



Sermon Growth Guide

January 3, 2021

Wonder - Into the Promise

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Key Verse: Jeremiah 31:10 “Hear the word of the Lord, you nations; proclaim it in distant coastlands...”

Big Idea: In Christ we are restored and set to dancing, proclaiming the goodness of God to the ends of the earth.

Foundations

Jeremiah chapters 30–33 are all about restoration. While Jeremiah 30 is mostly about restoration to the land, Jeremiah 31 takes us into restoration of the people to the Lord. When we consider our main verse for this week, Jeremiah 31:10, we learn that the people ought to “proclaim the word in distant coastlands” precisely because the Lord “will watch over his flock like a shepherd.” 500-600 years later Jesus will say, “I am the Good Shepherd” and the future tense “God will watch over his flock” becomes the past and present tense “God has watched over his flock and is watching over his flock.” Later in Jeremiah 31, in verses 31–34, we find an astonishingly clear response to the “how” God will do this. A New Covenant is on the way!

There is little question that Jesus had Jeremiah 31:24 on his heart as he approached the cross. In Matthew 26:28 we read, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” The restoration celebrated in Jeremiah 7–14 is given a name in verses 31–34. As we celebrate communion this week, remember and celebrate that God has promised us restoration with Himself for centuries and that long-awaited union arrives in Christ Jesus.

Gathered together with your circle, open your time of study in prayer. Ask the Spirit to guide and guard your spiritual formation, your growth in Christ.

Understanding God’s Word

In the opening of our passage this week, the people of God are instructed to “Sing with joy... shout for the foremost of the nations... make your praises heard.” What is the Lord up to in Jeremiah 31:7–14 that is such cause for jubilant witnessing to everyone who can hear?

Moving down Jeremiah 31 to verses 31–34, what is the “new thing” that the Lord promises to do?

Applying God’s Word

Because of God’s “everlasting love” and “unfailing kindness” (31:3), He moves to restore His people to Himself (31:7–14) through the establishment of a New Covenant (31:31–34). How can the internalizing of this Good News change the way you view your life this week? What in your life needs re-prioritizing?

Witnessing God’s Word

In Christ we are restored and set to dancing, proclaiming the goodness of God to the ends of the earth. How can your circle help you grow in your excitement about being called to be a proclaimer of the Good News to the ends of the earth? Identify one person you would like to share the Good News with this week. End your time praying that all those identified by your circle will come to receive Christ.