

Crystallization-Study of Jeremiah and Lamentations

#10 The Promise, the Prophecy, the Remnant, and the

Recovery (11/9-15) OL Summary:

I. God chose the children of Israel and made them His people as a type of the church: **A.** The children of Israel, as the chosen people of God, are the greatest, collective type of the church.

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: **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" (Jer. 29:11). **B.** "I have loved you with an eternal love; / Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness" (31:3). **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). **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). **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" (12).

F. "I will turn their mourning to gladness / And comfort them and cause them to rejoice after their sorrow" (13).

III. Jeremiah prophesied that the captivity of Israel in Babylon would be for 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. **B.** Just as God gave the people up to captivity, He would bring them back, not as captives but as triumphant warriors. **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".

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: **A.** After the seventy-year captivity, God came in to call the children of Israel to return from Babylon to the Holy Land: When God called His people to come back to His chosen land, very few responded; the majority remained in their captivity. /God promised that His people would return to Jerusalem after seventy years of captivity in Babylon; in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah a remnant returned according to this promise.

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: 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. **C.** The return of the children of Israel from Babylon to Jerusalem prepared the way for the coming of Christ: The Lord's first coming depended on the return of God's people from their captivity in Babylon to the Holy Land. /According to the

prophecy in Micah 5:2, Christ was to be born in Bethlehem. /In order for this prophecy to be fulfilled, God's people had to be in the Holy Land. /The remnant of returned captives was the instrument used by God to rebuild the temple and usher in the first coming of Christ. /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. /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. /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. /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.

V. Jehovah said that He would bring recovery to the children of Israel: **A.** Jehovah promised to bring the city of Jerusalem recovery and healing. **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. **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.

VI. The return of the children of Israel from their captivity typifies the recovery of the church: **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.

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. **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.

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: These vessels, which were of silver and gold, signify the riches of Christ and the various aspects of the experience of Christ. /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.

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: 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. /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. /This recovery will be a preparation and a base for Christ's coming again.

CP1: Listen to the word of faith every day, take heed that the heart would not be infected by unbelief and participate in the promised blessing by faith

OL1: The children of Israel, as the chosen people of God, are the greatest, collective type of the church. 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.

1 Cor. 10:1 ...All our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; 2 and all were baptized...; 3 and all ate the same spiritual food. ...10 Neither murmur, just as some of them murmured and perished by the destroyer. 11 Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our admonition...

OL2: Jehovah promised to turn the captivity of Israel and bring them back to their land. Jer. 29:14 ...I will turn your captivity and gather you..., declares Jehovah, and bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.

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. 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. 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. 31:3 I have loved you with an eternal love; / Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness. 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. 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. 11 For Jehovah has ransomed Jacob and redeemed him.... 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. 13 I will turn their mourning to gladness / And comfort them and cause them to rejoice after their sorrow.

Application: Newcomers and Youth/College students

Recognize that our local church is the Lord's recovery according to God's promise. The people of Israel are the type of today's church. Therefore, the history of Israel's fall is a warning to believers in the New Testament, the blessing to Israel and the blessing to you. You should read Jer. 29-31 above and the words from the epistle to the Hebrews below and consider them carefully in your prayers.

Heb.2:1 Therefore we ought to give heed more abundantly to the things which have been heard lest

perhaps we drift away.3 How shall we escape if we have neglected so great a salvation, which, having had its beginning in being spoken by the Lord, has been confirmed to us by those who heard, 3:12 Beware, brothers, lest perhaps there be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief in falling away from the living God.4:2 For indeed we have had the good news announced to us, even as they also; but the word heard did not profit them, not being mixed together with faith in those who heard.

New ones and young people should pay attention every day not to fall away from "so great salvation". Wear a mask, keep physical distances, and ventilate the air in your rooms to avoid the infection of corona virus and flu. Likewise, an evil heart of unbelief comes from the world outside and the lust of the flesh inside. Listen to the Word of faith every day and be careful not to let unbelief infect your heart. The Word of God will bring the children of God back to the position of oneness in Jerusalem, and He has promised that ...And their soul will be like a watered garden, And they will not languish any more. And I will turn their mourning to gladness And comfort them and cause them to rejoice after their sorrow.] (Jer.31:12~13) Your promises may be changed, but God is faithful to His promises. God's promises do not change. Unbelief is indeed an evil heart, because it makes your idea which is influenced by Satan righteous and makes God's promise unrighteous.

For example, one person was told by his boss that if he gave up his faith, he would be promoted, but if not, he would not be promoted (this is a true story). So does faith bless you? Or does lie bless you? You may not have the same experience, but I'm sure you have had the similar ones.

A brother's testimony: I became full-time serving one after graduating with a master's degree. At that time, it was impossible to get a job unless you were a recent graduate (few or none mid-career positions were available), so my father and family were very disappointed with me. At that time when I left everything to follow the Lord, I was afraid that I would be "financially poor" and that I would not be able to get married. But then I took a courageous step forward. Now, I can testify that "full-time training and full-time service changed me from being a useless person to a useful person. By following the Lord, I was able to marry a sister and become a Vice President of a large global company. I was afraid of looking only at the immediate future and was on the verge of unbelief, but when I received the Lord's mercy, I was able to muster up the courage to do so. As a result, the Lord has provided far beyond my expectations. I thank the Lord for that!

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, I learn from the history of Israel's degradation so that I may not fall from so great salvation. I trust in God's promise that turns sorrow into joy, to comfort and makes me rejoice instead of sorrow. Your word is faithful. Please save me from being influenced by Satan to fall into unbelief. Let me exercise our spirit to pray- read Your Word, mix it with faith, and testify the Lord with courage and boldness every moment. Amen!

CP2: To build up the church is the highest business in the universe. Be willing to pay the price to dispense God into people to practice God's economy

Jer.23:3-4 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. And I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they will no longer fear or be dismayed, nor will any be missing, declares Jehovah.

Jer. 25:11-12 And this whole land will become a desolation and a waste, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years. 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.

OL1: Jeremiah prophesied that the captivity of Israel in Babylon would be for seventy years. 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. Just as God gave the people up to captivity, He would bring them back, not as captives but as triumphant warriors. Because Daniel understood the prophecies in Jeremiah concerning the seventy years of Israel's captivity, he set his face "toward the Lord God to seek Him in prayer".

OL2: After the seventy-year captivity, God came in to call the children of Israel to return from Babylon to the Holy Land. When God called His people to come back to His chosen land, very few responded; the majority remained in their captivity.

OL3: 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. 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.

OL4: The return of the children of Israel from Babylon to Jerusalem prepared the way for the coming of Christ. The Lord's first coming depended on the return of God's people from their captivity in Babylon to the Holy Land. According to the prophecy in Micah 5:2, Christ was to be born in Bethlehem. In order for this prophecy to be fulfilled, God's people had to be in the Holy Land. The remnant of returned captives was the instrument used by God to rebuild the temple and usher in the first coming of Christ. 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. 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.

OL5: 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. 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.

Application to business person/graduate students

Because Daniel understood the prophecies in Jeremiah concerning the seventy years of Israel's captivity, he set his face "toward the Lord God to seek Him in prayer". The most precious prayer, the valuable prayer is to pray God's will as Daniel did. Daniel's prayer turned the age of destroy of temple and captivity to the age of returning to Jerusalem and the rebuilding of the temple.

Business person or researcher may think that they want to work for people. You may have such an idea that by presenting new technology or service they want to be useful to improve Quality of life, QOL and at the same time earn income by this. But think about it. To practice God's will is far more excellent than this idea. And not only that, the center of God's will is man. So of course, it will be useful for man. Moreover, we stand against and deal with Satan who tempts and degrades man. Thus to practice God's will is to deal with God, man who is the center of the creature and God's enemy Satan in a proper way.

If your occupation can be helpful to improve QOL of people, that is wonderful. But the improvement of QOL here is a partial improvement and not essential. Without God's economy and His dispensing, there is no fundamental improvement of quality of life. Because man is a vessel to contain God and without receiving God's dispensing, there is no true satisfaction for man.

Here, there is a chance in your life to connect to the building of the church which is the highest business in the universe, and the business of the Lord's second coming. Those who want to be useful in the world should know God's eternal economy which is higher and more excellent goal, and consider its value. Then consecrate your whole life for Christ and the church which is God's eternal economy. As business person or researcher, you may want to engage in the work or study which help people and have pride in it. Engaging yourself in God's economy is more significant than this. In addition of your business or research, by giving your time to the building of the church, you can engage in God's business.

Matt13:45 Again, the kingdom of the heavens is like a merchant seeking fine pearls; 46 And finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. FN [merchant]:The merchant is Christ, who was seeking the church for His kingdom. After finding it in 16:18 and 18:17, He went to the cross and sold all that He had and bought it for the kingdom. FN [pearl]:Since the pearl comes out of the sea, which signifies the world corrupted by Satan, it must refer to the church, which is constituted mainly of regenerated believers from the Gentile world and which is of great value.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, I want to participate in the improvement of QOL of people through my job or research, but participating in God's economy is much more valuable than that. Because man is the vessel to contain God and without God man doesn't have true satisfaction. Gospel and shepherding are precious business which satisfies God and man. Moreover, God's business includes dealing with Satan who tempts and degrades man. I give myself to this glorious business. Amen!

CP3: Returning from the division of Babylon to the oneness of Jerusalem, everyone grows and functions in the Body to bring forth the Lord's return

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. 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. OL1:The return of the children of Israel from their captivity typifies the recovery of the church. OL2:The temple, the place of God's presence, needed protection; the wall of the city was the defense of the temple. OL3: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. 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. This recovery will be a preparation and a base for Christ's coming again.

Spiritually speaking, the church, due to its degradation, has been in captivity. God's people have been divided, scattered, and carried away from the proper ground of unity to a wrong ground....In a very real sense, the believers today are more scattered than the children of Israel were...Jerusalem was the place the Lord had chosen. Jerusalem, therefore, was the center for God's people to worship Him, and this unique center preserved the unity of the people of God. Without such a center, after the children of Israel had entered the good land, they would have been divided. Foreseeing this problem, God repeated the commandment again and again concerning the place of His choosing...God's choice became the center of the gathering of His people, and this is the unique ground of unity. 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.

Those who went back to Jerusalem from Babylon brought with them all the vessels of the temple of God which had been captured to Babylon. These vessels, which were of silver and gold, signify the experiences of Christ and the riches of Christ...Even today, some dear Christians have real experiences of Christ, but they are in Babylon....The experiences are right, but the place is wrong, for the vessels are right, but they are the vessels of the temple of God in the temple of idols. Therefore, all the vessels of silver and gold must be brought back to Jerusalem.

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. All the believers are parts of Christ and members of Christ. All these parts put together are the increase of Christ. The church, therefore, is the fullness of Christ because Christ has been increased and enlarged into so many members...Eventually, the whole church becomes the city. Because the temple has become the city, Revelation 21:22 tells us that there is no temple in the city of New Jerusalem. The city is the tabernacle, the dwelling place. Hence, the city is the enlargement of the temple, the development of the house, to the uttermost.

The building of the house and the city is the center of God's

eternal purpose. This building is actually the mingling of God with man....When this mingling is enlarged and consummated to the fullest extent, that is the city.

Application for the serving ones

As a serving one of the church, recognize that the purpose of the Lord's recovery is to bring forth the Lord's return and the Kingdom of Christ. Rev. 11:15 and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever. FN "The kingdom of the world": The kingdom of the world becomes the kingdom of Christ at His coming back after He executes His judgement upon the nations. FN "reign forever and ever": Here the Lord's reigning forever and ever is the Lord's reigning in the millennial kingdom and in the new heaven and new earth for eternity. The church life and service of the Lord's recovery is very different from that of Christianity. The 3 distinctive features of local church life and service are:

1 Recovering the oneness among God's children: Babylon is in a ground of division and Jerusalem is in a ground of oneness. The spiritual significance of the return from Babylon to Jerusalem is that the children of God are recovered from a ground of division to a ground of oneness. The leaders of the church should listen to the current Lord's speaking at the seven international feasts (July Bible training, December Bible training, 2 training for Elders/Responsible Ones, International Chinese Speaking Conference, Memorial Day Conference, Thanks Giving Day Conference), and follow His leading to enjoy the Lord and preach the gospel. Under the work of the ministry, the leaders need to function for building up.

And the serving ones should be one with the leading of the leaders to carry out the service of the Body. Never serve according to your personal burden but serve according to the Body's burden. Otherwise, your service will become that in a ground of Babylon. Such service is of no value in the eyes of God.

You need to crucify your opinion to carry out the service of the Body. Brother Lee fellowshiped the importance of no opinion on the leading of the ministry at Full Time Training Taipei (FTTT) from 1986 to 1988. When Brother Lee was under Brother Nee's ministry, he recognized that the Lord's ministry was on Brother Nee, without any opinions at all, he fully obeyed what the Lord spoke through Brother Nee. In the order of the Body, you should crucify your opinions and obey the brothers in charge to earnestly keep the oneness of the spirit, oneness of the Body. While keeping the oneness, please be aware that **2 everyone enjoys and grows together in the life of the Body, 3 everyone functions in the combination of Body.** Never serve on behalf of others but perfect others so that they can serve. This is the service for building the Body. Prayer: "The features of the life and service of local churches to bring forth the Lord's return and the kingdom of God are **1 Recovering the oneness among the children of God, 2 everyone enjoys and grows together in the life of the Body, 3 everyone functions in the combination of Body.** To carry out the service of the Body, I need to crucify my opinion. Lord, enlighten my every inner part. Deal with sin, self, and opinion, and let me learn service under the leading of the ministry and leaders."