

The Days are Coming

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Introduction

Jeremiah 33:14-16

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’”

Exposition

I. Background to Jeremiah 33:14-16

The prophet Jeremiah was called by God to warn and exhort the people of Judah. The people were living like the pagan nations around them. Instead of remaining faithful to God, the people of Judah were worshipping idols while falsely believing that because they had the temple, God would not judge them as a nation. Jeremiah was sent to them to warn them against such thinking and such practices, but the people refused to listen to Jeremiah.

As you read through the book of Jeremiah, you will encounter many sad stories of the disobedience and judgment. At certain points, you will read of how the Jews were headed into exile on account of their rebellion against God. But when you get to Jeremiah 30-33, the tone of the book changes for a few chapters. In Jeremiah 30-33, which is also called the Book of Consolation, God promises the Jews through Jeremiah that He will eventually return to them and restore them in the land under a truly righteous king. This king would be a descendent of King David. And the king would rule with righteousness and justice in the land over God’s people. And the people would prosper once again, which brings us to our passage this morning in Jeremiah 33:14-16...

II. The Days are Coming (Vs. 14)

Verse 14 begins with a phrase that should have provoked hope and anticipation among the Jews. Like receiving news that a loved one will be home soon from a long trip, verse 14 told Jeremiah’s audience that “the days are coming” when God will return to His people and restore them. The people who had gone into exile, that is, the people who had been removed from their homeland due to their sin against God, some of these people were going to return home. Can you imagine what it must have been like to be removed from the land that was all you ever knew? Imagine if Russia or North Korea rolled into Ouachita County tomorrow and began tearing down your homes, burning your church buildings, and relocating your family. Now, after decades of living in a foreign land under the power of a foreign government, imagine that you receive word that “the days are coming” when you will return home with your family.

Verse 14 implies that there is going to be some significant changes coming in the near future. First of all, if God was going to fulfill His promise to the people of Israel and Judah and return them to the land, God was going to have to deal with their enemies. In this case, God would have to deal with the Babylonians who had invaded the land and deported them. Second, someone is going to have to lead the people once God has delivered them. This means that God would have to not only restore the people to the land but that He would also have to give the people a king, which is the message of verse 15...

III. A Righteous Branch (Vs. 15)

In verse 15, we read that “God will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.” Now, what does this image of a “Righteous Branch” mean? Well, think about a tree stump or bush that has been cut off but not completely uprooted. If the roots are still intact, some species of trees and bushes will continue to grow even after they have been cutdown. In such cases, you may see a tree stump that has small branches growing out of the place where the large trunk used to be. That is the imagery that Jeremiah is using in verse 15. Although the descendants of David were cut off and judged by God for their rebellion, the roots of the house of David were still intact. Furthermore, those roots were still planted in the unchanging promise of God to build a dynasty for the house of David. So, while many of David’s descendants failed to live up to their calling, God’s promise would not fail. For, while much of the tree had been cut off, the stump remained, and God was promising to bring forth a “righteous branch” from it.

According to verse 15, “a righteous Branch would spring up from David, and he would execute justice and righteousness in the land.” In other words, this descendant of David would be a king who lived and ruled in justice and righteousness. He would not be like the other kings who led the people into idolatry. This King would uphold righteousness. Now, the reason that this was important is because the livelihood and blessing of the community depended on the righteousness of the king. If the king was righteous, then God would bless the community. He would protect them. He would not judge them. However, when a king did what was evil in God’s sight, then the people would be cursed. They would be judged. And during Jeremiah’s ministry, that was exactly what had happened. The people were being punished for their unrighteousness which had been promoted and facilitated by their rebellious kings. So, the people of Israel didn’t just need to be brought back into their land. They needed a King who was righteous. A King who would lead them away from idolatry. A King would save them and bring them security, which is what we find in verse 16...

IV. Salvation and Safety Under the True King (Vs. 16)

Look with me at verse 16, which says, “In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’” According to verse 16, in the day that were coming, when the True King appeared to lead the people away from idolatry into true worship and to rule over them in righteousness and justice, then the people and the land would dwell securely. Then the people would be saved. Then the people would reflect the righteousness of their God and people all over the world would declare of God’s people, “The LORD is their righteousness.” The only hope for Jeremiah’s audience, the only hope of the Jews, was the coming of righteous and justice King who would lead them to worship and obey God rightly.

Conclusion

This King would be the ideal King of true justice and righteousness. He would be the King that the angel Gabriel promised would be born to Mary. We read about the coming of this Ideal King in Luke 1:28-33

²⁸ And *Gabriel* came to *Mary* and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, *Mary*, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name *Jesus*. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

As many of you probably knew, Jesus is the King of Righteousness and Justice to whom Jeremiah 33:14-16 was pointing. No other descendant of King David would or was able to rule like Jesus, for Jesus was not only the Son of David, but also the Son of God. And when he appeared, He caused quite a stir.

You see, while the Jews were looking forward to the day when God would fulfill the promises that He made to David, they were looking forward to those days from their own perspective. They didn't have Jesus in mind. They didn't want a King who demanded His people to love their enemies. They didn't want a King who called them to take up their cross and follow Him. They didn't want a King who required them to lay their lives down for others. They wanted a king who would drive out and kill their enemies. They wanted a king who give them power and prestige. They didn't want a King like Jesus. They didn't want a King who showed compassion and care for the weak, vulnerable, and oppressed in society. The people wanted a king like themselves, but God knew they needed a king that would be different.

God knew that the people needed a King like His Son Jesus. They needed a King would come and lay His life down in the place of sinners in order to save them from their sin and grant them to dwell securely in His mercy and grace. The people, just like you, needed a King who would come be the righteousness that they needed in order to be accepted before God. And Jesus was, is, and will forever be that King.

And today, King Jesus is reigning in heaven, patiently and mercifully calling each and every one of us to turn away from our rebellion against Him and trust Him for the salvation and security that we desperately need. And He is doing so because the days are coming when He will return again. And when He returns, it will not be like the first time. When He comes again, He will settle all scores. He will judge all sin. And He will reign over His people forever in a New Heaven and New Earth in the New Jerusalem.

So, I ask you, are you ready for the days that are coming? Are you ready for the King's return?