

3/23/25

Sermon Title: God's Promise to Heal Israel's Wounds

Preacher: Pastor Kim Soon-bae

Scripture: Jeremiah 30:12-24

*(Jeremiah 30:12) This is what the Lord says: "Your wound is incurable, your injury beyond healing.*

*(Jeremiah 30:13) There is no one to plead your cause, no remedy for your sore, no healing for you.*

*(Jeremiah 30:14) All your lovers have forgotten you; they care nothing for you. I have struck you as an enemy would and punished you as would the cruel, because your guilt is great and your sins many.*

*(Jeremiah 30:15) Why do you cry out over your wound, your pain that has no cure? Because of your great guilt and many sins, I have done these things to you.*

*(Jeremiah 30:16) But all who devour you will be devoured; all your enemies will go into exile. Those who plunder you will be plundered; all who make spoil of you I will despoil.*

*(Jeremiah 30:17) But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds,' declares the Lord, 'because you are called an outcast, Zion for whom no one cares.'*

*(Jeremiah 30:18) This is what the Lord says: "I will restore the fortunes of Jacob's tents and have compassion on his dwellings; the city will be rebuilt on its ruins, and the palace will stand in its proper place.*

*(Jeremiah 30:19) From them will come songs of thanksgiving and the sound of rejoicing. I will add to their numbers, and they will not be decreased; I will bring them honor, and they will not be disdained.*

*(Jeremiah 30:20) Their children will be as in days of old, and their community will be established before me; I will punish all who oppress them.*

*(Jeremiah 30:21) Their leader will be one of their own; their ruler will arise from among them. I will bring him near, and he will come close to me— for who is he who will devote himself to be close to me?' declares the Lord.*

*(Jeremiah 30:22) "So you will be my people, and I will be your God.'*

*(Jeremiah 30:23) See, the storm of the Lord will burst out in wrath, a driving wind swirling down on the heads of the wicked.*

*(Jeremiah 30:24) The fierce anger of the Lord will not turn back until he fully accomplishes the purposes of his heart. In days to come you will understand this.*

From Jeremiah 30 to 33, God speaks of restoration for Israel, which is under judgment due to sin.

In the passage, God promises to heal Israel, which has suffered an incurable wound as a result of His judgment.

He declares that Jerusalem will be rebuilt, the people will be granted peace and prosperity, their sovereignty will be restored, and their relationship with God will be fully renewed.

Furthermore, God proclaims that He will judge Israel's enemies just as He had judged Israel.

God describes the current state of Israel, which has resulted from His judgment, as follows:

*(Jeremiah 30:12) This is what the Lord says: "Your wound is incurable, your injury beyond healing."*

*(Jeremiah 30:13) "There is no one to plead your cause, no remedy for your sore, no healing for you."*

*(Jeremiah 30:14) "All your lovers have forgotten you; they no longer seek you. I have struck you as an enemy would and punished you as would the cruel, because your guilt is great and your sins are many."*

God declares "Your wound is incurable," "There is no one to defend your case," and "There is no medicine or treatment for your injury."

This emphasizes the utter hopelessness of Israel's condition.

The wounds Israel has suffered appear fatal and beyond recovery from a human perspective.

Since this was the judgment of the righteous Judge, God, there is no one to plead their case.

Because their wounds were inflicted by the Lord Himself, there is no medicine or treatment to heal them.

God declares that even those who once loved Israel—including Egypt and other political allies of Judah—will turn their backs on them.

In reality, Egypt, one of Judah's key allies, encouraged Judah to rebel against Babylon.

However, when Babylon attacked Judah, Egypt initially pretended to help but soon withdrew its troops, leaving Judah defenseless.

As a result, Judah was ultimately destroyed.

Yet, God makes it clear that Judah's suffering and grievous wounds are consequences of their own actions.

He declares that their pain is the result of their wickedness and sins.

*(Jeremiah 30:15) "Why do you cry out over your wound, your pain that has no cure? Because of your great guilt and many sins, I have done these things to you."*

God is saying that He used Babylon as an instrument of judgment because of Judah's numerous sins and great wickedness.

God questions Judah, who cries out in anguish over their wounds, saying, "Why do you cry out over your wound?"

He points out that their suffering is a direct result of their own sins, leaving them no grounds to resent God or feel wronged.

Before blaming God or feeling unjustly treated, Judah should have first recognized that their wounds were caused by their own wickedness and sins—and truly repented.

Nevertheless, God promises to show mercy to Israel.

He pledges mercy to Israel, even though they are undeserving of it.

*(Jeremiah 30:16)* "Therefore all who devour you will be devoured; all your enemies will go into exile. Those who plundered you will be plundered, and all who looted you I will loot."

*(Jeremiah 30:17)* "But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds," declares the Lord, "because you are called an outcast, Zion for whom no one cares."

At that time, God will judge the enemies of Israel, whom He once used as instruments of judgment.

Just as Israel was destroyed and taken into captivity, so too will their enemies face destruction and exile.

Just as Israel was plundered and looted, so too will their oppressors be plundered and looted.

However, unlike Israel—whose judgment was meant for restoration—their judgment will result in complete destruction.

In the eyes of the Gentiles, Israel appeared to be a forsaken and rejected people, abandoned by their own God, the Lord.

However, God declares that He will turn His heart toward Israel—not only destroying their enemies but also healing and restoring their wounds.

The same God who had handed Israel over to the hands of the nations, allowing them to be despised, will now rescue them once again.

The destruction of Israel's enemies signifies the political restoration of Israel.

God disciplines His people for their sins, but discipline itself is not His ultimate purpose.

His purpose is to sanctify His people and make them citizens of His kingdom.

God promises to judge all of Israel's enemies and restore His people:

*(Jeremiah 30:18)* "Thus says the Lord, 'Behold, I will restore the fortunes of the tents of Jacob and have compassion on his dwellings; the city shall be rebuilt on its ruins, and the palace shall stand where it used to be.'"

*(Jeremiah 30:19) "Out of them shall come songs of thanksgiving and the voices of those who celebrate. I will multiply them, and they shall not be few; I will make them honored, and they shall not be small."*

*(Jeremiah 30:20) "Their children shall be as they were of old, and their congregation shall be established before me, and I will punish all who oppress them."*

God declares that He Himself will accomplish all these things.

He will personally bring back the captives of Jacob's tents—a term that refers to both Northern Israel and Southern Judah.

The ruined cities will be rebuilt, and people will once again dwell in their strongholds.

Since the "city" refers to Jerusalem, this prophecy signifies the reconstruction of Jerusalem.

Instead of cries of suffering from their time in exile, there will be voices of thanksgiving and joy.

This indicates that the returning exiles will experience peace and prosperity.

God will honor His people, ensuring they will no longer be despised by surrounding nations.

Their descendants will be restored to their former state, signifying Israel's complete political and religious restoration.

The "congregation" refers to gatherings for both political and religious purposes. Ultimately, this portrays the full restoration of the relationship between God and Israel, which had been broken.

God promises that He will establish Israel as a fully sovereign nation, restoring its political system and reinstating temple worship so that His people may stand firmly before Him.

The same God who once judged Israel now declares that He will withdraw His judgment and extend salvation.

Israel will once again be God's people, and He will be their God:

*(Jeremiah 30:21) "Their leader shall be one of their own, and their ruler shall come from their midst; I will bring him near, and he shall approach me. For who would dare on his own to approach me? declares the Lord."*

*(Jeremiah 30:22) "And you shall be my people, and I will be your God."*

God declares that Israel will no longer be ruled by foreign nations but will be led by a ruler from among their own people.

This signifies the restoration of Israel's national sovereignty.

The prophecy that a leader and ruler will arise from among their own people can be seen as foretelling the rule of Zerubbabel or Nehemiah over the returning exiles.

However, it is more fitting to interpret this as a prophecy about Jesus Christ, the true King of Israel, who would be born among His people.

Strictly speaking, Zerubbabel and Nehemiah were merely governors appointed by Persia.

They were neither priests nor kings.

God declares that He will bring this leader and ruler near to Himself:

"For who would dare on his own to approach me?"

Who, indeed, can boldly approach God?

Only Jesus, who paid the full price for humanity's sin, can stand before God as our great High Priest, representing us.

Jesus is both King and High Priest.

Through faith in Jesus Christ, God's people can enter the kingdom of God.

Thus, the covenant that God made with David has been fulfilled.

*(2 Samuel 7:14) "I will be his father, and he will be my son. If he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men and with floggings inflicted by human hands."*

*(2 Samuel 7:24) "You have established your people Israel as your very own forever, and you, LORD, have become their God."*

To fulfill this covenant, God trained Israel through severe discipline.

Now, through God's training, Israel has been reborn as God's holy people, fulfilling the purpose God called them for.

They will now be His people, and God will be their God, guiding them.

And in that place, God will establish His kingdom, where He will reign as King.

Israel realizes all of God's plans, thanks Him for His love, and praises God.

God, who had been prophesying about restoration, suddenly begins to prophesy about judgment again.

It seems awkward in the context to suddenly mention judgment while prophesying about restoration.

However, this is to remove any misunderstanding that God's salvation work for His people might be interpreted as an indiscriminate love that tolerates sin.

God reminds us that the stubborn, unrepentant, and wicked will be excluded from God's blessings and will instead receive judgment and curses.

*(Jeremiah 30:23) "Behold, the storm of the LORD will burst out in wrath, a whirlwind swirling down on the heads of the wicked."*

*(Jeremiah 30:24) "The fierce anger of the LORD will not turn back until He has fully accomplished the purposes of His heart. In the days to come, you will understand this."*

Beloved members of Church of God's Dream,

People often think that when they believe in God and become His children, they will immediately escape the struggles and pain of the world and only enjoy peace and prosperity.

So, when their problems are not resolved or their desires are not fulfilled after accepting God, they become disappointed and turn away.

However, this happens because they do not properly understand God's will.

God trains His chosen and beloved people harshly to bring them into His kingdom. For this reason, everyone chosen by God must go through a time of painful training.

Those who undergo this process of sanctification will become God's holy people.

Therefore, there is no need to fear God's training time.

There is no need to complain, wondering why only you are going through hardship.

No matter how painful the training may be, it will not lead to destruction.

After the painful time of training, peace and prosperity will be given.

The training is the loving discipline God uses to make us His people.

Through the time of training, we should recognize our sins and turn away from them.

Only those who endure and overcome the harsh training will become citizens of God's kingdom.