I will give them all the prosperity I have promised them.*

*(Jeremiah 32:43) Once more fields will be bought in this land of which you say, ‘It is a desolate waste, without people or animals, for it has been given into the hands of the Babylonians.’*

*(Jeremiah 32:44) Fields will be bought for silver, and deeds will be signed, sealed and witnessed in the territory of Benjamin, in the villages around Jerusalem, in the towns of Judah and in the towns of the hill country, of the*

*western foothills and of the Negev, because I will restore their fortunes, declares the LORD.”*

In the tenth year of Judah’s King Zedekiah, which was the eighteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, while the Babylonian army was besieging Jerusalem and the prophet Jeremiah was confined in the courtyard of the guard in the palace of the king of Judah, the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah.

Since Jerusalem fell to Babylon on the ninth day of the fourth month in the eleventh year of Zedekiah, this event occurred only a few months before the city’s fall.

The reason both Judah’s and Babylon’s reigns are mentioned together is to show that the history of Judah had become intertwined with that of Babylon.

*(Jeremiah 32:1) This is 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.*

*(Jeremiah 32:2) The army of the king of Babylon was then besieging Jerusalem, and Jeremiah the prophet was confined in the courtyard of the guard in the royal palace of Judah.*

The prophet Jeremiah was confined in the courtyard of the guard in the royal palace because he had faithfully delivered the word of the Lord to King Zedekiah. Jeremiah prophesied that the city of Jerusalem would fall to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, that Judah would be destroyed, and that King Zedekiah would be taken captive and carried off to Babylon.

*(Jeremiah 32:3) Now Zedekiah king of Judah had imprisoned him there, saying, “Why do you prophesy as you do? You say, ‘This is what the LORD says: I am about to give this city into the hands of the king of Babylon, and he will capture it.*

*(Jeremiah 32:4) Zedekiah king of Judah will not escape the Babylonians but will certainly be given into the hands of the king of Babylon, and will speak with him face to face and see him with his own eyes.*

*(Jeremiah 32:5) He will take Zedekiah to Babylon, where he will remain until I deal with him, declares the LORD. If you fight against the Babylonians, you will not succeed.”*

The fall of Jerusalem and the exile of Zedekiah were determined by the Lord God. Therefore, no matter how hard the people of Judah fought against it, they would not be able to prevail.

God then instructed Jeremiah, who was confined in the courtyard of the guard in the royal palace, to buy a field from his uncle.

It was truly a puzzling command.

God had already told Jeremiah that Judah would be destroyed as a result of His judgment—so why buy a field?

Yet Jeremiah obeyed the word of the Lord.

*(Jeremiah 32:6) Jeremiah said, “The word of the LORD came to me:*

*(Jeremiah 32:7) Hanamel son of Shallum your uncle is going to come to you and say, ‘Buy my field at Anathoth, because as nearest relative it is your right and duty to buy it.’*

*(Jeremiah 32:8) “Then, just as the LORD had said, my cousin Hanamel came to me in the courtyard of the guard and said, ‘Buy my field at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. Since it is your right to redeem it and possess it, buy it for yourself.’ “I knew that this was the word of the LORD;*

*(Jeremiah 32:9) so I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out for him seventeen shekels of silver.*

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When Hanamel, the son of Jeremiah's uncle, came to him and asked him to buy his field, just as the word of the Lord had said, Jeremiah recognized it as God's command.

In obedience, he purchased the field and followed the legal and customary procedures.

He wrote the deed, sealed it, appointed witnesses, and paid seventeen shekels of silver, then sealed the document.

When Hanamel found himself in financial difficulty, he came to his cousin Jeremiah and asked him to exercise the right of redemption (goel).

Jeremiah, as a kinsman-redeemer, purchased Hanamel's field in Anathoth.

The goel (kinsman-redeemer) system was a unique institution found in ancient Near Eastern Hebrew society.

It allowed a relative to redeem a family member's debt, property, or name—by paying off their debt, buying back land, or engaging in levirate marriage—to protect the life, property, and lineage within the same bloodline and community. However, this system was more than a social custom or legal tradition—it carried a redemptive-historical significance.

After the legal process of the purchase was completed, Jeremiah handed the deed of purchase to Baruch the scribe and instructed him to place it in a clay jar so that it could be preserved for a long time.

*(Jeremiah 32:12) and I gave this deed to Baruch son of Neriah, the son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel and of the witnesses who had signed the deed and of all the Jews sitting in the courtyard of the guard.*

*(Jeremiah 32:13) "In their presence I gave Baruch these instructions:*

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God explained the meaning behind the purchase of the field:

It was a sign of the restoration of Judah.

*(Jeremiah 32:15) For this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Houses, fields and vineyards will again be bought in this land.'*

He indicated that, in due time, normal economic activity would once again take place in this land.

Although God gave a word hinting at the restoration of Israel, Jeremiah's heart was troubled.

With Judah on the verge of collapse due to the Babylonian invasion, God had told him to buy a field...

Though he obeyed and purchased the field according to the word, he was bewildered.

More than that, his heart was filled with sorrow, complaint, and lament.

Jeremiah poured out his honest feelings before God in prayer.

In the midst of destruction, Jeremiah does not demand a radical reversal; instead, he engages in deep reflection on God and asks realistic, grounded questions.

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*(Jeremiah 32:25) And though the city will be given into the hands of the Babylonians, you, Sovereign LORD, say to me, 'Buy the field with silver and have the transaction witnessed.'"*

He is the God who, with unchanging love, cares for His people but never overlooks sin.



Jeremiah, knowing this nature of God well, believes in God's promises of restoration and mercy even within the judgment, and he prays on behalf of the people.

Jeremiah hoped that every promise of God would be fulfilled just as spoken, by the supernatural power of the Almighty God.

After hearing Jeremiah's prayer, God responds.

God explains that the cause of Jerusalem's fall lies in their idolatry.

He says that both the children of Israel and Judah have provoked, enraged, and grieved Him through idol worship from early on.

Then He asks rhetorically, "Is anything too hard for Me?"

He makes it clear that Judah's fall to Babylon is not due to a lack of His power, but because of the people's sins that led Him to hand them over.

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*(Jeremiah 32:27) "I am the LORD, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?"*

*(Jeremiah 32:28) Therefore this is what the LORD says: I am about to give this city into the hands of the Babylonians and to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, who will capture it.*

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*(Jeremiah 32:30) "The people of Israel and Judah have done nothing but evil in my sight from their youth; indeed, the people of Israel have done nothing but arouse my anger with what their hands have made, declares the LORD.*

After explaining the reason why He must hand over the city of Jerusalem to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, God then promises restoration.

First, He promises the return of the exiles and their safety.

*(Jeremiah 32:36) “You are saying about this city, ‘By the sword, famine and plague it will be given into the hands of the king of Babylon’; but this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says:*

*(Jeremiah 32:37) I will surely gather them from all the lands where I banish them in my furious anger and great wrath; I will bring them back to this place and let them live in safety.*

Second, He promises an everlasting covenant and blessings.

*(Jeremiah 32:38) They will be my people, and I will be their God.*

*(Jeremiah 32:39) I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me and that all will then go well for them and for their children after them.*

*(Jeremiah 32:40) I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them to fear me, so that they will never turn away from me.*

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*(Jeremiah 32:42) “This is what the LORD says: As I have brought all this great calamity on this people, so I will give them all the prosperity I have promised them.*

God provides everything Israel needs to live within the covenant.

In doing so, He blesses them with joy and plants them in Canaan with all His heart and soul.

He sets an example, showing Israel how to serve Him with all their heart and soul. Just as the Lord their God has not turned His back on them, Israel must not turn away from the Lord.

And just as the Lord watches over Israel with all His heart and soul, they must fear the Lord their God with all their heart and soul.

Third, He promises the restoration of Judah.

*(Jeremiah 32:43) Once more fields will be bought in this land of which you say, 'It is a desolate waste, without people or animals, for it has been given into the hands of the Babylonians.'*

*(Jeremiah 32:44) Fields will be bought for silver, and deeds will be signed, sealed and witnessed in the territory of Benjamin, in the villages around Jerusalem, in the towns of Judah and in the towns of the hill country, of the western foothills and of the Negev, because I will restore their fortunes, declares the LORD."*

He says that fields will once again be bought and sold in the ruined land of Jerusalem and Judah.

Israel will become God's people, and God will be their God.

If judgment came through His departure, restoration will come through His presence.

Beloved members of Church of God's Dream,

Even though Jeremiah knew that Jerusalem would soon fall and Judah would be destroyed, he obeyed God's word and bought the field.

Of course, he was not without inner conflict.

Yet, as a true prophet, he trusted in God and believed in His promises.

He obeyed the command that didn't make sense to him.

We, too, must obey God's word in all circumstances—even when His commands seem unreasonable or contrary to our thoughts or common sense.

That is because God's thoughts are not our thoughts, and His ways are not our ways.

As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are God's thoughts higher than ours.

God has promised to give the land of promise to those who obey and follow His law.

Even if His promises may seem absurd from a human point of view, trust in the Almighty God for whom nothing is impossible, hold fast to His promises, and obey.

Only those who endure with patience to the end will enjoy the fulfillment of God's promises.