

A photograph of a person crouching in the center of a dark, narrow tunnel. The tunnel is lined with large, textured concrete blocks. At the far end of the tunnel, there is a bright, glowing light source, creating a strong silhouette of the person and illuminating the floor with dust and debris. The overall mood is one of hope and seeking comfort.

Be Comforted

Jeremiah

Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore
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3-days travel, 4-day visit











Let's Study Through Scripture

The Bible: Book by Book



"The Weeping Prophet"



We all need to be comforted



We all need to be comforted





Balance discipline with comfort.



Balance discipline with comfort.



Discipline.





How does God **comfort
even those he disciplines?**

Josiah's Sons & Prophets

232
342

Daniel

605

Ezekiel

Josiah

Jehoahaz

Jehoiakim

Jehoiachin

Zedekiah

City
Fell

609

(3 mos.)

(11 yrs.)

597

(3 mos.)

(11 yrs.)

586

Jeremiah

627

 Brief Puppet Kings

Key Word

474
343

Inevitable

Jeremiah

Theme

**Deserved Captivity &
Undeserved Restoration**

Jeremiah

Key Verse

474

“...For the LORD our God has doomed us to perish and given us poisoned water to drink, because we have sinned against him” (8:14b).

Jeremiah

A photograph of a person crouching in the center of a dark, narrow tunnel. The tunnel is lined with large, textured concrete blocks. At the far end of the tunnel, there is a bright, glowing light source, creating a strong silhouette of the person and casting a long, narrow beam of light down the center of the path. The floor is covered with dry leaves and debris.

Be Comforted

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4 ways...



How does God **comfort
even those he disciplines?**

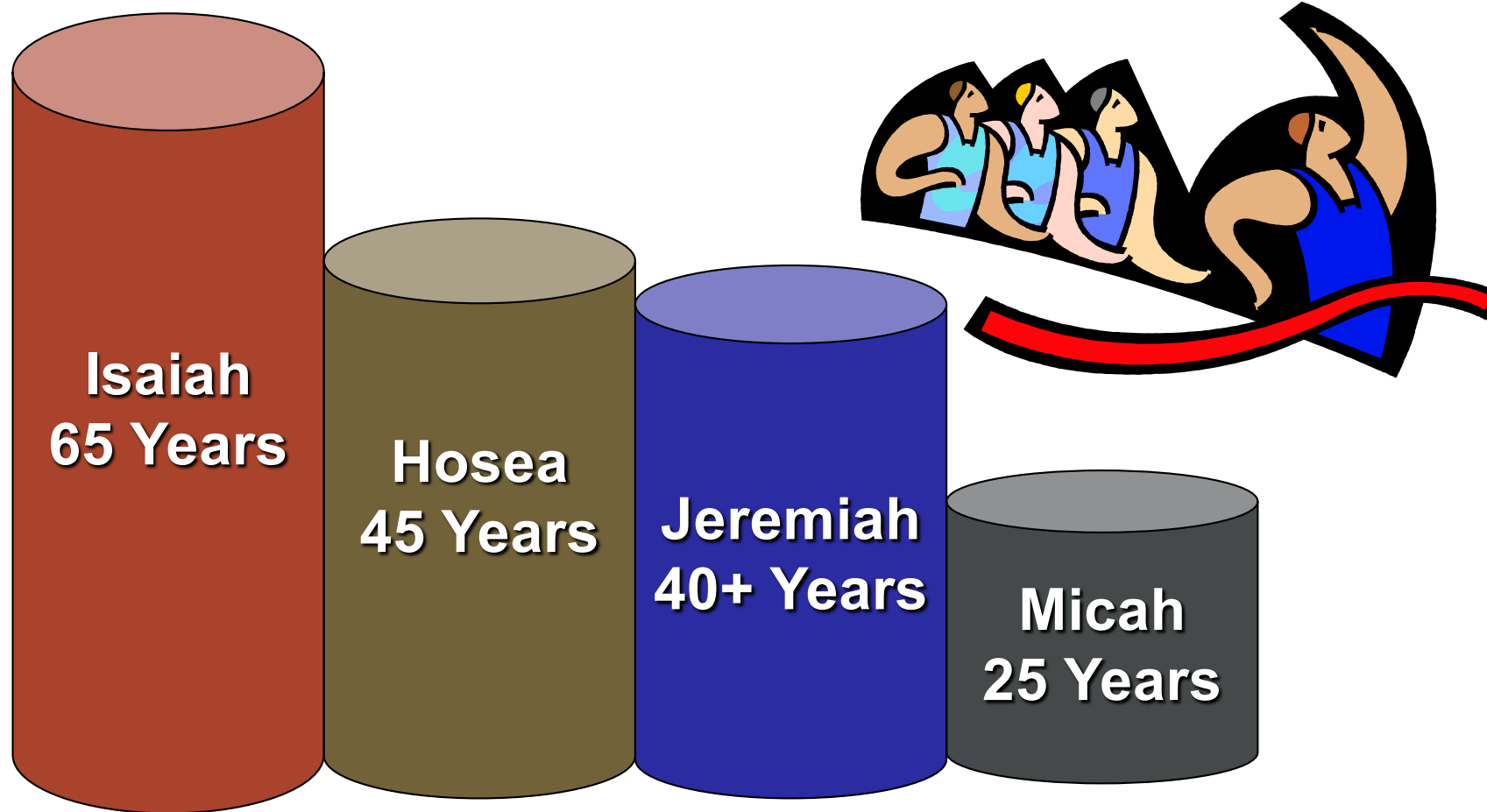
I. God calls messengers who
are **honest** with us (Jer 1).



How does God
comfort even
those he
disciplines?

Jeremiah 1

Length of Prophetic Ministries



God Calls and Commissions Jeremiah



King Josiah's reign and reforms did not last.

God calls a YOUNG MAN!

Jer. 1:4-9

God's Assurance to Jeremiah



**"Before I formed you in the womb
I knew you, before you were born
I set you apart;
I appointed you as a prophet to
the nations..."**

Do not say, 'I am only a child.'

**You must go to everyone I send you to and say
whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them for
I am with you and will rescue you... Now, I have put
my words in your mouth ...**



Jer. 1:5, 7-9



Is God trying to comfort
you through his truthful
messengers?




THE **TRUTH** IS LIKE A **LION**.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DEFEND IT.
LET IT **LOOSE**. IT WILL DEFEND ITSELF.

- St. Augustine




How does God **comfort
even those he disciplines?**

I. God calls messengers who
are **honest** with us (Jer 1).



How does God
comfort even
those he
disciplines?

II. God has limited discipline but unlimited **blessing** (Jer 2–45).



How does God
comfort even
those he
disciplines?

Jeremiah 2

Judah's Relationship With God



A young bride



**Unfaithful many lovers,
one named Baal**

Jeremiah 6

**"This is what the LORD says:
'Stand at the crossroads and look;
ask for the ancient paths,
ask where the good way is,
and walk in it,
and you will find rest for your souls'"**
(Jeremiah 6:16a NIV).



Jeremiah 7

Worthless Public Worship



Trusted in empty words
And “God will not destroy the temple”

God tells Jeremiah to ...

Stop praying for Judah

Their evil had become unthinkable.

They even sacrificed their own children!

Jer. 7–8



Jeremiah 11

Covenant, Conspiracies & Complaints



**Men from Anathoth
conspire to kill him**



**Jeremiah preaches
Covenant broken**

**Jeremiah complains
to God;
God encourages him**

Jer. 11–12

Jeremiah 24

No Repentance in Jerusalem after Nebuchadnezzar

Depiction of People Through Figs at the Temple

Good figs

- Exiles in Babylon who had begun to repent.
- God will take care of them and bring them back.



Bad, rotten figs

- King Zedekiah and his court and all people in Jerusalem
- Still plotting and scheming against Babylon
- Not fit to keep

Jer. 24

Jeremiah 25

Nebuchadnezzar comes (597 BC)

**70-year captivity
predicted**



**Takes exiles and King Jehoiachin away. Places Zedekiah on throne,
gives another chance for Judah to submit to Babylon.**

Two 70-Year Exiles

560

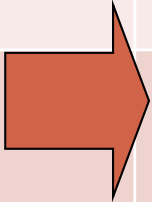
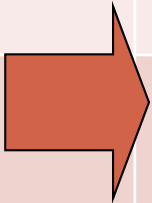
People Exile



Temple Exile

"This entire land will become a desolate wasteland. Israel and her neighboring lands will serve the king of Babylon for seventy years. ¹²Then, after the seventy years of captivity are over, I will punish the king of Babylon and his people for their sins,' says the LORD. 'I will make the country of the Babylonians a wasteland forever'" (Jer 25:11-12 NLT).

Nebuchadnezzar's Six Deportations to Babylon

Size	Date	King of Judah	Number taken	Key Captives	Results/ Comments
1 Minor	605 BC	Jehoiakim	Few (Dan 1:3)	Daniel, 3 friends & nobility & royalty	Tribute imposed. Egypt powerful.
2 Moderate	598 BC	Jehoiakim	3023 (Jer. 52:28)		Minor deportation
3 Major 	597 BC	Jehoiachin	10,000 (2 Kings 24:14)	Jehoiachin, Ezekiel, Mordecai	Neb. deports many; installs Zedekiah
4 Minor	587 BC	Zedekiah	832 (Jer. 52:29)		Before destruction
5 Major 	586 BC	Zedekiah	ca. 10,400 (2 Kings 25:11)	Zedekiah	Jerusalem & temple destroyed
6 Minor	582 BC		745 (Jer. 52:30)		4 years after Jerusalem's destruction

Jeremiah 27

Jerusalem's leaders resist Babylon's rule



Jeremiah 28

Jeremiah (25:11-12) vs. Hananiah (28:2-3)

True

"You'll
stay 70
years!"

Lived 23 years
more (51:64)

False

"You'll
return in 2
years!"

Died 2 months
later (28:17)



Jeremiah 29

How are Prophets Different?

Biblical

Pagan

Unsolicited

Divination

Divine call

Prophet himself

Anywhere

Cultic place

Forth-telling

Fore-telling



False prophecies change

03-29-2001

Opposition by False Prophets

- The false prophet Hananiah breaks Jeremiah's yoke to symbolize God breaking Babylon's power and claims that the captivity will be only two years. Two months later, he dies.
- The false prophet Shemaiah also preaches against Jeremiah.

Jer. 28–29



Jeremiah 30

Book of Comfort & New Covenant

Jer. 30–33



- **Jeremiah redeems a field (Jer. 32) – a sign of hope!**
- **God has not cast aside His people!**
- **A glorious future would follow their judgment.**
- **They will return to the land.**

Jeremiah 31

³⁵ This is what the LORD says,
**he who appoints the sun
to shine by day,
who decrees the moon and stars
to shine by night,
who stirs up the sea
so that its waves roar—**

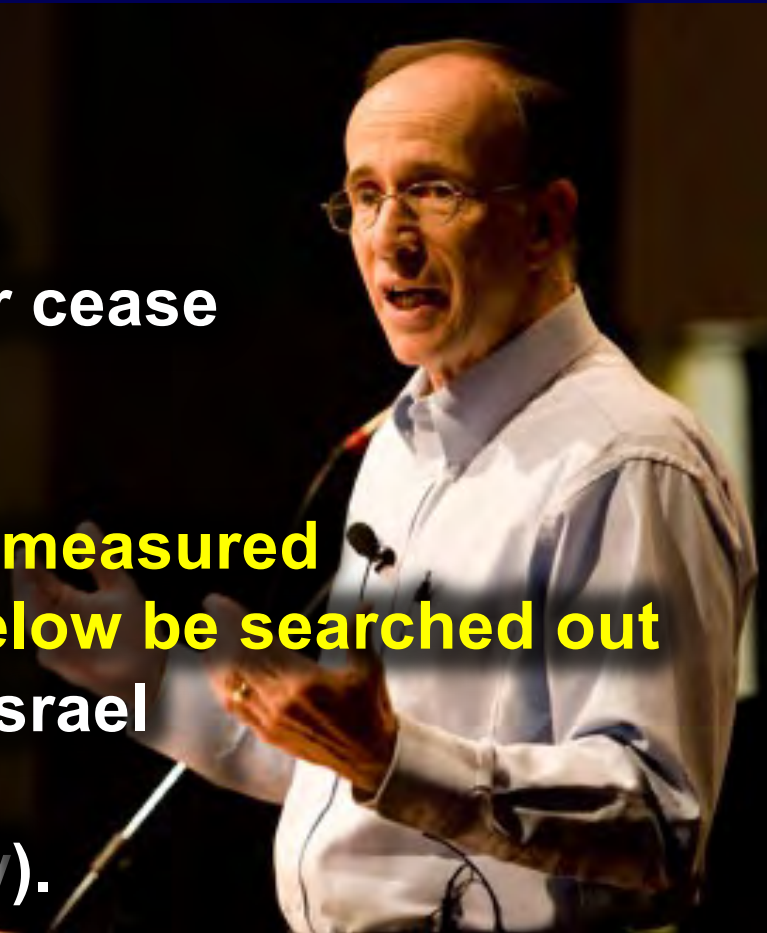
the LORD Almighty is his name:

³⁶ "Only if these decrees vanish
from my sight," declares the LORD,
"will the descendants of Israel ever cease
to be a nation before me."

³⁷ This is what the LORD says:

**"Only if the heavens above can be measured
and the foundations of the earth below be searched out
will I reject all the descendants of Israel
because of all they have done,"**
declares the LORD (Jer. 31:35-37 NIV).

**"How to Get
Rid of the
Jews"**



New Covenant & Branch of David



New Covenant – law written on our hearts and Spirit to guide - **Jer. 31**

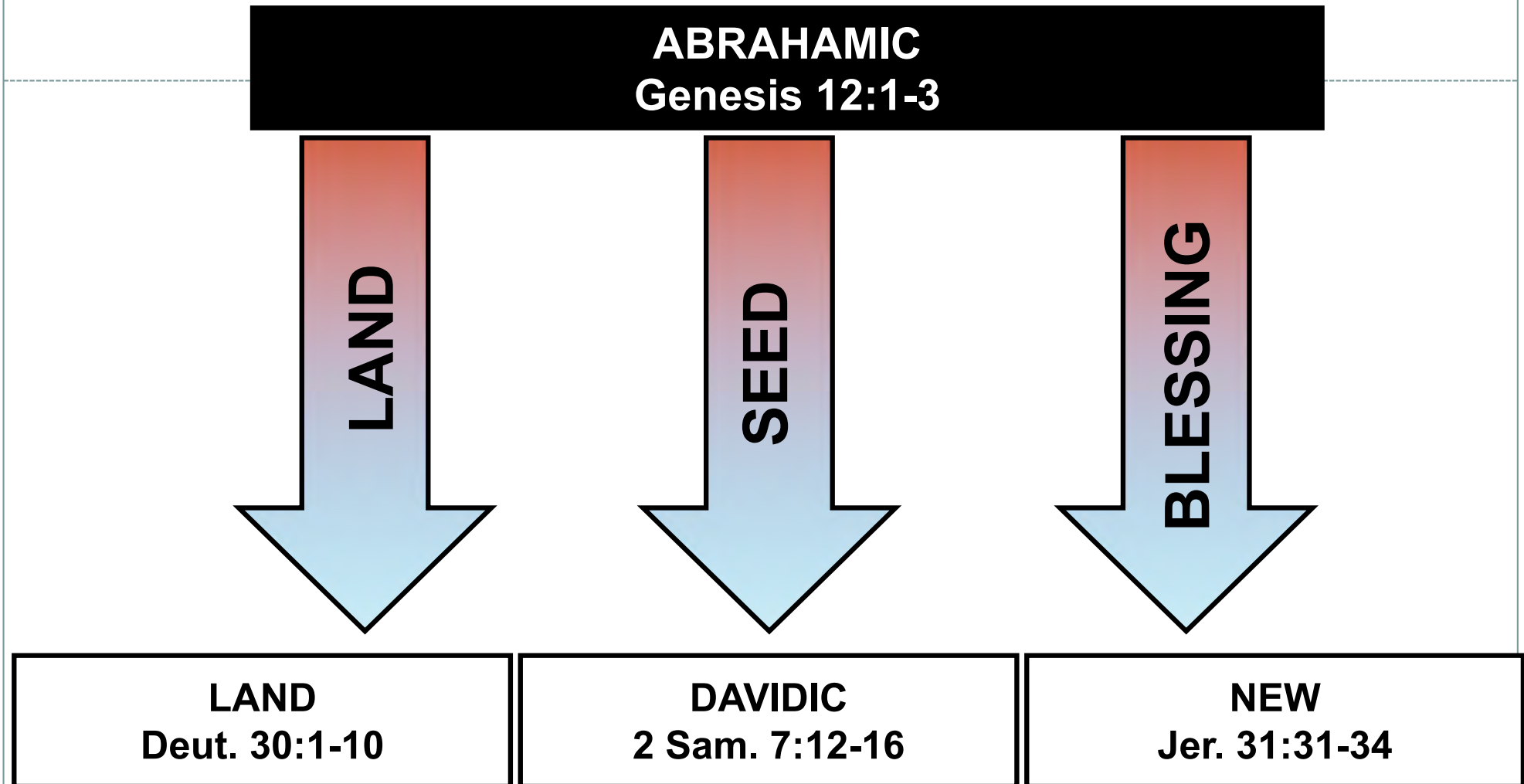


Branch of David – New King and Priest - **Jer. 33**

The New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34)



Four Unconditional Biblical Covenants



The new covenant is God's unconditional amplification of the blessing promise in the Abrahamic Covenant where Judah and Israel will experience national and spiritual redemption.

The New Covenant

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹"The time is coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant **with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.**

³²It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD.

³³"This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD.



The New Covenant

Jeremiah 31:31-34

33b "I will put my **law within them**, and I will write it on their hearts. And **I will be their God**, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for **they shall all know me**, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will **forgive** their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."



Provisions

FULFILLED

- Indwelling of the Holy Spirit (Jer. 31:33 with Ezek. 36:27)
- New nature, heart & mind (Jer. 31:33; Isa. 59:21)
- Forgiveness of sins (Jer. 31:34b)

NOT YET FULFILLED

- Everyone will know the Lord (Jer. 31:34a)
- Israel and Judah will be reunited (Jer. 31:31)



Kingdom & Covenants Timeline



9g

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Kingdom Teaching...

Adam rules with God (Gen. 1:26, 28; 2:19)

Satan begins rule as god of this world (Gen. 3:15; 2 Cor. 4:4)

God covenants with Abraham to reestablish man's rule via Israel as a "kingdom of priests" (Gen. 12:1-3; Exod. 19:6)

Israel's failure to witness to nations as a kingdom of priests is judged via exile under foreign rule

Israel rejects Messiah's offer of kingdom (Matt. 12:41-42; 23:37-39)

Jesus extends His kingdom in mystery form to the Church (Matt. 13)

Christ subdues Israel's enemies and nation believes (Rom. 11:26-27)

Christ rules over everything with saints (Eph. 1:9-10; Rev. 20:1-6; 22:5b)

Fall of Man (Gen. 3)

Noahic Covenant

Genesis 6:18; 9:8-17

Abrahamic Covenant

Genesis 12:1-3

land

Land Covenant

Genesis 15:18 (cf. Deut. 30:1-10) promises:
•Land from Wadi of Egypt to Euphrates River (Isa. 27:12)
•Eternal possession of land (Gen. 17:8) after exile/restoration
•Whole world blessed via the land (Isa. 14:1-2)

ISRAEL
(National Focus)

CHURCH

The "New Man" (Eph. 2:15)

Israel judged for rejecting Messiah by dispersion away from land for 19 centuries (AD 70–AD 1948) but now partially restored (Ezek. 37:1-7)

MESSIANIC Millennial

Full restoration (Ezek. 37:8-28)
Jerusalem world capital (Isa. 2:1-5)

KINGDOM Eternal

New Jerusalem (Rev. 21–22)

seed

Davidic Covenant

2 Samuel 7:12-16 promises:
•Sons ("house" never wiped out)
•Kingdom (political dynasty)
•Throne (right to rule by descendants)
•Temple (son to build it)

Christ is Head over His Church, which is a spiritual temple (Eph. 2:19-22; 2 Cor. 6:16)

Christ reigns over the world (Isa. 11) with saints (Rev. 5:10; 20:4-6)

Christ hands kingdom over to Father (1 Cor. 15:24)

blessing

New Covenant

Jeremiah 31:31-34 promises:
•Forgiveness
•Indwelling Spirit
•New heart, nature, mind
•Reunification of Israel and Judah
•No need for evangelism

Mosaic Law replaced with first three elements of the New Covenant (Luke 22:20; 2 Cor. 3:6)

All 5 elements fulfilled in national restoration (Zech. 8)

All things made new! (Rev. 21:5)

Mosaic Covenant

Temporary (Gal. 3:19) and conditional (Deut. 28) to reveal sin (Rom. 7:7) and regulate Israel (Gal. 3:23-25)

Law abolished, fulfilled, and replaced at the cross (Rom. 7:1-6; 1 Cor. 9:19-21; Heb. 8:13)

Ninth Edition
8 Aug 2020

Scripture has a dual kingdom-covenant theme. Israel's role from Abraham to Christ expands to include the Church (continuity) yet the Church never replaces the nation as the "new Israel" (discontinuity). Israel will again enjoy world prominence after trusting Christ at His second coming.


**Do you focus on God's
unlimited comfort or his
limited discipline?**






How does God **comfort
even those he disciplines?**

I. God calls messengers who
are **honest** with us (Jer 1).




How does God
comfort even
those he
disciplines?

II. God has limited discipline but unlimited **blessing** (Jer 2–45).



How does God
comfort even
those he
disciplines?

III. God applies the same standard to all **people** (Jer 46–51).



**How does God
comfort even
those he
disciplines?**

Jeremiah 46

Judgment on the 12-Nation Coalition (Isa 13–23) 457



Nations Prophesied Against (46–51)

1. **EGYPT (46:1-27)** - To be defeated by Babylonians
2. **PHILISTIA (47:1-6)** - To be overrun by Egyptians
3. **MOAB (48:1-47)** - To be conquered by Babylon
4. **AMMON (49:1-6)** - To be destroyed and re-established in the millennium.
5. **EDOM (49:7-22)** - To become as Sodom and Gomorrah
6. **DAMASCUS (49:23-27)** - To be destroyed in a single day
7. **KEDAR & HAZOR (49:28-35)** - To be destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar
8. **ELAM (49:34-39)** - To be overrun by Nebuchadnezzar and re-established during the millennium.
9. **BABYLON (50:1–51:64)** - Final destruction of the empire.




**Do you
recognize
that God
has been
fair with
you?**



Jeremiah 52

IV. God balances justice with **mercy** (Jer 52).

A detailed painting of a hand, likely belonging to a person of African descent, dipping into a shallow, wide bowl filled with water. The hand is rendered with warm, golden-brown tones and visible textures of skin and hair. The water in the bowl is a pale, yellowish-gold color, reflecting light. The background is dark and indistinct, focusing attention on the hand and the bowl. The overall mood is one of care and cleansing.

How does God
comfort even
those he
disciplines?

An Evil End to Judah

256

① **Josiah**
640-609
(31 yrs.)

Good king in white
Evil kings in yellow

Johanan
(no rule)

③ **Jehoiakim**
(**Eliakim**)
609-597
(11 yrs.)

⑤ **Zedekiah**
(**Mattaniah**)
597-586
(11 yrs.)

② **Jehoahaz**
(**Shallum**)
609
(3 mos.)

④ **Jehoiachin**
(**Jeconiah/Coniah**)
597
(3 mos.)

Exiled → **Babylon**

**Do you focus on
God's discipline
instead of his
mercy in your life?**






How does God **comfort
even those he disciplines?**

**God works within his own
limits so we will submit to
his discipline.**

A detailed painting of a human hand being cast into a large, earthenware pot filled with a bubbling, yellowish liquid, representing boiling water. The hand is shown in a dynamic, falling position, with fingers slightly curled. The pot is made of dark, textured clay and sits on a dark, reflective surface. The background is dark and indistinct, focusing attention on the central action. The overall tone is somber and dramatic, with strong contrasts between light and shadow.


Main Idea of Jeremiah

I. God calls messengers who
are **honest** with us (Jer 1).



How does God
comfort even
those he
disciplines?

II. God has limited discipline but unlimited **blessing** (Jer 2–45).




How does God
comfort even
those he
disciplines?

III. God applies the same standard to all **people** (Jer 46–51).

How does God comfort even those he disciplines?

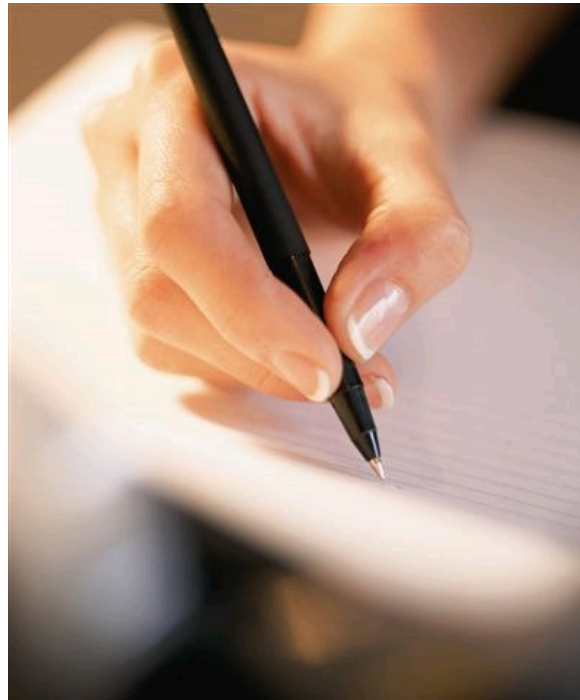


IV. God balances justice with **mercy** (Jer 52).

A detailed oil painting of a hand, likely belonging to a figure of authority or a deity, dipping into a shallow, wide bowl filled with water. The hand is rendered with warm, golden-brown tones, showing intricate details of the skin and veins. The water in the bowl is a pale, shimmering yellow, reflecting light. The background is dark and indistinct, focusing attention on the hand and the bowl. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

How does God
comfort even
those he
disciplines?

APPLICATIONS





APPLICATION #1: ARE YOU LIKE JEREMIAH?

**The prophet
Jeremiah's life
illustrates
how costly
serving the
Lord can be.**



Jeremiah's Difficult & Sacrificial Ministry

- Preached for 40+ years
- Noted people's sins to show God's justice
- Preached accepting God's discipline by submitting to 70-year Babylonian captivity
- Commanded to remain unmarried (16:2)
- Persecuted by his family, hometown people and the religious world
- Thrown into prison (37:5)
- Carried off by force to Egypt where he continued to preach against sin (43:1-7)



God's Assurance to Jeremiah



**"Before I formed you in the womb
I **knew you**, before you were born
I **set you apart**;
I **appointed you** as a prophet to
the nations..."**

Do not say, 'I am only a child.'

**You must go to everyone I send you to and say
whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them for I
am with you and will rescue you... Now, I have put my
words in your mouth ...**



Jer. 1:5,7-9



Are You Like Jeremiah?

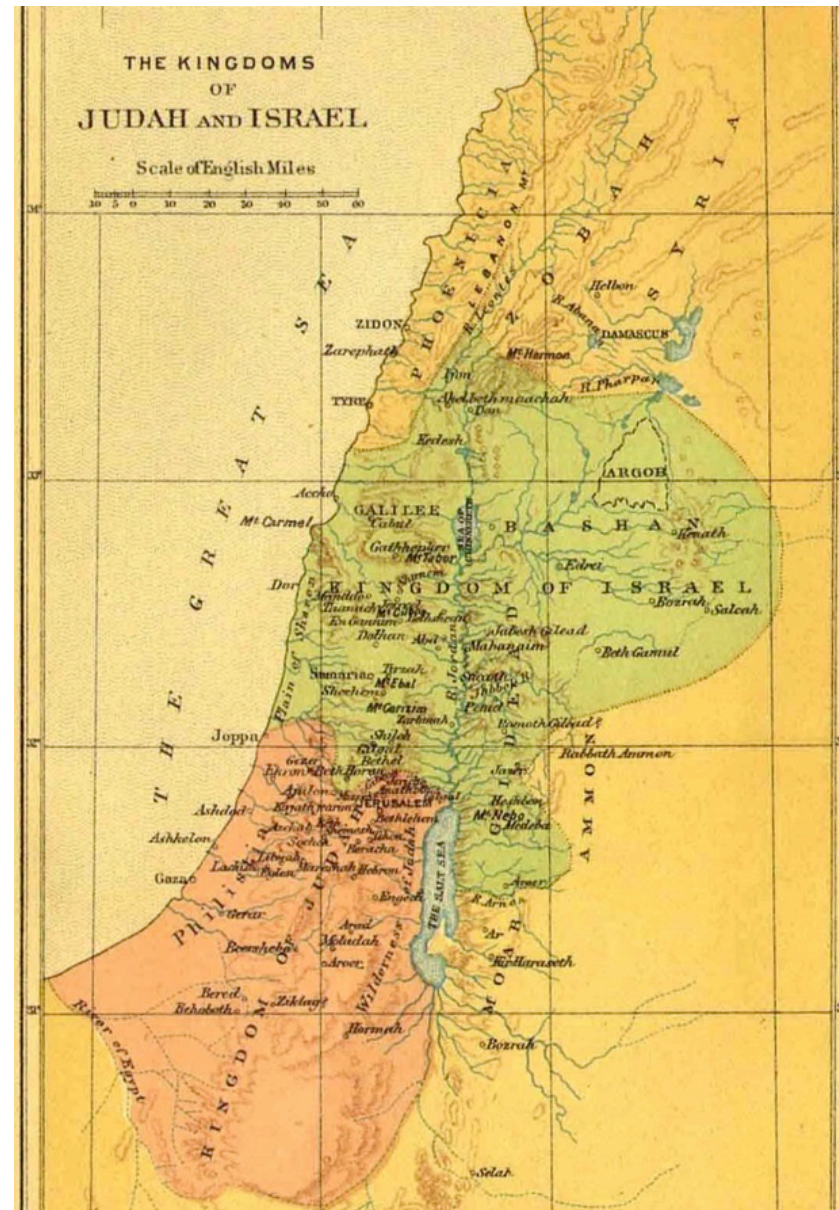


- How does Jeremiah's costly service convict you of what you need to do to be more faithful and obedient to God?
- Do you question your calling? Do you resent the task God has given you to do?



APPLICATION #2: ARE YOU LIKE JUDAH?

If we choose to
continue to sin
we'll eventually
come to the
point where
God's
discipline is
inevitable.



Judah's Sin



"Even the stork that flies across the sky knows the time of her migration, as do the turtledove, the swallow, and the crane. They all return at the proper time each year.

But not my people! They do not know the LORD's laws."

Animals observe God's laws but not God's people.

People act as though they have never heard His laws.

Jeremiah 8:7 NLT

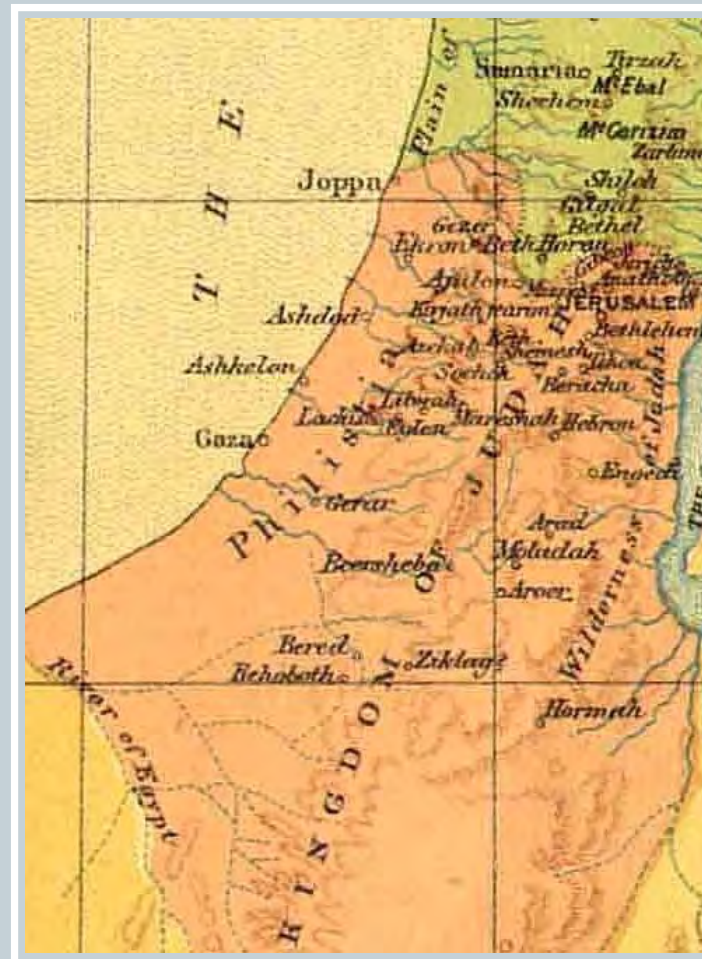
Judah's Sin Eventually Resulted in God's Discipline

1. Judah's kings and leaders were judged and punished. **Jeremiah 22**
2. Jews endured 70 years of Babylonian exile.
Jeremiah 25:11
3. God also judged nations that persecuted Judah.
Jeremiah 46–51



Are You Like Judah?

- In what area of your life do you continue in sin or resist repenting?
- Do you accept God's just discipline?





APPLICATION #3: ARE YOU LIKE THE FAITHFUL REMNANT?

**There is hope
after discipline
because God's
justice is
balanced with
mercy and
faithfulness.**



Nature of Judgment in Jeremiah



1. **Against both Judah and Gentile Nations**
2. **Reveals God's justice, sovereignty, faithfulness and mercy**
3. **Balanced with hope in New Covenant and Restoration**



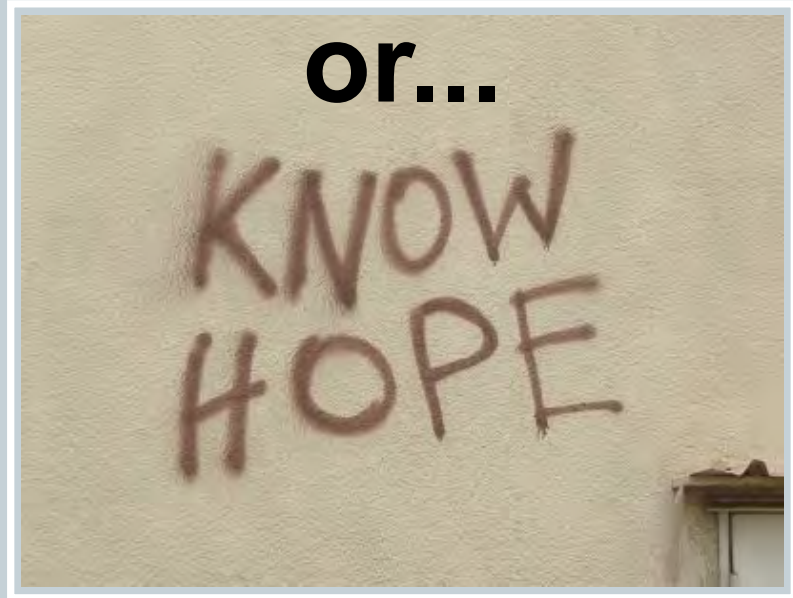
Are You Part of the Faithful Remnant?



- Do you put your hope in your faithful and merciful God?
- Do you look forward to the Day of the LORD and the complete restoration it promises?

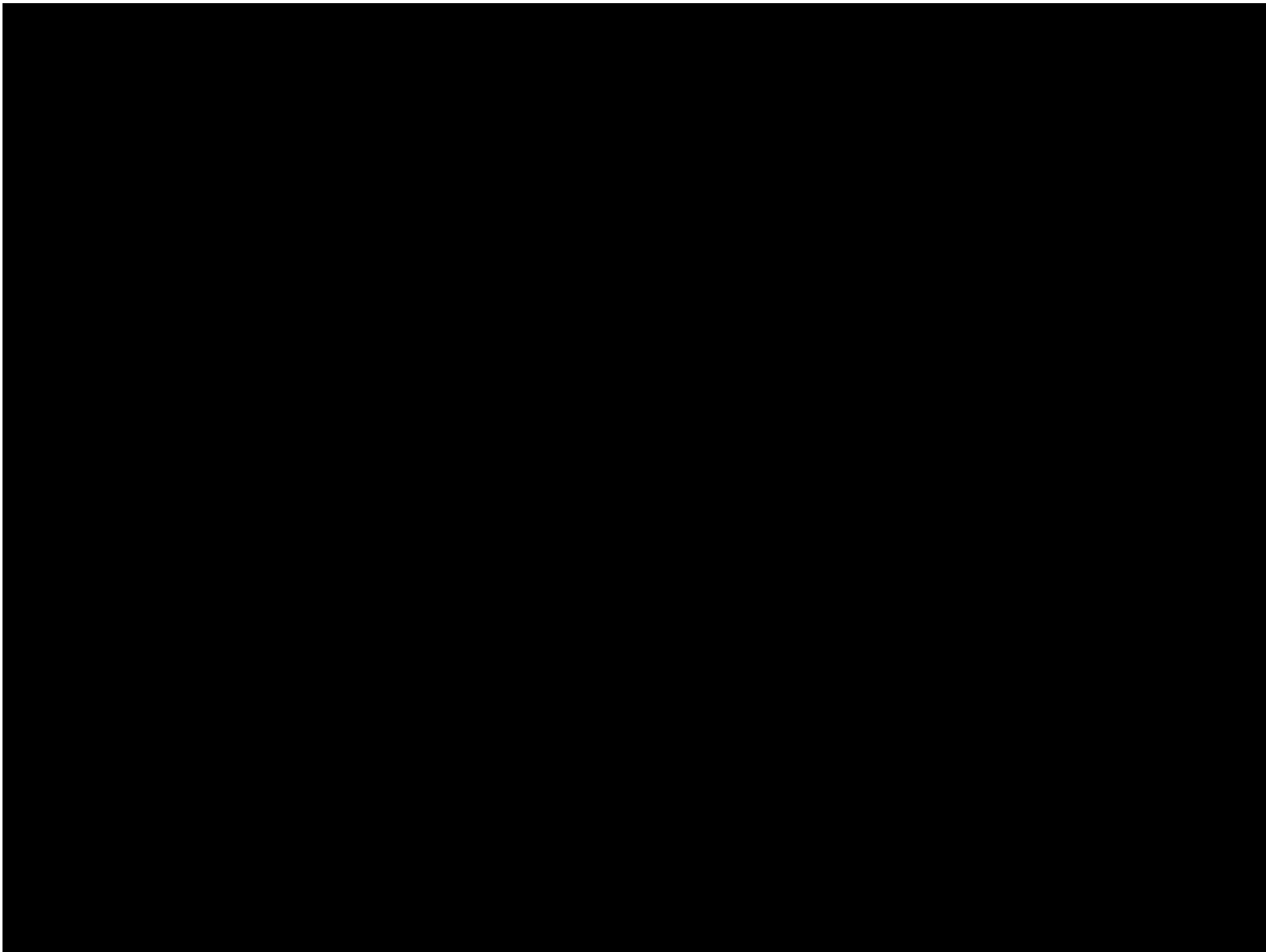
**NO
HOPE?**

or...

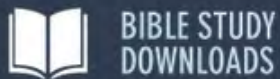




How Then Should You Live?



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