

Message Ten

The Promise, the Prophecy, the Remnant, and the Recovery

Hymns:

Scripture Reading: Jer. 25:11; 29:10-11, 14; 30:1-3, 10-11, 16-19; 31:1-9, 11-13; 33:6

- Jer. 25:11 And this whole land will become a desolation and a waste, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years.
- Jer. 29:10 For thus says Jehovah, When seventy years are fulfilled for Babylon, I will visit you and establish My good word to you, to bring you back to this place.
- Jer. 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think about you, declares Jehovah, thoughts of peace and not for evil, to give you a latter end and a hope.
- Jer. 29:14 And I will be found by you, declares Jehovah. And I will turn your captivity and gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, declares Jehovah, and bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.
- Jer. 30:1 The word which came to Jeremiah from Jehovah, saying,
- Jer. 30:2 Thus speaks Jehovah the God of Israel, saying, Write in a book all the words which I have spoken to you.
- Jer. 30:3 Yes indeed, days are coming, declares Jehovah, when I will turn the captivity of My people Israel and Judah, says Jehovah, and I will bring them back to the land which I gave to their fathers, and they will possess it.
- Jer. 30:10 Therefore do not fear, O Jacob My servant, declares Jehovah, / And do not be dismayed, O Israel; / For indeed, I will save you from afar, / And your seed from the land of their captivity; / And Jacob will return and be undisturbed and at ease, / And no one will frighten him.
- Jer. 30:11 For I am with you, declares Jehovah, to save you; / For I will make a full end of all the nations to which I have scattered you; / But I will not make a full end of you, / But will correct you in measure / And will by no means leave you unpunished.
- Jer. 30:16 Therefore all those who consume you will be consumed, / And all those who distress you, every one of them, will go into captivity; / And those who plunder you will become plunder, / And all those who prey on you I will make a prey.
- Jer. 30:17 For I will bring you recovery / And will heal you of your wounds, declares Jehovah; / Because they have called you an outcast, saying, / She is Zion, whom no one searches after.
- Jer. 30:18 Thus says Jehovah, / I will turn the captivity of the tents of Jacob / And have compassion on his dwelling places; / And the city will be rebuilt on its mound, / And the palace will be inhabited after its own manner.
- Jer. 30:19 And out from them will come thanksgiving / And the voice of those who make merry. / And I will multiply them, so that they will not be few; / And I will cause them to be honored, so that they will not be small.
- Jer. 31:1 At that time, declares Jehovah, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they will be My people.
- Jer. 31:2 Thus says Jehovah, The people who survived the sword / Found favor in the wilderness—/ Even Israel, when I went to give him rest.
- Jer. 31:3 Jehovah appeared to me from afar, saying, / Indeed I have loved you with an eternal love, / Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness.

- Jer. 31:4 I will build you again, and you will be built, / O virgin of Israel. / Again you will adorn yourself with your tambourines / And will go forth in the dance of those who make merry.
- Jer. 31:5 Again you will plant vineyards / On the mountains of Samaria; / The planters will plant / And will partake of the fruit.
- Jer. 31:6 For there will be a day when watchmen call out / In the hill country of Ephraim, / Saying, Arise and let us go up to Zion, / To Jehovah our God.
- Jer. 31:7 For thus says Jehovah, / Give a ringing shout with joy for Jacob, / And cry out at the head of the nations; / Announce, praise, and say, / O Jehovah, save Your people, / The remnant of Israel.
- Jer. 31:8 I will bring them / From the land of the north, / And I will gather them from the uttermost parts of the earth, / The blind and the lame among them, / The pregnant woman and she who is travailing together, / A great assembly; they will return here.
- Jer. 31:9 They will come with weeping, / And with supplications I will lead them. / I will cause them to walk by the waterbrooks / In a straight way, in which they will not stumble; / For I am a Father to Israel, / And Ephraim is My firstborn.
- Jer. 31:11 For Jehovah has ransomed Jacob / And redeemed him from the hand of one stronger than he.
- Jer. 31:12 And they will come and sing in the height of Zion, / And they will flow forth to the goodness of Jehovah— / To the grain and to the new wine and to the fresh oil / And to the young of the flock and of the herd; / And their soul will be like a watered garden, / And they will not languish anymore.
- Jer. 31:13 Then the virgin will rejoice in the dance, / And the young men and the old men together, / And I will turn their mourning to gladness / And comfort them and cause them to rejoice after their sorrow.
- Jer. 33:6 I am about to bring it recovery and healing and will heal them; and I will reveal to them an abundance of peace and truth.

OUTLINE

I. **God chose the children of Israel and made them His people as a type of the church—Rom. 9:11-13; Acts 7:38:**

- Rom. 9:11 Though the children had not yet been born nor had done anything good or bad (that the purpose of God according to selection might remain, not of works but of Him who calls),
- Rom. 9:12 It was said to her, "The greater shall serve the less";
- Rom. 9:13 As it is written, "Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated."
- Acts 7:38 This is the one who was in the assembly in the wilderness with the Angel who spoke to him in Mount Sinai and with our fathers, and who received living oracles to give to us.
- A. The children of Israel, as the chosen people of God, are the greatest, collective type of the church—1 Cor. 10:1-11.
- 1 Cor. 10:1 For I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;
- 1 Cor. 10:2 And all were baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;
- 1 Cor. 10:3 And all ate the same spiritual food,
- 1 Cor. 10:4 And all drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank of a spiritual rock which followed them, and the rock was Christ.
- 1 Cor. 10:5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for they were strewn along in the wilderness.
- 1 Cor. 10:6 Now these things occurred as examples to us, that we should not be ones who lust after evil things, even as they also lusted.
- 1 Cor. 10:7 Neither become idolaters, as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and stood up to play."

- 1 Cor. 10:8 Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed fornication, and there fell in one day twenty-three thousand.
- 1 Cor. 10:9 Neither let us test Christ, as some of them tested Him and were destroyed by the serpents.
- 1 Cor. 10:10 Neither murmur, just as some of them murmured and perished by the destroyer.
- 1 Cor. 10:11 Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our admonition, unto whom the ends of the ages have come.

B. In this type we can see that the church is chosen and redeemed by God, enjoys Christ and the Spirit as the life supply, builds God's habitation, inherits Christ as its portion, degrades and is captured, is recovered, and awaits Christ's coming.

II. Jehovah promised to turn the captivity of Israel and bring them back to their land—Jer. 16:15; 30:1-3,10-11,16-19; 31:1-9, 11-13:

- Jer. 16:15 But, As Jehovah lives, who brought up the children of Israel out of the land of the north and out of all the lands where He had driven them; for I will bring them back to their own land, which I gave to their fathers.
- Jer. 30:1 The word which came to Jeremiah from Jehovah, saying,
- Jer. 30:2 Thus speaks Jehovah the God of Israel, saying, Write in a book all the words which I have spoken to you.
- Jer. 30:3 Yes indeed, days are coming, declares Jehovah, when I will turn the captivity of My people Israel and Judah, says Jehovah, and I will bring them back to the land which I gave to their fathers, and they will possess it.
- Jer. 30:10 Therefore do not fear, O Jacob My servant, declares Jehovah, / And do not be dismayed, O Israel; / For indeed, I will save you from afar, / And your seed from the land of their captivity; / And Jacob will return and be undisturbed and at ease, / And no one will frighten him.
- Jer. 30:11 For I am with you, declares Jehovah, to save you; / For I will make a full end of all the nations to which I have scattered you; / But I will not make a full end of you, / But will correct you in measure / And will by no means leave you unpunished.
- Jer. 30:16 Therefore all those who consume you will be consumed, / And all those who distress you, every one of them, will go into captivity; / And those who plunder you will become plunder, / And all those who prey on you I will make a prey.
- Jer. 30:17 For I will bring you recovery / And will heal you of your wounds, declares Jehovah; / Because they have called you an outcast, saying, / She is Zion, whom no one searches after.
- Jer. 30:18 Thus says Jehovah, / I will turn the captivity of the tents of Jacob / And have compassion on his dwelling places; / And the city will be rebuilt on its mound, / And the palace will be inhabited after its own manner.
- Jer. 30:19 And out from them will come thanksgiving / And the voice of those who make merry. / And I will multiply them, so that they will not be few; / And I will cause them to be honored, so that they will not be small.
- Jer. 31:1 At that time, declares Jehovah, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they will be My people.
- Jer. 31:2 Thus says Jehovah, The people who survived the sword / Found favor in the wilderness—/ Even Israel, when I went to give him rest.
- Jer. 31:3 Jehovah appeared to me from afar, saying, / Indeed I have loved you with an eternal love, / Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness.
- Jer. 31:4 I will build you again, and you will be built, / O virgin of Israel. / Again you will adorn yourself with your tambourines / And will go forth in the dance of those who make merry.
- Jer. 31:5 Again you will plant vineyards / On the mountains of Samaria; / The planters will plant / And

- will partake of the fruit.
- Jer. 31:6 For there will be a day when watchmen call out / In the hill country of Ephraim, / Saying, Arise and let us go up to Zion, / To Jehovah our God.
- Jer. 31:7 For thus says Jehovah, / Give a ringing shout with joy for Jacob, / And cry out at the head of the nations; / Announce, praise, and say, / O Jehovah, save Your people, / The remnant of Israel.
- Jer. 31:8 I will bring them / From the land of the north, / And I will gather them from the uttermost parts of the earth, / The blind and the lame among them, / The pregnant woman and she who is travailing together, / A great assembly; they will return here.
- Jer. 31:9 They will come with weeping, / And with supplications I will lead them. / I will cause them to walk by the waterbrooks / In a straight way, in which they will not stumble; / For I am a Father to Israel, / And Ephraim is My firstborn.
- Jer. 31:11 For Jehovah has ransomed Jacob / And redeemed him from the hand of one stronger than he.
- Jer. 31:12 And they will come and sing in the height of Zion, / And they will flow forth to the goodness of Jehovah—/ To the grain and to the new wine and to the fresh oil / And to the young of the flock and of the herd; / And their soul will be like a watered garden, / And they will not languish anymore.
- Jer. 31:13 Then the virgin will rejoice in the dance, / And the young men and the old men together, / And I will turn their mourning to gladness / And comfort them and cause them to rejoice after their sorrow.
- A. “I know the thoughts that I think about you, declares Jehovah, thoughts of peace and not for evil, to give you a latter end and a hope”—29:11.
- Jer. 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think about you, declares Jehovah, thoughts of peace and not for evil, to give you a latter end and a hope.
- B. “I have loved you with an eternal love; / Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness”—31:3.
- Jer. 31:3 Jehovah appeared to me from afar, saying, / Indeed I have loved you with an eternal love, / Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness.
- C. “I will turn your captivity and gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, declares Jehovah, and bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile”—29:14.
- Jer. 29:14 And I will be found by you, declares Jehovah. And I will turn your captivity and gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, declares Jehovah, and bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.
- D. “I will build you again, and you will be built, / O virgin of Israel. / Again you will adorn yourself with your tambourines / And will go forth in the dance of those who make merry”—31:4.
- Jer. 31:4 I will build you again, and you will be built, / O virgin of Israel. / Again you will adorn yourself with your tambourines / And will go forth in the dance of those who make merry.
- E. “They will come and sing in the height of Zion, / And they will flow forth to the goodness of Jehovah... / And their soul will be like a watered garden, / And they will not languish anymore”—v. 12.
- Jer. 31:12 And they will come and sing in the height of Zion, / And they will flow forth to the goodness of Jehovah—/ To the grain and to the new wine and to the fresh oil / And to the young of the flock and of the herd; / And their soul will be like a watered garden, / And they will not languish anymore.

- F. “I will turn their mourning to gladness / And comfort them and cause them to rejoice after their sorrow”—v. 13.

Jer. 31:13 Then the virgin will rejoice in the dance, / And the young men and the old men together, / And I will turn their mourning to gladness / And comfort them and cause them to rejoice after their sorrow.

III. Jeremiah prophesied that the captivity of Israel in Babylon would be for seventy years—25:11:

Jer. 25:11 And this whole land will become a desolation and a waste, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

- A. The word about seventy years was a comfort to Jeremiah, assuring him that the miserable situation of his country and his people, of the temple and the city, would last only seventy years—29:10; Zech. 7:5.

Jer. 29:10 For thus says Jehovah, When seventy years are fulfilled for Babylon, I will visit you and establish My good word to you, to bring you back to this place.

Zech. 7:5 Speak to all the people of the land and to the priests, saying, When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months, even for these seventy years, was it at all for Me that you fasted?

- B. Just as God gave the people up to captivity, He would bring them back, not as captives but as triumphant warriors—2 Chron. 36:21-23.

2 Chron. 36:21 So as to fulfill the word of Jehovah by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its sabbaths: As long as it lay desolate it kept sabbath, until seventy years were fulfilled.

2 Chron. 36:22 And in the first year of Cyrus the king of Persia, so that the word of Jehovah by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, Jehovah stirred up the spirit of Cyrus the king of Persia; and he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and put it also in writing, saying,

2 Chron. 36:23 Thus says Cyrus the king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth has Jehovah the God of heaven given to me; and He has charged me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all His people, may Jehovah his God be with him, and let him go up!

- C. Because Daniel understood the prophecies in Jeremiah 25:11-12 and 29:10-14 concerning the seventy years of Israel’s captivity, he set his face “toward the Lord God to seek Him in prayer”—Dan. 9:2-3:

Jer. 25:11 And this whole land will become a desolation and a waste, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

Jer. 25:12 Then after the seventy years have been fulfilled, I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation for their iniquity, declares Jehovah, as well as the land of the Chaldeans, and I will make it an eternal desolation.

Jer. 29:10 For thus says Jehovah, When seventy years are fulfilled for Babylon, I will visit you and establish My good word to you, to bring you back to this place.

Jer. 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think about you, declares Jehovah, thoughts of peace and not for evil, to give you a latter end and a hope.

Jer. 29:12 Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you;

Jer. 29:13 And you will seek Me and find Me if you search for Me with all your heart;

Jer. 29:14 And I will be found by you, declares Jehovah. And I will turn your captivity and gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, declares Jehovah, and bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.

- Dan. 9:2 In the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by means of the Scriptures the number of the years, which came as the word of Jehovah to Jeremiah the prophet, for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, that is, seventy years.
- Dan. 9:3 So I set my face toward the Lord God to seek Him in prayer and supplications with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.

1. As God's co-worker on earth, Daniel understood God's will from the Scriptures and prayed for God's will according to the Scriptures.
2. Daniel knew that God's intention was to bring the children of Israel back to the land of Israel for the rebuilding of Jerusalem, and thus, he prayed for it; the return of the children of Israel to Jerusalem was God's fulfilling of Daniel's prayer.

IV. Jehovah said that He would gather the remnant of His flock out of the lands where He had driven them and that He would bring them back to their pasture, and they would be fruitful and multiply—Jer. 23:3:

Jer. 23:3 Then I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their pasture; and they will be fruitful and multiply.

A. After the seventy-year captivity, God came in to call the children of Israel to return from Babylon to the Holy Land—25:11:

Jer. 25:11 And this whole land will become a desolation and a waste, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

1. When God called His people to come back to His chosen land, very few responded; the majority remained in their captivity.
2. Only a small number came back to the chosen land; those who returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple were the remnant of God's people—Ezra 1:3; 2:1-67.

Ezra. 1:3 Whoever there is among you of all His people, may his God be with him; and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and let him build the house of Jehovah the God of Israel-He is God-who is in Jerusalem.

Ezra. 2:1 Now these were the children of the province who went up out of the captivity of those who had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away to Babylon, and who returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each man to his city.

Ezra. 2:2 These came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, Baanah. The number of the men of the people of Israel:

Ezra. 2:3 The children of Parosh, two thousand one hundred seventy-two.

Ezra. 2:4 The children of Shephatiah, three hundred seventy-two.

Ezra. 2:5 The children of Arah, seven hundred seventy-five.

Ezra. 2:6 The children of Pahath-moab, of the children of Jeshua and Joab, two thousand eight hundred twelve.

Ezra. 2:7 The children of Elam, one thousand two hundred fifty-four.

Ezra. 2:8 The children of Zattu, nine hundred forty-five.

Ezra. 2:9 The children of Zaccai, seven hundred sixty.

Ezra. 2:10 The children of Bani, six hundred forty-two.

Ezra. 2:11 The children of Bebai, six hundred twenty-three.

Ezra. 2:12 The children of Azgad, one thousand two hundred twenty-two.

Ezra. 2:13 The children of Adonikam, six hundred sixty-six.

Ezra. 2:14 The children of Bigvai, two thousand fifty-six.

Ezra. 2:15 The children of Adin, four hundred fifty-four.

Ezra. 2:16 The children of Ater, of Hezekiah, ninety-eight.

Ezra. 2:17 The children of Bezai, three hundred twenty-three.
 Ezra. 2:18 The children of Jorah, one hundred twelve.
 Ezra. 2:19 The children of Hashum, two hundred twenty-three.
 Ezra. 2:20 The children of Gibbar, ninety-five.
 Ezra. 2:21 The children of Bethlehem, one hundred twenty-three.
 Ezra. 2:22 The men of Netophah, fifty-six.
 Ezra. 2:23 The men of Anathoth, one hundred twenty-eight.
 Ezra. 2:24 The children of Azmaveth, forty-two.
 Ezra. 2:25 The children of Kiriath-arim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, seven hundred forty-three.
 Ezra. 2:26 The children of Ramah and Geba, six hundred twenty-one.
 Ezra. 2:27 The men of Michmas, one hundred twenty-two.
 Ezra. 2:28 The men of Bethel and Ai, two hundred twenty-three.
 Ezra. 2:29 The children of Nebo, fifty-two.
 Ezra. 2:30 The children of Magbish, one hundred fifty-six.
 Ezra. 2:31 The children of the other Elam, one thousand two hundred fifty-four.
 Ezra. 2:32 The children of Harim, three hundred twenty.
 Ezra. 2:33 The children of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, seven hundred twenty-five.
 Ezra. 2:34 The children of Jericho, three hundred forty-five.
 Ezra. 2:35 The children of Senaah, three thousand six hundred thirty.
 Ezra. 2:36 The priests: the children of Jedaiah, of the house of Jeshua, nine hundred seventy-three.
 Ezra. 2:37 The children of Immer, one thousand fifty-two.
 Ezra. 2:38 The children of Pashhur, one thousand two hundred forty-seven.
 Ezra. 2:39 The children of Harim, one thousand seventeen.
 Ezra. 2:40 The Levites: the children of Jeshua and Kadmiel, of the children of Hodaviah, seventy-four.
 Ezra. 2:41 The singers: the children of Asaph, one hundred twenty-eight.
 Ezra. 2:42 The children of the gatekeepers: the children of Shallum, the children of Ater, the children of Talmon, the children of Akkub, the children of Hatita, the children of Shobai, in all one hundred thirty-nine.
 Ezra. 2:43 The temple servants: the children of Ziha, the children of Hasupha, the children of Tabbaoth,
 Ezra. 2:44 The children of Keros, the children of Siaha, the children of Padon,
 Ezra. 2:45 The children of Lebanah, the children of Hagabah, the children of Akkub,
 Ezra. 2:46 The children of Hagab, the children of Shamlai, the children of Hanan,
 Ezra. 2:47 The children of Giddel, the children of Gahar, the children of Reaiah,
 Ezra. 2:48 The children of Rezin, the children of Nekoda, the children of Gazzam,
 Ezra. 2:49 The children of Uzza, the children of Paseah, the children of Besai,
 Ezra. 2:50 The children of Asnah, the children of Meunim, the children of Nephisim,
 Ezra. 2:51 The children of Bakbuk, the children of Hakupha, the children of Harhur,
 Ezra. 2:52 The children of Bazluth, the children of Mehida, the children of Harsha,
 Ezra. 2:53 The children of Barkos, the children of Sisera, the children of Temah,
 Ezra. 2:54 The children of Neziah, the children of Hatipha.
 Ezra. 2:55 The children of Solomon's servants: the children of Sotai, the children of Hassophereth, the children of Peruda,
 Ezra. 2:56 The children of Jaalah, the children of Darkon, the children of Giddel,
 Ezra. 2:57 The children of Shephatiah, the children of Hattil, the children of Pochereth-hazzebaim, the children of Ami.
 Ezra. 2:58 All the temple servants and the children of Solomon's servants were three hundred ninety-two.
 Ezra. 2:59 And these were those who went up from Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addon, and Immer; but they could not give evidence of their fathers' houses nor their descendants, whether they were of Israel:

- Ezra. 2:60 The children of Delaiah, the children of Tobiah, the children of Nekoda, six hundred fifty-two.
- Ezra. 2:61 And of the children of the priests: the children of Hobaiah, the children of Hakkoz, the children of Barzillai, who took a wife from among the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite and was called by their name.
- Ezra. 2:62 These sought their registry among those who were enrolled by genealogy, but they were not found; therefore they were considered defiled and were excluded from the priesthood.
- Ezra. 2:63 And the governor told them that they should not eat of the most holy things until a priest stood up with Urim and Thummim.
- Ezra. 2:64 The whole assembly together was forty-two thousand three hundred sixty,
- Ezra. 2:65 Besides their male servants and their female servants, of whom there were seven thousand three hundred thirty-seven; and they had two hundred male singers and female singers.
- Ezra. 2:66 Their horses were seven hundred thirty-six; their mules, two hundred forty-five;
- Ezra. 2:67 Their camels, four hundred thirty-five; their donkeys, six thousand seven hundred-twenty.

3. God promised that His people would return to Jerusalem after seventy years of captivity in Babylon (Jer. 25:11; 29:10); in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah a remnant returned according to this promise.

Jer. 25:11 And this whole land will become a desolation and a waste, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

Jer. 29:10 For thus says Jehovah, When seventy years are fulfilled for Babylon, I will visit you and establish My good word to you, to bring you back to this place.

B. In the Lord's recovery today we are a remnant of God's people who have come back to His original intention while so many genuine believers are scattered and remain in captivity—Psa. 126:1-4:

Psa. 126:1 When Jehovah turned again the captivity of Zion, / We were like those who dream.

Psa. 126:2 At that time our mouth was filled with laughter / And our tongue with a ringing shout. / At that time they said among the nations, / Jehovah has done great things for them.

Psa. 126:3 Jehovah has done great things for us; / We are joyful.

Psa. 126:4 Turn again, O Jehovah, our captivity / Like the streams in the south.

1. We are members of the Body of Christ who have come back to the original ground of oneness and are standing here as God's remnant—Deut. 12:5.

Deut. 12:5 But to the place which Jehovah your God will choose out of all your tribes to put His name, to His habitation, shall you seek, and there shall you go.

2. The majority of Christians remain in captivity; only a small remnant have returned to the proper ground for God's building—v. 11; 16:2; Psa. 132:13-14.

Deut. 12:11 Then to the place where Jehovah your God will choose to cause His name to dwell, there you shall bring all that I am commanding you, your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and the heave offering of your hand and all your choice vows which you vow to Jehovah.

Deut. 16:2 And you shall sacrifice the passover to Jehovah your God, from the flock and from the herd, in the place where Jehovah will choose to cause His name to dwell.

Psa. 132:13 For Jehovah has chosen Zion; / He has desired it for His habitation.

Psa. 132:14 This is My resting place forever; / Here will I dwell, for I have desired it.

C. The return of the children of Israel from Babylon to Jerusalem prepared the way for the coming of Christ—Micah 5:2; Matt. 2:4-6; Luke 2:4-7:

- Micah 5:2 (But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, / So little to be among the thousands of Judah, / From you there will come forth to Me / He who is to be Ruler in Israel; / And His goings forth are from ancient times, / From the days of eternity.)
- Matt. 2:4 And gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.
- Matt. 2:5 And they said to him, In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written through the prophet:
- Matt. 2:6 "And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, by no means are you the least among the princes of Judah; for out of you shall come forth a Ruler, One who will shepherd My people Israel."
- Luke 2:4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee out of the city of Nazareth into Judea, to David's city, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David,
- Luke 2:5 To be registered with Mary, who was engaged to him and was pregnant.
- Luke 2:6 And while they were there, the days were fulfilled for her to bear,
- Luke 2:7 And she bore her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger because there was no place for them in the inn.

1. The Lord's first coming depended on the return of God's people from their captivity in Babylon to the Holy Land:

a. According to the prophecy in Micah 5:2, Christ was to be born in Bethlehem.

- Micah 5:2 (But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, / So little to be among the thousands of Judah, / From you there will come forth to Me / He who is to be Ruler in Israel; / And His goings forth are from ancient times, / From the days of eternity.)

b. In order for this prophecy to be fulfilled, God's people had to be in the Holy Land—Matt. 2:4-6; Luke 2:4-7.

- Matt. 2:4 And gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.
- Matt. 2:5 And they said to him, In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written through the prophet:
- Matt. 2:6 "And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, by no means are you the least among the princes of Judah; for out of you shall come forth a Ruler, One who will shepherd My people Israel."
- Luke 2:4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee out of the city of Nazareth into Judea, to David's city, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David,
- Luke 2:5 To be registered with Mary, who was engaged to him and was pregnant.
- Luke 2:6 And while they were there, the days were fulfilled for her to bear,
- Luke 2:7 And she bore her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger because there was no place for them in the inn.

c. The remnant of returned captives was the instrument used by God to rebuild the temple and usher in the first coming of Christ—Micah 5:2.

- Micah 5:2 (But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, / So little to be among the thousands of Judah, / From you there will come forth to Me / He who is to be Ruler in Israel; / And His goings forth are from ancient times, / From the days of eternity.)

d. Without the return of the remnant to the Holy Land, there would have been no way for Christ to come to the earth through incarnation—Luke 1:35; 2:4-7.

- Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said to her, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore also the holy thing which is born will be called the Son of God.

Luke 2:4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee out of the city of Nazareth into Judea, to David's city, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David,
 Luke 2:5 To be registered with Mary, who was engaged to him and was pregnant.
 Luke 2:6 And while they were there, the days were fulfilled for her to bear,
 Luke 2:7 And she bore her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger because there was no place for them in the inn.

2. Likewise, Christ's second coming depends on the return of a remnant of His New Testament believers from their captivity in Babylon, degraded Christianity, to the unique ground of oneness for the building of the church, God's spiritual house—Eph. 2:21-22; Rev. 2:1; 1 Tim. 3:15; 1 Pet. 2:5:

Eph. 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;
 Eph. 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.
 Rev. 2:1 To the messenger of the church in Ephesus write: These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, He who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:
 1 Tim. 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.
 1 Pet. 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

a. The Lord is calling a remnant of His people to meet His need by coming out of Babylonian captivity and returning to the proper ground of the church—Rev. 18:4; Isa. 52:11; Jer. 50:8; 51:6, 9, 45.

Rev. 18:4 And I heard another voice out of heaven, saying, Come out of her, My people, that you do not participate in her sins and that you do not receive her plagues;
 Isa. 52:11 Depart! Depart! Go out from there! / Do not touch any unclean thing! / Go out from the midst of her! Cleanse yourselves, / You who bear the vessels of Jehovah!
 Jer. 50:8 Flee from the midst of Babylon, / And go out from the land of the Chaldeans, / And be as male goats / Before the flock.
 Jer. 51:6 Flee from the midst of Babylon, / And let each man save his life; / Do not be cut off in her iniquity; / For this is a time of vengeance to Jehovah; / He will give full recompense to her.
 Jer. 51:9 We tried to heal Babylon, but she is not healed; / Forsake her, and let each one of us go to his own land; / For her judgment has reached to heaven / And has been lifted up to the clouds.
 Jer. 51:45 Come out from the midst of her, My people, / And let each man save his life / From the burning anger of Jehovah.

b. The Lord's intention is not to revive Christianity as a whole but to call a remnant of His people who are willing to pay the price to follow Him for the fulfillment of His purpose and to be built up as a part of the Body—Matt. 16:18; 18:17; Eph. 1:22-23; 2:21-22; 4:16; Rev. 1:11; 22:16.

Matt. 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
 Matt. 18:17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to hear the church also, let him be to you just like the Gentile and the tax collector.
 Eph. 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,

- Eph. 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
 Eph. 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;
 Eph. 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.
 Eph. 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
 Rev. 1:11 Saying, What you see write in a scroll and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamos and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.
 Rev. 22:16 I Jesus have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the bright morning star.

V. **Jehovah said that He would bring recovery to the children of Israel—Jer. 30:17; 33:6:**

- Jer. 30:17 For I will bring you recovery / And will heal you of your wounds, declares Jehovah; / Because they have called you an outcast, saying, / She is Zion, whom no one searches after.
 Jer. 33:6 I am about to bring it recovery and healing and will heal them; and I will reveal to them an abundance of peace and truth.

A. Jehovah promised to bring the city of Jerusalem recovery and healing—v. 6.

- Jer. 33:6 I am about to bring it recovery and healing and will heal them; and I will reveal to them an abundance of peace and truth.

B. He said that He would reveal to them an abundance of peace and truth and that He would cleanse them from all their iniquity and forgive all their iniquities, by which they had sinned against Him and transgressed against Him—vv. 6-8.

- Jer. 33:6 I am about to bring it recovery and healing and will heal them; and I will reveal to them an abundance of peace and truth.
 Jer. 33:7 And I will turn the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel and build them up as in the former time.
 Jer. 33:8 And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, by which they have sinned against Me, and forgive all their iniquities, by which they have sinned against Me and by which they have transgressed against Me.

C. Jehovah made the further promise that Jerusalem would be a name of gladness and a praise and a glory to Him before all the nations—v. 9.

- Jer. 33:9 And it will be a name of gladness and a praise and a glory to Me before all the nations of the earth, who will hear of all the good that I am about to do for them; and they will fear and tremble because of all the good and because of all the peace that I am about to provide for it.

VI. **The return of the children of Israel from their captivity typifies the recovery of the church—Ezra 1:3-11; Neh. 2:11, 17:**

- Ezra. 1:3 Whoever there is among you of all His people, may his God be with him; and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and let him build the house of Jehovah the God of Israel—He is God—who is in Jerusalem.
 Ezra. 1:4 And everyone who is left, in whatever place he sojourns, let the men of his place support him with silver and with gold and with goods and with cattle, besides the freewill offering for the house of God, which is in Jerusalem.
 Ezra. 1:5 Then the heads of the fathers' houses of Judah and Benjamin and the priests and the Levites rose up, even everyone whose spirit God had stirred up to go up to build the house of

Jehovah, which is in Jerusalem.

- Ezra. 1:6 And all those around them strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, and with cattle and with precious things, besides all that was offered willingly.
- Ezra. 1:7 Also King Cyrus brought out the vessels of the house of Jehovah, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought out from Jerusalem and had put in the house of his gods;
- Ezra. 1:8 And Cyrus the king of Persia had them brought out by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer and had them enumerated to Sheshbazzar the prince of Judah.
- Ezra. 1:9 And this was their number: thirty gold dishes, one thousand silver dishes, twenty-nine knives,
- Ezra. 1:10 Thirty gold bowls, four hundred ten silver bowls of a different kind, and one thousand other vessels.
- Ezra. 1:11 There were five thousand four hundred vessels of gold and silver in all. Sheshbazzar brought up all of them with those of the captivity who were brought up from Babylon to Jerusalem.
- Neh. 2:11 Thus I came to Jerusalem and was there three days.
- Neh. 2:17 Then I said to them, You see the bad state we are in, that Jerusalem lies in waste and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem so that we will no longer be a reproach.

- A. When we speak of the recovery of the church, we mean that something was there originally, that it became lost or damaged, and that now there is the need to bring that thing back to its original state—Matt. 16:18; 18:17.

Matt. 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Matt. 18:17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to hear the church also, let him be to you just like the Gentile and the tax collector.

- B. Because the church has become degraded through the many centuries of its history, it needs to be restored according to God's original intention—1 Cor. 1:2; 12:27; Rom. 12:4-5; 16:1,4-5; Rev. 1:11; 22:16.

1 Cor. 1:2 To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, the called saints, with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, who is theirs and ours:

1 Cor. 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

Rom. 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,

Rom. 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Rom. 16:1 I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a deaconess of the church which is in Cenchrea,

Rom. 16:4 Who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles;

Rom. 16:5 And greet the church, which is in their house. Greet Epaphroditus, my beloved, who is the firstfruits of Asia unto Christ.

Rev. 1:11 Saying, What you see write in a scroll and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamos and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.

Rev. 22:16 I Jesus have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the bright morning star.

- C. For the children of Israel to be recovered meant for them to be brought back to Jerusalem from Babylon; the recovery of the church involves a return from the capturing and divisive ground signified by Babylon—Psa. 126:1-4; 133:1.

Psa. 126:1 When Jehovah turned again the captivity of Zion, / We were like those who dream.

- Psa. 126:2 At that time our mouth was filled with laughter / And our tongue with a ringing shout. /
At that time they said among the nations, / Jehovah has done great things for them.
- Psa. 126:3 Jehovah has done great things for us; / We are joyful.
- Psa. 126:4 Turn again, O Jehovah, our captivity / Like the streams in the south.
- Psa. 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is / For brothers to dwell in unity!

D. The children of Israel went back to Jerusalem, the God-ordained unique ground, with all the vessels of the temple of God, which had been brought to Babylon—2 Chron. 36:18; Ezra 5:14; 6:5:

- 2 Chron. 36:18 And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of Jehovah and the treasures of the king and of his princes, all these he brought to Babylon.
- Ezra. 5:14 And also the gold and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took out of the temple that was in Jerusalem and brought into the temple of Babylon, these King Cyrus took out of the temple of Babylon, and they were given to one whose name was Sheshbazzar, whom he had made governor;
- Ezra. 6:5 And also let the gold and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took out of the temple which is in Jerusalem and brought to Babylon, be returned and brought again to the temple which is in Jerusalem, to its place; and you shall put them in the house of God.

1. Jerusalem was the center for God's people to worship Him, and this unique center preserved the oneness of the people of God; for this reason it was necessary for God's people in the Old Testament to be brought back to Jerusalem, the unique ground ordained by God—Deut. 12:11; 16:2; 26:2.

- Deut. 12:11 Then to the place where Jehovah your God will choose to cause His name to dwell, there you shall bring all that I am commanding you, your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and the heave offering of your hand and all your choice vows which you vow to Jehovah.
- Deut. 16:2 And you shall sacrifice the passover to Jehovah your God, from the flock and from the herd, in the place where Jehovah will choose to cause His name to dwell.
- Deut. 26:2 You shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground which you shall bring from your land, which Jehovah your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place where Jehovah your God will choose to cause His name to dwell.

2. These vessels, which were of silver and gold, signify the riches of Christ and the various aspects of the experience of Christ—Eph. 3:8.

- Eph. 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel

3. Today's Babylon has not only captured God's people but also robbed all the riches from God's temple; now the Lord wants not only to call His faithful people out of Babylon and bring them back to the proper church life but also to recover all the different aspects of Christ, which have been lost—vv. 17-19; Col. 1:15-20; 2:16-17; 3:4.

- Eph. 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
- Eph. 3:18 May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are
- Eph. 3:19 And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.
- Col. 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation,

- Col. 1:16 Because in Him all things were created, in the heavens and on the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or lordships or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and unto Him.
- Col. 1:17 And He is before all things, and all things cohere in Him;
- Col. 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
- Col. 1:19 For in Him all the fullness was pleased to dwell
- Col. 1:20 And through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross—through Him, whether the things on the earth or the things in the heavens.
- Col. 2:16 Let no one therefore judge you in eating and in drinking or in respect of a feast or of a new moon or of the Sabbath,
- Col. 2:17 Which are a shadow of the things to come, but the body is of Christ.
- Col. 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

E. The recovery of the church is also typified by the rebuilding of the temple of God, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the rebuilding of the city of Jerusalem—Ezra 1:3; Neh. 2:11, 17; Psa. 26:8; 36:8-9; 46:1, 5; 47:2, 6-8:

- Ezra. 1:3 Whoever there is among you of all His people, may his God be with him; and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and let him build the house of Jehovah the God of Israel—He is God—who is in Jerusalem.
- Neh. 2:11 Thus I came to Jerusalem and was there three days.
- Neh. 2:17 Then I said to them, You see the bad state we are in, that Jerusalem lies in waste and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem so that we will no longer be a reproach.
- Psa. 26:8 O Jehovah, I love the habitation of Your house, / And the place where Your glory abides.
- Psa. 36:8 They are saturated with the fatness of Your house, / And You cause them to drink of the river of Your pleasures.
- Psa. 36:9 For with You is the fountain of life; / In Your light we see light.
- Psa. 46:1 God is our refuge and strength; / A help in distress, He is most readily found.
- Psa. 46:5 God is in the midst of her; she will not be moved; / God helps her at the dawn of the morning.
- Psa. 47:2 For Jehovah Most High is awesome: / A great King over all the earth.
- Psa. 47:6 Sing psalms to God, sing psalms; / Sing psalms to our King, sing psalms.
- Psa. 47:7 For God is the King of all the earth; / Sing psalms with understanding.
- Psa. 47:8 God reigns over the nations; / God sits upon His holy throne.

1. The temple, the place of God's presence, needed protection; the wall of the city was the defense of the temple.

2. In order to understand the relationship between the house and the city in the New Testament, we need to realize that the church is the enlargement of Christ and the increase of Christ—John 3:29-30; Eph. 4:13; Col. 2:19:

- John 3:29 He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices with joy because of the bridegroom's voice. This joy of mine therefore is made full.
- John 3:30 He must increase, but I must decrease.
- Eph. 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
- Col. 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

- a. The first step of the enlargement of Christ is the church as the house, composed of all the believers put together to be the increase of Christ—Eph. 2:21-22.

Eph. 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;

Eph. 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

- b. The second step of the enlargement of Christ is the church as the city; the church as the house must be enlarged to be the church as the city—Matt. 5:14; Rev. 3:7, 12; 21:9-10.

Matt. 5:14 You are the light of the world. It is impossible for a city situated upon a mountain to be hidden.

Rev. 3:7 And to the messenger of the church in Philadelphia write: These things says the Holy One, the true One, the One who has the key of David, the One who opens and no one will shut, and shuts and no one opens:

Rev. 3:12 He who overcomes, him I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall by no means go out anymore, and I will write upon him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which descends out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

Rev. 21:9 And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, Come here; I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.

Rev. 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

- c. The building of the church as the house and the city is the center of God's eternal purpose—Eph. 2:21-22; 1 Tim. 3:15; Rev. 21:2-3.

Eph. 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;

Eph. 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

1 Tim. 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.

Rev. 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Rev. 21:3 And I heard a loud voice out of the throne, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will tabernacle with them, and they will be His peoples, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.

3. If there is no recovery of God's people from Babylon the Great to the church life, there will be no way for Christ to carry out His second coming—1:7:

Rev. 1:7 Behold, He comes with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the land will mourn over Him. Yes, amen.

- a. This is the reason that the Lord, at the end time, is working to have a recovery of the church—v. 11; 3:7-10; 22:16; 1 Cor. 12:27; 1:2.

Rev. 1:11 Saying, What you see write in a scroll and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamos and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.

Rev. 3:7 And to the messenger of the church in Philadelphia write: These things says the Holy One, the true One, the One who has the key of David, the One who opens and no one will shut, and shuts and no one opens:

- Rev. 3:8 I know your works; behold, I have put before you an opened door which no one can shut, because you have a little power and have kept My word and have not denied My name.
- Rev. 3:9 Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, those who call themselves Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will cause them to come and fall prostrate before your feet and to know that I have loved you.
- Rev. 3:10 Because you have kept the word of My endurance, I also will keep you out of the hour of trial, which is about to come on the whole inhabited earth, to try them who dwell on the earth.
- Rev. 22:16 I Jesus have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the bright morning star.
- 1 Cor. 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.
- 1 Cor. 1:2 To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, the called saints, with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, who is theirs and ours:

b. This recovery will be a preparation and a base for Christ's coming again—Rev. 1:7; 3:11; 19:7-9; 22:7, 12, 20.

- Rev. 1:7 Behold, He comes with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the land will mourn over Him. Yes, amen.
- Rev. 3:11 I come quickly; hold fast what you have that no one take your crown.
- Rev. 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
- Rev. 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.
- Rev. 19:9 And he said to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God.
- Rev. 22:7 And behold, I come quickly. Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this scroll.
- Rev. 22:12 Behold, I come quickly, and My reward is with Me to render to each one as his work is.
- Rev. 22:20 He who testifies these things says, Yes, I come quickly. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!