

PROMISE OF RESTORATION

Old Testament Lesson #187

Jeremiah was a prophet to the southern kingdom of Judah. He lived and prophesied at a very difficult time in the history of the nation. The nation was coming to an end. God was punishing the nation for their unfaithful behavior. To do this, He used the nation of Babylon to come down and destroy the nation and to take many of the people into captivity.

The whole purpose of the punishment was to help cause the people to turn back to God. He loved His people and He wanted to take care of them. However, their disobedience had become so great, that they needed to be punished first before He could accomplish all that He wanted to do.

The people did not react well to hearing about the coming captivity. God told the people through Jeremiah that they should not resist the Babylonian nation. They were to go along with the captivity. However, many of the people and leaders of the nation wanted to fight against Babylon. This caused many to die and cities were destroyed.

The people were sad and thought everything was coming to an end for Israel. The city of Jerusalem and the nation of Judah lay in ruins. For them, they said concerning Jerusalem, "It is a desolate waste, without men or animals" (v. 10). Yet, God didn't want the people to lose hope, or to have their hearts troubled. God would be with them in their time of captivity, and if they turned to God, he was going to bring them back out of captivity.

In fact, this passage records some very positive and beautiful promises by God that He would indeed restore the nation. God's people would once again be in the city of Jerusalem. God promised that "the sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of bride and bridegroom, and the voices of those who bring thank offerings to the house of the Lord," (v. 11) would once again be heard in the streets of the city. God was also going to again "restore the fortunes of the land as they were before" (v. 11).

But the most important point in God's promises was that of a son of David who would be sitting upon the throne in Jerusalem, ruling over God's kingdom. This wonderful promise is outlined in verses 14-16. God tells the people that in the end He "will fulfill the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah" (v. 14). God promised a righteous King who would be a descendant of David but also the Son of God. This King, when he is established as King

in Jerusalem, "will do what is just and right in the land" (v. 15). When this promised King is sitting on the throne, "Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety" (v. 16).

The people of Israel could take comfort in this promise. They were going to spend time in captivity and suffer at the hands of the Babylonians, but it wasn't the final end of things. God would restore them as a people and nation, and a wonderful King, "The Lord Our Righteousness" (v. 16) will reign over them.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- Jeremiah told the people of Israel that the captivity in Babylon would last seventy (70) years in Jeremiah 25:11-12.
- God's promise to David about a Son to always sit on the throne of Jerusalem is given in 2 Samuel 7:12-16. In this passage, God identifies that this future Son of David would also be the Son of God.
- So sure was this promise of the coming Savior and King of Israel, God tells them that it is as sure as there is always day and night. Each day comes and goes. As sure as each day exists, so, to, is it a guarantee that this promise will be fulfilled. See Jeremiah 33:19-21.
- When Jesus was in the earth, the people and His disciples were expecting Jesus to become king and restore the Kingdom. Even after His resurrection, they wanted to know when it would be. In Acts 1 it describes how Jesus spent His time with His disciples talking "about the kingdom of God" (v. 3). The next time they met with Him, they asked Him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" (v. 6).

Jesus goes on to tell them it isn't now. They have some work to do preaching and continuing His work.

While He spoke with them, He was lifted up from their sight and taken into heaven. As the disciples stood looking into the sky after Jesus had disappeared from sight, two angels appeared standing by them. They told the disciples, "This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

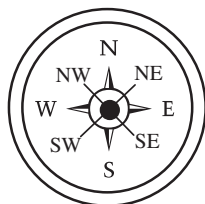
When Jesus comes that second time, it will be to fulfill the promise of Jeremiah 33 and many other Scriptures, as He becomes King in Jerusalem and is known by the name, "The Lord Our Righteousness."

ANSWER KEY IS ON NEXT PAGE

The prophet Jeremiah spoke about God's promise to restore the land. God said, "I will fulfill the promise I made. Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety."

God promised wonderful things His people could look forward to in the future. Find the words to complete the sentence. (For example, 1-9-N means column 1, row 9, and letters following in a northerly direction.)

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| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | |
| 1 | O | W | S | E | R | U | T | S | A | P |
| 2 | K | F | O | P | L | Y | F | S | D | D |
| 3 | T | N | F | N | G | O | O | E | R | E |
| 4 | E | F | A | E | K | J | R | N | S | S |
| 5 | H | E | L | H | R | O | T | D | O | O |
| 6 | P | A | T | O | T | I | U | A | U | L |
| 7 | O | J | D | S | C | Y | N | L | N | A |
| 8 | R | N | E | U | A | K | E | G | D | T |
| 9 | P | R | E | D | J | W | S | Y | S | E |
| 10 | H | G | J | E | R | E | M | I | A | H |



The _____
 _____ 1-9-N _____ 3-10-E
 said that _____, a _____
 _____ 5-9-NW _____ 10-2-S
 _____, would _____
 _____ 6-9-NW _____ 1-7-SE _____ 4-9-NE
 _____ of _____ and
 _____ 5-4-NW _____ 9-4-S _____ 6-4-N
 _____, _____
 _____ 8-8-N _____ 5-6-NW
 _____ to the _____,
 _____ 1-1-SE _____ 5-2-SE

 _____ 2-9-NE _____ 7-2-S
 and _____ for _____
 _____ 10-1-W _____ 2-4-SE

When God makes a vow, He does not forget about it. Remove every letter B, V, N and Y. Write the remaining letters in order on the lines to find what God said through His prophet Jeremiah.

IVWINLYLYFUBLVFINYLYLYTBHN
 ENGBRANYCIVONUSYPBRNOMINS
 BEYINMANDYEBTNOTVHYENHOB
 USVEYOBFYNISBVRNAYENLY.

God's gracious promise was to send a Savior through the line or family tree of David. Find that Person's name by filling in letters to complete the names of various types of trees.



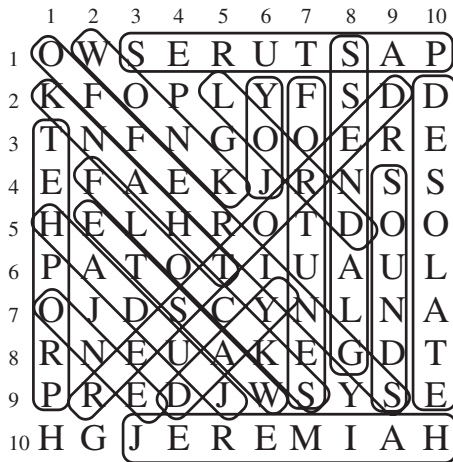
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| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | P | W | O | C | T | C | M | Q | A | I | K | E | U | | | |
| E | A | K | | | L | M | | | | | | | A | T | U | C | E | | E | S | L | W | | E | D | N | O | H | E | Y | T | T | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S | S | L | O | O | | R | R | | I | | E | N | U | T | |
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Name _____

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ANSWER KEY:



prophet, Jeremiah, Judah, desolate, waste, one, day,
 know, sounds, joy, gladness, thank, offerings, Lord,
 restored, fortunes, pastures, flocks

I will fulfill the gracious promise I made to the house
 of Israel.

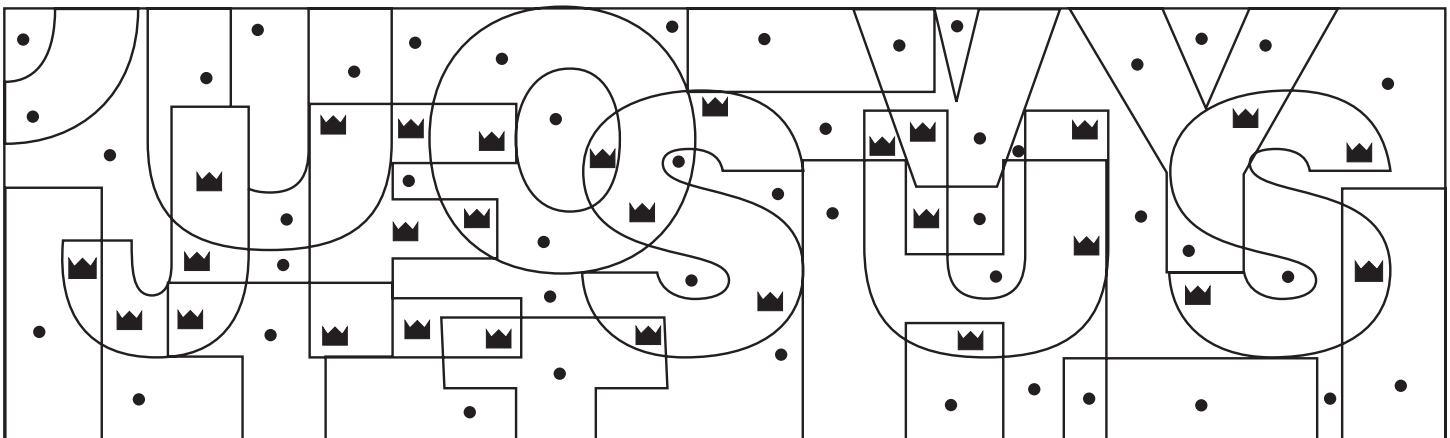
The Lord Our Righteousness

God fulfilled His promise that Judah would be saved and Jerusalem would live in safety.

Find the hidden objects in the picture.



Who would eventually fulfill God's promise? Shade in the shapes with a  in them.



Name _____