

1. Introduction

- Thank you, Joe,
- Giving, Heaven, His Spirit
- 8,000 promises in the Bible
- Today, we are going to be looking at promises about our future.

2. Transition

- Sermon vault--- Unpreached- Jeremiah
- Dec. 21--- marinating for almost 4 years
- Perspective on talking about future--- different--- but HOPE

3. Jeremiah 1:4-8

- Take your copy and turn to **Jeremiah 1:4-8**
  - Israel wanted a king so they got Saul. After Saul, David, after Solomon. Solomon's heart was divided and at the end of his rule, the kingdom also divided. Northern Israel and Southern Judah
  - Jeremiah served as the prophet during the reign of 3 kings (Josiah, Jehoiakim and Zedekiah)
- God's call to Jeremiah--- you got the wrong guy--- too young--- can't speak (insecurities)
- Tattoo in 2016 because I so resonated with this text
- 4 words that God says to Jeremiah that change everything when it comes to thinking about our future (**Jer. 1:8, 19**) I AM WITH YOU.
- **Point #1: God will never leave us.**
  - This is the entire picture of God's Word... In the beginning God (**Gen. 1:1**)
  - Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us (**John 1:14**)
  - Do not leave Jerusalem but wait for the power of the Holy Spirit (**Acts 1:4**)
  - God's dwelling place is among people! (**Rev. 21:3**)
  - Never been a time you walked alone!

4. Jeremiah continued

- Jeremiah's whole aim is to get the people to turn back from their sin and to turn to God. Jeremiah is a prophet and he is warning the people of what's to come if they don't listen. God is angry with His people because they were putting confidence in the wrong people, acting in ways that were contrary to their faith, and guilty of idolatry. The bottom line is that they were being unfaithful.
- Many scholars refer to Jeremiah as the weeping prophet because the people don't listen to him. He preached the same message for 23 years and the people refused to listen to repent.
- **READ Jeremiah 25:3, 8-12**
- God is saying it's going to be 70 years. Judah will be exiled for 70 years. It's easy to trust God with our future when it seems good! When we are prospering, it's easy know and believe that God is with me and things will work out.

5. False Prophet

- To create more confusion to an already challenging situation, a false prophet, Hananiah, goes against Jeremiah's words and says in front of the priests and all the people that it will only be 2 years. **Read Jeremiah 28:1-4.**
- **Point #2: Shortcuts undermine trust in God's provision**
  - There had to have been a part of Jeremiah that wanted to believe this. This is a difference of 68 years! But Jeremiah had been walking in step with God and he knew the truth. Jeremiah stands up for the truth and says... **READ Jer. 28:15-17**
  - To trust God means letting God set the pace. If God says it is 70 years, then it's 70 years. Just because it is not quick and easy does not mean it's not good. For some of you maybe you've been walking through a tough season, let me encourage you to keep going. If we don't quit, we win. Don't stop short because the blueprints don't look like yours.
  - **Mile 10**

## 6. The Finale

- Settle down, build houses, plant gardens, have families. It really is 70 years
- **Read Jeremiah 29:10-14**
- **Point #3: God's plan for my future is intentional and good.**
- It's in the midst of devastation and loss that God says I HAVE A PLAN!! It is easy to believe that God has a plan when life is good but He is reminding the people that even in the midst of the pain, the heartache, the brokenness and devastation, I SEE YOU AND I STILL HAVE A PLAN!!
- This is a word for someone this morning.

## 7. Conclusion

- Joel 2 story
  - Dark place--- someone had really hurt me. The most depressed I'd ever been in my life was from July 2019-May 2021.
  - Joel 2 describes this destructive locust plague and the locusts destroyed everything.
  - Joel urges the people to repent and to turn to God with their whole hearts
  - **Joel 2:25-27** offers hope and restoration for those who repent. READ TEXT.
  - Someone prophesied this over my life when I lived in that dark place. And it sounded good but there was no way I could believe it at the time. It's highlighted in my Bible.
  - First Fulfillment – Trevor
  - Second fulfillment- texted me and apologized & invited me to serve with them for an event. Full circle- picture of God being faithful to His promise and saying I am paying attention to the details of your life!!!
  - It took \_\_\_\_ days for that to be fulfilled.
- **Surely your goodness and mercy will follow after me so fear will not find me for I'll be dwelling in the house of God. He has good plans, He has good plans for me so I will take heart in deserts and gardens.**
- **Psalms 23:6** (ONLY in the Greek!)